

Wamboin Annual
Bonfire and Fireworks
Display: Sat 29 August

National Youth
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Your Year To Lead

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of the
Week



Regional Independent

Free

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

No. 466

Wednesday 12 August, 2026

QPRC/Queanbeyan Landcare National Tree Day 2026 at Bicentennial Park



National Tree Day, sponsored by Planet Ark, started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event each July.

Queanbeyan Landcare (QLC) has participated in every National Tree Day, working with Council and other community groups or organising our own celebratory plantings.

This year the focus was Bicentennial Park, in the urban area below Mt Jerrabomberra, a valued part of Queanbeyan's scenic backdrop, well-used by walkers and families every day, a refuge for wildlife, and a site that now displays a large diversity of native plant species. But it wasn't always like that. In the 1980s the park area was an open ragged piece of waste land, regularly used for dumping rubbish and car burnouts. It was choked with weeds, with limited conservation or recreational value. Why the land had remained undeveloped is unclear,

with one recollection being that it had been resumed by the local council because of long-unpaid rates, another because any buildings would impair the view from Parliament House.

The formal park with some facilities was opened by then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, on 7 April 1988. But the conservation and recreational potential of the area remained unfulfilled. The area came to the attention of Trees for Queanbeyan in 1992 as some locals were looking for help with planting on the reserve fronting Lanyon Drive. Between 1992 and 1995 activities by Trees for Queanbeyan, Monaro Conservation Society, and then by Queanbeyan Landcare included ripping, rubbish and stump removal, weeding and some initial plantings. A subcommittee of dedicated QLC members formed "Friends of Bicentennial Park" in 2014 that has since concentrated on weeding,

rubbish removal and encouraging native plant regeneration. The group has actively collaborated with Council on erosion control, mowing and spraying regimes, path construction and maintenance and landscaping, plus recording all of the native species now present in the park. An extensive plant (>150) and animal list was created by Helen and Paul Hadobas who both have extensive knowledge of the area and of local ecology. More of this history can be viewed on our website <https://www.queanbeyanlandcare.org.au/bicentennial-park-story>.

Fast forward to National Tree Day 26 July 2026 and a further 1100 native grasses, shrubs and trees were planted, guarded, mulched and watered, all in just two and a half hours in two degraded areas where unplanned foot-traffic and water run-off have removed shallow topsoil.

continued page 5



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How prepared is you home?

A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire.

Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk. A well prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave.

Here are some basic maintenance tips to prepare your property:

- Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- Install metal gutter guards
- Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors
- Fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps
- Enclose the areas under the house
- Repair or cover gaps in external walls
- Attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters
- Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property
- Have hoses long enough to reach around your house

If you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water

Check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date.

Visit <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/prepare-your-property> for more information including the Prepare Your Home fact sheet, accessing your risk by using the bush fire household assessment tool. and to see if you live on Bush Fire Prone Land.

All the ingredients for a healthier community

Debbie Evans

Cook, Chill, Chat an initiative of Healthy Cities Australia had all the ingredients to bring members of the Bungendore community together for a six-week program through June, July and August.

Healthy Cities Australia (HCA) was excited to share the much-loved program outside the Illawarra for the very first time into regional Australia, and Bungendore was one of the chosen centres for the program expansion.

Funding from Coordinare Southeastern NSW Primary Health Network made the Bungendore program possible.

Cook Chill Chat (CCC) as the name suggests, isn't just about learning cooking skills, but also provides a space to build connection, confidence, and community. Launched in 2015, the program brings together small groups of up to twelve participants for six weekly sessions.

Over three hours each week, people cook and share a healthy, budget-friendly meal, learn practical nutrition skills, and enjoy meaningful conversations in a relaxed, friendly space.

Bungendore Seniors took charge of the program.

Seniors Association President, Sharon Baxter-Judge, said "It was a fabulous to work with Sam and Jarrah from Healthy Cities Australia to deliver this valuable program. We look forward to partnering with them again to provide more opportunities for



seniors in Bungendore.

"Programs like these play an important role in supporting healthy ageing, reducing social isolation, and improving wellbeing. Their value is even greater in regional communities, where access to similar programs and services is often limited."

Each session of Cook, Chill, Chat is hands-on and inclusive, with a focus on making healthy cooking accessible to everyone – especially those from low-income, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally diverse, or socially isolated backgrounds.

Sonja Simmons a local participant



was glowing in her praise of the program.

"The timeframe of six weeks was excellent, any longer would have been prohibitive for some people and the time of day was also perfect.

"Jarrah was very professional and the venue at the Community Centre provided full facilities which were well heated and comfortable. We had full access to the well-appointed kitchen.

"The Cook Chill Chat team were amazing and brought everything needed with them, gas cookers, fry pans, and ingredients etc.

"I came away with a greater knowledge of nutritious ingredients and alternative foods that I can prepare.

"Clarification of food labelling was also helpful along with more in-depth knowledge on storage for different foods.

"We had a mix of men and women taking part and everyone worked together for the success of the program right down to adjusting table heights for food prep and cleaning up at the end of each session.

"As part of the program we got to eat the food we prepared and take home any leftovers.

"I was very impressed with the whole program and would recommend it to everyone."

Norma Luton who also took part described the program as "A great community initiative."

"During the sessions we learnt healthy cooking, how to eat well and live well - while enjoying the company of newfound friends.

"I enjoyed meeting with other community people to share their interests while chatting and chopping up fresh ingredients or stirring the pan to cook our meal to share."

At the end of the program participants showed their appreciation by presenting Jarrah with a signed card and a Bungendore tea towel.

Since 2015, HCA has delivered 67 Cook Chill Chat programs, reaching more than 850 participants. Independent analysis by the Australian Social Value Bank found that every dollar invested in CCC generates \$1.64 in social and economic value, adding up to a net benefit of nearly \$492,037 over five years.

Images: Jarrah (far right) with some of the participants of the Bungendore Cook, Chill and Chat program

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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Community News

Wamboin Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display

Wamboin Community Association
Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display
Wamboin Community Centre 112 Bingley Way Wamboin
Saturday 29 August 2026

Cash Admission Fee is \$20 per Family or Carload or Individual

Food stalls from 5.30pm (bring Cash), Bonfire lit at 6.36pm, Fireworks 7.06pm

Please bring Cash for \$20 per family or per carload or per Individual for Entry Fee and for Food and Drinks: Because at the hall the internet connection is not reliable, the Fire Brigade at the Gate and the many food stalls cannot rely on ability to accept payment in any way but Cash.

Please don't bring any more fuel, as we already have more than enough.

Support local community groups including Wamboin Community Association, Golf, Pony Club, Play Group, Church, Sutton School and Bungendore Scouts with a range of traditional stalls offering: Gluhwein, Apple pies, Steak Sangers, Bacon & Egg Sangers, Baked Spuds, Glo Sticks, Great coffee, soft drinks and other food and beverages and Monster Raffle.

Please note: No drones and by law the only fireworks allowed will be the display by FIREWORKS AUSTRALIA

Bonfire Night is the major, and sometimes the only, fund raising activity for our community groups who run all the food, drink and novelty stalls.

Photo supplied



Bungendore water security takes another step

Debbie Evans

The Queanbeyan-Bungendore water pipeline could move a step closer this week, with Council asked to approve work to continue land acquisition for the project.

If approved, the recommendations would support the acquisition of key land parcels and bring the project closer to tender-ready status.

The Queanbeyan to Bungendore (Q2B) bulk water pipeline project is a 31-kilometre underground pipeline to transfer potable water from East Queanbeyan to Bungendore. Supporting infrastructure includes a pumping station at Queanbeyan, storage reservoirs at Brooks Bank and a re-chlorination facility at Millpost Lane.

Council embarked on the project at a meeting in April 2023 where they decided to progress the Q2B to tender ready status.

In a report to Council this week, staff outlined progress to date, noting: "As detailed in subsequent updates and community fact sheets, Council is aware that several key criteria must be collectively met before the

project can proceed.

"The issue of land matters is one such criterion.

"This report seeks Council approval to progress with a number of key land acquisition matters to better facilitate the tender ready status of the Queanbeyan to Bungendore (Q2B) bulk water pipeline project."

The recommendations to Council are.

1. Authorise the progression of the acquisition of easements for water supply associated with the Queanbeyan to Bungendore (Q2B) pipeline across Crown Land Lot 107 DP726534, Lot 92 DP754865, Lot 7005 DP96237 & Lot 701 DP1027106.
 2. Authorise the progression of the acquisition of land from Crown Land parcel Lot 2 DP1276285 for the purposes of public road reserve being for the extension of Turallo Terrace toward Elmslea Estate.
 3. Authorise the progression of the acquisition of land and associated rights of carriageway for the proposed Q2B Brooks Bank Reservoir and Millpost Lane re-chlorination facilities.
- These recommendations

aim to resolve the remaining Q2B land matters involving NSW Crown Lands and the proposed Brooks Bank reservoir and Millpost Lane re-chlorination sites. Where required by the Act, each matter will return to Council in a separate report for final approval.

Negotiations have been underway for some time with other private landowners whose properties may require easements for the project. However, the report to Council described the uptake of deed arrangements as "problematic".

Accordingly, the original plan to enter individual deeds with each private landowner will be set aside. Instead, the pipeline will be installed under section 191A of the Local Government Act.

"This will enable the most streamlined process of construction while still permitting the later establishment of the easements making use of the work already done under the opening letters, the negotiations to date and the valuations."

The Q2B project is proposed to provide Bungendore with a secure water supply to meet expected population growth

in the order of 12 percent per annum.

Bungendore's population rose from 4,745 in the 2021 Census to an Australian Bureau of Statistics estimate of 5,317 in May 2026.

The main drivers of Bungendore's population growth have been identified as Canberra commuters, residential developments such as Elm Grove and multi-million-dollar investments in local services and utilities to support higher residential development.

A prime example of this is the new Bungendore High School valued at approximately \$83 million, designed to accommodate 450 students and scheduled to open for term 1 2027.

This week's National Population Census will provide a clearer picture of Bungendore's future growth, with initial data, including population figures, expected in June 2027. All residents are encouraged to participate, as the results inform government and private-sector investment decisions.

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



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3 2 1

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3 2 2

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Community News

Stories from the law and justice system come to Queanbeyan this month

In the midst of a wildly successful national tour, performing at venues such as the Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne, The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre is thrilled to be welcoming Australian Theatre for Young People's searing production of Saplings to the venue later this month.

Yani wants to go to the Easter Show, Kai wants a sense of home, Shanika wants her Mum back, and Lachlan...well, he just wants his bowl of noodles. But when the justice system is all that stands between these young people and what they want, it raises an

important question—how do young people grow when the system keeps cutting them down?

After premiering at The Rebel Theatre for the Sydney Festival in 2024 and winning Sydney Theatre Award's Best Production for Young People, Yuwaalaray playwright Hannah Belanszky and Kalkadoon director Abbie-lee Lewis bring Saplings to the stage once again, a collection of hilarious and heartbreaking stories born from workshops with young people experiencing the youth justice system from Marrickville to Moree.

Four talented young actors

take on multiple roles in this poetic, personal, and unexpected production that leaves the audience asking who's really to blame. Talijah Blackman-Corowa (ABC's Deadloch), Maliyan Blair (ABC's Total Control), Sam Harmon (RENT, 50 Anniversary tour of Jesus Christ Superstar) and Danny Howard, who is making his acting debut for Australian Theatre for Young People, bring to life the stories of today's youth battling a legal system that doesn't want them to succeed.

"In 2022, Raise The Age Australia debated whether a child could be held criminally responsible at



the age of 10. In 2026, some Australian States have implemented Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. The conversation continues but it's not happening with the people it directly affects - the young people," says Director

Abbie-lee Lewis. Described as "authentic, raw, brutal, and very moving" in a five-star review by Sydney Arts Guide, this striking production will play for two performances on

Saturday 22 August at The Q. Tickets are available at theq.net.au. Photo supplied

September and October Wamboin Markets Events

The Wamboin Markets will be back on the 19th of September, after its Winter hiatus, welcoming any spinners to come along and set up their spinning wheels for World Spin in Public Day, which is held the 3rd

Saturday in September each year.

We have a climate-controlled room available inside to enjoy the atmosphere of the markets whilst you spin... or knit, crochet and other yarn

crafts, if spinning is not your forte.

There will be a spinner on hand who can show you how to spin on a wheel or a drop spindle and the markets welcome others to come along to spin, demonstrate spinning or to experience spinning for the first time.

For the October Markets (17th October) we are holding an art and photography exhibition in conjunction with the Queanbeyan Arts Trail Weekend, with locals displaying their creative talents.

The Wamboin Markets is on the 3rd Saturday of the Month (with the exceptions of July and August) and runs from 9:00am - 12:00 noon at the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way Wamboin.

There are stalls with local fresh produce, arts and crafts, a coffee cart, cakes and slices, egg and bacon rolls and plants and other items for sale. Also, the local RFS is on hand to talk to you about being prepare, pile



burns and any related topics.

The Wamboin Markets have been held since 2003 and are a lovely opportunity to not only buy local produce, but items from the many talented locals in our region, but to catch up with others in

the community. To know more about the markets you can visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571684975208> or information page on

the Wamboin Community Website: <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/facilities/index.php?op=market> Photos supplied of the markets before they open and beautiful hand spun yarn

AMA renews call for telehealth access to voluntary assisted dying services

The Australian Medical Association has renewed calls for the federal government to remove legal barriers preventing doctors from using telehealth to discuss voluntary assisted dying (VAD) with patients.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen welcomed the announcement from Kate Chaney MP, Independent Federal Member for Curtin, to reintroduce the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill which would support patients who

want to talk to a doctor about VAD via telehealth.

This follows the move at Labor's national conference on the weekend to write into the party's platform support for telehealth as part of voluntary assisted dying care.

"The AMA has long called for changes to federal legislation that currently make it an offence to use a 'carriage service' (such as a telephone, videoconference,

email or other forms of electronic communication) to publish or distribute material that counsels or incites suicide," Dr McMullen said.

"These provisions were drafted well before VAD was legalised anywhere in Australia and were not intended to capture a lawful medical service."

Dr McMullen said treating VAD consultations the same way the law treats incitement to suicide is a mismatch

creating real hardship for patients, particularly those outside major cities.

"Patients in regional, rural and remote Australia – and those too unwell to travel – are being denied equitable access to a legally available choice, because of outdated laws that were never designed with voluntary assisted dying in mind."

"The AMA's position is that telehealth should operate for VAD as a valuable

complement to in-person care, and not a replacement for clinically necessary physical attendances."

