

2026 Queanbeyan
Reconciliation Walk:
Tuesday June 2

Save the Date:
Queanbeyan Multicultural
Festival: Saturday, 20 June

Pet
of the
Week



Regional Independent

Free

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

No. 460

Wednesday 20 May, 2026

Our community is stronger thanks to our volunteers

National Volunteer Week 2026 has begun, Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering, recognising the millions of people who continue to strengthen communities through their time, care and contributions.

This year's theme, Your Year to Volunteer, is both a thank you to those already volunteering and an invitation for more people across Australia to explore how volunteering can fit into their lives in meaningful and flexible ways.

It is an opportunity to recognise the incredible impact volunteers have in our communities every day and celebrate the people helping make 2026 Your Year to Volunteer.

According to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) General Social Survey, 9.5 million Australians volunteered in 2025, either formally, informally, or both – equivalent to 42.8 per cent of Australians aged over 15.

More than five million people volunteered formally through organisations in 2025, contributing a remarkable 618 million hours, up from 490 million hours in 2020. The figures highlight the resilience and generosity of volunteers despite increasing cost-of-living pressures.



Nationally, volunteering continues to face challenges, with volunteer numbers declining and the average age of volunteers continuing to rise.

This week we celebrate and thank all volunteers – from the RFS, SES, sporting clubs and local

community organisations, to those giving their time at op shops, delivering meals or quietly helping behind the scenes.

Thank you for cooking at the BBQ, refereeing, coaching, taking the minutes, organising that fantastic community event, baking the cake

for morning tea, helping children read at school, and lending a hand whenever it is needed.

Our communities would simply not function without volunteers. National Volunteer Week is a chance to say thank you to the people who give their time so

generously and help keep our towns connected, supported and strong.

Above: Members of the Hoskingtown-Rossi RFB at the BBQ last Sunday at the Chestnut Roast

Sharon Baxter-Judge



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Member for Eden-Monaro

Kristy McBain MP

Families across Eden-Monaro will benefit from cost-of-living relief and additional investment in health and infrastructure under new measures handed down in the 2026 Federal Budget.

With cost of living remaining the number one pressure facing many across our community, the Australian Government is continuing to put money back in the pockets of hardworking Australians through a new round of tax cuts.

Building on tax cuts set to kick in on 1 July this year and next, the new Working Australians Tax Offset will provide an additional tax cut of up to \$250 for working Australians from 2027-28.

Our five tax cuts will benefit the average worker by up to

\$2,816 in 2028 and add up to \$54 back in the average worker's pocket each week.

We are also delivering tax reforms that will make it easier for first home buyers to get the keys to their own homes.

Health is another area of focus and we're strengthening Medicare locally. Thirteen additional bulk billing GP practices are now operating across Eden-Monaro, making it easier to see a doctor for free. At the same time, cheaper medicines are easing everyday costs, with more than 2.7 million scripts filled at a lower price across our region.

Small businesses are the backbone of our regional economy and are also getting vital support. A permanent \$20,000 instant

asset write-off will help businesses invest and grow, while improved tax arrangements and reduced red tape will support cash flow and resilience.

Farmers and primary producers will benefit from measures to support fuel and fertiliser certainty in both the short and long term.

This is underpinned by a landmark \$14.8 billion fuel security and price relief package that will help ensure reliable access to fuel and fertiliser for local agriculture.

We're also investing in better transport connections with a \$100 million commitment to upgrading the Canberra to Sydney rail line, including the Goulburn to Canberra corridor. This will deliver faster, safer and more reliable services, including

track upgrades, improved level crossings, and planning for new express options, making travel easier for communities in Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Tarago and Goulburn.

Together, these measures are about making life a little easier - it's putting more money back in your pocket, improving access to healthcare, and supporting local jobs and businesses.

This Budget is about backing our communities and ensuring Eden-Monaro remains a strong, connected and resilient region where people can thrive.

If you have any questions about the Budget, or if I can assist you with a federal issue, please get in touch with my office.

Photo supplied



Final weeks to win big in Queanbeyan

Time is running out to be a part of the Queanbeyan Shop & Win campaign, with only a couple of weeks remaining before entries close on 1 June.

With the final weekly \$500 prize winners still to be drawn and the major \$5,000 prize set to be awarded on 3

June, now is the perfect time to head into Queanbeyan and tick a few things off the shopping list. Whether it's long overdue retail purchases, a catch-up over lunch, a new outfit, a beauty appointment or simply grabbing the weekly shop, every eligible purchase could put customers in the

running to win.

Recent weekly winner and long-term Queanbeyan resident Melanie Sto Tomas said entering the promotion was an easy bonus while shopping locally.

"We just popped into town for a few things and ended up winning \$500 in prizes - not a bad shopping trip!" she said.

Melanie visited a range of participating local shops including 4 Bee Meats, Pearl Energy, Asian Noodle House, and Blooms The Chemist during her winning shopping trip - just some of her favourite businesses.

"The Shop & Win promotion is great because while you're supporting local Queanbeyan businesses, you also have a good chance to be rewarded with a win! We've been making the effort to shop and dine locally, so winning was a really nice surprise."

Encouraging others to get involved before the campaign wraps up, Melanie said now is the time to make the most of the promotion.

"If you've been meaning to head into town or pick something up, now's the time to do it. Queanbeyan businesses are a one-stop shop. You don't need to go anywhere else. Let's support our community."

To enter, spend \$20 or more at participating Queanbeyan businesses and receive a unique entry code. Every eligible purchase gives shoppers another chance to win. With the Shop and Win promotion entering its final stretch, shoppers are encouraged not to leave it too late.

Full details, participating businesses and terms and conditions are available at treasuretrail.com.au/win

Photo supplied of winner Melanie Sto Tomas.



Help shape the future of the Queanbeyan CBD and surrounds

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is developing an infill housing strategy to cater for the housing needs of a growing population in Queanbeyan.

The Infill Housing Strategy will look at how additional homes can be sensitively integrated into the suburbs of Queanbeyan, Queanbeyan East and Crestwood.

'Queanbeyan is such a great place to live and we continue to grow,' said Mayor Kenrick Winchester.

'This housing strategy is going to look at how we can include different types of housing within these three central suburbs, close to the city's services and facilities.'

'It will also look at the infrastructure and amenities that will be required if we were to increase density, such as roads, green space and play areas, and community facilities.'

Come along on **Monday 25 May 2026 from 6pm to 8pm** to be involved in the discussion to help shape future well-planned infill development.

Please register your attendance through our Your Voice page at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/infill-housing-strategy-engagement-session>.

Those unable to attend in person can provide feedback through a survey available on the website.

The strategy will consider how Council can plan for diverse housing including townhouses, apartments, duplexes and mixed-use developments. The strategy will inform future planning such as rezonings, lot sizes, housing typologies and infrastructure planning to ensure the required amenities keep pace with the growth.

Regional Independent

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

Distribution is 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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QPRC 2026-27 Draft Integrated Plans now open for comment

QPRC

These are the key planning documents that guide Council's direction.

We are seeking feedback on our draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents for 2026-27. These are the key planning documents that guide Council's direction.

Summary document

We have prepared a summary of the Operational plan and Delivery

Program that helps explain the documents and highlights some of our key projects.

About the documents

The Draft Operational Plan and Delivery Program 2026-27 to 2029-30 highlights Council's priorities over the next four years as part of the Delivery Program and breaks it down into work for the upcoming year as part of the Operational Plan. These documents were previously developed as two separate documents but have

been produced together to ensure a clear four-year outlook for planning. The plan will be reviewed each financial year. It includes a detailed budget and capital works program for the first year of the plan (2026-27).

Draft Statement of Revenue Policy - outlines what Council proposes to charge for general rates and water, sewer and waste access and consumption fees for 2026-27.

Draft Long Term Financial Plan - this is a ten-year plan that models

various scenarios to consider whether Council can afford the community's goals and the income that is required to achieve these outcomes. It looks at the period 2026-36.

Key documents on exhibition

- Draft Operational Plan and Delivery Program
- Draft Statement of Revenue Policy
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan

Feedback can be provided by:

- Completing the online form at the YourVoice webpage
- Emailing feedback directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "2026-27 Draft Integrated Plans"
- 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 by Friday 12 June 2026.

Work begins on \$14 million Kings Highway makeover

The NSW Government is getting on with the job of improving safety and reliability on the Kings Highway, with almost \$14 million in upgrades to begin this month.

The package includes strengthening work on Warri Bridge west of Braidwood, two road resurfacing projects at Bungendore, and the start of major safety improvements at West Mulloon.

"The Minns Labor Government is continuing to invest in safer, stronger and more reliable roads across regional NSW", said Member for Monaro Steve Whan.

"This almost \$14 million package will deliver practical upgrades along the Kings Highway, including bridge strengthening,

road resurfacing and safety improvements at West Mulloon.

"The Kings Highway is the most important connection between the NSW South Coast and the ACT, and these works will help improve safety, resilience and efficiency for the communities, businesses and visitors who rely on it.

"We know regional roads need ongoing investment, and the Minns Labor Government is getting on with the job of delivering the upgrades that matter."

The investment includes:

- \$8.15 million under the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program to widen a four-kilometre section at West Mulloon
- \$3.8 million to resurface two sections of the highway at

Bungendore

- \$1.6 million to strengthen Warri Bridge west of Braidwood

Work to strengthen the pier headstocks of Warri Bridge started on Monday 4 May and is expected to continue until Friday 31 July, weather permitting. The project will improve the resilience of the bridge and help maintain access for motorists.

The first resurfacing project will start on Monday 18 May on a 1.85-kilometre section of the highway near Mill Post Lane, south-west of Bungendore. Work is expected to take up to four weeks to complete, weather permitting.

The second resurfacing project will follow from Monday 15 June on a 700-metre section of the highway between Malbon Street and King

Street in Bungendore. Work is expected to take up to three days to complete, weather permitting.

From Wednesday 20 May, work will also begin on the West Mulloon Safety Improvements project, west of Mulloon Road. The project will deliver wider lanes, improved drainage and a minimum one-metre shoulder on both sides of the highway for four kilometres. Work is expected to be complete by November, weather permitting.

For the resurfacing projects near Mill Post Lane and Malbon Street, work will be carried out on weekdays between 7am and 6pm, and Saturdays between 8am and 1pm.

Single lane closures, a reduced speed limit of 40 km/h and stop/start traffic control will be in place

during work hours. A 60 km/h speed restriction will be in place outside work hours for the safety of motorists.

Work on the West Mulloon Safety Improvements project will also be carried out on weekdays between 7am and 6pm, and Saturdays between 8am and 1pm, with single lane closures and stop/slow traffic control in place.

Motorists are advised to drive to the conditions, follow the signs and traffic control, and allow an additional five minutes of travel time.

For more information, visit the Kings Highway webpage, download the Live Traffic NSW app, visit livetraffic.com or call 132 701.



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Community News

Strengthened Support at Home Protections Welcomed But Delay on Aged Care Pricing Caps Leaves Older People Exposed

The Older Person’s Advocacy Network (OPAN) welcomes additional protections for older people announced by Government today for the Support at Home program, but warns that delaying promised pricing caps will continue to leave older people exposed to rising costs.

While these new safeguards are a step in the right direction, they do not fully address the underlying issue of affordability and pricing certainty for older people.

OPAN Director Policy, Education and Systemic Advocacy Samantha Edmonds said delaying pricing caps risks leaving older people exposed to ongoing cost pressures and uncertainty around care affordability.

“We welcome stronger oversight and transparency measures, but the decision to delay pricing caps means older people will continue to face uncertainty about what they will pay for essential services,” Ms Edmonds said.

“Older people are already enduring a cost-of-living crisis and having access to reasonable and affordable care is essential for their wellbeing.”

Ms Edmonds said key elements of the Government’s package are welcomed, including powers for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to order refunds, increased public reporting, and the introduction of quarterly national price summaries.

“Additional funding for advocacy

and education will also be critical to ensuring older people understand their rights and can challenge unfair fees,” Ms Edmonds said.

However, Ms Edmonds said further improvements are needed to ensure these measures deliver meaningful protection, including local pricing transparency, and we look forward to working with Government to achieve this.

“Publishing national price summaries is positive, but older people need to be able to compare prices in their local area to ensure they can make informed choices about providers,” Ms Edmonds said.

Ms Edmonds also reiterated OPAN’s call for Support at Home

places to be indexed appropriately.

“Without indexation aligned to cost pressures such as CPI, there is a real risk that package values will not keep pace with rising service costs, forcing older people to go without care,” Ms Edmonds said.

OPAN looks forward to engaging constructively through the Government’s newly announced working group, alongside Council on the Ageing (COTA), Ageing Australia and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

“We welcome the opportunity to help define what ‘reasonable pricing’ looks like and to ensure older people’s voices are central to that work,” Ms Edmonds said.

“It is critical that this process leads to clear, enforceable protections -

including the timely introduction of well-designed price caps.”

Ms Edmonds said pricing is one of the several challenges that the much-anticipated Support at Home program has faced since its inception, with advocates being inundated with concerns from older people.

“It is essential that the reforms deliver on their promise - ensuring older people can access affordable, high-quality care at home,” Ms Edmonds said.

“The Government must prioritise getting pricing right and provide a clear pathway to implementing caps that restore integrity and trust within the aged care system.”

Incinerators heat up regional debate

Debbie Evans

“Waste is important and easy to dismiss, but out of sight out of mind is not good enough” according to the chair of the Select Committee on Proposed Energy from Waste Facilities, Nichole Overall MLC.

Overall, as the Committee Chair, was in Goulburn last Thursday and Friday to investigate the public response to an incinerator facility being located within the existing Tarago/Woodlawn waste facility.

