

Queanbeyan-
Palerang Arts Trail
begins October 3

Save the Date:
Queanbeyan Show,
November 7th & 8th

Pet
of the
Week



Regional Independent

Free

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

No. 469

Wednesday 23 September, 2026

Register now for this year's Koala Karaoke survey

Landholders across the Southern Tablelands are being encouraged to register for this year's Koala Karaoke survey and help uncover more about one of NSW's most important koala populations.

Local Land Services (LLS) is seeking landholders with bushland properties between Bombala and the northern Queanbeyan and Nerriga regions to take part in the annual citizen science

project, which uses audio monitors to detect koalas across the landscape.

The call for participants comes as new survey data from the Cold Country Koalas Project provides

the clearest picture yet of koala populations in the region.

The project, delivered by LLS and Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare through the NSW Government's Koala Strategy, has found that Southern Tablelands koalas can have home ranges of up to 100 hectares, with an estimated population density of between 1.2 and 5.7 koalas per 100 hectares. These figures are comparable to many other koala populations across NSW.

Land Services Officer Kirrily Gould said more landholders were needed to help build a better understanding of where koalas occur across the region.

"We're inviting landholders to join Koala Karaoke and help us learn more about our local koala population," Ms Gould said.

"The information collected through these surveys helps us map where koalas are across the landscape and identify where habitat protection and restoration efforts can have the greatest benefit.

"The great thing about Koala Karaoke is that anyone with suitable bushland can contribute to important conservation research from their own property.

"Every survey helps fill important knowledge gaps and strengthens our understanding of this unique cold-climate koala population."

Annual Koala Karaoke surveys have been running since 2021 and continue to provide evidence of koala populations in the cooler, elevated areas around Cooma, Numeralla, Peak View, Jerangle, Bredbo, the Tinderry Ranges and Avonside.

Last year, surveys detected male koalas for the first time in Queanbeyan, Burra and the Captains Flat area, expanding knowledge of the species' distribution across the Southern Tablelands.

Participants receive training and several audio monitors to deploy on their properties. The monitors record from dusk until dawn for two weeks, listening for the distinctive bellows, or "songs", of male koalas during the breeding season between October and February.

Interested landholders can register for the Cold Country Koala Project by scanning the QR code or register via: https://regionalnsw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ji34gTGz63nXGm?Q_CHL=qr

Photo: Cameron Kirk



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Community News

Spring Open Day at the Queanbeyan Community Garden

As the weather warms up, the Queanbeyan Community Garden is bursting into life, and we are inviting you to share in the joy of a new growing season at our Spring Open Day.

Date: Saturday 10 October

Time: From 09:30 - 11:00 am

Location: Railway Park Organic Community Garden, Henderson Rd, Queanbeyan.

The Queanbeyan Sustainability Group (QSG) is a community not-for-profit organisation that manages the Queanbeyan Community Garden. We have 25 plots that members rent as well as common plots with fruit trees,

herbs, veggies and berry canes that we share. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just curious about growing your own food, our Open Day is the perfect opportunity to get inspired and connect with the community.

Garden Tours: Discover the beauty and diversity of our garden plots. You might like to become a QSG member or apply to rent a plot.

Start growing at home: We will have some seedlings for sale (gold coin donations would be appreciated to fund our garden improvements).

Hear from an expert: Join us at 10.30am for a presentation by

Julie Armstrong from ACT for Bees & Other Pollinators. Julie will share practical and achievable ways we can make our gardens more welcoming to native bees, honeybees and other pollinators, which are essential for healthy gardens, thriving ecosystems and our food supply.

Julie will talk about:

What to plant to provide food throughout the seasons

How to create habitat and nesting places for native bees

Why diversity in gardens matters

How reducing pesticide use can help protect pollinators



The important connection between pollinators, productive gardens and our food

Come along, discover more about the fascinating bees living around us, and pick up some simple ideas to help make Queanbeyan gardens buzz with life!

Refreshments: Enjoy a cuppa with gardening enthusiasts.

For your safety, please wear closed shoes when visiting the garden.

Parking is available at the

Henderson Road Railway Park. The garden has a scooter/ wheelchair accessible track and toilet facilities are in the park.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Spring Open Day!

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QBNSustainabilityGroup/>

Find out more on the QSG website at <https://qbysustainabilitygroup.wordpress.com/>

Photos supplied

Council adopts revised unsealed road policy

Debbie Evans

After 15 months of development and community consultation, Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council has adopted its Unsealed Road Policy, despite consultation revealing significant community dissatisfaction with elements of it.

Thirty-two submissions were received in opposition to the revised Policy.

The major themes identified in community submissions and summarised by staff are Duty of Care, Legal Obligations and Council Liability, Safety and Emergency Access, Road Classification and Reclassification, Transparency and Road Register, Traffic Volumes (AADT), Drainage and Road Condition, Agricultural Property, Cattle Grids, Gates and Heavy Vehicles, Equity for Rural Communities,

Roadside Vegetation and Weed Management and Third-Party Works (Roads Act s138).

The accompanying staff report to Council's September 16 Extraordinary Meeting addressed each issue in detail before Council adopted the policy.

At the September 16 meeting, Gerard Nicol spoke against the Policy via Zoom, while Kate Ord and Nolani McColl presented their opposition in person.

Each speaker described their experience living on roads not maintained by Council and said the policy didn't adequately address what they viewed as inequitable treatment by Council or offer solutions and direction for road reclassification.

Full details of the community submissions are available on

Council's website under the September 16 meeting.

The Unsealed Council Road Policy was last adopted by Council in 2022 and the process leading to the adoption of the updated policy has been long and drawn out.