Dr McMullen said telehealth allowed doctors to reach patients when an in-person visit isn't feasible, necessary or appropriate – helping doctors treat patients in isolated communities and easing the burden of long-distance travel.

"Voluntary assisted dying consultations could be

undertaken via telehealth in accordance with appropriate regulations and protections, consistent with professional standards and good medical practice."

The AMA is calling on the Attorney-General to urgently pursue amendments to the Criminal Code to carve out an exception for lawful VAD-related communications, so that Commonwealth law no longer negatively impacts lawful state and territory VAD schemes.

Community News

QPRC/Queanbeyan Landcare National Tree Day

continued from page 1

Several months ago, QLC members and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) staff selected two areas as the site for National Tree Day and developed the planting program. QPRC provided the bulk of the plants with Queanbeyan Landcare adding around 400 plants that had been propagated by our members (thanks, Tom, again!) or purchased from the regional Landcare's Southern Tablelands Tree Start Growers Network thanks to a grant from Planet Ark's Seedling Bank fund.

QPRC staff dug lines of trenches and auger holes the week prior to the event. Promotion of the day attracted over 200 registered

volunteers who were joined by several Council staff and 24 Queanbeyan Landcare members.

At the two sites the day began early with placement of plants to get a good mix of appropriate species and plant types across the sites, volunteer registration, and a briefing and demonstration of planting technique from Landcare members. Then onto getting plants in the ground with stakes, tree guards and mulch for each plant. The Council water cart moved across the site, with volunteers going back and forth to bucket water around each plant.

The planting at the northern site focused on several degraded areas and along some highly erodible tracks within the existing dry

sclerophyll forest. Species which would maintain the open canopy cover with a shrubby understory were selected.

The more open southern site received a greater variety of trees, shrubs and lots of native grasses, while keeping recreational access intact. The plantings are in keeping with many years of balancing public access and use of the park with maintaining and enhancing this valuable ecological asset.

We had lots of locals, including family groups and their enthusiastic children, and once again we welcomed the happy and energetic group from Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Australia, who have joined us on several past planting days. Some Landcare members joined them for their delicious picnic afterwards.

This event was possible through a collaboration between QPRC, QLC members and the dedicated Friends of Bicentennial Park. A special thank you to Emery Joseph, QPRC's Environment Education Officer, who organised the event and did a mountain of work. Our website link above has more pictures and details of environmental care at the park since 1992 as well as the species planted and the current work program.

Ian Johnsson
Queanbeyan Landcare

Photos: Fran C and Garrie M



Daffodil Day Thursday 20 August

Hello beautiful people!

I will again be fundraising for Cancer Council located outside The Country Butcher in Bungendore on Gibraltar Street,

From 9am - 4pm or until stocks last.

Daffodils are \$15 a bunch. I will also have some merchandise and one of these items will be mini bears.

Ordering in advance secures your bunch or 2 or as many as you wish. Many missed out last year. We did 100 bunches in just over an hour.

If you cannot make it on the day, you can arrange to pick up from my home.



Please phone 62381996 or email: psegeri@bigpond.com

Donations are most welcome. My official page is now live and you can find me at Cancer Council ACT, Bungendore Daffodil Day.

On behalf of ACT Cancer Council I thank you from the bottom of my heart in advance for your support.

Pauline Segeri

Magpie Hill Solar Farm Join us at our community engagement sessions

Mint

Join Mint Renewables to explore the latest updates on the Magpie Hill Solar Farm. Learn about the technical studies informing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including early findings from these studies, and share your questions, feedback and local knowledge with the project team.

Upcoming events

Technical Webinar - Fire (online)
Wednesday 26 August, 6.00 – 7.00pm

Pop-up - Outside Corang Estate Cellar Door & Pantry
Thursday 27 August, 2.00 – 5.30pm

Technical Webinar - Amenity: Landscape & Noise (online)
Tuesday 1 September, 6.00 – 7.00pm

Community Drop-ins

Bungendore Nora Starrs Community Centre
Thursday 10 September, 2.30 – 7.00pm

Tarago Town Hall
Friday 11 September, 2.30 – 6.30pm

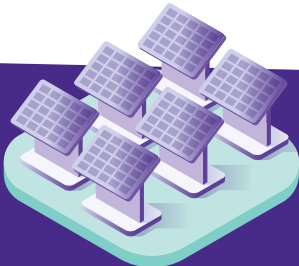
Tarago Town Hall
Saturday 12 September
9.00am – 12.00pm & 2.00 – 5.00pm



Register to learn more about these engagement sessions by visiting our website or scanning the QR code.

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Queanbeyan Rotary Ramble

Tracy Styles & James Ansell

August 2026 is another busy month for the Rotary Club of Queanbeyan.

It started with our regular BBQ at Bunnings Fyshwick on Sunday 2 August where we cooked up a feast of sausages to raise funds for local causes, including Annie's Place and Orange Sky. There will be another chance to come and see us at The Queanbeyan

Market on Sunday 16 August at the Queanbeyan Showgrounds. As a regular at the monthly markets, we serve up more than just a great sausage sizzle - there is also steak sandwiches and bacon and egg rolls (get in early so you don't miss out).

On Wednesday 5 August, the Club held the first monthly Rotary presentation night, at the RSL LifeCare Queanbeyan Hub. Our guest speaker, Mariana Calligaro,

is a member of the Rotaract Club of Canberra. Mariana's presentation provided insights into her personal experience participating in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) training program, and the lifelong skills and connections she gained. If you or someone you know are between 18 to 28 years of age and would benefit from attending a 3-6 day leadership training program, please contact the Club about nominations for the mid 2027 intake.

The next Rotary presentation night will be held in early September. Each month, a guest speaker will share their personal experiences, knowledge, background and career stories. This is a free event and everyone is welcome to come along to learn, listen and ask questions. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation, providing a great opportunity to socialise and connect with others.

On Wednesday 12 August, Club members will be supporting the delivery of the Ryda program held at Karabar High School for 4 local high schools participating on the day. Ryda is designed to create



behaviour change in students as drivers and passengers, helping them make good decisions from any seat in the car.

If you're looking for something to do out and about in the community, Rotary Club of Queanbeyan are always looking for new volunteers. Email us at secqbnrty@gmail.com, find us on Facebook by searching 'Queanbeyan Rotary' or come

along to our weekly meetings at 6:30 pm Wednesday at the RSL Memorial Bowling Club on Yass Road, Queanbeyan.

Above: Doug Mitchell, Rotary Club of Queanbeyan President, gifting Mariana Calligaro, presenter and Rotaract Club of Canberra member, with a Queanbeyan Rotary pen.

Photos supplied

Prestigious literary award for former local

Debbie Evans

This year's prestigious Miles Franklin Literary Award has gone to former Queanbeyan local Omar Musa.

Presented annually for a novel of outstanding literary merit, the award is currently worth \$60,000.

Musa received the award for his novel "Fierceland."

The Malaysian - Australian author is a multifaceted-artist also being a rapper and poet. He grew up in Queanbeyan.

In an interview last week with the Australian National University, his Alumni, Omar said, "I am honoured, grateful and completely blown away to have won the Miles Franklin Award," "It feels strange and wonderful," he said.

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council Mayor. Kenrick Winchester, sent his congratulations to the author via Facebook, "Massive congratulations to Queanbeyan-raised author (amongst many other talents) Omar Musa on taking out the prestigious Miles Franklin Literary

Award for 2026."

Omar's mother was a theatre-maker and arts journalist who grew up in western NSW, and she met Omar's father when she travelled to Malaysia to direct a production of Hamlet. Omar's father was cast in the lead role of the production.

Omar recently told the media that he had moved back a couple of years ago to "Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, the easternmost state of Malaysian Borneo, where my dad comes from."

The inspiration for Fierceland came from his move and is the story of siblings who grew up on an island of Borneo and were children of a palm oil baron.

The siblings, Roz and Harun, return to Malaysia Borneo for the funeral of their father Yusuf, a palm-oil baron who built the family's immense wealth by destroying huge tracts of rainforest.

However, Omar doesn't take all the credit for the success of the novel and is quoted as saying.

"I worked very hard on Fierceland over many years, but it's also the culmination of many other people's

feedback and advice.

"I'd like to thank my family in Malaysian Borneo, my mother Helen, my wife Mariel, my editors Jojo and Jo, my agent Tara, my publisher Nikki and the team at Penguin Random House Australia, my friend Nam, the rivers, the jungle in Borneo with its many faces, and the countless others who enriched me with conversations and spirit."

The Award judges, State Library of NSW chair Richard Neville, literary scholars Jumana Bayeh and Mridular Nath Chakraborty, Tony Hughes-d'Aeth and Maggie Nolan, described Mr Musa's novel was a tour de force set against the backdrop of the destruction of the Borneo rainforests.

"Cleared to make way for palm oil plantations, this pulsing forest world is the moral centre of Fierceland and Musa's rhythmical prose hums its defiance," they said.

"In the human drama, siblings Harun and Rozana gradually realise that even in Sydney and Los Angeles, they cannot outrun



the fraught legacy of their father, a palm-oil baron in Sabah.

"As it charts a journey of personal and planetary redemption, Fierceland refashions the venerable, vernacular hikayat traditions of Malay storytelling into New Australian idioms."

Mr Musa's debut novel Here Come the Dogs was long listed for the International Dublin Literary Award and Miles Franklin Award and was

named one of the Sydney Morning Herald's Young Novelists of the Year in 2015.

The Miles Franklin Award was set up according to the will of Miles Franklin (1879-1954), who is best known for writing the Australian classic My Brilliant Career (1901). She bequeathed her estate to fund the award.

Image: <https://www.omarmusa.com.au/>



Blind Creek Solar Farm



Keep up to date with the Blind Creek Solar Farm project



octopus australia

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

Community News

National Wattle Day Educational Walk

QPRC
Sunday, 30 August 2026,
9am to 11 am, Jerrabomberra
Hill Road, Jerrabomberra
National Wattle Day is held
every year on the first day
of Spring and celebrates the
1000+ species of wattles
found across Australia. QPRC
and Queanbeyan Landcare
are collaborating to host an
educational walk up Mount

Jerrabomberra as part of the
celebrations. Come along and
learn about our native vegetation
and some of our natural history.
A morning tea will be provided
after the walk.
The walk will stick to a gravel
path and will be a slow walk up a
gradient. Please wear enclosed
shoes and sun protection.
Contact emery.joseph@qprc.
nsw.gov.au for more details



Volunteers from the
1st Bungendore Scout
Group recognised on
World Scout Day

Saturday the 1st August was World Scout Day. On this day the Scouts Australia Adult Recognition Awards (ARA) are announced.

Volunteers from the 1st Bungendore Scouts Group were among the 491 adult volunteers in Scouts NSW who were recognised. These awards are for Leaders, Committee members and other positions in which adults support scouting in an exceptional way above and beyond their nominal role.

Scouts NSW said that this is a fantastic result, with more than double the amount of volunteers acknowledged for their dedication and support of Scouts NSW this year than in 2025.

World Scout Day is a time to reflect on the significant contributions each member and supporter of Scouting makes every day. These volunteers are recognised not just for the longevity of their service, but for the quality of their Leadership, within both their individual Units and Groups and to Scouts as a whole.

The ARAs are part of the Scout Association’s observance of the founding of Scouting at the first Scout camp held at Brownsea Island in the United Kingdom on 1 August 1907.

Scouts NSW Chief Commissioner Bel Howell commended the recipients on their achievements.

“Reading through the award submissions, I was struck at both the variety of activities and the amount of time given by our members and volunteers,” she said.

“I frequently hear volunteers talk about why they are adults in Scouts. They talk about the difference they can make, about how they can positively influence young people, and about what they can teach and what they can learn.

“I’ve never heard one person say that they are adults in Scouting so they can receive a medallion or a certificate. The Scouting journey - not the destination - is why we do what we do. I’m so pleased that we can recognise their journey.”

Huge Congratulations

Penny Ball (Bilby, Joey Leader) - Meritorious Service Award

Craig James, (Group Leader) - Meritorious Service Award

Melinda Hillery (Hathi, Cub Leader) - Special Service Award

Rory Janssens (Emu, Joey Leader) - Special Service Award

Karina Ugov (Tabi, Venturer Leader) - Special Service Award

Yasmin Cummins (Ex-Hall Hire Manager) - Special Service Award

Kylie Tanner (Committee Chair) - Special Service Award

Sharon Rasker (Committee member) - Outstanding Service Award

A full list of recipients can be found at <https://www.scoutsnsw.com.au/news/2026-ara-recipients>

Image: Scouts NSW



Every answer matters

If you know where you’ll be on **Census night, Tuesday 11 August**, you can complete the form for your household as soon as you get your instructions. Complete online, on paper or with help from us.

 census.abs.gov.au



Census



Community News

Christmas in July fun

Christmas in July has been embraced by many locals over the years with lots of events, get togethers and fun activities.

Bungendore Seniors got into the spirit of things when we celebrated on Thursday 30th July at the Lake George Hotel in Bungendore.

Festive cheer was a plenty, tables set and some great outfits. We all enjoyed great company, excellent service and a delicious meal, complete with sticky date pudding for dessert.

Janelle took home the best dressed prize as well as a lucky door prize.

Thanks to Aman and the team at the Lake George Hotel for a fab lunch.

Sharon Baxter-Judge



From Cloisonné to Crochet

Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative BYO Craft Project Evening once again brought together a wonderful group of local women for an evening filled with creativity, conversation and connection. Every table was decked with works-in-progress, from intricate cloisonné and colourful knitting to crochet, embroidery and even the bedazzling of clothing. No matter the project, there was plenty of encouragement, shared enthusiasm and admiration for each other's creations.

The welcoming atmosphere is what makes the Co-Op's craft night so special. Between stitches and beads, conversations flowed easily as women shared advice on craft projects, exchanged skills and inspiration. New friendships were formed while familiar faces caught up over a cuppa, creating a warm and supportive space where everyone feels welcome. The diversity of the people is reflected in the diversity of the craft projects, making each gathering a unique celebration of creativity and community.

Recently, the Co-Op hosted a Scrappy Twine for Craft Projects Workshop in partnership with local craft legend, Jenny Wassenberg. Participants were patiently and expertly guided through

the fun and relaxing process of making craft twine from scrap fabric. We were able to repurpose collected scrap fabric kindly donated by the new creative reuse centre in Bungendore, The Bungendore Bower, as well as from some participants and Jenny on the day (everyone seems to have scrap fabric!). These pieces, perhaps deemed too small or oddly shaped for many other craft projects and otherwise destined for landfill, when twisted into twine, became an incredibly useful and decorative craft resource. Plenty of laughs and great conversations were to be had as we learnt new skills and connected with local creatives.

Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative welcomes women from across the local area who are looking to meet like-minded people, share creative knowledge, learn new skills, find inspiration or simply enjoy a cuppa and a chat. It is a safe, friendly and inclusive gathering where kindness, creativity and community come together. Our next BYO Craft Project Evening will be held on Wednesday August 27th, from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm at the Bungendore School of Arts, and new faces are always welcome.

Photo supplied





QUEANBEYAN
PERFORMING
ARTS
CENTRE

UNCOVER THE MYSTERY OF THE
MISSING BUMS OF BUGALUGS!

TIM WINTON'S

THE BUGALUGS
BUM THIEF

ADAPTED BY SANDRA
ELDRIDGE, TIM MCGARRY
AND EVA DI CESARE

17—18
AUGUST





theq.net.au

← Booking details

THEY CAN'T SIT, THEY CAN'T KEEP THEIR PANTS UP, AND THEY CAN BARELY STAND!

Remembering Constable Bradley Keith Van Heythuysen

27 July 1966 –
26 November 1991

On 27 July 2026, Brad’s sister, friends and former police colleagues gathered to celebrate what would have been Brad’s 60th birthday.

Brad joined the New South Wales Police Force in 1987 and served with dedication until his tragic passing in November 1991. He was a respected and admired police officer whose kindness, professionalism and genuine care for others left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Brad loved the country and was proud to serve the Bungendore community. He had a special gift for connecting with young people and was remembered as a caring husband, devoted son, loyal friend and dedicated police officer. Although his life was cut far too short at just 25 years of age, his legacy continues to live on through the memories of those who loved him.

To honour Brad’s life, family and friends gathered for a dinner on Sunday, 26 July 2026, at Lake George Hotel,



with pre-dinner drinks at The Royal Hotel, a place where Brad enjoyed spending time with his mates after work.

Joining the celebration was Brad’s best friend Ian (Retired NSW Police) and his wife Nikki (currently serving with NSW Police), Garry Beattie (Retired NSW Police), Inspector Danielle Byrne, Sergeant Willians of

Bungendore Police, Anthony Johnson and Brad’s sister, Sharon Van Heythuysen who has missed her brother every day since his passing.

On Monday, 27 July 2026, a special blessing to commemorate Brad’s 60th birthday was held at the Bungendore Police Station. The blessing was led by Reverend Mike and Chloe

Pailthorpe from the Anglican Church, where Brad’s funeral service was held in 1991. Bradley’s favourite meal of the day was breakfast, so celebrations continued with breakfast at The Gathering.

Sharon thanked those that new Brad and attended his blessing on Monday. “Though 35 years have

passed, Brad remains forever in our hearts. We invite all who knew and worked alongside him to join us as we remember his life, celebrate his service, and honour the remarkable man he was.” Sharon said.

“Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.” Photos supplied

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Community News

Tim Winton’s bum-tastic adventure comes to Queanbeyan!

The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre’s next show for kids and families will be Tim Winton’s The Bugalugs Bum Thief, which takes audiences on a whimsical journey through the imaginative world created by the Australian author and National Treasure.

Set in a charming Australian town of Bugalugs, the story follows the misadventures of Skeeta Anderson, Mick Misery and Billy Marbles as they attempt to unravel the mystery of the Bugalugs bum thief. As the townsfolk band together to catch the culprit, hilarity ensues, and valuable lessons about friendship, community, and

understanding are learned along the way.

This literacy-based play with music, vividly brings to life the colourful characters and quirky adventures found within Winton’s beloved book. With its blend of humour, inclusivity, and educational value, The Bugalugs Bum Thief appeals to audiences of all ages, particularly families with young children and school groups. Through its engaging storytelling and vibrant characters, the production sparks imagination, fosters a love for reading, and promotes important values such as empathy and teamwork.

“As soon as I read The

Bugalugs Bum Thief, I knew I wanted to be involved”, says director Jessica Arthur. “It contains joy, silliness and best of all - a strange mystery about the sudden disappearance of bums. The book and adaptation are filled with wonderful and hilarious drama and I cannot wait to bring it to life for young people with the brilliant team assembled.”

Prepare to laugh, sing, and be thoroughly entertained as you embark on an investigative journey through the town of Bugalugs to find the missing bums, where every twist and turn is met with laughter, joy, and a sense of wonder.

Running for a strictly limited



season at The Q from 17-18 August, The Bugalugs Bum Thief is a delightful celebration of friendship and adventure that promises to leave audiences of all ages with smiles on their faces and hearts full of joy.

Tickets are available at theq.net.au.

Photo supplied

Maria’s Community Corner



Maria Porreca

This fortnight has been a mixture of things. It included my youngest grandson’s birthday lunch, an extended family dinner at the Dickson Dumpling House, a few meetings and some other activities.

Tuesday 28th July I, together with a couple of my friends, attended the QPRC Senior Moments event where we got to make and paint a couple of Christmas Cards. It was a lot of fun learning some techniques when using water colours. Jo and Emma from QPRC are always on hand to help and make the event a truly enjoyable activity.

That same evening was the

inaugural Calabrese Writing Group zoom. We hope to write about our experiences, memories and traditions and, you never know, perhaps one day be able to produce a book for future generations. The first zoom meeting was very interesting.

Another activity at the Queanbeyan Library was the Ugly Sweater Trivia evening on Thursday 27th. Our team, the Recycled

Teenagers, did quite well although I have it on very good authority that a couple of the team members are studying hard in preparation for next year. There was lots of fun and laughter shared by everyone present.

The Queanbeyan Evening Branch of CWA did something a little different on Saturday 1st August. Over 20 members turned up at a ‘Scone How To’ event and attendees consisted of demonstrators, ‘students’ and one or two for moral support. We got to see how 3 different types of scones were made (the traditional with butter, with cream and milk and with cream and lemonade) and one lot was made in the Thermomix. We got to sample all of them and whatever was left we got to take home. YUM! A couple more ‘How To’ days are planned for the remainder of the year, and I am so looking forward to them. A huge ‘thank you’ to the organiser of the day and the lovely demonstrators



who taught us. Very much appreciated.

The CWA Queanbeyan Evening Branch was asked to cater for the QPRC Homelessness Week Forum on Tuesday 4th August. This was held in the Araluen Room in the QPRC Council offices. Once again the ladies of the Branch outdid themselves and provided a spectacular feast for the eyes. Any left-over food at the end of the event was donated to St. Benedict’s.

Sadly, the Queanbeyan Health Walking Group lost one of its treasured members. Beverly (Bev) Storey passed away suddenly on 30th July. Her funeral was on Thursday 6th August. Bev had been a member of the walking group since early 2010. She was a truly lovely lady and will be sorely missed.

Till next time, take care everyone. Maria

Photos supplied



Two confirmed cases of H5 bird flu in NSW wild native birds

On Saturday August 8, another two cases of H5 avian influenza (bird flu) have been identified in NSW. Samples from two deceased Greater Crested Terns, one found near Narooma on the south coast, and the other near Wentworth in western NSW, tested positive at CSIRO’s Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness.

Both birds were reported by members of the public to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline and sampled by the NSW Government’s H5

response team.

This is the first time an Australian native bird has tested positive for H5 bird flu in NSW.

It means a total of four birds in NSW have returned a positive result for H5 bird flu, with the first two being migratory petrel birds found near Port Stephens in early July.

Australia now has 215 confirmed detections of H5 bird flu.

Surveillance work is continuing at Narooma and Wentworth to ensure early

detection of any further cases.

These NSW findings follow a significant increase in H5 positive results in South Australia where more than 80 birds, predominately terns, have been identified in a recent short time.

A national surveillance plan has been underway since June and is monitoring for any further detections and enabled to facilitate any required rapid, coordinated response.

The Minns Government has been preparing for H5 since

2024 and has specialist teams working with the wildlife sector, and the poultry and egg industry.

In preparation for impacts on native wildlife in NSW the Government has undertaken the following:

- Developed 34 operational preparedness plans for priority sites across NSW
- Plans include important offshore islands, estuaries and wetlands, as well as statewide plans for species of concern including little penguins and fur seals
- Developed species risk

assessments, mapping and decision-support tools, targeted surveillance, and improved coordination with wildlife organisations and land managers

- More than 50 briefings, workshops and awareness activities with government agencies, local councils, wildlife rehabilitation groups, First Nations communities and land managers.

Public reporting is a critical part of the response, with calls to the Emergency Animal Disease

Hotline supporting detection efforts, and has received more than 3, 558 calls since the response began in June.

Bird flu has not been detected in commercial poultry flocks or captive birds anywhere in Australia and the risk to human health remains low.

If you encounter a suspected sick bird, or marine mammals, avoid contact and report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Community News

Queanbeyan Uniting Church Jumble Sale: Sat 22 August

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



Registrations for 2026 Arts Trail close August 16

The Queanbeyan-Palerang Arts Trail will return this October, marking a significant milestone for one of the region's most beloved cultural events. In 2026, the Arts Trail celebrates 20 years in Queanbeyan and 10 years in both Braidwood and Bungendore, and organisers are calling on local artists, creatives, venues and businesses to help make this anniversary year the most lively yet.

Over the past two decades, the Arts Trail has grown into a significant showcase of the region's vibrant creative community. While it began with a focus on visual arts, the event now embraces all forms of creative expression, including literary and performing arts. From exhibitions, artist demonstrations and open studios to live music, street performances, media art projections and interactive experiences, organisers are encouraging participation from creatives of all disciplines.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council undertakes extensive promotion of the Arts Trail, showcasing the talents of the region's artists, musicians, performers, writers and craftspeople. Participants who wish to be included in the event's printed and online promotional materials must complete their registration before the closing date on August 16.

2026 Arts Trail Dates

- **Braidwood:**
3-4 October 2026
- **Bungendore:**
10-11 October 2026
- **Queanbeyan:**
17-18 October 2026

Registrations are now open and will close at 11:59pm on 16 August 2026.

Organisers are encouraging participants to build on the event's past success by offering free or value-added experiences that complement their usual activities. Free events help keep the Arts Trail accessible and welcoming to new audiences, while artists can explore income opportunities through artwork sales, merchandise and other creative offerings.

Registration forms, participant terms and conditions, and further information about marketing and insurance requirements are available on the Arts Trail website at: www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Community/Culture-and-Arts/Arts-Trail

For more information or to discuss participation ideas, contact QPRC's Arts & Heritage Team on 0409 438 953 or email Cultural.Services@qprc.nsw.gov.au.

Photo supplied



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mentalhealthcheckin.gov.au

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8:30am – 5pm weekdays (except public holidays)

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Mental Health Check In



Australian Government

Bungendore High School Buzz

Bungendore High School

Bungendore High School's Mountain Bike Team headed to Stromlo Forest Park for a full day of training ahead of the upcoming ACT Schools MTB Championships.

Despite a bitterly cold wind, the team made the most of the day, working through the pump track, jump lines and flowing forest trails to sharpen their skills before the big event. Riders tackled

everything from technical berms and rock rollovers to big-air jumps on the dirt jump lines, with plenty of laughs, encouragement and a few muddy landings along the way.

This training day carried extra motivation, with our girls' team bringing home a bronze medal at last year's championships. The whole squad is keen to build on that result and put in a strong showing again this

season.

On National Tree Day, a group of our junior students volunteered to plant trees on Mick Sherd Oval. Splitting off into small groups to help plant trees was a great way to not only improve our environment but also connect with community members. As the day went on, the park transformed, trees sprouting in every direction. Soon, the park was filled with newly planted trees and a whole lot of memories. The day ended with everybody sitting around eating lunch together forming friendships and strengthening the spirit of the event.

Photos supplied



BYO - Calling young musicians!

If you love music, and want to play with others, join the Bungendore Youth Orchestra (BYO)!

Our local Bungendore youth orchestra offers private tuition, group lessons, and masterclasses with experienced teachers at affordable rates, along with performance opportunities for young people.

To complement our senior group, BYO is starting a junior group for newer players and beginners with fantastic subsidised rates on Thursday afternoons at the School of Arts.

BYO is a local not-for-profit group that provides musical tuition and creative development in a safe and fun space, for young people in our community. Highlights for BYO over the past few years include playing at local events, Major's Creek Folk Festival, the Opera House and recording an original music video, composed by Rita Woolhouse and filmed by talented local film maker, Gabrielle Gregiore (available on YouTube).

We invite new and returning students from primary school through to university to join us for the next stage of our musical

journey. We also have a range of quality instruments for hire.

If your young people want to try a string instrument, now is the time!

For Terms 3 & 4, BYO is offering free BYO sessions and instrument hire (thanks to the generosity of our community).

For more information or to support the orchestra, please contact Bungendoreyouthorchestra@gmail.com or text/call Nicole (0416 635 549), Nicola (0414 711 632) or Sana (0439 551 964).

Photo supplied



Celebrating National Youth Volunteer Week

Young people are already leading through volunteering

It's National Youth Volunteer Week, a time to recognise and celebrate the young people across Australia who are leading change through volunteering.

Too often, young people are spoken about in deficit terms - as disengaged, distracted, or disconnected. But the reality tells a very different story.

Across communities nationwide, young people are showing up, stepping in, and contributing in meaningful and measurable ways.

The latest ABS data confirms what many in the volunteering ecosystem already know: young people are not on the sidelines of civic life. They are actively shaping it.

562,000 young volunteers

In 2025, 562,000 young people aged 15 to 24 years volunteered formally through organisations across Australia.

This rate of participation is robust and is no longer the lowest across all age groups, remaining comparable to 2020 levels.

784,000 young people volunteered informally

22.9% of young people aged 15-24 years volunteered informally in

2025, or 784,000 youths.

40.3 million hours contributed

Young volunteers contributed 40.3 million hours of volunteering in 2025.

Their commitment runs deep, with 1 in 5 young people (19.6%) donating 100 hours or more of their time.

This is not passive involvement. It is sustained, values driven action.

More than participation

Young people's volunteering is often cause based, reflecting a strong sense of civic responsibility and a desire to respond to social issues.

Whether addressing inequality, supporting local communities or contributing to long term social change, young volunteers are actively helping to shape the future they want to live in.

Your Year to Lead

This year's National Youth Volunteer Week theme, Your Year to Lead, reflects the leadership young people are already demonstrating through connection, compassion and community action.

National Youth Volunteer Week is an opportunity to move beyond assumptions and recognise what is already happening.