The Select Committee has been asked to actively review plans to build large-scale waste incinerators in regional NSW. The public review has seen the committee members hear from residents through public forums and hearings in both Parkes and Goulburn.

Overall said the committee had heard some positive feedback on the proposed facilities from the Parkes community, but for Tarago there were no positive comments from the 30 registered speakers and others attending the Goulburn forum.

She added one of the more concerning aspects of public consultation so far was the feedback centred around the cumulative impact on social well-

being of communities.

Last week’s hearing is one of four where the community have had their chance to provide comment on the Select Committees investigations into a \$600 million Veiola proposal to burn 380,000 tonnes of Sydney waste annually at its Woodlawn site near Tarago and a proposed site Parkes.

Overall said there may be a need for an additional hearing to ensure communities have a chance to fully express their concerns.

Concerns have so far been raised about air and toxic pollution including heavy metals, micropastics and dangerous compounds like dioxins and furans, water catchment contamination and the fear of PFAS from the toxic ash burial and airborne pollutants which could be particularly harmful to rural communities where households rely on household rainwater tanks. Farmers have expressed concerns that airborne toxins could settle on pastures and bioaccumulate in livestock, threatening food safety.

Overall said last week’s enquiries had heard that Tarago/Woodlawn, which was established in 2000 to deal with waste from Sydney waste, is already dealing with 40

percent of waste generated by the city.

“This translates into between 120-130 truck movements and 3,000 tonnes of waste into Woodlawn/Tarago daily. This already has huge impacts for the community and feeder roads.

“And it is red bin waste with some organic waste being received sorted to make a high-grade fertilizer for which they are to be

commended.

“The facility also receives waste from the ACT which has a complete ban on waste incineration.

“Whilst Goulburn Council doesn’t use the facility to dispose of its own waste.

“Regional communities have expressed the view to us, if the Chief Scientist for the Government is not concerned about the effects

of the incinerators being located in regional areas, why can’t they be located in the cities closer to the waste.”

The committee has no deadline on its final report and won’t present any findings until satisfied they have fully heard from the community on what Overall describes as a very important social and environmental proposal.

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Bungendore Structure Plan review 2026: comments close Friday 29 May

QPRC

We would like to have the community's feedback as we review the Bungendore Structure Plan. Have your say today!

We are reviewing the Bungendore Structure Plan 2048. We committed to do this every 5 years as part of our Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

The intent of the regular review is to capture any completed work or studies, such as the Bungendore Place Plan 2024 and the Bungendore Economic Lands Needs Analysis 2025, update population data and relevant mapping, test existing growth principles, and 'check in'

with the community. The review ensures the evidence base of the Structure Plan is maintained and enables Council to make informed decisions on the growth and development of Bungendore.

On the YourVoice webpage you will find a factsheet explaining the review, the existing Bungendore Structure Plan 2018-2048 and the Bungendore Place Plan, which was developed in 2024 and focused on the Bungendore town centre. The Bungendore Economic Land Needs Analysis is also available in the document library. You can also view a slider image that shows the urban growth of Bungendore from 2017-2025.

How do I provide feedback?

You can provide feedback by completing the survey on the YourVoice webpage, dropping a pin on the social map, or by speaking to one of our strategic planners by dropping in to the Bungendore office between 1-4pm on Wednesdays from 6 May to 27 May 2026.

Have your say by Friday 29 May 2026.

Provide feedback and find more information on the Bungendore Structure Plan Review at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/bungendore-structure-plan-review-2026



Repair Café Coming to Bungendore



A new community initiative focused on sustainability, practical skills and helping locals save money is coming to Bungendore. Members of the Bungendore Crafters' Co-op, working in partnership with SEE Change, are currently busy organising a regular Repair Café for the Bungendore region.

So, what exactly is a Repair Café? A Repair Café is a welcoming community space where volunteers help repair everyday household items that might otherwise end up in landfill. Instead of throwing things away and replacing them, locals can bring along broken or damaged items and sit down with a skilled volunteer repairer who will do their best to diagnose the problem and help fix it.

Each monthly Repair Café will feature a range of volunteer repairers, with services varying from month to month depending on who is available. A list of available repairs will be advertised the week before each repair café date.

Typical repairs may include:

- Clothing and fabric mending, hemming and patching
- Small electrical appliance repairs such as lamps, irons and kitchen items
- Knife and tool sharpening
- Toy repairs
- Basic phone or computer troubleshooting
- Small furniture and practical fixes

The aim is simple: keep useful items out of landfill, share valuable repair skills, strengthen community connections and help people save money by repairing instead of replacing. Repair Cafés are also a wonderful opportunity to meet others in the community, learn practical skills and rediscover the value of fixing things rather than throwing them away. All services are provided free of charge, although donations are always welcome to help support the ongoing running of the café.

The organisers are currently seeking skilled volunteer repairers from Bungendore and surrounding areas who would like to contribute a couple of hours on one day each month to support both the local community and the environment. Whether you're handy with a sewing machine, tools, electrical items, bikes, computers or general repairs, your skills could make a real difference.

If you would like to become involved as a volunteer repairer or would simply like to find out more about the Bungendore Repair Café, please contact the organisers via email (bungendorerepaircafe@gmail.com) or phone (Thalia on 0412 884 120).

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CWA of NSW 140th Conference and AGM - Forster

Maria Porecca
President
Southern Tablelands Group

This Year's 104th Annual Conference and AGM of CWA of NSW was held in Forster during the first week of May. About 480 Delegates and around 200 Observers from all over NSW attended. A decent contingent from the Southern Tablelands Group was in attendance.

It commenced with an Ecumenical service on the Sunday afternoon, 3rd May, in the Auditorium of Club Forster. Reverend Natalie Quince from St John's Anglican Church, Chaplain Annie Brens, soloist Nicole D'Arc and musician Pam Archer, CWA State President, Tanya Jolly, Immediate Past CWA State President Joy Beames and

Lynn Moore, CWA Mid North Coast Group President led us in prayer during the service. The CWA Collect was also recited.

The Official Opening the next morning was very formal and the Official Party processional was led by piper Tom Kyle. The National Anthem, CWA Anthem and Motto were sung and recited. The Company of Voices choir entertained us with their beautiful voices and nostalgic repertoire. We were welcomed by Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor, Mid-Coast Council and the Keynote Speaker was former Australian beach volleyball player and Olympic gold medallist in the games held in Sydney in 2000, Kerri Pottharst, OAM. Ms Pottharst was very inspirational and we got to hold her gold and

bronze medals.

Business Sessions commenced on Monday afternoon and there were over 50 motions to be moved, discussed and voted on during the next few days. Motion topics ranged from Agricultural & Environment, Education, Health & Social Security to Transport & Telecommunications and Miscellaneous. There were also some 6 Urgency Motions. Of all these motions two were unanimously carried, two were lost and one was withdrawn. Ms Mel Tully, Head of Partnerships & Community Fundraising was presented with a cheque for just over \$49,000.00 for PanKind for medical research into Pancreatic Cancer.

Other Guest Speakers during

Conference included Dr Nicholas Zdenkowski on Breast Cancer trial and Annabey Whitehead, Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia. There was also a number of Sponsor addresses during Conference.

Twining dinner between Southern Tablelands Group members and Castlereagh Country Group members was held at the Bellevue Hotel in Tuncurry. We only see each other once a year but we always have lots of fun together.

The Gala Dinner on the Wednesday evening was also a grand affair and it was held in the Auditorium at Club Forster. There were lucky door prizes and a raffle, proceeds of which went to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The entertainment was provided by The Goodfellas who played (and sang) songs of yesteryear and which we also sang along with. A very enjoyable night.

During the Conference the work of CWA members was on display in such categories as Agricultural & Environment, Cultural, International, Handicraft, Land Cookery, Social Issues, Hospital Support, Publicity and Show Catering. Some of these also had competitions. The Handicraft section held their handicraft competition featuring the Group Competition, Open Sections and Natural Fibres Section. The Land Cookery competition had 3,340 entries, which posed a tough job for the judges. It was also a milestone celebration for Land Cookery as it is 75 years of 'The Land' newspaper sponsoring the competition. All displays



and competitions were very well supported.

On the last day of Conference, Thursday 7th May, the State Committees gave their reports and presented their awards and all winners announced. The current Group Presidents, new State Executive Committee and State Office Bearers were introduced to the attendees.

A number of raffles were drawn and Glenda C. from Queanbeyan was one of the winners. Also my friend Jodie W. from Coffs Harbour won second prize in one of the raffles.

The anticipated announcement for the 2027 Conference was made Drumroll please and the winner is CANBERRA! That's right CANBERRA. Monaro Group and Southern Tablelands Group have teamed up together to organise and host this great event from 3rd to 6th May 2027.

We are all looking forward to 2027 State Conference.

Photos supplied



Act early on feral pig control

With dry seasonal conditions being experienced across the region, Local Land Services is urging producers to act early on feral pig control. As feed and water become limited, feral pigs are concentrating around remaining resources, increasing the risk of damage to crops, pastures and infrastructure, and putting additional pressure on livestock production systems.

South East Local Land Services biosecurity staff say these seasonal conditions create a critical window for control programs, where well-planned action can deliver stronger results.

Scott Schlunke, Senior Biosecurity Officer said, "We are working with

landholders to deliver large-scale control across priority areas.

"This includes the distribution of free grain to support baiting and trapping programs, supply of traps, coordinated ground baiting programs and funded aerial shooting operations.

To stay ahead of population growth, landholders are encouraged to take a strategic approach that combines multiple control methods and aligns with seasonal conditions and farm operations.

Effective programs typically include:

- using free feeding to establish consistent feeding patterns prior to
- control activities
- selecting appropriate trap types and locations based on feral pig behaviour and movement
- combining control methods such as trapping, baiting and shooting to increase effectiveness
- following up initial control within three months to maintain pressure on populations
- coordinating control programs with neighbours to maximise impact across the landscape.

Feral pigs are highly adaptable and reproduce rapidly, making ongoing control essential. A single sow can produce up to two litters per year, with as many as 10-12 piglets

per litter, allowing populations to recover quickly if control efforts are not sustained. Sows can breed as early as 6 months in favourable conditions.

"Continued control is critical to further suppress populations, particularly as pigs become more exposed and vulnerable due to reduced food availability and limited ground cover," Scott said.

Conducting control programs ahead of key production periods, such as crop establishment, can help reduce production losses and protect valuable inputs.

Feral pig control also helps protect biodiversity and reduce biosecurity risks, with feral pigs capable of

damaging native habitats and spreading weeds, parasites and diseases.

Local Land Services is supporting landholders through the NSW Government's Feral Pig and Pest Program 2025-26, which provides access to practical tools and resources to improve control outcomes.

Landholders are encouraged to seek advice to ensure control programs are well planned and compliant with requirements. For more information or tailored advice, contact your local biosecurity officer on 1300 795 299 or visit the Local Land Services website.





cleanseeds rural

Livestock & Invasive Pest Management Fencing Solutions

Every Westonfence™ electric fencing system combines innovation with proven performance. Australian-made fencing components engineered for durability, sustainability, and strength.

Our unique precision-drilled HDPE droppers reduce electrical faults and eliminate the need for inline strainers – saving time and maintenance costs. Built to suit all types of terrain and property layouts. See in-store for details.

45 Molonglo Street, Bungendore | sales@cleanseeds.com.au | 6238 0000



Council endorses proposed new location for the Bungendore Aquatic Centre

At the council meeting held Wednesday 13th May, council resolved to endorse a detailed feasibility review (including associated studies) of constructing the newly designed Bungendore Aquatics Centre at the site of the current Bungendore Pool.

In March 2024, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) awarded the contract for the detailed civil, structural and engineering design of the new aquatic centre at the Bungendore Sports Hub to Mode Design at a cost of \$592,075.

The new aquatic facility will include an 8-lane, 25-metre indoor heated pool and splash pad.

A Development Application (DA) was submitted in late 2025 but later withdrawn due to issues based on:

- The Flood Impact Risk Assessment (FIRA): FIRA recommendations, specifically a lack of reliable existing flood evacuation routes, would need to be addressed before a DA could be approved. This includes the requirement to plan for PMF with a range of flood mitigation plans and procedures to be developed.
- Further requirements around odour assessment: The EPA identified concerns about the close proximity of the proposed sporting precinct to Bungendore Sewerage Treatment Plant. These concerns related primarily to the potential for odour impacts and associated conflicts between the sites. The EPA recommends a buffer of at least 400m and the proposal shows the pool being well under 200m.
- The electrical demand assessment: The new Aquatic Centre's electrical demand assessment indicated that the existing substation on site would be insufficient to support the new pool and the remaining asset loads. Further assessment would need to be carried out to determine if modifying the current Substation would be a viable option or if new Sub-station for the pool would need to be installed.

Following the recent withdrawal of the DA, a review of alternate sites has been conducted.

The current pool site at the corner of Turallo Terrace and Majara Street has been identified as the most appropriate site.

QPRC General Manager, Rebecca Ryan, confirmed that the actual designs and plans for the Aquatic Centre will not change other than some layout modifications depending on the preferred layout of the site.

The business paper stated that there is \$234,424 in the Bungendore Pool budget for 2025-26. This includes the amount of \$44,740 representing the refund of the original DA fees.

The current work being undertaken on the high-level feasibility of transferring the design for a new pool to the current pool site will cost \$42,890. A budget bid of \$250,000 is included in the 2026-27 to determine a new site and lodge a DA.

Ms Ryan said, "We need to focus on the future. Council have provided unanimous support for the 25 metre



enclosed heated swimming pool at the new location which is the current swimming pool site.

"What is important now, is the community engagement planned. We will be coordinating an open day for residents to drop in and see the plans, discuss the project and provide feedback on the new site in early June.

"Council will be progressing to have this DA ready as soon as possible, and as soon as we have a DA consent issued, funding applications can be submitted to both NSW and Federal Governments", she added.