Councillor workshops were held in August and October 2025, and the policy review was considered at Council meetings in October and December 2025, before it was placed on public exhibition returning to Council in April 2026, where it was deferred pending a further Councillor workshop.

Presenting the report that supported Council's adoption of the policy, Director Infrastructure Services, Matt Kendall, told Councillors the revised policy was intended to establish a governance framework, "not to become a detailed maintenance manual for

every aspect of the road network".

Councillors and staff then worked their way through elements of the policy, the concerns of residents and the distinctions between Policy and routine operation maintenance procedures of Council in relation to unsealed roads.

Kendall then presented a summary of Operational Actions stemming from the Policy adoption.

1. Continue to update the Road Register, including Scheduled and known Unsealed Roads.
2. Expand the publishing of the Quarterly Unsealed Roads Works Program, to include Resheeting, Grading, Drainage Cleaning, and Roadside Vegetation Clearing.
3. Provide updates on Road Reclassification and continue reporting to Council on completed unsealed road works.

4. Prepare and publish a simple section 138 approval process on Council's website.

5. Prepare a simple explanation of Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for Council's website.

Council resolved to adopt the revised Unsealed Council Road Policy, with amendments as outlined in the Post Exhibition Report - Unsealed Council Road Policy.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

More information on the Policy and its adoption by Council can be found on Council's website in documents supporting the September 16 Extraordinary meeting.

<https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings>

Regional Independent

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

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Queanbeyan Show 2026

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Entries close midnight
Friday 30th October

Major changes from October 1 for credit card surcharges

Debbie Evans

Businesses across the Queanbeyan-Palerang area are reminded that credit card surcharges are no longer permitted on EFTPOS, Mastercard or Visa cards from 1 October.

The removal of surcharges on these networks will apply to debit, credit, and prepaid cards. The card a customer taps with most often will simply no longer carry a separate surcharge line at the checkout.

The ban on credit card surcharges is part of the Reserve Bank of Australia's wider review of merchant card payment costs and surcharging practices.

The RBA found that surcharging had become confusing, difficult to avoid and no longer met its original purpose of encouraging consumers to use lower-cost payment methods.

The reform aims to make payments simpler, more transparent, and increase competition among providers.

The changes will also reduce the cost of accepting card payments for businesses, particularly smaller ones.

The changes only apply to surcharges added because a customer pays by card. They do not apply to weekend surcharges, public holiday surcharges, or booking fees or service fees.

A surcharge in the context of card

payments is an extra fee charged by a merchant to a consumer for using a particular card to pay for a transaction.

Payment service providers set their own pricing for the card acquiring (or card acceptance) services they provide businesses. This may include fees for renting payment terminals, processing transactions or other payments-related offerings.

These are fees for services provided and are not considered payment surcharges. The changes to remove card payment surcharging do not apply to these types of fees.

The three designated card networks, eftpos, Mastercard and Visa, have each decided to introduce 'no-surcharge' rules from 1 October.

American Express, UnionPay and PayPal have also decided to remove surcharging from 1 October 2026. These firms are not currently subject to formal regulation by the RBA.

Businesses needing support to prepare for the removal of surcharging should contact their payment service provider. The RBA says most larger providers it has engaged with intend to remove surcharging functionality from the terminals they supply by 1 October 2026.

Among these larger payment service providers, all either have reached

out, or will soon reach out, to their business customers to inform them of the changes and provide guidance on how the surcharge removal will work.

Some providers have published resources online for their merchant customers, including ANZ Worldline, CBA, MYOB, NAB, Square and Westpac.

The ACCC, AusPayNet (on behalf of the designated card networks) and ASBFEO (Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman) and have also published resources for merchants to meet requirements under the new rules.

The RBA has advised that businesses will still incur costs when accepting card payments after surcharging is removed and those costs can be reflected in a business's overall pricing, rather than charged as a separate surcharge.

This is in line with consumer preferences for sticker prices to be all-inclusive.

The RBA is also implementing reforms intended to lower merchants' card payment costs, including changes to interchange fees and measures to improve transparency of the fees that merchants pay to accept card payments.

More information can be found on the RBA website.

Six teenagers charged following pursuit - Bungendore

Monaro Police

Six teenagers have been charged following a pursuit in the state's south.

About 1.45am on Monday 14 September 2026, officers from Monaro Police District were patrolling Cooma Street, Queanbeyan, when they attempted to stop a four-wheel drive for random testing.

When the driver allegedly failed to stop as directed, a pursuit was initiated.

The pursuit continued through the Queanbeyan CBD before turning onto the Kings Highway, towards Bungendore and entering the ACT.

The pursuit re-entered NSW and road spikes were successfully deployed on the Kings Highway with the pursuit continuing into Bungendore township.

The four-wheel drive stopped on Bungendore Road and the driver - a 16-year-old girl - and five passengers were arrested.

All six were taken to Queanbeyan Police Station, where the 16-year-old girl was

charged with:

- Police pursuit - not stop - drive at speed,
- Take and drive conveyance without consent of owner,
- Receive etc property stolen outside NSW more than \$15000,
- Learner not accompanied by driver/police officer/tester, and
- Not comply conditions of licence.

She was refused bail to appear before a children's court on the 14th September.

The other teenagers - two boys and a girl aged 15, and two 16-year-old boys - were charged with be carried in conveyance without consent of owner.

They were granted conditional bail to appear before Queanbeyan Local Court on Monday 26 October 2026.

Police will allege the vehicle was stolen from an ACT address on Saturday 12 September 2026.



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Community News

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Obituary: Leslie James Manning, 24.12.1940 - 21.08.2026

Leslie James Manning (Les) was born in London on Christmas Eve in 1940 to Dorothy Jessie and James Robert Manning and moved to Australia in 1966. He is survived by his sister Janet Jones and his niece Wendy Jones, who live in England.