Community News

The End of an Era: Brian and Wendy Lake Say Goodbye to “Bungendore Village Leather”

For 35 years, the familiar sound of the door opening at the iconic store ‘Bungendore Village Leather’ has been followed by a warm smile, a friendly greeting and often a good country chat.

For Brian and Wendy Lake, it was never just about selling leather goods.

It was about people.

It was about helping a young couple choose their first quality cowhide or sheepskin, fitting children with their first pair of UGG boots, finding the perfect gift for a special occasion, or simply taking the time to have a conversation with someone who needed one.

Today, after more than three decades of serving Bungendore, Canberra and surrounding districts, Brian and Wendy have announced they are retiring.

For over two years, the couple hoped someone would take on the business and continue its legacy. Sadly, despite genuine interest over that time, no buyer came forward, leaving them with the difficult decision to close the doors themselves.

Commencing the Retirement Sale marks the beginning of the final

chapter for one of Bungendore’s best-loved iconic family businesses. Significant savings will be offered across the entire store as Brian and Wendy prepare for retirement.

Just a heads up, the amazing private collection of Antiques & Collectibles nestled in the rafters will be available to purchase towards the end of August.

“Having spent more than half our lives building this iconic business. It has been our livelihood, our passion and, in many ways, our second home.”

Customers have travelled from every corner of Australia to visit. International visitors have discovered a great range of Australian craftsmanship on its shelves. Government departments and agencies have relied on its quality products. Members of the diplomatic community have become valued customers and friends.

Visitors who first stopped in by chance have made Bungendore Village Leather a regular destination whenever they pass through town.

Many customers have become

lifelong friends.

“We’ve celebrated people’s happy moments, listened during difficult times, and shared countless laughs across the counter,” Wendy reflects.

“You simply can’t put a value on those memories.”

Behind the scenes were countless early mornings, late nights, trade shows, buying trips, unpacking deliveries, changing displays and constantly searching for products that reflected quality and value.

Running a small family business is a real thrill & a lifestyle, but it’s not always a walk in the park.

As the Retirement Sale begins, the shelves are slowly emptying.

Each purchase carries mixed emotions.

There is excitement for customers finding a bargain.

And there is the quiet reality that each sale brings the business one step closer to its final day.

“There will be tears,” Wendy admits.

“But they’ll be tears of gratitude.”

Brian and Wendy are deeply thankful to everyone who has supported them over the past 35 years.

To the loyal local community.

To fellow small businesses who supported one another.

And to everyone who believed in shopping local.

“We simply couldn’t have done it without you,” they say.

Some businesses simply sell products.

Others leave a lasting mark on a community.

Bungendore Village Leather has done both.

Photo supplied



Dying to Know Expo: putting the spotlight on advance care planning

The inaugural Dying to Know Expo, held at the Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub on Friday 31st July provided community members a great opportunity to hear from guest speakers and ask questions of the many organisations who attended.

The Expo, presented by the Hub in partnership with COORDINARE - South Eastern NSW PHN, was a huge success as it offered guidance on advance care planning, future health care decisions, funeral options, grief support and other services that empower people to make informed choices and live with confidence.

A key message of the Expo was that advance care planning is for everyone - regardless of age, health status or life stage. Planning ahead isn’t just about the end of life; it’s about thinking ahead, considering what matters most to you, and sharing your values, preferences and choices with the people who may one day support you. It is a gift to yourself and to those who care about you.

The campaign behind the Expo, “Nobody Knows: The Secret I’m

Glad I Shared,” highlighted an important reality: if nobody knows what matters most to you, they may not have the information they need to honour your wishes. Sharing your values, preferences and choices ahead of time can provide clarity, reassurance and confidence for those closest to you, helping them support the decisions that are right for you.

Since 2013, Dying to Know Day has grown into a national movement promoting awareness, education and open discussion about death, dying and grief. However, the organisers emphasise that these conversations shouldn’t happen on just one day each year. Dying to Know Day is a reminder that planning ahead and talking openly about our values, wishes and preferences is something we can do at any stage of life, and something that benefits everyone.

For those who missed the expo, start the conversation today with your loved ones.

Below: Richard, Lisa, Mel and Annette.



A large background image for a poster. It shows two people in silhouette against a wall. One person is standing and looking at a smartphone, while the other is leaning against them. The wall has some graffiti or markings.

THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

STORIES FROM THE LAW AND JUSTICE SYSTEM.

SAPPLINGS

WRITTEN BY HANNAH BELANSZKY

SAT—22 AUGUST

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

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theq.net.au
← Booking details

Bungendore Fine Art Gallery “Walking the Line” - opens Saturday 22 August



Bungendore Fine Art Gallery
September - October
Exhibition
“Walking the Line”
Featuring Denise Moule
Opening Saturday 22 August

Denise is a Canberra based Abstract Artist, her passion for Geometric Abstraction has been a key element in all her artworks over the years. Creating these pieces where lines, symbols and geometric shapes turn into visual colour enhanced stories is a special time.

To begin Denise has no idea where the painting is going, but from the moment she begins Denise has an energy that keeps a steady momentum. The ink lines, marks and shapes seem to

know where they want to go. Using acrylic paint and inks, Denise likes to coordinate the colour palate that relate to each piece and give it a life of its own.

Come for a walk through this exhibition “Walking the Line” and Denise hopes you find something special and enjoy the journey she has enjoyed creating for you.

Bungendore Fine Art
Open: Friday - Monday 10 am - 4.30pm
Where: 42b Ellendon Street Bungendore
Tel: 02 6238 1640
Mob: 0450 893 943
Images supplied



Additional NSW Ambulance paramedics for Queanbeyan community

Queanbeyan and surrounding communities are set to benefit from a boost to frontline healthcare, with an additional 14 paramedics due to start in early 2027.

These paramedics will be part of the fourth intake of 125 paramedics planned for regional NSW as part of the NSW Government’s regional 500 initiative. This expansion will help strengthen emergency and mobile healthcare services across the southern NSW region and support growing demand for ambulance services.

NSW Ambulance is continuing consultation with staff and the Health Services Union to finalise proposals for the remainder of the fourth intake of 125 paramedics planned for regional NSW under

the program.

Member for Monaro Steve Whan said, “This upgrade is all about the growth Queanbeyan is experiencing with new communities in Googong and South Jerrabomberra.

“My first task in 2023 was to get our Queanbeyan ambulance service up to the staffing levels it was meant to have. Since then I have focused on making sure we have enough paramedics for the future to make sure Googong and South Jerrabomberra residents get appropriate response times.

“I’ve worked closely with Health Minister Ryan Park and the Ambulance service on this and this massive boost of 14 paramedics is by far the best way of giving our communities the service they

need,” he added.

Under the Regional 500 initiative, an additional 58 paramedics are already working across the southern part of the state, including 17 additional paramedics who commenced at Cooma Ambulance Station earlier this year.

The fourth intake follows the successful rollout of previous Regional 500 cohorts, with 375 paramedics commencing work across regional NSW since the initiative launched in 2024.

Future locations continue to be determined through NSW Ambulance’s evidence-based service and workforce planning, as well as consultation with staff and the Health Services Union.

Photo supplied



Registrations Now Open for The Great Spring Clean Up

Clean Up Australia calls on Aussies to reconnect with the places we live, work and play, and help protect waterways and wildlife from the harm caused by litter.

The Great Spring Clean Up is set to return this year, running nationwide throughout September and October, and registrations are now open.

As spring arrives, Clean Up Australia is encouraging volunteers and the wider community to take the opportunity to step outside, reconnect with the places they live, work and play, and help remove litter before it washes into local waterways, harms wildlife and spreads further throughout the environment.

Last year over 900 Great Spring Clean Up events took place across the country. This year, Clean Up Australia is aiming to go even bigger, by encouraging more communities, schools and workplaces than ever to get involved and help top last year’s efforts.

The Great Spring Clean Up follows Clean Up Australia Day, the nation’s largest day of

environmental action, held on the first Sunday in March each year.

Pip Kiernan, Chair of Clean Up Australia, said: “The Great Spring Clean Up is about reconnecting with the places that matter most to us, including our local parks, beaches and waterways, and looking after them. It’s a simple reminder that it’s in our nature to care for our environment, and spring is a great time to do our bit.

“It’s a chance to step outside, see your local area with fresh eyes, and remember that cleaner places don’t happen by chance, they happen because people take action. Every volunteer makes a difference, and together we can help to protect the places we love.” said Pip Kiernan.

While community Clean Up efforts remain vital in protecting our environment, the latest Litter Report revealed that more than 80% of the litter collected by volunteers in FY25 was plastic. This really highlights the ongoing challenge we have with plastics and underscores the urgent need for packaging reforms.

Clean Up Australia strongly

supports the implementation of a mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for packaging, including soft plastics, to ensure producers and manufacturers are responsible for the packaging they place on the market, helping to reduce single-use plastics at the source.

“Plastics are pervasive in our environment, and we find them there in growing amounts. We need to reduce how much plastic is being produced and increase reliance on reusable alternatives.” said Kiernan.

The Great Spring Clean Up is open to everyone, whether you’re looking to participate as an individual, a family, community group, school, workplace or with your mates.

Volunteers will receive a free Clean Up kit, containing reusable gloves, bags and other resources, with packs for individuals, families, community groups and schools available (businesses are asked to pay a small fee to help cover costs).

If you are unable to participate, donations to Clean Up Australia

are welcome, with 100% of funds raised going directly to empowering Australians to take positive action for the environment and providing the free Clean Up kits to our incredible volunteers.

Gather your Clean Up crew, choose a place that matters to you, and register your Great Spring Clean Up today.

Photo supplied



EnergyAustralia admits breaching Electricity Retail Code over free power offer delay

EnergyAustralia Pty Ltd has admitted it breached the Electricity Retail Code by failing to make a Solar Sharer Offer available to consumers from 1 July 2026.

From 1 July this year, electricity retailers were required to offer eligible households in New South Wales, South Australia and South East Queensland access to a Solar Sharer Offer, which provides three hours of free electricity during the day.

The Solar Sharer Offer is designed to help eligible households save on bills if they can shift their electricity use to the three-hour free usage period.

The ACCC has accepted a court-enforceable undertaking from EnergyAustralia in which the retailer admits it breached the Electricity Retail Code by failing to meet the deadline to offer this plan.

EnergyAustralia made a Solar Sharer Offer available to consumers on 3 August 2026.

"The Solar Sharer Offer can benefit households that can shift their electricity use to the free usage period," ACCC Commissioner Anna Brakey said.

"EnergyAustralia's delay in offering the plan initially denied current and prospective consumers the opportunity to access this plan and take advantage of the benefits available."

"As one of the country's largest energy retailers, we expect EnergyAustralia to have better systems and processes in place to meet its legal obligations," Ms Brakey said.

EnergyAustralia has also undertaken to:

- continue offering the Solar Sharer Offer to consumers
- report to the ACCC and the Australian Energy Regulator on its compliance
- train staff to assist customers enquiring about the Solar Sharer Offer
- publish and maintain a notice about the undertaking on its website.

"We are continuing to closely monitor retailers' compliance with the Solar Sharer Offer requirements," Ms Brakey said.

A copy of the undertaking is available on the ACCC's public register: EnergyAustralia Pty Ltd.

The Electricity Retail Code applies to all electricity retailers that supply electricity to residential and small business customers in specified areas of New South Wales, South Australia and South East Queensland.

It is a mandatory industry code under the Competition and Consumer Act and sets enforceable rules for how electricity retailers must communicate

pricing information.

From 1 July 2026, the code includes the requirement for electricity retailers to make the Solar Sharer Offer available to eligible households with smart meters in New South Wales, South Australia and South East Queensland.

The Solar Sharer Offer provides a free electricity usage period in the middle of the day when solar generation generally peaks. The three-hour period runs from:

- 11am to 2pm: New South Wales and South East Queensland
- 12pm to 3pm: South Australia.

Eligible households can use up to 24 kilowatt-hours of free electricity usage during the three-hour period each day.

Households should consider their daily routine, their ability to shift electricity usage and whether a Solar Sharer plan is the best option for their electricity use.

Consumers can compare electricity plan information on the Government comparison website Energy Made Easy. For further information for consumers on comparing energy plans, see the ACCC website. The Australian Energy Regulator has published a fact sheet which explains the new Solar Sharer Offer and how it works.

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 amenities 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

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

THURSDAYS

- Thursday 20 August
- Thursday 3 September
- Thursday 17 September
- Thursday 1 October
- Thursday 15 October
- Thursday 29 October

FRIDAYS

- Friday 14 August
- Friday 28 August
- Friday 11 September
- Friday 25 September
- Friday 9 October
- Friday 23 October



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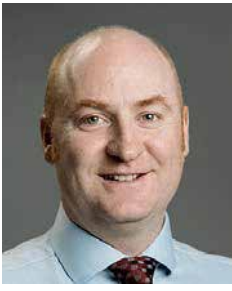
Principal Lawyers:



Tanya Nadin



Lorraine White



Richard Baker

Please phone for an appointment

Queanbeyan
6299 3999

Canberra
6230 1999

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As your federal Member of Parliament I can assist with a range of issues, including:

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- National Disability Insurance Scheme
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- Pensions and My Aged Care
- Veterans' Affairs, including Certificates of Appreciation
- Letters of support for grant applications
- JP Service



KRISTY MCBAIN MP

Member for Eden-Monaro



6284 2442



KristyMcBain.com.au

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



Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club flourish under new coach

Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club New coach, Igor Demin, has recently been awarded a 2026 Regional Participation Scholarship from Swimming NSW. The grant assists coaches to travel to support club swimmers. The support is already paying off. Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club had six swimmers competing at the NSW Short Course Country Championships in July this year. With fantastic individual

performances from all six swimmers including Shengyuan and Maxim finished in the top 10 and received finalist ribbons, with Maxim winning a silver medal in the 100m Backstroke. Shengyuan, Hugh, Ollie and Owen competed in the 9-12 years 4x50m Medley Relay 9-12 years 4 X50 m Medley Relay team finishing sixth overall which is outstanding work being the first time the club has fielded a state level relay team. Nora competed in two events and

achieved personal best times in both. With the long course season starting soon the club is looking forward to more ribbons, personal bests, and making more poolside friends. New swimmers are always welcome at the club. For more information please get in touch via email qlsc.committee@gmail.com Photo supplied



Australians less likely to trust each other than at any time in last six years, ANUpoll finds

Australians are less likely to trust each other than they were in 2020, with interpersonal trust falling to the lowest level this decade, according to the June 2026 ANUpoll. Analysis of the latest ANUpoll of more than 3,500 adults also shows that levels of wellbeing among Australians remain stable, but at a low base. And while many Australians are critical of how democracy is working in Australia, in principle support for democracy remains strong. “Worryingly, interpersonal trust among Australians has fallen to 5.32 on a scale of 0 to 10, the lowest value recorded in ANUpoll during the 2020s,” Professor Nicholas Biddle, Head of the ANU School of Politics and International Relations, said. “This sits below the pre-COVID value of 5.53 recorded in October 2019 and reverses the increase in trust observed during the pandemic.” Researchers measured interpersonal trust by asking three questions: • Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can’t be too careful in dealing with people? • Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair? • Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves? “All three underlying measures declined, with the sharpest fall in the proportion saying that most people can be trusted. As with other measures tracked in the ANUpoll, trust is higher among older Australians, degree holders

and the employed,” Professor Biddle said. **General wellbeing** Life satisfaction in Australia remained flat between March and June 2026, at 6.22 out of 10 in both waves of the ANUpoll. Financial stress was similarly stable. With 33 per cent finding it difficult or very difficult on their current income in June, compared to 34.9 per cent in March. March and June 2026 remain the only two quarters since January 2020 in which more Australians were dissatisfied than satisfied with the direction of the country **Views on democracy** Satisfaction with the way democracy works in Australia fell significantly between March and June from 65.7 to 62.8 per cent. This was the lowest reading since the question began to be asked regularly in January 2023. “Principled support for democracy, by contrast, held steady and has increased significantly over the past year, from 66.9 per cent in May 2025 to 72.0 per cent in June 2026,” Professor Biddle said. “Australians are becoming more critical of how democracy is being delivered without withdrawing their commitment to democracy itself. “Agreement with core democratic norms, such as that no one should be above the law, remains very high and largely unchanged since March.” The research paper, Steady, but not recovering: Wellbeing, Democratic Attitudes, and Interpersonal Trust in Australia, is published on the ANU website.