To view the business papers head to <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings>. To view the discussion head to <https://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>

Above: Positioning of existing pool design over current pool footprint. Image QPRC

\$25,000 in prizes

www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-awards

may - june

2026

online registrations

30 march - 30 april 2026

exhibition

The Q Exhibition Space, Queanbeyan

16 may - 13 june 2026

FIND OUT MORE

2025 Winner Alison Alder - Budawang II (detail)

QPRC & Bendigo Bank

art awards 2026

QPRC

Bendigo Bank

Community Bank, Breadwood and Bungendore

THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Blind Creek Solar and Battery

Project pathways

Discover the exciting solar farm and battery project underway in your community

Meet the team

When: Saturday, 30 May

Time: 9 am - 12 pm

Where: Bungendore Farmers Markets Village Square - Corner of Malbon and Ellendon streets

Learn about

- the progress of the solar farm construction,
- Pathways to get involved and opportunities for employment on the project.

About the project:

Blind Creek Solar Farm and Battery is a 300MW solar farm with co-located battery storage of 243MW and 2 hours storage capacity. The project is located in NSW, approximately 8km north-east of Bungendore.

Project Owner: octopus australia
A brighter way

Project Delivery Partner: GRS
A GRANDSOLAR COMPANY

The Fred Hollows Foundation thanks Queanbeyan-Palerang residents for their continued generosity

The Fred Hollows Foundation is thanking the Queanbeyan-Palerang community for their ongoing support during a challenging time where people are facing rising costs.

Over the past 12 months, The Foundation has seen 14 new donors from Queanbeyan-Palerang support their work. In total, 233 people from Queanbeyan-Palerang have donated \$88,806 in the past

year, helping to continue Professor Fred Hollows' vision of ending avoidable blindness.

Their support has helped people like Blaise, a shy seven-year-old from Rwanda's Kayonza district who loves school, but cataract was stealing his sight. Blind in his left eye and losing vision in his right, he risked total blindness despite ranking fifth in his class. His mother Redempta, a single

farm worker, struggled to afford care until a community health team supported by The Fred Hollows Foundation visited their village.

Following successful cataract surgery at Kabgayi Eye Unit, Blaise bravely recovered. When his eye patch was removed, he embraced his mother and said "I can see. I can see you mum!" He was soon back home, playing football and seeing his future clearly.

Thanks to supporters of The Fred Hollows Foundation, Blaise and Redempta both now have hope for a brighter future.

Founding Director Gabi Hollows expressed her gratitude to the Queanbeyan-Palerang community for supporting The Foundation's important work.

"In a year marked by ongoing cost of living pressures and global uncertainty, I want to take a moment to reflect on the countless people whose lives have been transformed after having their sight restored thanks to the generosity of everyday Australians.

"Fred used to say that we discover our own humanity when we help others. Every donation, big or small, brings us closer to a world where no one is needlessly blind.

"It could be a mother returning to work, a grandparent seeing their grandchild for the first time, or a child able to learn and thrive at



school. Thank you, Queanbeyan-Palerang, for your generosity in helping us restore sight to those who need it most."

CEO of The Fred Hollows Foundation, Ross Piper, said: "Thanks to Australians who choose to give, preventable blindness is being treated every single day across the world because of their generosity. Support from the public is turning compassion into action and into lasting change for communities around the world."

This year, The Foundation aims to perform 5.2 million eye screenings, distribute 11.8 million doses of antibiotics for trachoma, and run community health education sessions for 1.6 million adults and children globally.

For more information about The Fred Hollows Foundation go to www.hollows.org. To help restore sight, visit www.hollows.org or call 1800 352 352.

Photos supplied



Axe on health insurance rebate a stain on budget for seniors

Axe on health insurance rebate a stain on budget for seniors

National Seniors Australia (NSA) has called the cut to the Private Health Insurance (PHI) rebate for older Australians the most shortsighted yet overlooked part of the budget.

NSA is calling on the parliament to reject the move, which risks putting the both the private and public health care systems on a knife edge after 1 April 2027 when it is slated to start.

Seniors will also be concerned

about the changes to Capital Gains Tax, which include an imposition of a minimum 30% tax on net capital tax gains. These changes will apply not only to housing but to all capital gains, including shares and other assets.

The grandfathering of the CGT changes will be welcomed but this is only for gains made before 1 July 2027.

Beyond this time, existing property will be taxed using the Keating era model using real gains after inflation.

NSA welcomes increased investment in health and aged care that will impact on seniors in the federal budget, including:

- free RSV vaccinations for seniors 75 and over and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 60 and over;
- the removal of co-contributions for showering, continence management, and dressing through the Support at Home Program;
- the delivery of 20 additional Specialist Dementia Care units;

- the expansion of the Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program from 11 to 20 locations;
- incentives to construct an estimated additional 5,000 beds a year; and
- additional funding for Support at Home Packages.

But these funding boosts shouldn't have come at the expense of the private health insurance rebate.

Pensioners rely on private health to ensure they can access timely medical care at a time when they need it most. The risk is that over

time only the wealthy will be able to afford private health and the rest will have to turn to the already stretched public system with long wait times.

NSA CEO Chris Grice said "Older Australians continue to be shocked by the decision to cut the higher health insurance rebate and overwhelmingly reject the proposal. Our biggest concern is that it will push older people with limited incomes out of the private health system at a time of greatest need putting both the public and private health systems at risk.

SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Boro Solar Farm – Community Information Session (Tarago)

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is progressing plans for Boro Solar Farm, a proposed solar farm and battery storage system (BESS) approximately five kilometres south of Tarago along Boro Rd.

We're now preparing the Environmental Impact Statement and would like to hear your views.

Have your say

We'd like to hear from the local community about the project's social impacts.

Join us at our community information session to hear project updates, ask questions and share your feedback.

When Saturday 30 May 2026, 9-12pm
Where Tarago Town Hall, 18 Wallace St, Tarago

Find out more

For more information please contact the project team on 1800 607 484 or email borosolarfarm@samsung.com



Scan the QR code to complete a short survey.

Queanbeyan Seniors 50+ activities



Mondays
Chair Yoga - 9.30am
Mat Yoga - 11.00am.

Contact Sue on <https://www.agewell.yoga>

Tuesdays
Zumba Gold 9.30am
Zumba Normal Impact 11.00am

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)

Wednesdays - Tai Chi Qigong - 11.45-12.45pm
Bookings essential - Please call or text 0407 902 989. 1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan

Thursdays - Zumba GOLD - 11.00am to 12.00pm @ Veterans Hub - Upstairs 251 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan

Fridays - Mat Yoga - 9.30am
Chair Yoga - 11.00am. Contact Louise... https://sunlightyoga.com.au/no_booking_required (NOW AT AXIS CENTRE in the

Park near the Lions Book Club.
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.

Mondays
500 - 1.00pm-3.00pm
Cost \$2.00

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.

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

Hand and Foot - 10.00am
(NEW) 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 16 June 2026.

Riverside Plaza Stall - monthly We will be in Riverside Plaza on Saturday 20 June 2026.

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

Membership fees due by 30 June 2026 for the financial year 2026-2027.

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

Visitors are welcome during activity hours at the rear 1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan.

Photos supplied

Queanbeyan Uniting Church Jumble Sale: Saturday May 23

The Queanbeyan Uniting Church Jumble Sale is as popular as ever.

It is the go-to place to find a good bargain!

We pride ourselves on being one of the cheapest places around to buy things such as clothing, household goods, toys, craft items, blankets, cushions, jewellery, crocheted items, crockery, vases, frames, books, pictures and some furniture....the list goes on.

And we go on doing our best to serve the community during these difficult times, helping people to recycle and repurpose goods that would otherwise end up in landfill.

The Jumble Sale is good for the environment and good for you.

So come on down to the corner of Rutledge and Crawford Street.

We are open from 9am to 12pm.

And don't forget to call into 'The Shed' (located in foyer of the Church) for a cuppa, cake and chat!

Photo supplied



Boost your budget with an energy rebate

Did you know the NSW Government offers energy rebates to help pensioners, self-funded retirees and veterans pay their electricity and gas bills?

You could be eligible if you hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or Veteran Gold Card.

Learn more and apply

 Visit energy.nsw.gov.au/seniors

 Call 13 77 88

 Visit a Service NSW Centre







Sydney Weekender show shines a light on Corang Estate Cellar Door & Pantry

The opportunity to feature on a high-profile TV show such as Channel 7's Sydney Weekender programme doesn't come along every day, so Jill & Michael of Corang Estate in Tarago jumped at the chance to get some airtime! Organised in conjunction with the Visit Goulburn team, the show features some of the top things to do in Goulburn and of course that

includes a trip to Tarago to taste some award winning wines! Filming took place at the end of April and the crew were in Goulburn and surrounds for three days. Part of the busy schedule was a couple of hours at Corang Estate Cellar Door & Pantry in Tarago with presenter Lizzy Lovette. They capture footage of Corang Estate owners, Jill

& Michael, pouring wines and chatting about their cellar door offerings. Sydney Weekender is a high-profile show that features both things to do in Sydney as well as visiting towns within a weekend's travel distance from the city and highlighting the best places to visit there.



Jill from Corang Estate said, "It's a real honour to be selected for the show and we're very confident it will help raise our profile as a winery as well as help put Tarago on the map." The Sydney Weekender Goulburn feature aired on Channel 7 on Sunday 17 May at 5.30pm. If you missed it you can catch an excerpt

on Corang Estate's website: www.corangestate.com.au Corang Estate Cellar Door & Pantry is open Friday to Monday 10am to 4pm. Photo supplied of Jill & Michael Bynon with presenter Lizzy Lovette (right) and Jill Bynon conducting a wine tasting for customers on camera

The budget changes and how they impact investors

Phil Harvey
It has been quite a while since we have had a Federal Budget with as many headline-grabbing announcements as the one handed down by the Treasurer last Tuesday. At the time of writing, these measures are proposed changes only and may still be amended before becoming law. In this article, I will summarise the key changes that are likely to impact Australians from an investment perspective. **Spending is still increasing** While the rate of government spending growth is forecast to slow, the Government is still expected to run budget deficits for at least the next decade. This is being driven by a combination of increased spending and lower forecast company tax receipts over the coming years. It also suggests an expectation that Australian business profitability may weaken. These factors are likely to continue placing upward pressure on inflation, which may make it harder for interest rates to fall significantly in the near term. **Capital Gains Tax is changing** Currently, investors receive a 50%

capital gains tax (CGT) discount if they hold an asset for more than 12 months. The remaining gain is then taxed at their marginal tax rate. Under the proposed changes, the current discount system would be replaced with a cost-base indexation method for assets held longer than 12 months, together with a 30% minimum tax on net capital gains. For example, if you purchased an investment property today for \$700,000, held it for 10 years, and sold it for \$1.38 million (equivalent to approximately 7% annual capital growth), under the current rules you would have a taxable capital gain of \$340,000. Under the proposed system, the taxable capital gain would increase to approximately \$440,000. This could result in around \$47,000 in additional tax being payable. **Tax within discretionary trusts is changing** Currently, income generated within a discretionary trust can be distributed to beneficiaries, who then pay tax personally on that income. One of the major advantages of this structure is the ability to distribute income to family members on lower tax rates, such as a stay-at-home spouse or university-aged children. Under the proposed changes, trust income would be subject to a minimum tax rate of 30%. For some families, this could materially increase tax payable. For example, where a business owner distributes trust income to a stay-at-home spouse, the additional tax cost could be around \$4,000 per year. **Bucket companies may become less effective** A common structure used by business owners and high-income earners is to have a bucket company as a beneficiary of a family trust. This strategy is often used to cap tax at the company tax rate. Currently, if the bucket company receives distributions from the trust, the income is taxed at the company tax rate. Under the proposed changes, the trust itself would first pay tax at 30%, and the bucket company may then also pay tax on the income it receives. This could create an effective second layer of taxation and reduce the attractiveness of these structures. **Negative gearing is limited to new properties** Under the current rules, investors can generally claim investment losses – including interest costs – as a tax deduction against their income where rental income does

not fully cover the costs of the property. Existing investment properties are expected to be grandfathered under the proposed changes. Going forward, negative gearing would only apply to newly built properties for individuals, companies, and trusts. Interestingly, these changes would not apply to Self-Managed Super Funds (SMSFs), and borrowing costs relating to other investment asset classes would still be deductible. **What this all means** Capital gains are likely to be taxed more heavily under the proposed changes, although they would still broadly align with the taxation of other forms of income. At the same time, the family home and superannuation become even more attractive from a tax perspective. I also expect there will be a significant increase in social media content promoting investment properties through Self-Managed Super Funds. Investors should tread carefully and seek advice before making structural decisions based on short-term tax outcomes. The advantages of discretionary trusts appear likely to diminish, while the use of investment companies may become more

common. However, whether existing investments should be restructured will depend heavily on individual circumstances. Business owners and founders who plan to build businesses with employees and eventually sell them may be among those most impacted if appropriate structures are not established early. These proposed changes reinforce the importance of reviewing investment and business structures proactively rather than reactively. Small structural decisions made today can have significant long-term tax consequences. If you're impacted by these changes and unsure where to start, give us a call. We specialise in helping professionals and executives grow and protect their wealth so they can retire with confidence. 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)



*Rate valid from 15th April 2026 and subject to change, interest paid at maturity. Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply. This information does not consider your financial objectives or needs. You should consider whether this product is appropriate for you. Terms and conditions and TMD available on our website. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 409 178 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 238789. (2318412) (04/26)

Community News

2026 Chestnut Roast a Roaring Success

Mother’s Day saw magnificent Autumn weather. The Hoskinstown Chestnut Roast was a huge success this year with hundreds of visitors from across the region coming to enjoy the food, music, community and hospitality.