Les moved around Australia and New Zealand working as a Sheet Metal Worker, moving to Queanbeyan in 1975. He travelled around Australia, often on a motorbike. Les also travelled to China, New Zealand, and Malaysia.

Les was actively involved in the Australian Labor Party, but later he joined The Greens and was member of The Greens until his death. He was active at election time until recent years when his health declined. He helped at pre-polling and election day booths. He regularly attended local group meetings and contributed to discussion including with Greens MPs and Senators when they attended as guest speakers.

Les was a deeply passionate and committed Queanbeyan City Councillor from 1978 - 1987. After actively serving on Queanbeyan Council, Les served on Council's Heritage Advisory Committee and later the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee between 2004 - 2012. Les became a regular attendee at Queanbeyan Council meetings for many years, where he had his forthright say on a range of community matters and issues.

Many of his friends knew that Les had a long-held respect for the

theoretical precepts and principles of Marxism. Les's incisive political views can be described as that of a left wing-wing social democrat. He was a staunch supporter of workers' rights and the union movement. Les read widely on left-wing political philosophy. He leaves an impressive library on the subject.

Les remained single but had many lifetime friends. Les always loved a chat with everyone and enjoyed robust debate. His many interests included politics, unionism, heritage conservation, the environment, car mechanics, rugby league and the Peace movement.

Les was a member of the Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society between 1980 and 2006, serving as Treasurer for most of that time. He was a volunteer before and after that time. He was also a member of the Youth Refuge Committee.

He was a very keen collector of Australian antique furniture, ceramics and glass and undertook amateur furniture restoration until recently.

Les loved his house in Elizabeth Crescent, Queanbeyan East. He entertained generations of magpies at his door and sometimes in his kitchen. He had a resident wombat for years and there are still kangaroos seeking refuge in his backyard. Les's block has probably the largest walnut tree in this region. It was his sanctuary, a place he hoped to return too, but it was sadly, not to be.

Les befriended many neighbours

in the Elizabeth Crescent area. He would have liked to deeply thank all those neighbours who were friendly to him and supported him, in particular, the kindness he received during his last years as a resident there. He actively participated in neighbourhood parties and celebrations. Many local residents will remember Les for his successful efforts to lobby Council to facilitate safe and easier access for neighbourhood children to Queanbeyan East Primary School. His outstanding success here was the footbridge over Buttles Creek near Spotlight, to the sport grounds.

Les joined a number of Queanbeyan Residents who came together for the first time in 1986, 40 years ago, when the Mount Jerrabomberra Preservation Society embarked on an extended campaign to save Mount Jerrabomberra's flora and fauna from development.

The upshot was a pared back Jerrabomberra Heights Estate.

Les was a vital part of an amazing range of conservation activities including deep advocacy for nature in many development proposals. Les led the charge when the Monaro Conservation Society called for Public Inquiries into three major development proposals. Portion 75, Crown Land, now the Queanbeyan Bushland Cemetery, the Gale Precinct, which is the bushland block just south of Queanbeyan between the River and Cooma Road and now owned by the Ngambri Aboriginal Land Council, and lastly the Poplars

grassland along Lanyon Drive, south of the Lawn Cemetery. All 3 of these large blocks are now in safe hands. Les was Treasurer for the Society for many years as well as the chief scribe for the many submissions written on his tiny Apple Mac.

Les's large backyard at 5 Elizabeth Crescent hosted the Monaro Conservation Society Native Nursery which propagated and raised thousands of native plant seedlings. Many expeditions were made in his old green ute to collect seed for plant propagation.

Les prepared the detailed costings for the Readymix (now Holcim) Quarry landscape plantings undertaken by the Monaro Conservation Society over 12 years. Young unemployed people were often employed to help plant thousands of native seedlings in wildlife corridors surrounding the Quarry. These can be clearly seen from the air today.

Les and a small group of concerned friends started a small business venture with State Rail to rehabilitate and maintain the grounds of the Queanbeyan Railway Station. Landcare later continued this project. After the Monaro Conservation Society (MCS) disbanded, it had accumulated a significant surplus of funds, perhaps contrary to Les's left-wing principles. These funds were transferred to the newly formed Queanbeyan Landcare Group. The Society, often with Les at the fore, led community heritage and environment walks. Queanbeyan Landcare now

continues this tradition.

Over the past five years, Les had a series of health challenges, including minor anxiety, a broken hip from a fall, and Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease (COPD). Les adapted quickly to using a walker. Les was later hospitalized when he could not manage at home, however, he was unfortunately caught up in the shortage of nursing home beds across the country and had to reside in the Queanbeyan and then the Crookwell hospitals for 6 months.

Les moved to the Aeralife Nursing Home in Campbell Street in June this year, where he made friends with, and earned respect from, the wonderful staff and residents. Les sorely missed losing his independence and quickly 'negotiated' with staff the right to go shopping on his own, accepting the risk of falls. Prior to Les's death a small group of friends met regularly with Les for lunch at the Tourist Hotel.

Les's ashes will be interred beneath a native Red Box at the Queanbeyan Bushland Cemetery, once known as Portion 75, a place where Les fought hard to save from unbridled destruction and development.

Leslie James Manning was a true and committed citizen of the City of Queanbeyan and the Palerang Region.

The Queanbeyan conservation and landcare stories are being written up on the Queanbeyan Landcare website., thanks to Landcare's Michele Dovers and her team. Queanbeyanlandcare.org.au

The Quizzical Mr Jeff Brings Magic to Queanbeyan!