Single women are retiring asset rich but cash poor, warns Homesafe Wealth Release

Australia’s retirement conversation has a blind spot, and it isn’t the “sandwich generation” caught between ageing parents and adult children. According to Homesafe Wealth Release CEO Dianne Shepherd, it’s single women. It’s a group defined less by a life stage than by a life structure: no partner’s income or super to fall back on, no household to split costs with, and increasingly, no dependents competing for the same dollar. “Most of the conversation about intergenerational financial pressure is about people squeezed from both sides, supporting kids who haven’t left home and parents who need care,” Ms Shepherd said. “Single women in retirement are often not in that squeeze. They’ve raised their families, the mortgage is done, and the equity in their home is theirs alone to work with. That’s not a smaller problem to solve. It’s actually a clearer one,

and it’s been sitting in plain sight.” Superannuation industry analysis shows women aged 60 to 64 retire with the gender super gap in this age cohort now standing at 26 per cent, having widened from 20.5 per cent a decade ago, with median balances of roughly \$236,000 for men compared with \$175,000 for women in this bracket. Career interruptions, caring responsibilities and historical wage disparities are the well-known drivers, and for women who have spent all or part of their adult lives single, there is no second income or partner’s super to smooth the shortfall. At the same time, decades of property growth mean many of these same women are sitting on substantial, often mortgage-free, home equity. Research into housing and retirement has repeatedly flagged the consequence of this mismatch.

Older single women are the fastest-growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness in Australia, a statistic Ms Shepherd describes as one of the more confronting findings in the sector. “Many have done everything right, worked hard, paid off a home, raised families and contributed to their communities. Yet they can still find themselves struggling to fund the retirement they expected. “What we see consistently is that home equity can provide an important source of financial resilience, helping women remain independent, stay in their own homes and maintain their quality of life.” Ms Shepherd said the retirement sector’s historical focus on superannuation balances alone tells only part of the story for this group. “Retirement capital is the whole balance sheet a person has built

over a lifetime, not just what’s sitting in a super account,” she said. “For a lot of single women, the home is not just the biggest asset on that balance sheet, it’s effectively the only lever left to pull. If the industry keeps talking about retirement adequacy purely in terms of super, we will keep missing the people this matters most to.” That, in Ms Shepherd’s view, is the opportunity as much as the problem. Single women are not a niche afterthought in property and retirement wealth strategy, they are a growing, financially distinct market that the industry has been slow to design for. Products, advice models and policy settings built around a “couple” or “family” default risk overlooking a cohort that, precisely because it isn’t competing for capital with dependents or a partner’s financial plan, may be better placed than

most to benefit from a considered, debt-free approach to unlocking home equity. “This isn’t about persuading women to give up their homes,” Ms Shepherd said. “It’s about giving them another option beyond selling up, downsizing under pressure, or taking on debt they may not be able to service on a single income in retirement. Ms Shepherd said the shift required is as much cultural as it is financial. “For a long time, the assumption in advice and product design has been that women reach retirement within a couple. That’s simply no longer the reality for a large and growing group of Australian women, and the retirement system, from superannuation policy through to the products advisers recommend, needs to catch up.” For more information, visit www.homesafe.com.au.

QPRC: Council Meeting Agenda Wednesday 12 August 2026

The Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 12 August 2026, commencing at 5.30pm. WB Freebody Chambers Nellie Hamilton Centre, 257 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan. Presentations for items listed on the Agenda can be made in writing, via Zoom or in person.

A live stream of the meeting can be viewed at: <http://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>

Reports To Council - Items for Determination

- 9.1 Dunns Creek Road - Options Review Report
- 9.2 DA.2025.0211.B - 38A Forster Street Bungendore - Construction of a dwelling house - two storey; Modification: remove Conditions 2 & 5
- 9.3 DA.2026.0182 - Two lot

subdivision and minimum lot size variation - 53 Wilson Street Braidwood

- 9.4 Queanbeyan to Bungendore (Q2B) Pipeline - Land Matters
- 9.5 Ellerton Drive Noise Assessment
- 9.6 DCP - Housekeeping Amendments
- 9.7 Karabar High School Performance Curriculum Partnership MOU
- 9.8 QPRC Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030
- 9.9 Review of Council's Climate Change Action Plans
- 9.10 Post-Exhibition Report - Events Policy
- 9.11 Post Exhibition Report - Street Verge Maintenance Policy

9.12 Draft Tree Management Policy

Reports To Council - Items for Information

- 10.1 Federal Government Funding for Councils
- 10.2 Update on New Cemetery
- 10.3 Land Sales and Acquisition Register Update
- 10.4 Food Safety Annual Activity Report to NSW Food Authority 2026
- 10.5 Workforce Report for 2025/26 Financial Year
- 10.6 Councillor Workshops

Reports Of Committees

- 11.1 Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes - 16 July 2026
- 11.2 QPRC Sports Council Meeting Minutes - 6 July 2026

11.3 Sustainability and Climate Change Committee meeting minutes 23 July 2026

Notices Of Motions

- 12.1 Notice of Motion - Edwin Land Parkway Speed Cushions

Councillor Questions

- 14.1 Councillor Questions - Labour Hire
- 14.2 Councillor Questions - Memorandum of Understanding - QPRC, Homes NSW and TAFE NSW
- 14.3 Councillor Questions - Captains Flat Lead Grants and Containment Cell Access
- 14.4 Councillor Questions - Queanbeyan-Palerang Timing of Works Analysis 2023
- Notice Of Intention to Deal with

Matters in Closed Session 74

Confidential - Not for Publication

Reports For Closed Session

- 16.1 EOI - 2103388 Expressions of Interest - Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade

Item 16.1 is confidential in accordance with s10(A) (d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993 because it contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

To read the business papers head to <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings>. The meeting can be viewed at A live stream of the meeting can be viewed at: <http://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>

Bungendore Quilters: 2026/27 Executive Committee

Our AGM was held at the end of July and the Executive saw some new faces join the Committee. Continuing on are Chris as President, Ola as Librarian and Trudi as Public Officer. New to the Committee are Helen as Vice-President, Natasha as Secretary, Jude as Minutes Secretary, Merle as Treasurer and Cath and Vickie are Committee members along with Wendy.

There are a number of exciting

events on the agenda for this 26/27 year. First will be our October retreat at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre and then we have our Annual Quilt Exhibition on 28/29 November. Preparations are underway for our raffle quilts and members are busily finishing off their exhibition quilts.

Our Sew and Chats are always well attended and we have some demonstrations scheduled over the next couple of months. Chris will show us how to do a Curved

Log Cabin block as well as some different finishing techniques and Merle will show us how to decorate sandshoes with lots of fabric and bling. It's going to be a lot of fun!

The Executive Committee

Back: Trudi, Jude, Cath and Vickie

Front: Helen, Merle, Chris and Natasha

Photo supplied



Queanbeyan

Veteran and Family Hub



Here for veterans and their families, every day

What's on at the Hub

MON:

Invictus Yoga (Back Monday 20th) - 10:00am to 11:00am

TUES:

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

Heart-Muscle-Balance - 12:30pm to 1:15pm

WED:

RSL Sub Branch Catchup - 9:00am to 11:00pm

Fortnightly - Create & Caffeinate - 10:00am to 12:00pm

THURS:

Zumba (Back Thursday 23rd) - 11:00am to 12:00pm

Fortnightly - Open Arms Coffee Catchup - 10:00am

FRI:

Mind Body Balance Tai Chi - 9:30am to 10:30am

Visit the Hub today

Level 1

251 Crawford St, Queanbeyan

Open Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

In partnership with





Vietnam Veterans Day

LUNCHEON

Come & join us at the Queanbeyan Veteran & Family Hub in a day of remembrance for Vietnam Veteran's and their families.

Enjoy a light lunch, guest speakers and storytelling.

• When:

Tuesday 18th August 2026

• Where:

Level 1, 251 Crawford St Queanbeyan

• Time:

1:00pm to 3:00pm

• Register :

for catering purposes



Decision time for the future of farming in Australia

Ag2050 next steps - scenarios to decisions identifies the near-term decisions, uncertainties and practical actions that will shape Australian agriculture in the coming years.

Australian agriculture is facing important decisions that will shape its productivity, profitability and sustainability towards 2050, according to a new discussion paper recently released by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, and the Australian Farm Institute.

Ag2050 next steps - scenarios to decisions identifies the near-term decisions, uncertainties and practical actions that will shape Australian agriculture in the coming years in the areas of sovereign security, resilience, trusted sustainability reporting and agricultural innovation.

CSIRO Program Lead Dr Rose Roche said the discussion paper was the next step in a multi-year program aimed at supporting Australian farms to be profitable, productive and sustainable by 2050.

"We started in 2024 working with industry to co-design four evidence-based future scenarios for Australian farming systems, exploring their benefits and trade-offs, which we presented in the Ag2050 Scenarios Report," said Dr Roche.

"The four scenarios were then used as a lens during an Ag2050 roundtable in March this year involving government, industry, research, regional and Indigenous organisations to identify near-term decisions shaping Australian agriculture."

- The four future scenarios are:
1. Regional Ag capitals - a consolidated and technologically advanced sector focused on productivity gains, food and fibre production, and growth in select regional centres.
 2. Landscape stewardship - a diversified sector balancing food and fibre production with carbon sequestration, biodiversity, ecosystem services and energy production.
 3. Climate survival - a sector relying on incremental adaptation and diversification to manage climate impacts rather than pursuing transformative change.
 4. System decline - a sector facing declining productivity and resilience due to delayed and fragmented responses to growing challenges.

Dr Katherine Wynn, who led the development of the scenarios and stakeholder meeting, said the roundtable helped identify where uncertainty was slowing action and where greater coordination, evidence and investment could support better decision-making.

"When the Ag2050 scenarios were developed, many of these challenges were still emerging," said Dr Wynn.

"Today they are embedded in decision-making across government and industry, making it more important than ever to understand how today's choices are shaping Australia's agricultural future."

Australian Farm Institute Executive Director Katie McRobert said the Ag2050 program of work was providing key insights to help guide

the future success of Australia's farm sector.

"The strategic choices that we make today are going to have significant impact in the years leading to 2050," said Ms McRobert.

"From productivity to land and water use to climate impacts and the growing use of technology to support decision making - there is a lot for the sector to consider."

The discussion paper will support further conversations with government, industry, research, regional and Indigenous organisations about the decisions, evidence and coordination needed for the future.

To read the disussion paper head to <https://www.csiro.au>

New survey reveals Australians are finding purpose through landcare but local groups are under pressure

Landcare Australia says the 2026 National Landcare Week Survey reveals Australians are embracing local environmental action, with 83% of respondents regularly helping to care for their local environment. The survey also shows people are finding purpose,

connection and practical ways to care for nature through Landcare, while grassroots organisations say they need more volunteers, greater funding certainty and practical support to keep delivering benefits for communities, local environments and biodiversity.

Released to mark Landcare Week 2026, the National Landcare Week Survey of more than 1,200 Australians provides one of the largest national snapshots of community environmental volunteering and grassroots conservation in Australia.

The findings reveal a growing movement where local environmental action is restoring landscapes and protecting biodiversity while also strengthening communities. More than 93% of respondents said they had made friends or new social connections through Landcare, 88% said they felt more connected to their local community and 64% reported improved physical and mental wellbeing.

At the same time, the survey highlights growing pressures facing grassroots conservation. Nearly six in ten respondents (59%) say it is becoming harder to recruit volunteers, while 66% believe reliable funding or small grants would make the biggest difference to the work their groups can achieve.

Across Australia, Landcare groups continue to restore wildlife habitat, support threatened species recovery, tackle invasive species, monitor biodiversity through citizen science and work alongside Traditional Owners to care for Country, despite increasing challenges from extreme weather and growing community demand.

Landcare Australia Chair Peter Garrett AM said the findings show Australians are ready to be part of the solution.

"This survey tells us Australians choose to volunteer because they care about nature and they value being part of their community. As the climate crisis bites so the challenges facing our landscapes are growing too, which is why local landcare groups need more people and ongoing support to keep this momentum going. When you support landcare, you're investing in healthier landscapes, stronger communities and thousands of Australians, including the next generation, who want to be part of the solution."

Landcare Australia

Ambassador and ABC Gardening Australia host Costa Georgiadis said the survey reflected what he sees every time he visits Landcare projects around the country - agreeing with the report's findings that people may join for the cause, but they stay for the community.

"One of the beautiful things about Landcare is that people often arrive because they want to help nature, but before long they're part of a community. That's the magic of Landcare - looking after nature is something we can all do together."