Huge congratulations to all those involved and to the Hoskinstown War Memorial Hall Committee, the 98-year-old hall looks fabulous, a credit to you all.

Letter below from Rowan Simpkin

The Hoskinstown Chestnut Roast is always a special event and this years was just that. Thank you to all who came along to Hoskinstown, locally and further afield. Your support of our event is much appreciated. It was a beautiful autumn day, perfect for a drive into the country.

As always it takes a team to put on events like this. So a big thank you to all those who donated home baked and home grown goodies to the Community Stall (the table was full to the brim with goodies!). The stall also stocked chestnut, pork, sage and apple sausages made by Bungendore Country Butchery, these were soon snapped up! A huge thank you to those who assisted in the Kitchen and on the Community Stall. We couldn’t do this without you! There would be very few places where you could purchase a Devonshire tea with fresh scones made on the spot to be eaten with home made jams and freshly whipped cream. Three types of chestnuts soups were available, very popular with some people trying all three.

The Hoskingtown-Rossi RFB not only cook a wonderful bbq but move chairs, tables and put up marquees at speed. We really appreciate their support. Their bbq was flat chat all day with a quick trip into Bungendore needed for extra supplies. Di led the Kitchen Jam and Chestnuts Old Timey musicians who provided a wonderful atmosphere to the Hall grounds. Thanks go to local

artist, Carla, who donated a beautiful painting of an Eastern Spinebill to the raffle. Second prize was a huge basket of goodies including vouchers from Woolworths, Queanbeyan and Mitre 10 Bungendore. Thanks also to Fiona and Sylvie for their donations.

Thanks also to Rick, from Screenmakers who made all the signs (including the much needed detour signs) to assist people in getting to Hoskinstown. Thanks to the Community Bank Bungendore and Bungendore Country Butchery who continue to support us.

Many of our stallholders have been coming to the Roast for over a decade and they along with our newer stallholders are appreciated for the quality of their goods. A special thanks to Serina and her coffee van who had to travel from Captains Flat all the way around, her dedication to the Roast is top notch!

Sharon and the Regional Independent keep supporting events such as ours and her publicity and support of the Roast is always excellent.

Of course it wouldn’t be a Chestnut Roast without the chestnuts. Despite a challenging growing season Tweenhills Chestnuts provided all the chestnuts which were used in the soups, sausages, slices, the special H-R RFB relish as well as freshly roasted for visitors to enjoy. Hopefully next year will be a better season and pick your own can start again.

Finally thanks to the Hoskinstown War Memorial Hall Committee who have been working on this event for months. Volunteers are so important to our community, without them a lot of the events people enjoy just wouldn’t happen!

Rowan Simpkin
Hoskinstown War Memorial Hall Committee



Community News

Maria's Community Corner

Maria Porreca
As mentioned in my last column a group of CWA Queanbeyan Evening Branch members travelled to Forster to attend the CWA of NSW 104th State Conference and AGM. The Ecumenical Service on the Sunday afternoon, the Conference, Gala Dinner and all the displays were held at the beautiful Club Forster. Every year Southern Tablelands Group is 'twinning' with the Castlereagh Country Group and we have a dinner together, which we had at the Bellevue Hotel in Tuncurry. I was lucky enough to receive an invitation to a reception hosted by Ms Tanya Thompson MP and this was held at the Forster Surf Lifesaving Club on

the Monday night. It is a beautiful club right on the beach and Ms Thompson MP was at the door to greet us all. It was an enjoyable night with only two speeches. The Official Opening on the Monday morning was very formal and a lone piper led the Official Party into the room. We were welcomed by the Mayor of Mid-Coast Council Cr Claire Pontin and the Keynote Speaker was Kerri Pottharst OAM. Over the next few days motions were presented, discussed and voted on. Twenty-five of the over fifty motions presented were on health issues. There were some motions that were reworded and then carried. Out of all the motions two were carried unanimously, two



were lost and one was withdrawn. I returned home on Friday evening 8th May and the next day attended the Pramathon held in the Queanbeyan Town Park.



The weather was great, but the judging of the cutest baby and best decorated pram was very difficult. There were some 37 adorable, gorgeous baby photos to choose from, a very hard task but finally a winner was chosen. The pram unanimously chosen as the best was the Canberra milk one. The day was a great success and look forward to doing it again next year. On Monday 11th May the Queanbeyan Seniors held their Annual Seniors Trivia. This is a fun day where the Seniors, QPRC and high schools get together to test their general knowledge and compete against each other. Each team of 6 members decided on a team name and this year there were names such as 'The Dregs', 'Mad Hatters', 'Whippersnapper', 'The Councillors', 'Recycled Teenagers' and 'The Lucky 5'.

The scores were very close but, in the end, it was the Recycled Teenagers who won the trophy with a score of 70.5 points out of 80. Well done everyone and look forward to next year. On a different note, I need to remind all you lovely people to have a mammogram on a regular basis. A lovely friend of mine recently had her 'boobs squashed' and the results showed something. Since then, she has had further tests, procedures and is currently undergoing radiation treatment. She is 55 and will be ok as they got it early. So please make that appointment, don't put it off any longer. A bit of discomfort is well worth it. Till next time, take care everyone. Maria
Photos supplied

My updated Seniors & Pensioners Kit is now available!

A handy reference with practical, up-to-date information including current pension rates, government services, safety tips and local Council contacts.

Available on my website or contact my office and we will get one to you.



KRISTY MCBAIN MP
Member for Eden-Monaro



kristymcbain.com.au

Authorised by Kristy McBain, ALP, 21-25 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan

High tea a huge success for the Rotary Club of Bungendore

Saturday May 8, tables set, bubbly on ice, a wide range of teas brewing and the entertainment ready. Rotary Club of Bungendore hosted a high tea - twice! The tables were beautiful, adorned with amazing tea sets and individually, uniquely crafted sugar cubes. The day was a fundraiser for cancer research and over \$4,000 raised from the day. The conversation was lively, as it was a perfect a

time to connect with old friends, make some new ones and reflect on why we were all there.

The event was a huge success, with 98 people attending and enjoying Rotary's famous hospitality. Guests were treated to a scrumptious spread, including nearly 300 finger sandwiches during the day (the egg and lettuce amazing!), 1000 sweet and 700 savoury treats – all

lovingly homemade (apart from the macarons) as well as fruit platters.

An enormous amount of time and effort also went on behind the scenes, with volunteers spending countless hours baking, cooking and preparing the food, helping make the day such a memorable success.

Co-ordinator Christine Allard was thrilled with the result of this inaugural fundraiser. Given



the community support and the success of the event it is intended that this will become an annual event around Mother's Day.

Rotary Club of Bungendore would like to thank sponsors Community Bank of Bungendore and IGA with support from Bungendore Country Butchers, Regional Independent, CWA, Lollyshop and Village Coffee Roastery. Thanks also to Catherine Johnson for the donation

of the gorgeous quilt.

Special thanks to the wonderful Bungendore and surrounding community, family and friends for their support.

Huge congratulations to Christine and fellow amazing Rotarians, mammoth effort and such a great result.

Sharon Baxter-Judge

Bungendore Seniors 55+

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

See right for dates.

Everyone over the age of 55 is welcome!

Seniors Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays at the Bungendore Scout Hall - 2.30pm

Chair Yoga is held during school terms only. Cost: \$13 per session for members, \$18 for non-members.

All welcome to attend

Boot Scooting

We are happy to announce that are trialling Boot Scooting for term 2

and it's great fun. See page 20 for more information.

Membership

Yearly membership is only \$10.00 per person. We welcome everyone over the age of 55.

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

Pictured is Rae and Beryl checking out the updated Seniors and Pensioner Information Kit.

THURSDAYS
Thursday 28 May
Thursday 11 June
Thursday 25 June
Thursday 9 July
Thursday 23 July

FRIDAYS
Friday 22 May
Friday 5 June
Friday 19 June
Friday 3 July
Friday 17 July
Friday 31 July



THE
TREASURE
TRAIL

QPRC

Queanbeyan

SHOP & WIN

Spend \$20. Enter the draw.

Win
A SHARE OF
\$8,000
IN PRIZES!

treasuretrail.com.au/win

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. ENTRIES CLOSE 01.06.2026. PERMIT ACT TP 26/00424

Pramathon pushes support for charity

Debbie Evans

Queanbeyan's Pramathon on Saturday, May 9, raised much needed funds to support new mothers through the First Steps Pregnancy Support program.

First Steps Pregnancy Support is a community organisation that provides a central contact point for pregnant women in crisis and is the brainchild of local GP/Obstetrician, Sarah Jensen, who works through the Queanbeyan District Hospital.

The Pramathon is the major fundraising event to support the work of First Steps, and this year has raised more than \$38,000 for the charity, which is currently assisting 65 mothers from Queanbeyan and surrounds.

The Pramathon has built year on year since it first appeared on the Queanbeyan event scene in 2024.

Dr Jensen said she is delighted with the community response which means First Steps Pregnancy Support will be able to continue to fund the work of two social workers, three maternity clinical nurses and a midwife/lactation consultant. They also have a team of 30 volunteers.

According to their web site,

"Pregnancy can be a time of great joy, but for many it brings significant distress without any clear pathway through. We are here to ensure that all pregnant women can access the vital support and resources they need to enable them to continue with their pregnancy and to become capable and confident mothers."

Since opening their doors three years ago First Step Pregnancy Support has seen a growing need for its services requiring them in the past year, to double their footprint at 251 Crawford Street to cater for increased demand from the community.

Dr Jensen said she started First Steps Pregnancy Support after her years of work in the public system and her desire to provide resources to support women in "hard places."

"These women need ongoing support and to have the right team around them." She said.

Bendigo Bank, Community Banks Braidwood and Bungendore, is a major sponsor of the Pramathon and First Steps Pregnancy Support. The banks Community Engagement Manager, Nick Fry, said Bendigo had embraced the charity because of the very

important work they are doing supporting mothers

"Especially their work with young mums who are battling through such issues as domestic violence and barriers for newly arrived mums to the country."

Dr Jensen went on to thank the many people who make the Pramathon possible including its hard-working sub- committee comprising locals Emma Watson, Maria Porreca and Nick Fry (Community Bank), she also acknowledged the support of Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council.

"It's just so lovely to have the event on the day before Mother's Day as a special celebration of mothers. And it gives the opportunity for locals to participate in a host of family friendly events and grab a special gift for mum from the stallholders who come along and set up on the day."

Maria said the worthy nature of the charity is clear from the support the Lions Club receives at their sausage sizzle outside Woolworths on the last Sunday of each month.

"Often people will donate as much as \$50 because they know it's for such a good cause." She said.

Above: Michaelangelo and her children Evie, Alfie, Rosie, Bonnie and Bodhie enjoying the weekend Pramathon.



Left: Freddie was a picture of concentration as he crossed the finish line in first place in the Crawl Race at the Pramathon on Saturday.

Porreca Nick Fry, First Steps Pregnancy Support founder, Dr Sarah Jensen and Emma Watson, were all thrilled and grateful for the community support at the weekend.

Below: The Queanbeyan Pramathon organising subcommittee, L-R, Maria



Thank You

To all the volunteers in Queanbeyan-Palerang, thank you!

This National Volunteer Week we honour the contributions of volunteers who give their time and energy to others for the benefit of our community.

A special shout out to Bek and Ashley who regularly volunteer for the Jerrabomberra Mountain Reserve Parkrun!

Kristy McBain
Member for Eden-Monaro

KristyMcBain.com.au KristyMcBainMP

Authorised by Kristy McBain, ALP, 21-25 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan, NSW



Community Pressure Mounts Over Simultaneous Bridge Closures

Debbie Evans

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) appear to have learned lessons and are now being “very responsive” to community concerns over the closure of both Briars Sharrow and Foxlow bridges, according to Forbes Creek resident, Rowan Simpkin.

Council has admitted it “did not engage” with the community on the closure of the bridges at a community consultation meeting held at the Hoskinstown Hall on Wednesday May 6.

However, Simpkin’s views are not embraced fully by others with some locals walking out of the meeting frustrated with councils lack of engagement.

Simpkin said the community had turned out in force for the May 6 meeting filling the hall, with some people forced to stand outside.

“It was good to see three Councillors at the meeting along with Council staff and all seemed to be listening carefully to the community.

“This is a change, as in the past we have been treated badly, and Council has not heard the people.

“At previous meetings our concerns about Foxlow Bridge have been fobbed off, but it has now been proven to be unfit and closed.

“Council does appear to be listening now with some improvements already being implemented like line

marking and extra grading. “But signage remains an issue with poor signage alerting people to the closure of Briars Sharrow. Other steps Council is considering to lessen the impact on residents now they’ve heard us, is investigating the possibility of night works on Reschs Creek crossing and Briars Sharrow to expedite the projects.

“And the closure of Briars Sharrow a day before the public meeting was certainly unfortunate.” She said.

At the ordinary meeting of council held Wednesday 13 May, QPRC Mayor, Kenrick Winchester, described the meeting at the Hoskinstown Hall as “a very tough meeting, one of the hardest I’ve had in 13 years.”

The Mayoral Minute containing the following recommendation was endorsed by all Councillors except for Councillor Katrina Willis.

“Recommendation: that Council: 1. Note the summary of issues, concerns and priorities raised at the Hoskinstown Community Meeting held on 6 May 2026, at the Hoskinstown Hall. 2. Request an urgent meeting with local member for Monaro Steve Whan MP and NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Jenny Aitcheson MP to seek emergency funding for the replacement or temporary crossing at Foxlow Bridge. 3. Request that



the QPRC Audit and Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC) conduct an audit of the Briars Sharrow Bridge Replacement Project and Foxlow Bridge maintenance programs, including a review of the collective strategic and community risks, Council decisions, local consultation, and project management.”