The last kids' show for the year at The Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre is *The Quizzical Mr Jeff* on 7 October. Blending circus, illusion, and comedy, *The Quizzical Mr Jeff* has built an international reputation for creating performances that are as skilful as they are enchanting, taking viewers out of the everyday and into something far more dreamlike.

Jeff Robison's journey to the stage itself is a story of resilience. Originally from Christchurch, New Zealand, he had planned to train at the city's circus school, only for a devastating earthquake to destroy both the school and much of the city around it. For many, that might have marked the end of a dream, but for Robison it became the

beginning of a more determined pursuit. Renting a warehouse and training independently, he threw himself into his craft before joining a touring circus, where seven shows a week sharpened not only his technical abilities but his instinctive connection with audiences.

That connection lies at the heart of *The Quizzical Mr Jeff*, who, from the moment he steps on stage, builds an atmosphere of magical realism, dream logic and play. Bespoke props, carefully crafted illustrations, and his globally celebrated circus hoops combine in performances that feel nostalgic and original.

Robinson's work has earned

both the Director's Choice Award and Artistic Excellence Award at the 2019 Melbourne Magic Festival, with reviewers praising the originality and skill behind the spectacle. It's easy to see why: *The Quizzical Mr Jeff* offers something genuinely different for families, combining extraordinary circus ability with humour, imagination and plenty of surprises.

The Quizzical Mr Jeff is at The B one performance only on Wednesday 7 October. Make it part of your school holiday plans.

Tickets are available at
theq.net.au

Photo supplied



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Community News

Maria's Community Corner



Maria Porreca
On Saturday 5th September Mitre 10-Hudsons on Yass Road had their Springfest. Although the weather was not very kind there was quite a crowd there when I attended.
I hope all you wonderful Dads and 'father figures' had an amazing Father's Day and got spoiled.
The Queanbeyan Health Walking Group celebrated this month's birthdays with a lunch at Victors Restaurant at the bowling club on Yass Road. The meals there never disappoint. Although it was a small group this month, we had a

wonderful time, and all our meals were delicious.
A group of CWA Queanbeyan Evening Branch members visited the National Gallery on Sunday 13th to have a look at the Arthur Boyd Tapestries. There are 20 monumental tapestries mainly in pastel colours which are spectacular and depict the Life of St Francis series. The saint first appeared in Boyd's paintings in the 1940's and 1950's but it was after a visit to Italy in 1964 that Francis became the focus of the body of work that Boyd developed over a decade and revisited throughout his life. However, I was more intrigued by the ladies who used Boyd's paintings

to create the tapestries and the skill and detail required to produce them. These works of art were produced in collaboration with the Manufactura de Tapeçarias de Portalegra, Portugal between 1970 and 1974. The exhibition runs till 18th October.
Another group of CWA QEB members went to Sydney the same day to see My Fair Lady at the Sydney Opera House. I'm told they had a marvellous time. More outings are being planned.
The next meeting of the CWA Queanbeyan Evening Branch will be held on Tuesday 13th October at the Axis Youth Centre commencing at 6.30pm with our AGM to follow at 7.00pm.



On Thursday 17th September Councillor Ross Macdonald joined the Queanbeyan Health Walking Group in their walk. I think he would've had to walk fast (or jog) to keep warm as he turned up in a singlet whilst the rest of us were rugged up for the morning chill. After the walk the majority of us went to the Urban Bar and Grill for coffee and a chat. Ross shouted us all our coffees. It was great to have him with us as we were able to discuss many things with him, including the trip hazards around footpaths. Thank you Ross for all that you do in the community.
Till next time take care everyone - Maria
Photo supplied

Moving On with Queanbeyan Junior Brass

We are now in our seventh year and both our junior and senior brass bands have been very busy in our community. Recently we held our annual Music Workshop at the Duntroon Community Centre. This event is kindly sponsored by the QPRC and involves bringing onboard experienced instrumental tutors to personally train our young musicians on their specific instruments. We also rehearsed our two ensembles for extended times and introduced them to new and more challenging music.
Major support for the bands comes from local business (Fire Integrity Services, Future Electrical Technologies), our parents, and most recently a grant from Arts National Molonglo Plains. We are most grateful for such amazing support which underpins all that we do for our families.
The best news is that there is room in the bands for more recruits! We rehearse after school on Tuesdays (senior band of more competent players) and on Wednesdays (junior band comprising less experienced players and new learners). We are very grateful for our qualified adult helpers

each week who, like us, are all volunteers.
Music tuition and instrumental rental are free! Parents pay \$5 a week (\$50 a term) which helps to cover weekly refreshments and the oils and creams needed to keep the instruments in good repair. Prospective players will be matched to the instrument that suits them, considering their choice and their teeth and jaw structure.
Currently we are preparing for community concerts happening this year including a combined concert with the excellent Lilac City Brass Band from Goulburn on Sunday afternoon 8th November. This will be held at the Uniting Church in Queanbeyan. Last year we participated in four Christmas carol concerts in December and we are already looking forward for much the same this year.
So, if there is a school age someone in your home who would benefit from joining Queanbeyan Junior Brass, we would love to welcome them. Contact us by email (qjbrass@outlook.com) or by text (0415 526 572) for an appointment.
John Thompson
Musical Director and Conductor



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School Infrastructure

NSW Department of Education

Public notice

Notice of exhibition of a proposed school development



Proposal:

Construction and operation of a new government school and co-located public early learning, including buildings and structures, landscaping, substation, sport and play spaces, and associated supporting infrastructure as described in the Review of Environmental Factors.