Landcare Week 2026 celebrates the thousands of volunteers, farmers, Traditional Owners, schools, businesses and community groups working together to protect and restore the places they love.

The full findings are available in the 2026 National Landcare Week Survey Report, available at National Landcare Week 2026 Survey Report | Landcare Australia

Photo supplied of Landcare Australia Chair Peter Garrett AM



ACREAGE BARGAIN For Sale: 202 Pattersons Lane, Young, NSW

Raine & Horne Young offer this great value for money 4 ha. house and land package that provides a blend of space, comfort, and peaceful rural charm. The 3-bedroom home is perfect for anyone seeking a peaceful retreat while offering acreage for livestock. There are 3 roomy bedrooms with built-in robes plus family living and kitchen/dining rooms. Facilities comprise a reverse cycle air-conditioner, a gas cooktop and electric oven. There is generous undercover space for up to 6 vehicles, ensuring ample parking for family and guests plus a workshop. Surrounded by lush paddocks, a dam and countryside views from the timber deck all perfect for enjoying solitude and nature. Proximity to full suite of local amenities and attractions in Young, ensuring you have everything you need within reach.

\$790,000

Raine & Horne Contact: Graeme Schneider 0417 251 795
Raine & Horne Young | Grenfell



Call to make caring count in the Census

Photo supplied

“Getting an accurate count of how many Australians are undertaking unpaid care helps with planning services and

“People who help with groceries, assist a family or friend to attend medical appointments or provides more intensive support to someone who needs it because of their condition, provide unpaid care,” she said.



**Bungendore CWA
present**

**The Great Granny
Square Challenge**



Join us for a display of entries and all things
Crochet at
The Bungendore War Memorial Hall
51 Molonglo Street, Bungendore

August | 15 | 2026

Doors Open 9:30 am
Winners announced 10:30am



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 - 2 classes:
10.30am to 11.30am
11.45-12.45pm

Bookings essential - you can book at TryBooking or come to the first class.

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 Cost \$2.00

Fridays

Carpet Bowls - 1.00pm
Cost \$2.00

Delicious afternoon tea follows these activities.

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

New members very welcome.

August

Sat 15 August: Riverside Plaza Stall

September

Sat 12 and 13: Riverside Plaza Stall

Tue 15 Sep

General Bi-monthly meeting

Sat 19 Sep

Seniors Fete - We are asking for donations for our White Elephant Stall. Drop them off at the Seniors Centre, 1 Farrer Pl, Mon, Wed, or Thu.



Upcoming - Save the dates
October

Wed - Oct 7 and Fri - Oct 9
- Batemans Bay cruises and lunches

Oct 20 - Annual General Meeting (AGM)

December

Dec 3 - Christmas Party

For further information, please

contact Brenda on 0407 201 392 or 0407 902 989

Photos supplied.

Above and Below: music, fun and fashion when Queanbeyan Seniors hosted a fashion parade by Debbie Maree, also featuring a performance by country singer Ruby Holden.

Photos supplied



Largest Age Pension increase since 2023

National Seniors Australia

When indexation is applied in September, it could be the biggest since March 2023 when COVID-19 induced high inflation. Use our estimator to see how much.

Based on the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, National Seniors Australia is estimating the September pension indexation at \$55.60 for a combined couple and \$36.80 for singles. This would take the maximum combined couples fortnightly pension to \$1,866 and \$1,237.70 for singles.

Such an increase would be the highest pension indexation since March 2023, which followed high inflation during the Covid pandemic.

For more detail about how the pension could change based on different levels of assets, see our updated age pension indexation estimator.

This follows from the indexation to a number of pension thresholds on July 1, which would have increased

pension payments for some recipients.

Additionally, the announcement of updated deeming rates - which impact the income test - is due by 20 August. The rates are currently 1.25% up to the lower threshold, which varies for singles and couples, and 3.25% for the rest of financial assets. In March 2026 both rates were increased by 0.50%, the second such increase after the rates were frozen. One factor that will flow through to investments, and so has bearing on the deeming rates, is the RBA cash rate decision at the next meeting on 11 August.

Note also that the pension indexation and deeming rate update occurs at the same time as the automatic bi-annual revaluation of assets by Services Australia. This means the final pension change could be the result of multiple factors pulling in different directions.

Age pension benefits from higher of two inflation measures

The age pension is subject to a complicated indexation process which is intended to keep the age pension in line with the cost of goods and services. So, the pension indexation is highest following periods of high inflation, and lower as inflation declines. Though this doesn't mean that prices are coming down, just that they are increasing at a slower rate.

The age pension indexation isn't just based on the widely known Consumer Price Index (CPI). Instead, it takes the higher of CPI and the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI), which is meant to account for the different spending patterns of people receiving the age pension.

The age pension indexation is based on the previous six months of inflation. So, for September, it is based on the inflation from January to June.

For the latest ABS data, we estimate that the upcoming age pension indexation will use the

PBLCI figure. On a six-month basis CPI has been steady at around 2%, while PBLCI has been increasing and reached 3.2% in the six months to June 2026.

It is not the raw percentage changes that determine the increase, rather separate categories of spending, such as 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' or 'transport', are weighted based on the approximate proportion of typical spending.

Since the PBLCI is higher, the largest changes in prices for the six months up to June 2026 using that index were in health (7.08%), housing (5.86%), then insurance and financial services (5.57%). But once the weightings are applied, housing was the largest contributor to the increase, followed by health.

If the indexation was based only on CPI rather than the higher of that or PBLCI, instead of a maximum increase of \$55.60 for couples and \$36.80 for singles, we estimate it would be \$35.80 and \$23.70. Just this indexation method for the age

pension could mean \$520 extra in age pension for a couple over a year.

But this higher indexation doesn't apply to the whole pension. The age pension is made up of three payments:

- Basic Rate
- Pension Supplement
- Energy Supplement

The higher of CPI or PBLCI indexation only applies to the pension 'basic rate'. The pension supplement is only indexed to CPI. The energy supplement is not indexed and instead fixed at \$10.60 for each member of a couple and \$14.10 for singles.

The higher indexation level is then checked against a measure of wages and increased if it falls below a particular level.

The updated age pension indexation estimator can be found on the National Seniors Australia website at <https://nationalseniors.com.au/resources/calculators/age-pension-indexation-estimator>

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Local Heritage Grants applications open

Applications for the 2026 Local Heritage Grants are open! Each year Council offers Heritage Grants with the support of the NSW Heritage Office.

These grants help residents with works to preserve their heritage buildings. Eligible properties may be:

- listed in one of the applicable local government environmental plans
- on the State Heritage Register as it applies to Braidwood
- or within a heritage conservation area in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Local Government Area
- ▶ Read the grant guidelines and apply by 18 October 2026 at bit.ly/heritage-grants

Join our Platypus Playgroup

We coordinate a playgroup for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-5 years and their families. It is a welcoming and friendly group that meets weekly for morning tea, activities, and support. Playgroup provides an environment where children and parents/carers can play together, socialise, and participate in fun activities.

Platypus Playgroup meets every Thursday during the school term. Every first, third and fifth Thursday of the month, the group meets at Letchworth Community Centre, 28 Miller St, Queanbeyan from 10:30am-12:00pm. Every other Thursday is spent out and about adventuring on excursions!

- ▶ Learn more and enrol at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Platypus-Playgroup



Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Water and Sewerage Strategic Plan - Palerang Communities	14 August
Draft Riverside Cemetery Condition Report	28 August
David Madew Memorial Park Improvements	31 August

- ▶ 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

Council Meetings and Times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings twice a month on a Wednesday, excluding December and January. Meetings start at 5:30pm. Agendas and business papers for the meetings are available on the Friday prior to the meeting from bit.ly/MinutesAgendas. Meetings are live streamed via bit.ly/QPRCwebcast.

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

Members of the public can make a:

- Written presentation - submit by midday on Tuesday
- Zoom presentation - register by midday on Wednesday
- ▶ Register to make a presentation at bit.ly/QPRCinvolved

Next meeting dates are:

- 12 August 2026 (Queanbeyan)
- 26 August 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:

- Senior Town Planner
- ▶ For more information and roles see bit.ly/QPRC-Careers



Arts Trail registrations open

This year we celebrate the Arts Trail 20-year anniversary in Queanbeyan, and its 10th year in Braidwood and Bungendore. Help us make this milestone an unforgettable one by getting involved!

We are calling on local creatives, venues and businesses to register their creative offerings and public activations. We welcome all creative ideas big and small, across a broad spectrum of artforms including the visual, performing and literary arts.

The 2026 event dates are:

- Braidwood – 3 & 4 October
- Bungendore – 10 & 11 October
- Queanbeyan – 17 & 18 October
- ▶ Register by 16 August 2026 at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/arts-trail

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

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

Follow us on social media

@QbnPalerangRC

@QbnPalerang

@QbnPalerang

Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

eepurl.com/codv-v

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
1300 735 025
council@qprc.nsw.gov.au
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au

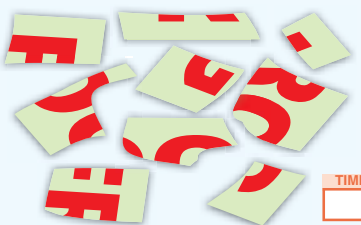
Quick Time Crossword

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.

Bits & Pieces

These pieces can be arranged to make a green rectangle with a word reading across it. What is the word?



TIME

Splits

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

1 BOR LA US IO

2 LU MIS ER VO

3 QU ED RE EST

4 FES LE LI TY

5 CU HI VE LAR

TIME

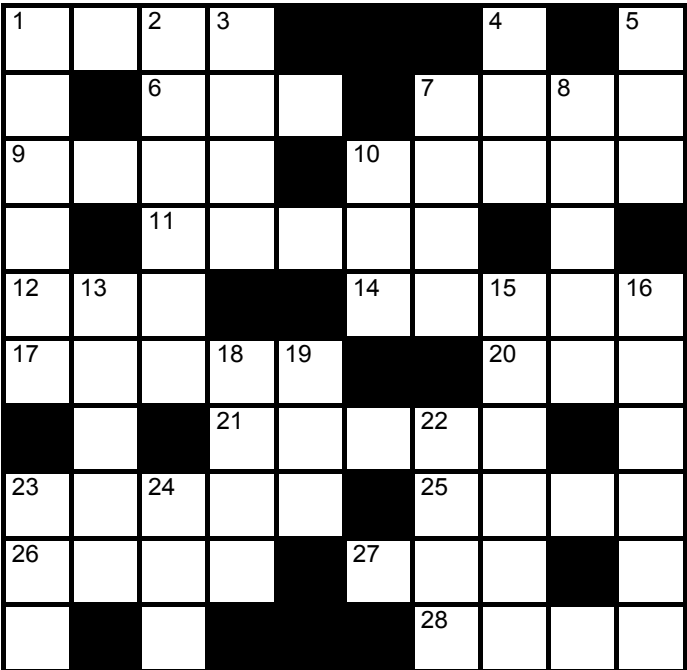
Elimination

All but two of the listed words fall into one of the four categories. Put these leftover words together, and what word or phrase do they make?

CATEGORIES: Words following 'TIME' • Animals • Types of bean • Board games

Chequers	Monkey	Keeper	Ludo
Elephant	Travel	Adzuki	Frame
Piece	Tiger	Giraffe	Butter
Mung	Cannellini	Share	Draughts
Bagatelle	Dragon	Backgammon	
Snap	Broad	Horse	

TIME



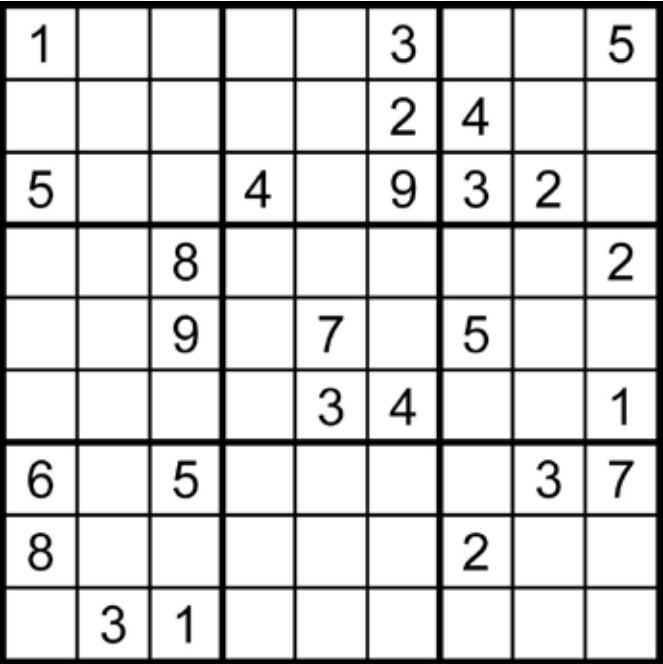
- Across

 - 1 Exploit (4)
 - 6 Inferior horse (3)
 - 7 Hindu garment (4)
 - 9 Strike with head (4)
 - 10 Echo sounder (5)
 - 11 Disliked intensely (5)
 - 12 First woman (3)
 - 14 Ribbons (5)
 - 17 Dance (5)
 - 20 Compass point (init) (3)
 - 21 Variety of quartz (5)
 - 23 Measured beat (5)
 - 25 Corrosion (4)
 - 26 Vast expanses (4)
 - 27 Wicked (3)
 - 28 Assumed attitude (4)
- Down