In the report containing the recommendation Mayor Winchester stated, “The meeting highlighted the very real frustration, uncertainty and hardship currently being experienced by residents, particularly with both Foxlow Bridge and Briars Sharrow Bridge unavailable at the same time. Residents spoke about the impact on emergency access, school transport, travel times, local

connectivity, and day-to-day life for families across the area.

“While many residents continue to support the replacement of Briars Sharrow Bridge, significant concern was raised about the absence of an alternative access route during construction. Staff outlined the engineering, flood and contractual constraints associated with providing a side track or maintaining access through the construction site.

“However, it is clear from the meeting that the closure of Foxlow Bridge has fundamentally changed the community impact and traffic management plan adopted with the project. Importantly, residents

questioned whether sufficient consideration had been given to the combined impact of both bridge closures occurring simultaneously, particularly given the additional flood-related constraints at Reschs Creek. There are also longstanding questions within the community regarding the history of inspections, maintenance, funding priorities, and decision making associated with Foxlow.”

On the agenda at the same meeting was the Foxlow Bridge Structural Assessment and Closure. After much discussion council resolved to:

1. Endorse the closure of Foxlow Bridge to all vehicular traffic due to the

information received in the Level 3 Structural Inspection report.

2. Consider an urgent temporary crossing option in the context of the current Operational Plan.

3. Receive a report regarding the replacement and/or restoration or adaptive reuse of Foxlow Bridge.

This resolution was carried unanimously.

To view the business papers head to <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings>. To view the discussion head to <https://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>

Photo supplied of Foxlow Bridge

New hospitality facilities at BHS first class

Recently Bungendore High School welcomed guests and sponsors to a special thank you lunch. The lunch, made by and served by the Cert II in Food & Beverage students was to celebrate

their new hospitality facilities at the North Campus.

The \$30,000 fit out is thanks to a generous \$22,000 donation from the Community Bank Bungendore, donations from

Amerigo Horsemanship and Clinics and fundraising by the schools Parents and Citizen’s Association. The new facilities are first class, from commercial fridges to fryers to mixers, ovens to

dishwashers, a commercial kitchen Salamander to quality pots and pans.

Principal Melissa Giddins thanked sponsors and said this new facility enables the school to expand on



vocational training options for Year 10 and that food technology was very popular amongst year 9 students.

All the equipment purchased will be relocated to permanent high school once completed.

In showing guests the new facilities, hospitality teacher Ms. Frances Lawson-Cohen said that the communities support has been wonderful. The new equipment will

greatly assist the prospects of present and future students.

Congratulations to all involved.

Sharon Baxter-Judge Above: Garry Cooke, Chairman Palerang Financial Services and Nick Fry, Community Engagement Manager. at the luncheon.

Left: the new facility

Less than 100 Days to Census: Regional Australia encouraged to be counted

The 2026 Census is less than 100 days away, with Census night to be held on Tuesday 11 August 2026.

The Census is an important tool for regional and rural communities, as it shows what local areas need to help them grow, including transport, schools, healthcare, roads and buildings.

Emily Walter, Census National Spokesperson, said the 100-day milestone is an important reminder for regional and rural communities to start preparing for Census night.

“The 2026 Census is a vital opportunity for people in regional and rural Australia to be heard and ensure their communities are accurately represented,” Ms Walter said.

“Every answer matters to help us understand what Australia needs now and into the future.

“For people in regional towns and remote communities, taking part ensures that local services and infrastructure are planned using accurate and recent data.

“When you complete the Census, you are helping your community get the right support.”

Data from the 2021 Census showed a significant shift in where people live, with more than 184,000 people moving to regional areas over the previous five years. This growth was driven by moves to regional Queensland (+63,700), Victoria (+62,900) and New South Wales (+59,000).

The 2026 Census will be the first opportunity to record how these shifting populations have impacted local infrastructure and where new investments in services are required.

The ABS provides tailored support to ensure everyone in regional Australia can participate, regardless of their location.

“We want to make sure everyone in regional, rural and remote Australia is supported to take part because every answer matters,” Ms Walter said.

“If you are in a small country town you can visit us at a Pop-up Hub or call us to ensure you have the support you need to be counted.

“Additionally, Census staff will be available in remote communities from July to help people participate.”

All information collected in the Census is protected by law and kept private. It is never shared with the police, Centrelink, or any other organisation in a way that is likely to identify you.

For more information to prepare for the 2026 Census, go to census.abs.gov.au

Bungendore High School Buzz

Bungendore High School Year 9 students recently had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Australia’s past through a history excursion to two of Canberra’s most iconic institutions.

The day began at the Australian War Memorial, where they participated in a guided tour. Students gained valuable insights into the experiences of Australian soldiers and the profound impact of the First World War on the shaping of our national identity. The visit included moments of quiet reflection in the commemorative spaces, highlighting the importance of remembrance and the personal stories behind historic events.

The group then travelled to Parliament House, where we deepened our understanding of how laws are made and the role of the Senate and House of Representatives.

This excursion offered an invaluable opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with real-world history, sparking meaningful discussion and a deeper appreciation of Australia’s past.

Photo supplied





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The Biggest Morning Tea

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Saturday 23rd May 10.00 am

Together we can make a difference



Cancer Council ACT

We are donating 60% of funds to the Cancer Council ACT and 40% to Organisations in our local area providing on-the-ground Cancer support – especially to the disadvantaged.

Proudly supporting organisations in our local community



St Benedicts Community Centre



40 RISE ABOVE CANCER RELIEF

Please come along – all welcome

Bring your Family | Bring your Friends

Suggested donation: \$10.00 per person

Thank you!

Every cup. Every conversation. Every dollar helps.

QPRC & Bendigo Bank 2026 Art Awards Winners Announced

The opening of the 2026 QPRC & Bendigo Bank Art Awards took place on the afternoon of Saturday the 16th of May, to over 200 visitors. This year, the professional judging panel featured arts industry leaders: Louise Wakefield, President of Southern Tableland Arts and Kacy Grainger, Arts Manager and Curator of Grainger Galleries. Additionally, QPRC Mayor Kenrick Winchester and representatives from Bendigo Bank presided over a number of special prize categories, all judges were very impressed by the quality of the works submitted from a range of media including glass, sculpture, digital, pastels and paintings.

This year 87 artists exhibited and competed for 12 prizes. To accommodate the largest ever Art Awards exhibition it has been showcased across two gallery spaces: The Q Exhibition Space and The LinQ Gallery. Both venues are located within The Q & The B Performing Arts Centre in the heart of the

Queanbeyan Civic precinct.

And the winners are...

\$7000 Major Acquisitive Award, The Passing Autumn by Annette Blair (right)

\$3000 Mayors Acquisitive Heritage Art Award, Superb Lyrebird by David Smith (below left)

\$1000 Mayors Highly Commended Heritage Award, On the Edge of Morning by Jen Moraga

\$3000 3D Art Award, With You, By My Side by Kate Butler

\$1000 3D Highly Commended, Waste Columns by Mahala Hill

\$3000 First Nations Award, Lessons from the Forest by Lea Palij (below right)

\$1000 First Nations Highly Commended, Spirit Country (Sacred Country) by Gail Neuss

\$2000 Emerging Artist Award 16-25yrs, The Book Of Promise by Pouniu Iosia

\$2000 Bendigo Pick Award, Superb Lyrebird by David

Smith

\$1000 Bendigo Pick Photographic Award, Mystery Bay by Matt Hamilton

Our arts industry judges Kacy and Louise, commend Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and Bendigo Bank for their continued investment in this exhibition - not only the financial support that makes these prizes possible, but the time, effort and care that goes into creating a genuine opportunity for artists to participate, present their work, and be seen. Events like this matter enormously to artists at every stage of their practice, and to the audiences who engage with them. The calibre of entries this year is testament to what becomes possible when community and institutional support combine.

QPRC would also like to acknowledge the financial support of the Braidwood & Bungendore Community Bank Branches of the Bendigo Bank, as the growth of the awards would not



be possible without their involvement and support.

There is still two awards to be judged over the course of the exhibition which will culminate on Saturday afternoon June 13 with the closing event, including artist talks and the announcement of the Viewer's Choice Award and the Curators Choice Award. It will also include our new \$250 Lucky Viewer's Choice Prize, a

lucky dip draw of all viewers choice voting slips.

It is now up to our visitors and curator to choose the final two prizes The Annual Art Awards Exhibition is open on Saturday 16 May at 4 pm, with the prize announcements beginning at 5pm. We look forward to celebrating this exciting showcase with you!

Exhibition dates: 16 May - 13 June 2026

Venue: The Q Exhibition Space & The LinQ Gallery, Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre

Opening Hours: Tue - Sat, 10am - 4pm

Phone: 02 6285 6170

Website: www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-awards

Further Info: Janita.Byrne@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Photos supplied



Funding Boost to Improve Sydney to Canberra Rail Link

The federal Government will provide \$50 million for priority upgrades to rail infrastructure between Sydney and Canberra as part of the 2026-27 Federal Budget.

This funding will be matched by \$25 million from the NSW Government and \$25 million from the ACT Government, securing \$100 million to undertake this project.

Upgrades are expected to commence this year and be ongoing for up to five years, and will likely include:

- Investigations into new express services
- New boom gates and lights at level crossings to improve safety and increase train speeds
- Improvements to track alignments and turnouts
- Station and stabling improvements
- Planning and design for the next phase of works, which could include passing loops, track recanting and straightening.

The 321-kilometre corridor includes the Sydney Trains-operated line between Sydney Central station and Macarthur, the ARTC-operated Southern Line through the Southern Highlands to Goulburn, and the UGL Regional Linx-operated Country Regional

Network (CRN) branch line into Canberra.

Local Government and Territories, and Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain said “Improvements to the Canberra to Sydney rail service is great news for people in our region.

“This \$100 million dollar investment from the Australian, NSW and ACT Labor governments will make rail travel to and from Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Tarago and Goulburn, more efficient and more reliable.

“This funding will deliver priority, quick fixes that can be implemented as soon as possible, as well as work to explore more changes to further improve the service.”

The Government will work with network operators and transport departments to determine the most cost-effective interventions, with an immediate focus of improvements to the line between Goulburn and Canberra, to complement trackwork already underway on the ARTC Southern Highlands line between Goulburn and Sydney.

This investment will also fund a business case, to map out network upgrades and timetable improvements, to help to improve efficiency and travel times for passenger services over the coming years.



The funding will increase the corridor’s capacity, reliability and efficiency, complementing the NSW Government’s investment in new Regional Rail Fleet trains, which will start serving the line once testing and commissioning is complete.

Member for Monaro, Steve Whan said “Queanbeyan region

residents love the train to Sydney, it’s full much of the time and for pensioners or seniors it is the cheapest way to get there. This joint investment from three Labor Governments will get the 4:15 time down to under 4 hours and sets the scene for more services in the future.

“Combine this with our TrainLink

services and you have a great service for our region.”

Photo supplied of NSW Minister for Regional Transport Jenny Aitchison, Member for Monaro, Steve Whan and Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain

Relationships top riches

National Seniors Australia Long-running research shows you don’t have to be wealthy to enjoy life.

In 1938, as the clouds of war gathered over Europe, a group of researchers at America’s Harvard University began an ambitious project: to follow people through their entire adult lives and discover what really makes life satisfying, healthy, and meaningful.

Nearly nine decades on, the Harvard Study of Adult Development is the longest-running study of human wellbeing in history, and its lessons about ageing have become clearer, and more hopeful, with time.

The study originally followed two very different groups of young men: Harvard undergraduates and boys from some of Boston’s most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Over the decades, researchers tracked their physical health, work lives, marriages, friendships, and emotional wellbeing. Later, the study expanded to include spouses and more than 1,300 children and grandchildren, creating a rare multigenerational portrait of how lives unfold over time.

The most consistent finding has surprised even the

researchers. Good relationships - not wealth, status, or even genetics - are the strongest predictor of happiness and healthy ageing.

People who felt satisfied in their close relationships in midlife were healthier and happier in old age, with lower rates of chronic illness and longer life expectancy.

Loneliness, by contrast, proved to be as damaging to health as smoking or obesity.

Another important lesson is that life is not fixed early on. Childhood disadvantage did not doom participants to poor outcomes, nor did early success guarantee lifelong wellbeing.

Many people changed course, sometimes dramatically, well into midlife and beyond. Careers shifted, relationships healed or changed, and personal growth remained possible even in the later decades of life.

Ageing, the study shows, is not simply about physical decline. Those who stayed emotionally connected, maintained a sense of purpose, and adapted to change fared far better than those who withdrew or became socially isolated.

Taking care of relationships turned out to be just as

important as taking care of the body - a message that resonates strongly in later life.

Now, the study has entered an important second major phase, focusing on the children and grandchildren of the original participants.

This newer stage reflects a more diverse and modern world, examining how factors such as women’s life experiences, work-life balance, technology, social change, and even the COVID-19 pandemic shape wellbeing across generations.

Researchers are also using new tools, such as brain imaging and genetic markers, to understand how social connections “get under the skin” to influence ageing.

The goal is not simply to add years to our lives, but life to our years.

For older people, the message from nearly 90 years of evidence is both comforting and empowering: it is never too late to invest in relationships, reconnect with others, or reshape the story of your later years.

A good life is less about what we accumulate and more about who we share it with.