Applicant:

NSW Department of Education

Project name:

New primary school and co-located public early learning for Googong

Location:

200 Wellsdale Drive, Googong, NSW 2620

Exhibition details:

The proposal will be on public exhibition from **Friday 25 September to Thursday 22 October 2026.**

During this period, community members are invited to review and provide feedback on the REF which describes the proposed development, potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

Feedback should be submitted via the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Division 5.1 planning portal.

A link to the planning portal is included on the department's project website which can be accessed via the weblink or by scanning the QR code below.

Information and feedback

For further information contact School Infrastructure on:

Website: edu.nsw.link/NewGoogongPS_REF
Phone: 1300 482 651
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au



Get to know Melissa Giddins, Principal of Bungendore High School



What motivated you to take up the position as founding Principal of Bungendore High School?

One of the challenges of taking up the role of Principal in a school is to change and improve the existing culture. I was excited at the prospect of being able to build a school from the ground up; to create and establish a culture with my team, as opposed to fighting against an established system that

continues to do what it's always done.

What can parents and carers of 2027 Bungendore High School students expect?

Our new school is huge - we will absolutely be rattling around in it initially. It has been built to house twice as many students as we will start with next year, so there will be plenty of space. Our new facilities include an incredible agriculture area with room for sheep as well as our chickens. We'll actually own our own tractor! We have extensive sporting facilities including our own oval and fitness laboratory, entertainment facilities and many open plan contemporary-design learning spaces - all brand new. Our practical subjects will be industry-standard with facilities including multiple kitchens, a bistro, wood, metal and textiles workshops, a digital innovation lab, pottery kiln

- there are so many world-class inclusions.

Some of our students have already been on supervised visits to the site, donning hi-vis gear and safety helmets and our executive staff had a walk-through recently; the response was overwhelmingly positive.

We're currently working to ensure our teaching and learning align with the new facilities, and this includes

the launch of our new High Performance Gifted Education program, Elevate Excellence, focusing on five excellence streams. It is such an exciting time for our school community.

In decades to come, when you reflect on this time now, how do you think you'll feel?

Nostalgic. Unprecedented opportunities in our specific circumstances have allowed us to explore, experiment

and trial to get a solid sense of who we are as a community. We've done a lot to be proud of.

And finally, what are you passionate about as an educator?

So many things. As a classroom English teacher, critical thinking was the buzz - it got me out of bed in the mornings. Opening students' eyes to the possibilities, broadening their

understanding - those "ah-ha!" moments really excited me. I'm also passionate about equity, inclusion and growth. I certainly have a soft spot for our original Bungendore High students and am truly excited that our first group of Year 12s will graduate in the new build.

Photo of Melissa supplied.

Below: construction of the new Bungendore High School continues



Council Meeting Summary - 9 September 2026

QPRC

Here is the summary of the resolutions made at the Ordinary Council meeting of 9 September 2026 held in Bungendore.

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

In the Public Forum, Council heard from 13 members of the public who made presentations about items on the agenda including: South Jerrabomberra Densification Planning Proposal; Bungendore Preschool Ltd Request for Financial Assistance for Development Associated Fees; Submissions Report on Community Engagement - 5-year Review of the Bungendore Structure Plan 2048; Bungendore Economic Stimulus Trial; Respite Care for QBN; and Captains Flat Lead Remediation Process

- Council noted the passing of former Queanbeyan City Alderman, Leslie James Manning on 21 August 2026, acknowledged Mr Manning's contribution to the Queanbeyan community and to conserving the local environment, and extended its condolences to Mr Manning's family and friends
- Council elected Councillor Kenrick Winchester as the Mayor of QPRC for the remaining 2-year term of Council until September 2028
- Council elected Councillor Esma Livermore as the Deputy Mayor of QPRC for the remaining 2-year term of Council until September 2028
- Council will provide a donation in accordance with QPRC Donations Policy, Category C - Rates, Fees and Annual Charges to reimburse the \$123,820.20 Development Application and associated fees and developer contribution

charges paid by the new Bungendore Preschool project

- Council heard a Staff Presentation about Submissions Report on Community Engagement - 5-year Review of the Bungendore Structure Plan 2048
- Council endorsed preparation of draft amendments to the Bungendore Structure Plan 2048 taking into consideration the issues raised by the community
- Council will place on public exhibition its intention to initiate a 12-month Economic Stimulus Trial using the Bungendore CBD and immediate surrounds. The trial will incorporate a 50% refund on s7.11 Car Parking Developer Contributions for new businesses commencing operations in Bungendore's Town Centre and Environs during the trial period. Refunds would be issued in the financial year after the fees and charges were paid. Funding for the refund scheme would be sourced from the general fund and incorporated into operational budget deliberations prior to the commencement of each financial year, with a cost cap of \$150,000. A report would be provided to the Council each quarter detailing uptake, expenditure and the economic impact of the trial for further consideration. An end of trial term report would be presented with results for further deliberation by Council.
- Council will waive the Lease Fees in arrears for 16 Agnes Avenue, totalling \$4,351.80; for Respite Care for Queanbeyan Inc.
- Council approved funding of \$34,000 to replace the wire boundary fencing at Queanbeyan Showground with a palisade fence between the NSW Government Offices building on Farrer Place and the Senior Citizen's Centre. Council will identify savings or

reductions in the 2026-27 Urban Landscapes Capital Works program to offset this additional expense to be received at the first quarterly budget review