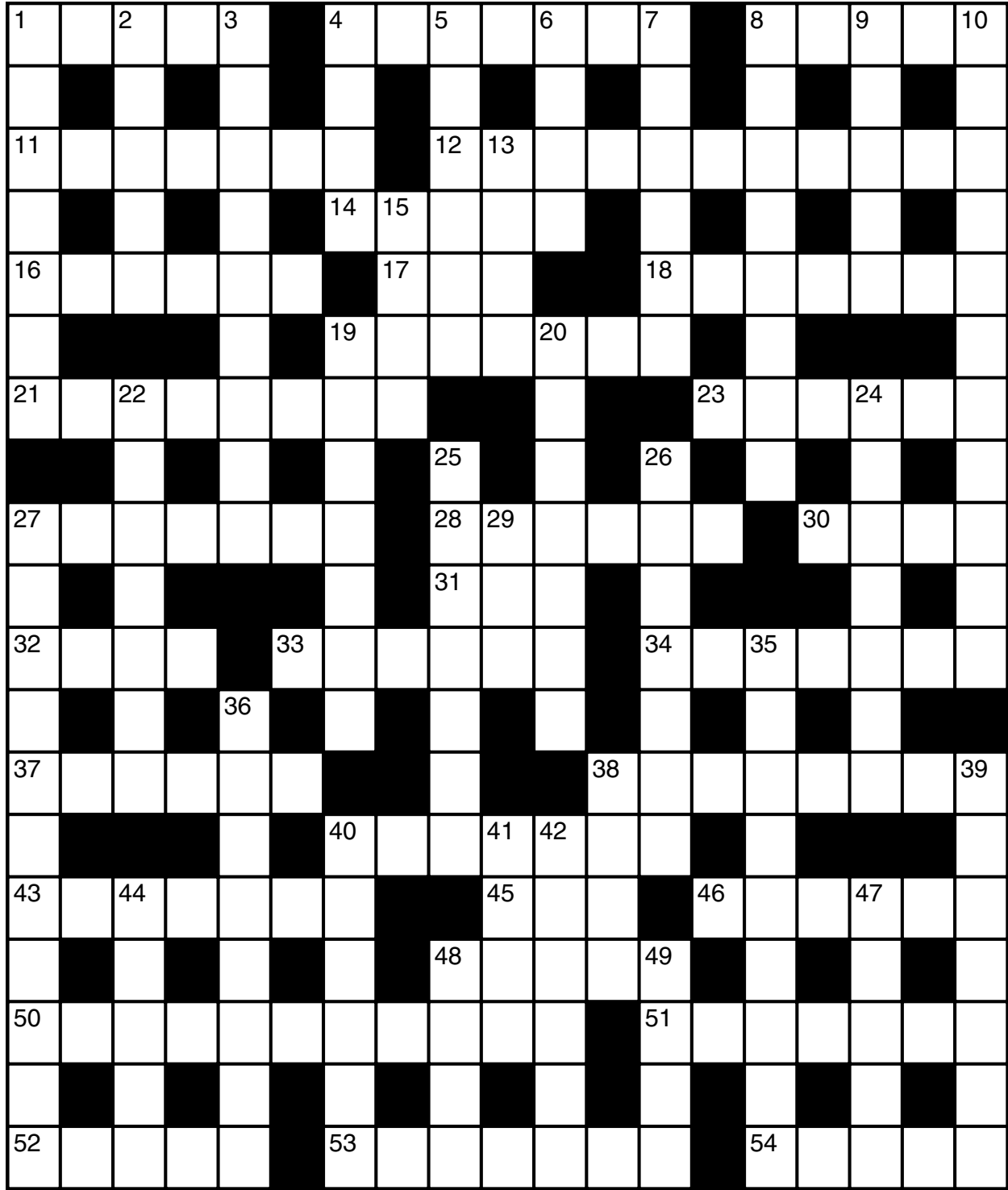
 - 1 Myths (6)
 - 2 Solemn hymn of praise (6)
 - 3 Childish goodbye (4)
 - 4 Is able (3)
 - 5 Melody (3)
 - 7 Soft drink (coll) (4)
 - 8 Utters wildly (5)
 - 10 Collection (3)
 - 13 Indistinct (5)
 - 15 False (6)
 - 16 Become established (6)
 - 18 Male singer (4)
 - 19 Mature (3)
 - 22 Snare (4)
 - 23 Greek letter (3)
 - 24 Non-clerical (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.



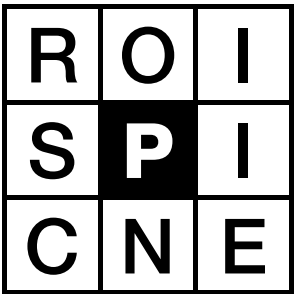
Crossword



Target Time

Target: Average - 20, Good - 30, Excellent - 40+

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



- Across

 - 1 Pilfer
 - 4 Injured
 - 8 Defend
 - 11 Untanned animal skin
 - 12 Claims
 - 14 Recruiter
 - 16 Northern continent
 - 17 Wiseacre
 - 18 Hemisphere divider
 - 19 Subjugate
 - 21 Unstable (3-5)
 - 23 Relating to milk
 - 27 New shoots
 - 28 Major thoroughfare
 - 30 Repeated guitar music
 - 31 Pet animal
 - 32 Fluted collar
 - 33 Herb
 - 34 Warlike
- Down

 - 1 Turn sour
 - 2 Inferior
 - 3 Toupee
 - 4 Perishes
 - 5 Cat sounds
 - 6 Gold-coloured
 - 7 Rank
 - 8 Throaty
 - 9 Choose
 - 10 Contemptible
- Across

 - 37 Beat
 - 38 Hit on the full
 - 40 Soft leather
 - 43 Closing stage of chess
 - 45 Victory
 - 46 Piles
 - 48 Showed concern
 - 50 Film scripts
 - 51 Worship
 - 52 Sift
 - 53 Is sick
 - 54 Cricket, eg
- Down

 - 13 Soothe
 - 15 Rabbit
 - 19 Dodging
 - 20 Helped an offender
 - 22 Calm
 - 24 Threesome
 - 25 Gruesome
 - 26 Blush
 - 27 Enchanters
 - 29 Tease (coll)
 - 35 Mutual dealings
 - 36 Complicated legal jargon
 - 38 Woody climbing plant
 - 39 Slope
 - 40 Further down
 - 41 Rock
 - 42 Cherry brandy
 - 44 Lament
 - 47 Egyptian capital
 - 48 Haul
 - 49 Lodgings (coll)

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



The days are slowly getting longer

PET OF THE WEEK



Name: Gertrude
Age: 34 weeks
Likes: Having dust baths, scratching around in the fresh green grass, and free-ranging. Her absolute favorite treats are mealworms, oats, and cape weed leaves aka “chook lettuce” (in moderation)
Dislikes: Broccoli stalks, uncooked pumpkin, being put back into the chook tractor when she doesn’t want to, and being forced to pay “cuddle tax” when she isn’t in the mood!
Claim to Fame: Gertrude is the ultimate “top chook” of the coop. She is fiercely proud and independent, runs the show, and ensures that absolutely no one messes with her. While she resists the “cuddle tax” with a strong independent streak, she is a deeply loved member of the family who kindly provides a beautiful egg every single day.

Queanbeyan VIEW Club: next meeting Thursday August 20

In July, Queanbeyan View Club enjoyed their annual birthday meeting. Pictured is long term member Thea cutting the cake. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday August 20th at the Tourist Hotel, Monaro St, Queanbeyan 12 for 12:30pm. The August guest speaker’s topic is downsizing and decluttering. We also enjoy lunch, accompanied by a lucky door prize and a raffle. New ladies are always welcome to come and join us in fun and friendship. Cost is \$10 plus the price of your chosen lunch. RSVP by Sunday 16th August, to Irene on 0438 231 003 or queanbeyanview@gmail.com
Photo supplied



Brain Training at the Library



Stay sharp and socially engaged with our fun brain training session! Discover effective exercises to boost memory and cognitive function while enjoying the opportunity to connect with others in a friendly and supportive environment.

Braidwood Library - Wednesday 12 August 2026 - 1.30-2.30pm
Queanbeyan Library - Thursday 20 August 2026 - 10-11.30am
Bungendore Library - Wednesday 26 August 2026 - 10-11am
Book your free tickets here <https://events.humanitix.com/host/queanbeyan-palerang-libraries>



CAPTAIN BUNgEndore
I've BEEN plAyINg WITH THE pUpPles. pUpPles ARE full of eNeRgy, they mAKE me HAPpy. I eNJOy gIVINg them BACK to THEIR pARENTs, AND THEN HAVINg A NAp.

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, BIRBALTA 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/>

Public Notices



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 20 August 2026 10:00am to 1:30pm
Where: RSL Lifecare, Level 1, 251 Crawford Street Queanbeyan
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 you on your scheduled appointment time.

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

Dementia Morning Tea Monday 17 August

Dementia Morning Teas. Those with dementia and their carer are invited to come along for a friendly cuppa and chat on the 3rd Monday of the month.



Whilst sharing a cuppa and delicious eats, those attending can share their experiences, discuss difficulties and learn about supports and services that are available to help them deal with the challenges of dementia.
The Dementia Morning Teas are held at the Bungendore School of Arts, 57 Gibraltar St Bungendore from 10.00 to 12.00.
For more information on the Dementia Morning Teas or the Bungendore Dementia Alliance phone Kathleen on 0411 746 293.

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 email: ayrrows@bigpond.com



WE'RE MOVING!
From Wednesday, August 5, you'll find us in Shop 2, at 5 Gilmore Place Queanbeyan.



It's a new location, but still with the same friendly and helpful service. See you there!
Contact us on (02) 6299 3000 or at admin@mealsonwheelsqueanbeyan.org.au

Mayor's Column

Round one of the 2026 Super Rugby Aus fixtures will be played at the Bungendore Sports Hub! We look forward to hosting the Brumbies and Waratahs on Sunday 13 September. This is great news for all rugby fans. It is going to be fantastic to see the ACT vs NSW rivalry up close. We are expecting a strong turnout, so make sure you get your tickets as soon as they're on sale. I would also like to give a massive congratulations to the Bungendore Mudhooks for winning the Monaro Cup Grand Final against the Jindabyne Bushpigs last Saturday. It was great to see them bring the trophy home!
The annual Queanbeyan-Palerang Arts Trail returns this October. This is a great event where we can connect with our vibrant arts community, and this year is celebrating its 20th anniversary in Queanbeyan and its 10th anniversary in Braidwood and Bungendore. If you are a creative looking to participate, find the registration form, participant terms and conditions, event dates, and marketing and insurance information at qprc.nsw.gov.au/Arts-Trail



Applications for the 2026 Local Heritage Grants are now open. The grants cover up to 50% of costs (on a dollar-for-dollar basis) for the repair and maintenance of local heritage buildings. Eligible properties may be listed in one of the applicable local environmental plans, on the State Heritage Register as it applies to Braidwood, or within a heritage conservation area in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Local Government Area. You can read the grant guidelines and apply at qprc.nsw.gov.au/Community/Grants-Donations

We are seeking feedback on a 30-year strategic plan for water and sewer services for the former Palerang Council area. The strategy looks at the water and sewer requirements for Bungendore, Braidwood, and Captains Flat. Council resolved at its meeting on 22 April 2026 to amalgamate the former Queanbeyan and Palerang Water and Sewer Funds into two QPRC Water and Sewer Funds, and this is included as part of the financial model in the strategy. You can find more information and have your say at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
Below: QPRC Arts Trail. Photo QPRC



David Madew Memorial Park Improvements

QPRC
We're looking for ideas from the local community to upgrade the equipment at the park.
We would like to hear from the community about how we can improve the David Madew Memorial Park in Jerrabomberra.
The Australian Government is funding improvements to community infrastructure in Jerrabomberra, and some of this funding will be used on improvements to the playground at David Madew Memorial Park.
Let us know what kind of equipment and facilities you'd like to see at the park. We would like to include equipment suitable for a broader range of age groups and

abilities.
Feedback can be provided by:
1. Completing the online form on the YourVoice webpage
2. Emailing feedback directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "David Madew Memorial Park Playground Improvement"
3. Handwriting your submission and delivering it to Council's Customer Service Centres.
4. Posting your submission to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Submissions must be received by Council by Monday 31 August 2026. Any submissions received may be included in the final report to Council.

JUNIOR BUNGENDORE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

INTRODUCTORY OFFER: BYO SUPPORTED FEES FOR TERM 3 BYO JUNIOR SESSION AND INSTRUMENT HIRE.

BEGINNER GROUP STRINGS LESSONS

1370 Bungendore Youth Orchestra

LEARNING HOW TO: Learn to understand your musical instrument. Play music with other people. Grow your musical understanding and passion.

TEACHING BY: Sana Ernst - Director Supported by the BYO committee and parents. Nicole Murphy - Manager.

Private Lessons: 30 min private lessons - \$25

Contact us at: Sana- 0493 551 964, Nicole- 0416 635 549, @bungendoreyouthorchestra@gmail.com

QPRC

Every Friday 10am to 12pm

Tech Help Drop-In

Queanbeyan Library

Tech Help at the Queanbeyan Library! drop in with your smart phone, tablet or computer and have your questions answered.

Target Time

Target: Average - 20, Good - 30, Excellent - 40+
conspire, cope, copier, crisp, crop, epic, inspire, open, opine, peon, peri, person, peso, pier, pincer, pine, pion, poise, pone, pore, pose, poser, PRECISION, price, prince, prion, prise, prison, prone, prose, ripe, ripen, rope, scope, scrip, snip, snipe, sniper, spec, spice, spier, spin, spine, spire, spore.
Brain Training
BITS & PIECES: FROG
SPLITS: 1 Laborious 2 Volumiser 3 Requested 4 Lifestyle 5 Vehicular
ELIMINATION: Time - Frame, Keeper, Piece, Share, Travel Animals - Elephant, Giraffe, Horse, Monkey, Tiger
Bean - Adzuki, Broad, Butter, Cannellini, Mung Board game - Backgammon, Bagatelle, Chequers, Draughts, Ludo
Remaining words: SNAPDRAGON

Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku

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

Quick Time Crossword

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

Crossword

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

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 14 August, 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

AUSSIE SKIP BAGS

Aussie Skip Bags Rubbish Removal. Pick up for Queanbeyan Area & Surrounds. Prices range from \$160 - \$270. Bags From \$55 Delivered, No Time Limits on Pickups
Phone John 0499 033 433

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. Sunday 30 th August, will be closed for the day

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WANTED

Commercial Property wanted to buy in Queanbeyan Area.
Land and/or building
Phone John 0499 033 433

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.

COURIER

Gavin Pillidge, Courier
Braidwood - Canberra - Braidwood. Monday - Wednesday - Friday
Mob: 0428 968 162

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.

WANTED: HOUSE

Queanbeyan House wanted to buy in any condition. Looking for Large Block for Truck Parking
Phone John 0499 033 433

CLAIRVOYANT

CLAIRVOYANT: Intuitive Tarot readings at The Sage Hut in Bungendore. Over 30 years experience.
E:wizardwisdom22@use.startmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/sagehutwizard.com.au

CB BOBCATS

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



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 21 August.
Phone Jim on 0428 194 105



FIREWOOD

COBAR GREY BOX, WELL SEASONED, CLEAN, HIGH HEAT, LONG BURNING. STORED ON CONCRETE. ALL WOOD SIEVED PRIOR TO DELIVERY. 2 TN \$1000 DELIVERED
C.O.D Bungendore Area Only

Ph 0403 229 576

Goulburn MULWAREE ANIMAL SHELTER has 6 lovely dogs & a cat looking for a 2nd chance (8 August)
Rehoming Organisation No.: R251000140

LARA (F) German Shepherd
Approx 2 yrs
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1207900

TUCKER (M) Kelpie mix
Approx 2 yrs
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1199876

RODNEY (M) Kelpie
Approx 2 yrs
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1197783

MABEL (F) Australian Cattle Dog
Approx 10 wks
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1208050

PATSY (F) Australian Cattle Dog
Approx 10 wks
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1208053

LARRY (M) Australian Cattle Dog
Approx 10 wks
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1208055

MOUSTACHIO (M) DSH
Approx 6 mths
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1206283

Go to Pet Rescue:
www.petrescue.com.au/groups/1042/Goulburn-Mulwaree-Council
to see the up to date list of animals available for adoption. Plus read info on how to adopt from the Shelter.