Related reading: Harvard News, Robert Waldinger, Lifespan Research

Queanbeyan

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What’s on at the Hub

MON:	XBOX Gaming	- 3:00pm to 5:00pm
TUES:	Invictus Yoga	- 10:00am to 11:00am
	Veterans Guitar Group	- 10:00am to 12:00pm
WED:	RSL Sub Branch Catchup	- 9:00am to 11:00pm
	Fortnightly - Create & Caffeinate	- 10:00am to 12:00pm
	Heart-Muscle-Balance	- 12:00pm to 12:45pm
THURS:	Fortnightly - Open Arms Coffee Catchup	- 10:00am
	Zumba - Registration required	- 11:00am to 12:00pm
FRI:	Mind Body Balance Tai Chi	- 9:30am to 10:30am

Visit the Hub today

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Budget 2026: The good, the bad and the downright ugly

National Seniors Australia

This year’s Federal Budget changes are drawing a mixture of praise and criticism. What it means for seniors depends on who you are and what services you use.

Budgets are more than just dollars and cents. They set out the legislative agenda and the fights that will animate the media and parliament for the coming year.

Key Budget announcements in 2026 set up several fights, with seniors caught in the middle of some of these.

The 2026 Federal Budget has been heavily framed as an opportunity to create greater intergenerational equity.

The Treasurer, Dr Jim Chalmers, has proposed changes to tax concessions and rebates, including changes to the Capital Gains Tax discount and to the private health insurance rebate for seniors through the lens of intergenerational equity.

It didn’t have to be this way. Older people, like younger people, are not a homogenous group, with many older people struggling with rising living costs, a lack of housing, and rising health costs.

Below is a wrap of the key Budget announcements with a call to action on private health insurance rebates.

Private health insurance rebate

A reduction in the higher rebate for seniors has been justified on intergenerational equity grounds, but this is misguided. In truth, the higher rebate saves the government money and supports the sustainability of both the private and public health systems, which helps all generations.

Encouraging older people, especially pensioners and low-income self-funded retirees, to retain private health insurance means they are more likely to contribute to the cost of health out of their own pocket - saving government money!

People will not support user charges for a public hospital system with huge waiting lists for elective surgery, so encouraging older people to retain private insurance makes good economic sense.

This change, from 1 April 2027, will cost a couple aged over 70 currently paying \$7,000 a year about \$830 a year more in premiums according to our new rebate cut estimator.

Rather than reform the rebate so it is more effective at retaining older people, the government chose to take an axe to a knife fight - effectively chopping off tens of thousands of pensioners from the private health system and burdening others with higher costs to remain in the system.

National Seniors Australia (NSA) will fight this change in the media and by lobbying parliamentarians, but we can’t do it alone.

If this change concerns you:

- Check out and share our rebate

cut estimator with friends and encourage them to join the campaign

- Join our Health Costs campaign
- Become a member of NSA.

The most powerful way for us to be heard is by having real people share the impact of this change through the media (TV, radio and print). It’s not for everyone but if this is something you are willing to do, please email us at policy@nationalseniors.com.au with details of how the rebate change will affect you.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and negative gearing

The proposed changes to the CGT discount and negative gearing are complex and will affect people differently, depending on their circumstance.

On the plus side, capital gains made before 1 July 2027 will be grandfathered and continue to attract a 50% discount. Tax on gains made after 1 July 2027 will be subject to the Keating era method using cost base indexation (adjusting the purchase price for inflation), but with a 30% minimum tax on net capital gains.

Assets purchased and fully sold before 1 July 2027 are not affected by the change.

People who buy new investment properties will be able to choose between the 50% discount and the inflation adjusted discount to encourage investment in new housing stock.

The CGT change will impact all assets, such as shares, not just housing assets. The Budget papers say it will apply to assets held by individuals, trusts, and partnerships, but according to CPA Australia, one of the peak accounting bodies, superannuation funds will maintain their current CGT treatment.

The 30% minimum tax is the most controversial change. While some capital gains might be taxed at the 0% or 16% individual tax rates currently, this would apply a minimum 30% tax rate to the net capital gain.

Importantly, Age Pension recipients are explicitly exempt from a 30% minimum tax on capital gains.

The government also intends to apply the 30% minimum tax to some trust distributions from 1 July 2028. This is a very complicated proposal with many details to be confirmed.

Investors purchasing existing housing from 7.30pm on the night of the Budget will no longer be able to claim negative gearing when they purchase an existing dwelling, but newly built dwellings will continue to be eligible. Investors in newly built residential property will also be able to choose either the 50% discount capital gains rules or the new rules.

Other assets, such as commercial property and shares, will continue to be eligible for negative gearing.

In an ominous sign for renters, when a similar policy was introduced in New Zealand in 2021, this resulted in higher rental prices, leading to the policy being abandoned only three years later.

Aged Care: Support at Home

The Government is committing \$1 billion over four years to ensure the service type “personal care” is fully funded. This will remove any consumer co-contributions for personal care services, such as showering, through the Support at Home program.

For older Australians on a pension or fixed income, out-of-pocket costs for these daily supports have been a real and growing pressure. NSA has been advocating strongly for this change and welcomes its inclusion in the Budget.

The Budget will fund the release of Support at Home packages to enable more older Australians to remain at home for longer. However, it is unclear how much this will reduce wait times below the current average wait time of 12 months.

Aged Care: Residential aged care

The Budget has allocated funding to incentivise the construction of an estimated 5,000 aged care beds each year. The funds will provide a capital subsidy in the form of a daily payment to providers who build or significantly expand residential accommodation.

Aged Care: Dementia care

The Budget also commits \$224.3 million over four years for dementia care, expanding specialist dementia programs and hospital-to-aged-care transition supports. This is a positive step for older Australians living with complex dementia and their families, who often struggle to access appropriate care.

It includes 20 additional Specialist Dementia Care units, more than

doubling the current number nationally. The Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program will be expanded from 11 to 20 locations.

Our hope is that this will help to address the needs of stranded patients stuck in the hospital system.

Aged Care: Accommodation supplement

The Budget includes a provision of \$1.1 billion for future spending to increase the accommodation payment for low-means residents and an additional payment for high supported residents. This will require further legislation to take effect.

NSA will be closely monitoring the implementation.

RSV Vaccine

In good news for seniors, the government has listed the RSV vaccine on the National Immunisation Program making it free for people aged 75 and over and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 60 and over. With RSV contributing to hospitalisation, this should help give older people greater protection.

Medicare Urgent Care Clinics

The Budget includes \$1.8 billion over five years for Medicare Urgent Care Clinics to expand the network to 137 clinics. These free walk-in services provide an alternative to emergency departments for non-life-threatening conditions, helping older Australians avoid waiting in busy emergency departments.

Hospital funding

The Budget confirms the Commonwealth commitment of an additional \$25 billion for state-run hospitals. Older Australians are the highest per-capita users of hospital services, so this sustained investment matters. With older

people being increasingly stranded in hospital, we hope that some of this funding will go to support the care and support of older people in hospital and we continue to call for greater attention to this issue.

Fuel costs

The temporary reduction in fuel excise - 32 cents per litre less on petrol and diesel - will run until 30 June 2026 with excise rates returning to normal on 1 July 2026. For those who rely on a car in regional and outer suburban areas, this has provided some short-term relief. This relief has not yet been extended.

Pension Supplement

The Budget includes a change to the Pension Supplement when travelling overseas. Currently, the payment reduces to the supplement basic rate after a person is out of Australia for more than six weeks.

The Budget proposal had this doubling to 12 weeks, from 20 September 2026. However, after 12 weeks the supplement will stop instead of reducing. If someone moves overseas permanently, the supplement will cease when they depart. This is estimated to save the Budget \$218 million over five years.

Veterans and allied health

NSA is concerned that overall, there is a cut to veterans’ services. Overall, the Budget lists savings of around \$600m over the forward estimates. This includes \$169.7m over five years to increase allied health provider fees but also the introduction of a \$5,000 annual limit for allied health services, saving the government \$779.5m over five years.

For more information, join the campaigns and to become a member head to <https://nationalseniors.com.au>

Image Shutterstock



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Queanbeyan Multicultural Festival

After being postponed in March due to bad weather, the Queanbeyan Multicultural Festival is back and ready to bring colour and culture to Queanbeyan Park on Saturday 20 June from 10am-4pm.

► Find out more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/QMCF

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Draft Development Waste Guidelines	21 May
Management of Cultural Gifts and Donations Policy	21 May
Street Verge Maintenance Policy 2026	21 May
Wilkins Park Captains Flat improvements	27 May
Gracelands Park Queanbeyan East improvements	27 May
Future use of 172 Foxlow Street Captains Flat	28 May
Bungendore Structure Plan Review 2026	29 May
Draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges	11 June
Draft Integrated Plans and Reports for 2026/7	11 June
Local Policy Temporary Accommodation While Constructing a Dwelling	11 June

► Find all the details at www.yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

Submissions can be made:

- By registering and commenting via yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au
- By email to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au (referencing the item in the subject line)
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- Delivered in person to our Customer Service Centres



Queanbeyan Reconciliation Walk in 2 weeks!

Join us for our annual Queanbeyan Reconciliation Walk on Tuesday 2 June. This year the route has been shortened due to the Monaro Street Refresh.

We will gather as normal on Trinculo Place at 9.30am before walking across the Queens Bridge, down to Collett Street before gathering for formal proceedings at the amphitheatre on the corner of Collett St and Morisset St.

► Find out more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/2026-rec-walk

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:

- 27 May 2026 (Queanbeyan)
- 10 June 2026 (Queanbeyan)

Written Questions on Notice

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

Work with Council

Current vacancies include:

- Animal Care Officer
- Team Leader - Animal Management Facility
- Team Leader - Rural Waste
- Team Leader - Central Waste (weekend)
- Team Leader - Central Waste (weekday)
- Events Officer

► For more information and roles see bit.ly/QPRC-Careers



LoopedIn Councils Waste app

We have a new waste app, called LoopedIn Councils. Use the app to receive reminders about bin night, notifications about changes for public holidays, waste news, access the A-Z of waste, find our waste transfer stations, and check what goes in each bin.

If you have waste vouchers that you still need to use for this financial year, these need to be used from the old app before 30 June. After 1 July, the new app will have waste vouchers for the 2026-27 financial year.

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

@QbnPaleringRC



@QbnPalering



@QbnPalering



Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

eepurl.com/codv-v



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
1300 735 025

council@qprc.nsw.gov.au

www.qprc.nsw.gov.au

Ageing Australia welcomes delayed hospital discharge enquiries

Ageing Australia welcomes the establishment of joint enquiries into older people facing delayed discharge from hospitals by state and Federal Governments.

A new national hospital discharge joint taskforce will look at ways to improve outcomes for older patients, while a separate enquiry by the NSW Productivity Commission will recommend ways of reducing discharge delays, improving access to care and

relieving pressure on hospitals.

“Too often, older people are being left to languish in hospital far longer than necessary. But the solutions to this problem are constantly oversimplified, which makes real progress impossible,” Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said.

“Hospitals are excellent at providing critical emergency care when a person has a fall at home or suffers from a stroke. But they

are not a good place for older people to be long term. We see many people who entered hospital relatively healthy rapidly lose their ability to live independently because of the impacts of being left in bed, loneliness and constant noise and disruption. Every day they are in hospital exponentially increases the risk they will never be able to return home.”

“On top of this, many older patients cannot be cared for in

residential care because their clinical needs are far beyond what we can deliver - a day in hospital is funded ten times more than a day in residential care. Add to this the chronic shortage of residential beds across the nation and the enormous waiting list for homecare packages, and even those with relatively low needs find themselves stuck.”

“With a rapidly ageing population, making sure older people have

the right care in the right setting must become a priority for all governments. Only by states, the Commonwealth, hospitals and aged care providers working together can we find solutions. We welcome the joint enquiries which we hope will shine a much needed light on this wicked problem and are ready to assist in any way we can,” Mr Symondson said.



Influenza and COVID-19 viruses are always changing, and the risk of serious illness goes up if you're over 65. By vaccinating regularly, you can protect yourself before a new strain goes around.

Speak to your health professional and book your vaccinations today or visit health.gov.au/winter-vaccinations



Boot Scooting Bungendore

Bungendore Seniors Association

Looking for something a little different? Boot Scootin' is a fun, easy way to get moving while enjoying great company. With simple steps and a relaxed, no-pressure atmosphere, it's perfect for beginners and those just keen to give it a go. It's not about getting it right – it's about having a laugh, staying active and meeting others. Along the way you'll build balance, coordination and confidence, all while enjoying the music. Come along, bring a friend and join in the fun!

We are trialling Boot Scooting for one school term. The wonderful Shikarlea from Bom Funk Dance Studio will be running the classes.

Wednesday's 10am to 11am

Bungendore Sports Hub Amenities Building

What to bring: a water bottle & sense of fun

What to wear: BOOTS! Please note: flooring at the Sports Hub is carpet tiles, so make sure you have your boots on.

Boot Scooting is not just for seniors, all adults are welcome.

Bookings are essential - NO walk ins will be accepted.

Scan the QR code or book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DLDMI>

Or search Try Booking - Boot Scooting Bungendore

Cost \$15 per person / per lesson for members. \$20 per person per lesson for non-members (+ a \$0.50 booking fee)

Not a member? Annual membership is just \$10. Under 55's who wish to do Boot Scooting can become a Community Member. For more info on how to become a member please email bungendoreseniors@gmail.com for more information.

Don't forget your water bottle!



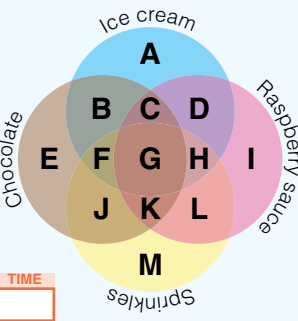
BRAIN TRAINING

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.

Venn Diagram

Given that each of the lettered areas represents a different group of people, which areas of this Venn diagram represent:

- 1 People who like chocolate sauce on their ice cream with sprinkles but not raspberry sauce and
- 2 People who like raspberry sauce and sprinkles on their ice cream, but don't like chocolate



TIME

Letter Box

Complete the grid so that four words read across and a different four words read downwards using only the letters in the word STAPLERS.