- Council endorsed the proposal to implement improvements to the Waste Voucher System in conjunction with the discontinuation of the remaining Rural Recycling Stations and will place proposal on public exhibition for 42 days at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au>
- Council received submissions report on the public exhibition of the draft South Jerrabomberra Densification Planning Proposal and supported progression to finalisation
- Council will write to the Minister Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, to seek NSW Government support of additional funds to address the identified shortfall of \$3,373,219 to complete the Nerriga Road Upgrade Project. Council will also add the project to its NSW Election advocacy projects list
- Council agreed to affix the Common Seal to execute the loan agreement with ANZ
- Council endorsed the revised Priority Parking Enforcement Policy for public exhibition for 28 days, and will adopt the policy if no submissions are received
- Council adopted the Private Burial Policy
- Council adopted the Strategic Risk Register 2026
- Council received information report about Dutton's Cottage and Former Queanbeyan Fire Station
- Council received information report about a licence agreement for air monitoring units at the Bungendore Community Centre
- Council received information

report about the use of body worn cameras

- Council received information report about an LGNSW Conference Motion around the sale of land for unpaid rates, with a response from the Minister for Local Government
- Council received information report about a response from the Minister for Local Government following a letter requesting a legislative amendment to direct the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal to set fees for Councillors and Mayors
- Council noted the minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting held on 24 July 2026, appoints Michelle Buckley and Kim Collins as members of the Seniors Advisory Committee
- Council noted the minutes of the Bungendore Town Centre and Environs Committee meeting held on 17 August 2026
- Council thanks Paul Walshe OAM for his advocacy and efforts in relation to providing Respite Care Services in Queanbeyan, noted the ongoing efforts of Steve Whan MP and Kristy McBain MP to deliver operational funding for the recently completed Respite Care for QBN Facility. Council will request urgent meetings with both NSW Premier Chris Minns and NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park to discuss the operational funding for the facility. If no urgent meetings can be arranged, convene a delegation of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and representatives of Respite Care for QBN, to attend NSW Parliament and meet with elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) to further the case for operational funding for the facility
- Council will invite the EPA to

conduct a meeting with Captains Flat residents and QPRC to discuss current impediments to lead remediation of properties in the town and possible steps to address them. Council will receive a report on potential changes to its Contaminated Land Policy and Guidelines to assist Captains Flat residents seeking to remediate their property

- Council received information report with answers to councillor questions about matters on the agenda
- In closed session, Council authorised the acquisition of land and easement for water supply works associated with Queanbeyan to Bungendore bulk water pipeline project from Guglielmin Investments Pty Ltd at 3 Millpost Lane, Bungendore for the sum of \$128,187. Council will classify the land parcel acquired as Operational Land in accordance with section 31(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, and authorised the General Manager to execute any documents associated with the acquisition
- In closed session, Council agreed to establish easements by agreement for purpose of water drainage as part of Bungendore Overflow Channel works across Lot 2 DP1119227 Bungendore, totalling 5,389m2 of land and Lot 21 DP1176100 Bungendore, totalling 2,329m2 of land. Council agreed to pay the compensation amounts as negotiated and agreed by both parties
- In closed session, Council received an information report about legal matters

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

Community News

Solar Project Delivers \$40,000 to the Bungendore Community Foundation

A \$40,000 donation from Octopus Australia will provide a welcome boost to local community groups through the Bungendore Community Foundation.

The donation, associated with Octopus Australia's Blind Creek Solar Farm and Battery project, will be distributed by the Foundation to community groups in the immediate future.

Bungendore Community Foundation Chairman Dennis Langley said the donation would provide valuable support to the local community.

"We are extremely grateful for the support that the Blind Creek Solar Farm and Octopus

Australia are providing to the Foundation and their willingness to share the benefits of their operation with the community," Mr Langley said.

"We are proud and fortunate to have them as partners."

The Bungendore Community Foundation was established to provide a permanent income stream to support local organisations, families and individuals in need.

Through donations and fundraising, the Foundation has built a fund of \$270,000, which is held in trust and invested. Income earned from the fund is distributed annually within the

community, while capital growth remains invested, allowing the fund to continue growing and supporting the community into the future.

The Foundation also operates a welfare account through Bendigo Bank to provide financial assistance, with sensitivity and anonymity, to local individuals and families experiencing hardship.

Funds are overseen by a committee of community volunteers and distributed through an annual grants process based on community need.

Octopus Australia Stakeholder Engagement Manager Matt McNally said supporting the Foundation was one way the company could ensure benefits from its Blind Creek project flowed into the wider Bungendore community.

"Strong communities are built by local people coming together to support one another," Mr McNally said.

"The Bungendore Community Foundation plays an important role in helping local organisations and community groups deliver positive outcomes across the region.

"We're pleased to support

the Foundation and invest in initiatives that will continue to benefit Bungendore for years to come.

"It is important for us at Octopus Australia that benefits from the Blind Creek Solar and Battery project reach a wide range of people and groups within the Bungendore community."

The \$40,000 donation also comes ahead of a longer-term community funding commitment associated with the Blind Creek project.

Once operational, the project will provide a \$50,000 annual community benefit fund for 35 years – representing a total contribution of \$1.75 million over the life of the fund.

The Blind Creek Solar Farm and Battery project is being developed by Octopus Australia and will comprise a 300MW solar farm and 243MW Battery Energy Storage System.

Once operational, the project is expected to generate enough energy to power around 120,000 homes.

Left: L to R - Luke Osborne, Peter Cox, Garry Cook, Richard Gibson, Dennis Langley, Sarah Hyles, Matt McNally.

Photo supplied



Music in Braidwood This Spring

Anne Sanders, Concert Coordinator

The Braidwood Concert Series will present a diverse and exciting spring program in 2026, bringing acclaimed Australian performers to local audiences.

The season opens on Sunday 4 October at 3pm at St Andrew's Anglican Church with Jazmourian Ensemble performing Bach in Shiraz. Featuring Anna McDonald on violin and Malek Mohammadi Nejad on Iranian setar, the performance brings Western classical music and Iranian musical traditions into a creative dialogue.