The Goulburn Mulwaree Animal Shelter is open Monday to Friday 10.00am till 2.00pm or via appointment.

These lovely animals are all looking for new homes at the QPRC Animal Management Facility (8 Aug).
QPRC AMF WEBSITE
https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Animals/Find-Animals-For-Sale-Adoption-and-Lost-Pets

Imp 24 Mack (M) Cattle Dog x Apo 5 yrs
More Info
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1205003

Imp 37 (F) Kelpie x Husky Mix
Apo 9 mths
More Info
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1207458

Imp 17 Whippy (F) Greyhound x Apo 10 mths
More Info
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1204081

Imp 35 Chicken (M) Kelpie x Lab
Apo 10 mths
More Info
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1207446

Imp 5 Walter (M) DSH
Apo 2 yrs
More Info
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1205981

Imp 6 Nova (F) DSH
Apo 5 mths
More Info
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1207772

Imp 7 Soxy (F) DSH
Apo 2 1/2 yrs
More Info
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1207774

QPRC AMF CONTACT DETAILS:
Ph: 6285 6269
animalinfo@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Rehoming No. R251000189

Every animal deserves a loving safe forever home.

'The loyalty of a rescued animal is unlike any other. They never forget who gave them a home.' Anonymous

Wamboin Golf August 2026

Sunday, 2 August. A very cold but clear day for golfers to start the month of Caesar Augustus, the great Roman builder, by competing for the Tradies' Spirit Level. The day was sponsored by Trent Abell (electrics), Don Evans (plumbing) and Col Prest (automotive) whom we thank for the eats and prizes. They nominated a handicap game after which, with teeth chattering, noses running and knees knocking, players took to the course determined to get it over with as fast as possible.

Back in the warmth of the Hall, as the Captain unfroze his fingers the better to count our scores, we discussed general goings-on. During NAIDOC some people were wondering what '50 Years of Deadly' meant. The answer is 50 years of Deadly Serious. It is not widely recognized that the Deadly Serious Party was the first to espouse a proactive First Peoples Platform (as we

then called it). It read, inter alia, "...the Party rejects the Terror Nullius dictum...". Many government edicts fall into the 'useful-as-an-ashtray-on-a-motorbike' category. The latest is to compel universities to take action against anti-Semitism while allowing each of them to define what it is. This gives them the freedom to keep on doing what they're doing, i.e., viz and to whit, nothing. Observing the roll up to hearings of the Royale-with-Cheese Commission, your correspondent was impressed to see that the ANU was represented by four women. Now, I may be straying into controversy here, but is there some invisible barrier blocking blokes from the higher echelons of academia and some areas of business like supermarkets, phone companies and airlines? Do I detect a 'glass ceiling' holding us back? No doubt Four Corners will be on to it

in a flash.

Your correspondent is fast losing track of what Trump's 'special military operation' in the Gulf is all about. I thought it was to stop Iran from fomenting terrorism via its nasty little satellites and to stop it enriching uranium en route to arming a nuke. In fact I thought that the B1s had already 'degraded' the enrichment plants. Hang on, that's it! Enrichment! The Orange Roughie is using it to enrich himself and his conger line of fellow travelers as the price of fuel and everything that depends on it fluctuates while his stock brokers buy and sell. Yes, I'm slow. It took me a while to get there. Pity I don't have any spare cash. Same goes for Elbow and Prince Chalmers. They could have staunched the miasma emanating from the absorption trench of the Budget by a judicious punt or two without having to bend to all the special pleadings,



including from those pesky unions. However, the ALP National Conference was largely a victory for stability which sets Elbow up for a rails run in 2028. The Coalition, if it exists, is still a tossed salad and surely PHON will lose its phony shine - unless Artificial Idiocy takes over. The slogan, Delivering Real Change, was a bit distracting. It conjured up visions of courier vans full of bags of 'gold coins' rather than the annoying 5c to 50c

pieces. Nevertheless, I'd be prepared to accept them.

Everybody's talking about that new movie 'Odyssey' based on the best-seller by Greek novelist, Homer Simpson. I haven't read it but I have skimmed The Aeneid, a real page-turner by Roman poet, Virgil Tibbs, who pinched a lot of Homer's stuff. So there's a sequel being planned for sure.

The Captain attracted our attention by snapping his fingers (not what you're thinking, they'd thawed out by then) and introducing our visitor, Phil Snare who did so well last month he decided to return. Ted's Joke dealt with the danger of wearing very tight underpants when playing golf. The googly ball was awarded to one of the sponsors whose absence on the day very nearly made him the subject of a motion of reprimand instead. The dummy spit was awarded to Vicki Still for her over-persistent assertions that she had not, in fact, spat the dummy. Where there's

smoke there's fire, we thought. NTP and LD ball winners were Matt Hawke, Col Urquhart, Vicki Still, Phil Snare, Scott Mason and David Searle. Winner of the nine hole comp, wearing a steel helmet and breastplate, was Scott Mason 36/26 from Pete Harrison 49/35 and Matt Hawke 49/36. Winner of the 18 hole comp was David Searle 104/59 from Tim Barter75/66 and Col Urquhart 93/73. Well played all golfers!

Next month it will be Spring, and what do we do in Spring? We vie for the Spring Trophy and gorge on Joan's Spring Rolls. Join us at the Hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 6 September for the usual 12.30pm kick-off. Meanwhile, those of us who watched The Open (which Poms foppishly call their top comp) were reassured by Scottie Scheffler's call that Bryson DeChambeau "was not a cheetah." I never thought he was.

Larry King, golfer
Photos Pete Harrison



New Goals Kick Goals for Bungendore United Football Club

Bungendore United Football Club is celebrating a major upgrade to its playing equipment, thanks to support from Octopus Australia and the Blind Creek Solar Farm.

Octopus Australia has provided funding for the club to purchase two new sets of goal posts, replacing the ageing equipment previously used by the Bungendore Falcons. The new goals will provide a welcome boost for the club's more than 200 local young players and help create an even better experience for teams taking to the field each weekend.

The new posts will be used by four Capital Football teams each season, while the club's Under 9 development squads will begin preparing to play on them next year.

For Bungendore United Football Club President Darcy Green, the investment is about much more than new equipment.

"Octopus Australia's grant

allowed BUFC to buy new goals for our oldest age group, representing a significant investment in the BUFC community," Mr Green said.

"The goals give the club a real presence at our home ground, and our players enjoy the experience of 'fully professional' posts."

The upgrade has also been welcomed by parents and coaches, who will no longer need to assemble the club's old PVC goals – equipment well known for pinching cold fingers during setup.

"All 17 teams across the club are grateful for this generous purchase, which leaves the Bungendore Falcons more ready than ever for the future of our growing little club," Mr Green said.

The partnership extends beyond the new goal posts, with Octopus Australia and Blind Creek Solar Farm committing to sponsor Bungendore United Football Club for the next three years.

The support forms part of a broader commitment to the Bungendore community associated with the Blind Creek Solar Farm. Once operational, the solar farm will establish an annual Community Benefit Fund, providing \$50,000 each year for 35 years to support local community initiatives.

Octopus Australia Stakeholder Engagement Manager Matt McNally said supporting local sporting clubs was a practical way to contribute to the strength and wellbeing of the community.

"Local sporting clubs play an important role in bringing communities together, and we're proud to support Bungendore United Football Club with the purchase of new goals," Mr McNally said.

"It's fantastic to see so many young people and families involved in football, and we hope this contribution helps the club continue to grow and provide a great

experience for players of all ages."

Mr McNally said supporting initiatives that strengthen local communities was an important part of Octopus Australia's approach.

The new goal posts are already making their mark at the club, giving Bungendore United's players a more professional playing environment while supporting the continued growth of one of the region's thriving junior sporting clubs.

With more than 200 local children involved, 17 teams on the books and a three-year sponsorship partnership ahead, the Bungendore Falcons are well placed to continue building a strong future both on and off the field.

Photo supplied L to R - Bungendore United President Darcy Green and Octopus Australia Stakeholder Engagement Manager Matt McNally in front of the new goals



Sport

Queanbeyan Whites

Queanbeyan Whites

The Queanbeyan Whites have three out of five teams through the semi-finals at Viking Park this weekend. First grade, finished second and will be taking on Tuggeranong Vikings in the Qualification Semi-final at 3:30pm. Reserve grade also finished in second place and will also be taking on Vikings at 1:10pm. Third grade finished the season as Minor Premiers and will be facing Wests at 11:40am. In the last home and

away round last weekend Queanbeyan travelled out to Nicholls to take on Gungahlin. It was a day of mixed results. With 3rds and 4ths not playing Colts started the day needing a win to get into the finals. The Whites, put in a strong effort and certainly had Gungahlin on the back foot for much of the match. The result was still up for grabs with just minutes to go, a scoreline of 14 all and Queanbeyan attacking the Eagles line. Unfortunately, it was not to be, with some

lapses in ball security, and focus causing turnovers and allowing Gungahlin to quickly advance up the field and score the match winning try on the bell (21-14) Reserve grade won the game in the first half with a 0-36 scoreline. The second half was much closer with a final score of 7-43. However, while Gungahlin managed to shut down the Whites attack it was a half where both sides had to defend for long periods of time and to the Whites credit they were able to repel the



Eagles attack time and time again, despite having two players sinbinned across the game. The Whites have not beaten ladder leaders Vikings yet this season but both games (15-25 and 31-33) have been close and finals are a different ball game. First grade will be keen to put behind them last weekend's loss against Gungahlin (33-31). The first half was a low scoring affair with the Whites going into the break ahead 12-14 after letting Wests in right on the bell. Gungahlin came out firing in the second half scoring three quick tries to take the lead 33-14 with 20 minutes to go. To the Whites credit they regrouped and scored three tries of their own through

Jack Preston, Mitch Douch and Angus Tagicakibau but missed conversions handed the win to Gungahlin. Tuggeranong have been clear ladder leaders for much of the season and have won two of their three encounters with the Whites. Their first encounter back in round two was won by Vikings 55-26, round seven was taken by the Whites, 22-12 but round ten was taken by Tuggeranong 41-31. However in that third encounter the Whites were handed four yellow cards - so discipline and ball security will be a major focus for the team. The Whites have the players to cause an upset and it would be great to see all club supporters there across the day to help get the

Whites across the line in all three grades
Round 17 results:
First grade lost 33-31. Tries: Ewald Kruger (2) Angus Tagicakibau, Jack Preston, Mitch Douch. Conv: Nathan Carroll (3)
Reserve grade won 7-43. Tries: Jone Rarabalavu (3), Mitch Bell, Thomas McGuinness, Neville Amputch, Cameron Stanley. Conv: Thomas McGuinness (4)
Colts lost 21-14. Tries: Will Cave, Harrison Felton. Conv: Lachlan Stanley
Above: Mitch Douch
Left: Colt Mansfield
Below: Jone Rarabalavu
Photos by **Jordan Mirchevski**



Mudchooks Are Champions!

Stewart Wilson

The Bungendore Mudchooks rugby team are the premiers in the 2026 Southern Tablelands Monaro Cup competition after defeating the Jindabyne Bushpigs 31-15 in the grand final at the Bungendore Sports Hub on 8 August.

The win - which means so much to all involved with the club - was fully deserved, the Chooks taking control in the second half with some excellent rugby after the teams were never far apart for the first 50 minutes or so.

Jindabyne scored the first points through an unconverted try after 13 minutes following a lengthy pounding of the Mudchooks line from close range. The home team responded about ten minutes later

with a try to winger Jy Clarke and then another to flyhalf Kyle Shand shortly afterwards.

Neither was converted leaving the score at 10-5 in favour of the Mudchooks where it remained until half time. The local boys were ahead and starting to show signs of their true capabilities but it was still a very close contest between the competition's two top teams. Neither had dominated so far and both were in a position to win when the second half began.

It was Jindabyne who scored first in the second 40, an unconverted try which made it 10-all after another sustained raid on the Mudchooks' line. Game on!

The momentum gradually started to shift, the Mudchooks finding

another gear and taking charge in the final half an hour of the game. Lock Jack Stanford got the ball rolling with a try which was converted by captain and halfback Tom Worman to make it 17-10.

Then Jy Clarke got his second try, spotting a gap and running 70 metres untouched to score under the posts. As the fastest man on the field nobody was going get near to Jy once he was clear and Tom Worman converted to make it 24-10.

At two converted tries ahead, it was at this point that the Bungendore faithful were beginning to maybe, perhaps, possibly dare to dream just a bit. But very cautiously as there was still 20 minutes to go and after all it was Jindabyne the Chooks were



playing. There was some grand final history between the teams that still needed to be rewritten.

The clincher came nine minutes from full time when Jy Clarke scored his third try of the game. Tom Worman converted to make it 31-10 and now surely it was in the bag. And it was, even though the Bushpigs scored another unconverted try in the final seconds of the game. But by then it was irrelevant and the final score was 31-15 in favour of the Mudchooks, in the end a comfortable victory.

Great sighs of relief all round from the Mudchooks and their supporters, not to mention a large dose of emotion from all involved. The team played arguably its best of the season in the second half, in effect nullifying a formidable opponent to take what was a great win.

Local state member Steve Whan

presented the trophy after the game and the celebrations began!

Much of the credit goes to head coach Anthony McCudden assisted by former Wallaby and noted coach Mark Bell, their well-planned and structured training programme throughout the season inspiring the players and paying dividends. The on-field leadership of captain Tom Worman also played a significant part in the team's success.

As always, the Bungendore Rugby Union Football Club thanks its many volunteer helpers and sponsors large and small for their ongoing support. Without them there would not be the strong and healthy club we enjoy with a special note of thanks going to major sponsor the Royal Hotel.

A great season for the Mudchooks.

Photos
Rose Sports Media