		O	T
	O	V	E
	P		
P	E		

TIME

Wordbuilder

Using the nine letters provided, can you answer these clues? Every answer must include the highlighted letter R. Which word meaning tree-lined street uses all nine letters?

L	U	V
A	R	E
B	O	D

TIME

5 letters

- Love deeply
- Facial hair
- Plank
- Courageous
- Bakery product

6 letters

- Consume ravenously
- Toil

Trying time

- Gallantry
- Plush fabric
- Spoken, oral

7 letters

- Large rock
- Hard-wearing
- Slatted (window)

Quick Time 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				

Across

- 1 English river (6)
- 4 School of whales (3)
- 7 Ancient Greek assembly (5)
- 8 Tidier (6)
- 11 Knowledge (3)
- 12 Absence of difficulty (4)
- 13 Accomplishes (4)
- 15 Incendiarism (5)
- 16 Object (5)
- 20 Girl's name (4)
- 23 Duty round (4)
- 24 Tooth on a wheel (3)
- 25 Typewriter roller (6)
- 26 Book of maps (5)
- 27 Scottish river (3)
- 28 Turns outwards (6)

Down

- 1 Skin disease (5)
- 2 Shooting-stars (7)
- 3 Variety of quartz (4)
- 4 Prod (4)
- 5 Metal-bearing minerals (4)
- 6 Japanese sports grade (3)
- 9 Corn spike (3)
- 10 Donkey (3)
- 14 Perform surgery (7)
- 17 Pithy saying (3)
- 18 Small truck (3)
- 19 Utters wildly (5)
- 20 Mechanical procedure (4)
- 21 Impertinently familiar glance (4)
- 22 Church ornamental recess (4)
- 24 Bounder (3)

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.

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

Crossword

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10
11						12								13				
14												15						
												16						
17												18				19		20
																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																50		
51														52				

Target Time

Target: Average - 10, Good - 13, Excellent - 16+

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.

S	S	S
O	O	I
B	N	E

Across

- 1 Shows up
- 5 Heralds
- 11 Remunerator
- 12 Graduate
- 13 Harsh
- 14 Fatigued
- 15 Braced
- 17 Soft drinks
- 18 Breed of cow
- 20 Spring
- 23 Composition of quartz
- 25 Exclamation of relief
- 27 Tipped over
- 30 Kissers
- 32 God of the Phoenicians
- 33 Order
- 34 Denuded
- 35 Nearer
- 37 Espouses
- 39 Public service
- 41 Black look

Down

- 1 Female rulers
- 2 Of hallucinogenic drugs
- 3 Wraps for burial
- 4 Slopes
- 5 Originator; collapse
- 6 Spoke
- 7 Put back to zero
- 8 Country
- 9 Cultivated
- 10 Programmed
- 16 Arab sailing vessel

18 Soft bread rolls

- 19 Blue colour
- 21 Serve at tables
- 22 Wooded hollow
- 24 Talon
- 26 Age
- 28 Bundle
- 29 Character
- 31 Saucy
- 32 Flock
- 33 Reduced staff
- 34 The greater part
- 36 Demoted
- 38 Remarkable things (coll)
- 40 Nervelessly
- 41 Hair cleanser
- 42 Recovered consciousness (4,2)
- 43 Accompany
- 45 Also-ran
- 47 Curly-leafed cabbage

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



When a bridge becomes a carpark/ute park? A uteful bridge! Photo: Amanda

PET OF THE WEEK

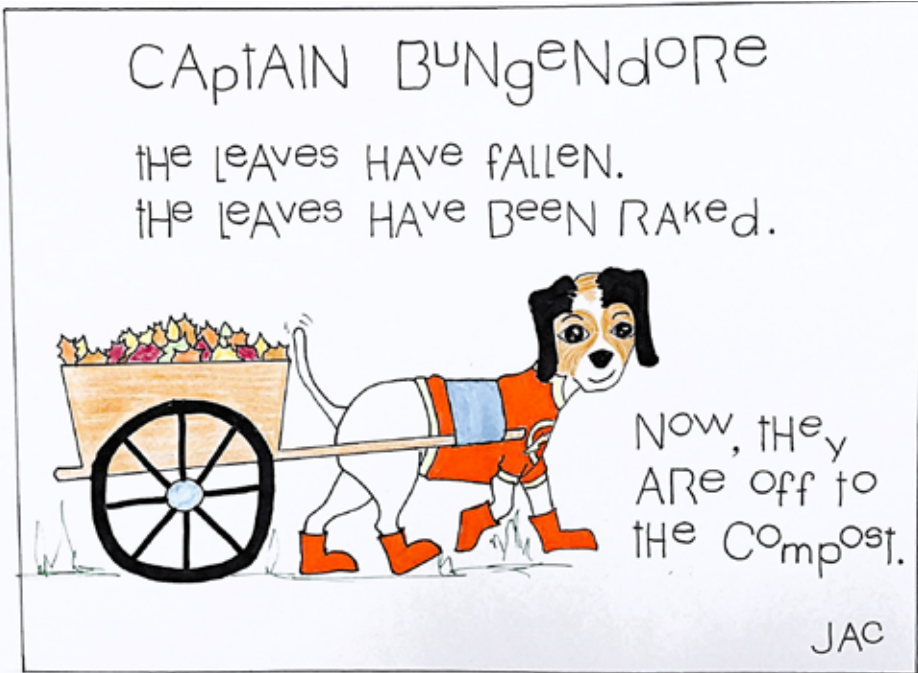


Name: Coco
Likes : Playing chasings, belly rubs, her new sisters although they are not 100% sure about her yet and her daddy
Dislikes: The vacuum and her new mummy
Claim to Fame: Recently travelled and arrived from Penang, Malaysia via 6mths quarantine in Singapore with her own personal passport.

Pickleball in Bungendore: now playing Saturday mornings

After the success of the come-and-try-it session on Saturday 8th May, Bungendore Park Tennis Club is now running an open social session on every Saturday between 9 and 11am at the courts (weather permitting).

All abilities are welcome and we have several good paddles (bats) available for those that don't have their own.
Contact Lyn for more information at bptc. pickleball@gmail.com



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.

Bungendore Food Hub

A HELP UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTED BY OUR COMMUNITY

FOOD, TOILETRIES, WARM CLOTHING, ADDITIONAL SUPPORT, COMMUNITY RESOURCES ARE ALL AVAILABLE HERE!

OPEN WEDNESDAYS 10AM-12PM

LOCATED IN THE OLD OP SHOP BEHIND BUNGENDORE ANGLICAN CHURCH, BIRRAHAR STREET BUNGENDORE

CONTACT 6228 1261 OR 0422605089

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/>

Bungendore Evening VIEW Club

Next meeting - Monday June 1

BEVC April meeting was held on 30th March due to Easter Holiday on first Monday of April

Guest speaker for the evening was William Verdon - a jeweller with a business in Braidwood. His style is hand made bench work - no castings or mass production - designing individual pieces and likes to consult with his clients .

“May the Fourth be With You” meeting - invited Clinton Ernst to speak to members. Clinton is employed at Sutton Road Training Centre and his talk focused on the older clientele - our members - emphasis on prevention rather than cure. Members were extremely interested in key points brought to our attention leaving us thinking how our habits can improve.

JUNE MEETING will be held on 1st June at The George - 6 pm for 6-30 meeting.

Guest speaker will be Luke Watson who will be talking about the work the Terry Campese

Foundation does in the community and for youth.

New members welcome. Contact dhudson2@vtown.com.au

Bungendore Bridge Club

Bungendore School of Arts, Gibraltar Street, Bungendore
Wednesdays: 7.00-10.00pm
Saturdays: 10.00am-1.00pm

Contact: Angela McGill, President
0408 409 989 or Bobbie Gosper, Secretary on 0408 788 213

Bungendore Community CHRISTMAS IN JULY Market

Saturday, 18th of July | 9am - 1pm
Phillips Street Anglican Church, Bungendore

Handmade Crafts, Local Goods & Festive Fun!

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



Every Friday
10am to 12pm
Starting
Friday 1 May



Tech Help
Drop-In
Queanbeyan Library

In loving memory of
George Leonard Wark.
Passed away 14/5/2026
Love and miss you every day,
Margaret, Steven, Peter and Family

Bungendore Basketball - Join the Fun!

Looking for a fun, active way to build skills and confidence? Come join Bungendore Basketball for an exciting season! No experience or skill required—just bring your enthusiasm.

Our program focuses on fitness, fun, and basic basketball skills in a supportive environment.

When: Terms 2 & 3, Where: Bungendore Primary School Hall

Tuesdays

- 3:30pm - 4:15pm | Years K-1 | \$70
- 4:15pm - 5:00pm | Years 2-4 | \$70

(Experienced Year 4 players may also join older group on Wednesdays)

Wednesdays

- 4:00pm - 5:00pm | Years 4-6 | \$70
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm | Teens & Adults | Cost TBC

Got questions?
Contact:
RJ - 0409 446 018
Keith - 0419 693 484
Kirsten - 0401 230 714

Come along, make new friends, and enjoy the game!

The Lions Club of Googong and Surrounds Inc

Book Exchange Event

The Lions Club of Googong and Surrounds is holding a **Book Exchange Event** on **Saturday 23rd May** from 11am to 3pm at the **Googong Community Centre**.

Over 400 books of different genres will be available to swap or buy. Give new life to your old books by swapping them for new titles or buy books \$1 for soft cover and \$2 for hard cover.

Books can make you smarter, calmer, more creative, and more understanding of others—all at the same. They build a stronger vocabulary, improve writing and speaking skills and help with learning.

Don't let your books be part of the estimated 5 million books that go to landfill each year in Australia.

Saturday, May 23, 11am to 3pm
Community Centrem Gorman Drive

Bring a book, take a book, buy a book. Swap and share.

Mayor's Column

We are seeking feedback on Council's draft budget for 2026-27. The documents are on public exhibition until 11 June and include the Draft Operational Plan and Delivery Program, Draft Statement of Revenue Policy and the Draft Long Term Financial Plan. Have your say on the projects and documents at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au



Following the closure of Foxlow Bridge to traffic, Council formally received the structural engineer's report at the meeting last week. Council resolved to look at options for an urgent temporary crossing and will receive a report about the longer-term replacement, restoration or adaptive reuse of the bridge.

We've recently been doing some resheeting works on Hoskinstown Road, targeting corrugated sections, as part of repairs for the detour route for the Briars Sharrow Bridge project. Our design team is also working on concept designs for two future upgrades of Hoskinstown Road, which include 3km between Briars Sharrow and Plains Roads and 4.1km between the end of the seal at the southern end of Hoskinstown Village and Reschs Creek. Detailed designs are going to be prepared in 2026-27 so that we can apply for grant funding to construct these works.

We are making some minor repairs to the existing low-level crossing at Reschs Creek. The repairs will ensure it will be suitable for heavy vehicles, including construction traffic while the new bridge is built. This work is planned for Thursday night, 21 May from 10 pm to 5 am. Following this repair there will be some asphalt surfacing work, which will also be done on one night. These works are night works to minimise impact to the community. The new bridge is being built on a different alignment, and these repairs will ensure the current low-level crossing can remain open to traffic throughout the project.

As part of the review of the Bungendore Structure Plan, we are seeking community feedback and ideas for Bungendore's future. On Your Voice, you can drop a pin on an interactive map and make a comment about what you would like to see in that area as well as complete a survey. Get involved and have your say at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor



The Bethany Group invites ladies to meet with God and receive food for the soul.



To sit and to serve

Topic: "Impress versus Express".

Function: Soup and Slice Luncheon Cost: \$10

When: Saturday 6th June 2026 11.30am for 11.45am – 1.30pm

Where: Queanbeyan Uniting Church, Rutledge Street, Queanbeyan

Speaker: **Cass Sabben**

Married to Garth, with two adult sons and two teenage daughters, Cass is involved in the ministry of Scripture in schools, particularly high schools, and is on the SRE board in the Southern Highlands. She is also involved in the Home Schooling community; mentoring relationships; and Christian outreach in the area.

RSVP: 30th May 2026
Contact: Judith Griffiths Email: jandi47g@gmail.com Phone: 0410018808

Limited seating Prayer Ministry available

Unfortunately, we are unable to cater for all dietary requirements.

Target Time

Target: Average - 10, Good - 13, Excellent - 16+

bison, bone, boon, boson, boss, ebon, eosin, noesis, noise, noose, nose, oboe, obsess, OBSESSION, ossein, session, snob, sone, soon.

Brain Training

VENN DIAGRAM: F and H

LETTER BOX: Across: Spot, Love, Apes, Pert

Down: Slap, Pope, Over, Test

WORDBUILDER: Adore, Beard, Board, Brave, Bread, Devour, Labour, Ordeal, Valour, Velour, Verbal, Boulder, Durable, Louvred, Boulevard

Sudoku

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

Puzzle Solutions

Quick Time Crossword

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

Crossword

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

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, 10am to 2pm, in the Community Hall, Foxlow Street, Captains Flat. Enquiries to CFCA.Markets@captainsflat.org.au

the market @ bungendore
10am-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 MarketsQbn 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

BUNGENDORE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

If you are looking for a venue for a party or another event then check out the Hall. We have plenty of tables and chairs, a well equipped kitchen and our rates are very reasonable. Please contact Jill on 6238 1470 for bookings.