The program continues on Sunday 25 October at Braidwood Uniting Church with Luminescence Chamber Singers presenting Particles of Light.

The final concert of the season will be an organ recital by renowned organist James Flores on Sunday 15 November at 3pm at St Andrew's Anglican Church. It will be three years since the historic W.G. Rendall organ was last showcased in a formal recital.

Tickets

Bach in Shiraz: <https://events.humanitix.com/jazmourian-ensemble-bach-in-shiraz>

Particles of Light: <https://events.humanitix.com/particles-of-light-braidwood>

James Flores Organ Recital: <https://events.humanitix.com/james-flores-organ-recital-in-braidwood>

For further information, contact the Concert Coordinator at artwork123@icloud.com or follow Braidwood Concert Series News on Facebook.

Here to help

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

- Centrelink and Medicare
- Australian Taxation Office
- Child Support Agency
- Immigration and citizenship
- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Customs, passports
- Pensions and My Aged Care
- Veterans' Affairs, including Certificates of Appreciation
- Letters of support for grant applications
- JP Service



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Community News

Drone Sightings Over Farms - Information needed and what to do...

Rural Crime Prevention Team - NSW Police Force

Farmers and rural landowners across New South Wales are reporting sightings of drones flying over private properties, including livestock paddocks, machinery sheds, and crop fields.

We are calling on the public's help to report any suspicious drone activity in rural areas. These drones may pose biosecurity risks, disturb livestock, or infringe on privacy.

The Rural Crime Prevention Team - NSW Police Force suspects there may be more incidents and would like landholders to report them. Whilst not always sinister, we would like to know where and when this is occurring.

Seen a Drone? Here's What to Do: DO:

- * Record the time, location, and description of the drone.
- * Take photos or videos if safe to do so.
- * Report the incident to:
 - * CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority): Report unsafe drone use
 - * NSW Police: If you suspect criminal activity or surveillance.
- DO NOT:
 - * Attempt to damage, disable, or interfere with the drone. This is illegal and considered damaging an aircraft under federal law.
- Drone Operators - Know the Rules
 - If you're flying a drone in NSW, you must follow CASA's drone safety rules:
 - You must:
 - * only fly one drone at a time
 - * always fly your drone in visual

- line-of-sight – this means:
 - * flying only during the day
 - * avoid flying through cloud, fog or smoke.
 - * you can always see your drone with your own eyes – not by using goggles, binoculars, or another device.
 - * not flying behind obstacles that stop you from always seeing your drone. For example, trees, buildings, or other structures.
- You must not fly your drone:
 - * higher than 120 m above ground level – that's about the height of a 35-storey building or length of a football field
 - * closer than 30 m to people – other than those helping to control or navigate your drone.
 - * over or above people at any time or height.

- * in a way that creates a hazard to another person, property, or aircraft
- * near emergency operations
- * in prohibited or restricted airspace (use a CASA-verified drone safety app to help you)
- Violations can result in fines up to \$1,650 per offence, or \$16,500 if prosecuted in court.
- Download the CASA-verified "OpenSky" app to check where you can and can't fly.
- Help Us Protect Our Farms
 - If you've seen a drone flying over a rural property or have information about suspicious drone activity, please come forward. Your report could help protect livestock, crops, and rural livelihoods.
 - If you are using a drone in a rural area or near a rural industry, please consider letting people and

properties nearby know that you are doing so and why, it might just help allay their fears. Also, it is the decent and right thing to do.

Reports about unsafe or illegal drone activity should be directed to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority - CASA.

You can report these incidents using CASA's online drone complaints form at <https://www.casa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/report-unsafe-drone-use>

Additionally, anyone with information about suspected criminal activity, such as trespassing or harassment, you can report it to the NSW Police Force at your local police station, Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers NSW on 1800 333 000. In an emergency call "000"

The Braidwood Lions Club Antique Fair: 2-4 October



The Braidwood Lions Club is running its annual Antique Fair from Friday 2 to Sunday 4 October in the National Theatre at 100 Wallace Street Braidwood, and it is going to be bigger and better this year with the event organiser stating that the National Theatre will be "chockers", with some really quality stalls.

For sale will be antiques, collectables, bric-a-brac, linen,

porcelain, jewellery, vintage clothes, and furniture. So come along and find that special item you have been searching for forever; or that treasure which you didn't even know you wanted.

All monies raised by Lions will go to local causes.

Open times: Friday 2 October: 12pm to 5pm; Saturday 3 October: 9am to 5pm and Sunday 4 October 9am to 4pm.

Photo supplied of last years Fair



Burra Car Boot Sale: Sunday October 25

Sunday 25 October 2026 from 9am To 1.00pm

Burra Park 3 Lagoon Road Burra 2620.

Last year's Burra Car Boot Sale was the biggest in NSW with 72 stalls.

You name it, the stalls had everything including a couple of kitchen sinks.

Visit Burra (20 minutes outside Queanbeyan) and have a day in our beautiful countryside with fresh air, wildlife, tranquillity and friendly people.

Welcome to the 2026 Burra Car Boot Sale information.

Following feedback from Vendors in 2025, we have made a few changes this year to hopefully improve your selling experience at the Burra Car Boot Sale.

Firstly, the date. Vendors felt that having the Sale on the same date as the Queanbeyan Show and linking it to the Garage Sale Trail, may have limited the

numbers of possible buyers. We have remedied that situation by holding it on

Second feedback was that we needed 'better coffee'. We are arranging to have a coffee van on site.