BUNGENDORE SENIORS

Next get together will be Friday 22 May, at the Bungendore Sports Hub amenities building \$5.00 per person. ALL OVER 55's WELCOME

OPENING TIMES WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

Bungendore waste transfer station:

Friday 12.30pm-4.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 8am-4.30pm. Monday 7am-12noon
Bungendore buy back centre: Saturday 10am-4pm

Bywong waste transfer station:

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

Captains Flat waste transfer station:

Saturday and Sunday 9am-3pm
Monday 9am-2pm

Braidwood waste transfer station
Fri, Sat Sun & Mon - 10am to 4.30pm

Braidwood buy back centre:
Sunday 10am-4pm

VINTAGE & RETRO

Vintage and retro secondhand shop open Friday, Saturday and Sunday - 10.00 am to 4.30 pm
ART BY ANDERS 144 Uriarra Rd Crestwood Queanbeyan.

CB BOBCATS

Bobcat & excavator, with attachments & truck for hire. Residential & rural. Landscaping, topsoil & roadbase. Rural animal graves. Phone Cameron on 0423 513 238



LIONS COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP

A non-for-profit group with all funds donated to local charitable organisations. LOCATED IN THE QUEANBEYAN PARK
Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm.

Bungendore CWA

Book Club : 1st Wed of the month
Garden Club : 3rd Sat of the month
Craft and Chat: 4th Mon of the month

Mahjong : 4th Tues of the month

CWA Rooms, Gibraltar Street, Bungendore

More info
https://www.bungendorecwa.org

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.



Free legal advice appointments

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

When: Thursday 28th May 2026 10:00am to 1:30pm

Where: RSL Lifecare, Level 1, 251 Crawford Street Queanbeyan

Times: Between 9:30am to 1pm

Appointments are essential - please call 1800 229 529

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

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

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

Business Classifieds

HAROLD BRADLEY TRANSPORT

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



CHOOKS FOR SALE

Layer pullets, 22 weeks, Isa W, B, R, LS, BTR, SLW. Order today for delivery to Bungendore

Friday 18 June. Phone Jim on 0428 194 105



Gavin Pillidge Courier

Braidwood - Canberra - Braidwood

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

Mob: 0428 968 162

These are some of the animals looking for new homes at the QPRC Animal Management Facility (16 May).
<https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Animals/Find-Animals-For-Sale-Adoption-and-Lost-Pets>



Imp 193 Tweedledum (M) DSH Apo 10 wks Available for adoption



Imp 194 Mirana (F) DSH Apo 10 wks Available for adoption



Imp 192 Absolem (M) DSH Apo 10 wks Available for adoption



Imp 191 Tweedledee (M) DSH Apo 10 wks Available for adoption



Imp 190 Hatter (M) DSH Apo 10 wks Available for adoption



Imp 177 Charlie (F) DSH Apo 2 yrs Available for adoption



Imp 178 Kala (F) DSH Apo 3 yrs Available for adoption



Imp 159 Samuel (M) DSH Apo 9 wks Available for adoption



Imp 185 Dexter (M) DSH Apo 10 wks Available to adopt from 19 May



Imp 228 Lucy (F) GSD mix Apo 2 yrs Available to adopt from 18 May



Imp 227 Aster (F) Staffy x Apo 8 yrs Available to adopt from 18 May



Imp 226 Maggi (F) Boxer x Apo 7 yrs Available to adopt from 18 May



Dorper Wethers

QPRC AMF: Ph: 6285 6269

E: animalinfo@qprc.nsw.gov.au

More info and photos:

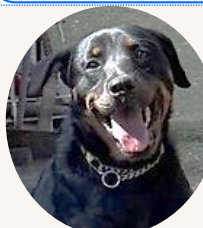
www.petrescue.com.au/groups/12313/Queanbeyan-an-Animal-Management-Facility

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Chevy (M) Rottie Approx 11 mths
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/133019



Spot (M) Rottie x Approx 3 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/126021



Rex (M), Rottie Approx 3 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/133017



Xena (F) Rottie Approx 2 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/133016



Annie (F), Rottie x Approx 3 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/132972



Seth (M) Rottie x, Approx 4 mths
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/132971



Chico (M) Rottie Approx 7 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/60500



Sky (F) GermanShepherd Apo 2 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/123788



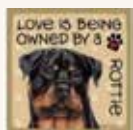
Rebel (F) Great Dane x Approx 1 yr
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/126438



Shaka (M) Rottie Approx 4 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/119763



Maggie (F) Kelpie x Approx 6 yrs
www.savour-life.com.au/adopt-a-dog/search-now/view/104294



Sue's dream ONE DAY every dog born will have a kind and loving home for life.

Sport

Wamboin Golf - May 2026

Sunday, 3 May. An overcast, blustery day. Not the best effort by Central Casting for the Merrie Month of May Pennant. However, in this life you take what you get. The day was sponsored by Tim Barter, and Vicki Still whom we thank for the refreshments and prizes. They stipulated that the competition be determined by strokes adjusted for handicaps. And so, a motley crew of Darth Vaders, Princess Leilas and Morris Dancers took to the field singing 'In a Wamboin Country Garden' (as arranged by Percy Granger).

Back in Dingley Dell, as we gathered around the May Pole while the Captain juggled the figures, we cast a jaundiced eye over our world. PFOTUS (Passion Fingers Of The US) has hit his finest hour (so far): starting a war in the sand pit without informing the quondam Coalition of the Willing; compounding it by whingeing about their consequent lack of support and blaming them for the resulting economic fustercluck in the Strait of Hormuz. The word 'feckless' is cropping up in the media. As an erstwhile fan of 'Father Ted' I looked it up to make sure that it wasn't, you know, bit on the blue side, if you get my drift. It means feeble and ineffective and/or careless and irresponsible - things pollies call each other.

Virginia Bell's useful interim report noted the need for the national intelligence community to work a bit harder at keeping each other abreast of important developments. But what then? And how does it fight anti Semitism which is a cause, not an effect? How do you stop one group hating another? We must wait until next year, if ever, to find out. University research (sadly becoming an oxymoron) suggests that one third of 25 to 34 year-olds (mostly males) "can't work", whatever that means. Maybe it's time to try the

iron lungs. We're running out of fertilizer. Old George reckons that's bullshit. (That, by the way, was an example of two conflicting statements which are both true.)

Will Dr Prince Chalmers' federal budget boost investment by reducing spending and taxation thereby increasing productivity - otherwise known as output per worker? There are essentially two ways to do it: 1. incentivise the workforce - increase floggings and/or reduce income tax; 2. incentivise business - reduce company tax and red tape. The signs don't look good. Taxes we think are going up are in the areas of negative gearing, capital gains, trusts and EVs. No one, apart from Ken Henry who ran the Treasury in the days when it had a reputation for professionalism, appears to know what to do about taxation. On spending, Jim wants to provide 'cost of living relief for working Australians' which won't do anything for productivity but will fuel inflation. Dimples, the Health Minister, is trying to corral the galloping NDIS, a publically-funded graveyard where our taxes go to die. Also, vast sums will be added to the vast sums to be spent on defence so that in ten years we'll be ready to help out in the Persian Gulf. It is also likely that Elbow will want to throw a financial schnorkel to his profligate mates treading water in Victoria who face the people in November. Look for a budget that redistributes income from investors to consumers. My head's starting to spin; I'll have to lie down. I feel a bout of intergenerational inequity coming on.

The Captain attracted our attention by introducing our visitors Val and Rutger Haller and Rondo and Yasmin Al Aturk. Ted's Joke was about improving golf as you age, advice of little interest to current Wamboin golfers but could

be of use in the distant future. The googly ball was awarded to David Searle for hitting a rock. My immediate reaction was: come on guys, anyone can hit a rock out here! But apparently, having struck the rock David's ball travelled vertically as far as it had horizontally forming a perfect right angle, a phenomenon remarked upon by all who saw it. The dummy spit went to Tim Barter for his churlish and uncharitable reaction to Vicki Still's offer to buy him a drink. We were frankly incredulous that Vicki had not reacted in her usual spirited manner. It was then passed on to Keith France who criticised a player for retrieving his ball from Keith's dam on the grounds that the ball had become Keith's property. A spurious argument, I'd say. LD and NTP ball winners were Ken Gordon 3, Vicki Still 2, Pete Harrison, David Bailey and Col Urquhart. Winner of the nine hole event was Ken Gordon 33/29 OCB from Gerard Ryan34/29 and Pete Harrison 48/34. Winner of the 18 hole event was Paul Griffin 77/60 from Col Urquhart 84/65 and



David Bailey 88/67.

Next month is June. Think of it - 2026 will soon be half over! Join us at the Hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 7 June for the 12.30pm start of the competition for the Solstice Silver Salver. Meanwhile, Sir David Attenborough and

Winnie the Pooh turned 100 this year. It can be said the Sir David's adventures in the woods produced more things of interest than Winnie's.

Larry King, golfer

Photos: Pete Harrison



Mudchicks On Top Of The Table

Stewart Wilson

The Bungendore Mudchicks rugby team have moved to a clear top of the table following big away from home victories against the Jindabyne Bushpigs (59-29) on 9 May and the Yass Rams (68-24) the following weekend.

The win over Jindabyne was notable as before the game, both teams were undefeated and shared the points at the top of the table, well clear of the rest. The Mudchicks are now alone in the number one spot and following the Jindabyne and Yass victories.

However the Mudchicks and Bushpigs meet again on 23 May, only two weeks after the initial encounter, this time at home at the Bungendore Sports Hub. Jindabyne is a strong club with a good team and they will be out for revenge - it should be a good game to

watch.

But this time it was the Mudchicks who mostly dominated. They were starved of possession for the opening ten minutes and it was the Bushpigs who scored first, an unconverted try.

The Mudchicks then got going, scoring four tries in the first half (Brent Williams, Jye Russell, Tom Worman and Blake Codey) all of them converted by halfback and captain Tom Worman. The Jindabyne boys also scored two more but failed to convert, the score 28-15 at half time.

The Mudchicks started to run away with it in the second half, adding five tries: Toby Campbell (two) and Ethan Kruger while Jye Russell and Brent Williams both notched their second for the day with Tom Worman adding three more conversions. Jindabyne

scored two converted tries late in the game but by then the damage for them had been done.

The final score was 59-29, an important result for the Mudchicks in the context of the premiership battle.

It was another 'tryfest' for the Mudchicks against Yass in their 68-24 win, the Bungendore boys scoring ten of them of which nine were converted by Tom Worman, who was putting them over from all over the place.

It was 35-17 at half time following tries from Matthew Marracott, Matthew Kerney, Mark Norton, Kyle Shand and Jack Stanford, all of them converted. The Rams were not giving up without a fight in the first 40 minutes, however, scoring two tries of which one was converted. Although well behind at the break, they were still in it.

But the second half was all



Mudchicks, dominating in both attack and defence. The Rams were kept scoreless in the second 40 until a couple of minutes before the end when they crossed for a converted try.

The Mudchicks put on a

great display of running rugby in the second half, adding another five tries to their tally, four of which were converted by Tom Worman. One try was a bit special. The Chooks were awarded a penalty about 20 metres out from the Yass line and instead of kicking for touch, going for goal or tapping and running, Tom Worman called for a scrum.

From that came a set move the team had been practising at training. It worked perfectly and another five-pointer was the result. It's always really satisfying when something like that happens as planned!

Kyle Shand and Jack Stanford added second tries to their personal tallies in the second half while Maloni Tubekitu, Tom Worman and Hamish Baird joined the party with five-pointers.

The next game against Jindabyne next Saturday (23 May) should be a beauty and the Bushpigs should never be discounted.

So get yourselves to the Bungendore Sports Park to support our rugby team, the action starting at 2.30pm.

Player awards and their sponsors for the Jindabyne game were:

Best and Fairest: Jye Russell (3 points), Tino Lalofau (2 points), Martin Hicks (1 point).

Players' Player: Tino Lalofau.

Coach's Award: Martin Hicks.

Chicks' Pick: Matthew Narracott.

And for the Yass match:

Best and Fairest: Tom Worman (3 points), Jack Stanford (2 points), Kalib Maksimovic (1 point).

Players' Player: Jack Stanford.

Coach's Award: Kyle Shand.

Chicks' Pick: Tom Worman.

Photos: **Rose Sports Media**



Mudchicks

Bungendore Mudchicks
Round 5

The Bungendore Mudchicks made the trip to Jindabyne on Saturday 9th May for what was always expected to be a tough contest.

It was a physical and hard-fought game, with Jindabyne's speed proving difficult to contain throughout the match. Our girls matched the physicality from start to finish, showing plenty of grit and determination, but unfortunately it wasn't enough to come away with the win.

Standout performances came from Taryn Robson, Tess Aitchinson and Tameika Hoy, who all put in brilliant efforts across the park.

The team will be working hard on defensive structure at training this week as

preparations begin for next weekend's clash against Braidwood. Following that, the Mudchicks will enjoy a bye round ahead of our annual Ladies Day celebrations. Further details will be released on Facebook soon.

Up the Chicks!

Points -

3 - Taryn Robson

2 - Tess Aitchinson

1 - Tamika Hoy

Round 6

Bungendore Mudchicks travelled up the road to Braidwood last Saturday for what was always going to be a tough clash.

Braidwood came out firing early, scoring straight off the kick-off and putting the Chicks on the back foot from the opening whistle. The Mudchicks responded

through strong runs and determined attack, with Taryn Robson crossing for tries to keep Bungendore in the contest.

Brilliant games from Tamika Hoy, who picked the perfect gap for our final try, and Karen Bollard, who dominated the rucks all afternoon, showing strength, experience and knowledge right across the paddock.

After fighting hard through the second half, the Chicks worked their way back and finished strong to secure an impressive 25-19 victory.

Congratulations to Braidwood, a new side this year already showing their strength in this competition.

The Mudchicks now enjoy a well-earned bye next weekend and will be looking forward to Ladies Day while cheering on the Mudchicks



as they take on Jindabyne.

Points -

3 - Tamika Hoy

2 - Karen Bollard

1- Taryn Robson

Coaches pick - Karen Bollard

Blokes pick - Meredith Wells

Photo:

Rose Sports Media