Wonderful Rhonda from Chameleon Icecreamery will be there again with Home Made Ice Creams, milkshakes, thickshakes, slushies and also dairy Free ice cream.

The Burra Volunteer's will also be there with bacon and egg rolls, sausage sandwiches, soft drinks,

fruit boxes and water. You will be able to enjoy these delights from 7.30am so come and join us for breakfast.

The Burra Rural Fire Service will be there with a fire engine and games for the kids to enjoy.

We have kept the cost the same as last year, being \$10.00 per stall.

If you have any questions and also want to book a stall contact John on 0417 676 664.

We look forward to seeing you again in beautiful Burra.

Photo supplied





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Five simple jobs that could help save your home

A message from the Captains of Boro/Mt Fairy, Bungendore, Hoskingstown-Rossi, Mulloon and Wamboin Rural Fire Brigades

Last month, we asked our communities to begin preparing for the fire season before there was smoke in the air.

This month, we'd like to make that preparation a little more practical.

Our local area includes villages, farms, bush blocks, small acreages and open grass country. The hazards around each property may look different, but every home can be affected by bush or grass fire - even those that don't sit right beside the bush.

Fire can approach quickly, but the greatest threat to many homes comes from burning embers. Embers can travel well ahead of a fire front, collect in gutters, lodge under decks, enter through gaps and ignite anything combustible around a house.

The good news is that there are simple things you can do now to reduce that risk.

The top five actions you can take to make your home safer

1. Trim overhanging trees and shrubs

Cut back branches and shrubs that overhang or grow close to your home, sheds and other buildings. Pay particular attention to branches over roofs, leaves collecting against walls and shrubs growing beneath windows or

2. Mow the grass - and remove the cuttings

Keep lawns and grass around buildings short and well maintained. Don't leave the clippings in piles nearby, as they can quickly dry out and become another source of fuel.

On larger properties, consider the grass around sheds, water tanks, machinery, fences, driveways and access routes - not just immediately around the house.

3. Remove anything that can burn from around your home

Take a slow walk around your house and look at what is leaning against it, sitting underneath it or stored beside it.

Door mats, outdoor furniture, cardboard, timber, mulch, firewood, leaves, paint, fuel and rubbish can all ignite.

That beautifully convenient woodpile stacked against the house may be considerably less convenient when burning embers arrive. Move it - and other combustible materials - well away from buildings.

4. Clear your gutters

Leaves and twigs in gutters provide the perfect place for embers to land and start a fire.

Clear the gutters on your house, sheds and other buildings, and continue checking them throughout the season. While you're looking up, check for debris in roof valleys

and around skylights, solar panels and other roof fixtures.

5. Make sure you have water - and can reach it

Prepare a sturdy hose, or hoses, long enough to reach all around your home. Check that the fittings work and that the hose hasn't developed mysterious leaks since the last time you used it.

If you rely on a tank, pool or dam, make sure the water is accessible. If you have a pump, check that it works, that you know how to start it and that it does not rely solely on mains electricity. A pump that hasn't been tested is really just a hopeful-looking garden ornament.

These five actions won't guarantee that a home will survive, but they can significantly improve its chances. A well-prepared property is also safer and easier for firefighters to defend - if a crew is able to reach it.

On a widespread fire day, there will never be a truck at every property. The work you do before that day matters.

Could an RFS appliance reach your property?

While you are checking your home, look at your driveway and access tracks from the perspective of a large fire truck. A Category 1 tanker can be around 3.5 metres high, 3 metres wide and 8 metres long. Ask yourself plainly: will it fit through your gate, beneath overhanging branches and along

the full length of your driveway?

Clear vegetation and other obstacles from both sides of the driveway and above it, and make sure gates can be opened quickly. A tanker also needs a large, firm area in which to turn around. Being able to drive in is not enough if the crew cannot turn and leave safely.

Make sure there is practical access to dams, tanks and other firefighting water supplies. Keep tracks, tank outlets and the areas around water sources clear and accessible to a large vehicle. If crews cannot safely reach your property or its water supplies, their ability to help may be limited.

If you need some help to prepare

We also recognise that not everyone is physically able to complete these jobs or has family, friends or other support available to help.

The NSW RFS AIDER program - Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents - is a free, one-off service supporting eligible people who live on bushfire-prone land and have limited domestic assistance.

Depending on the needs of the property, AIDER crews may help with tasks such as clearing gutters, removing leaves and tree debris, thinning vegetation, trimming branches close to the home, and mowing or slashing long grass.

The program may be able to assist older residents, people living

with disability and people already receiving community assistance or support services. See page 13 for more details.

Sometimes preparing our community means doing the work ourselves. Sometimes it means helping a neighbour. And sometimes it means making sure people know about the support already available to them.

You don't need to tackle everything in one enormous weekend. Start with the five actions above. Divide the jobs between household members, put aside an hour or offer to help someone nearby.

Our local volunteers will continue checking equipment, training and preparing throughout the season. We ask our community to continue preparing alongside us.

Clear the gutters. Move the woodpile. Mow the grass. Test the hose.

Preparation may not be the most exciting way to spend a spring weekend - but neither is standing in the yard during a fire wishing you had done it earlier.

From your local Captains
Noel - Boro/Mt Fairy Rural Fire Brigade
Sandi - Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade
Andrew - Hoskingstown-Rossi Rural Fire Brigade
Mark - Mulloon Rural Fire Brigade
Matt - Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

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• Public Transport

• National Parks

• Crown Lands

• Family and Community Services

• Justice of the Peace Services & Applications

• Birthday & Wedding Anniversary Messages

• Local Land Services

Steve Whan MP

Feel free to contact my office if you need any assistance

(02) 6299 4899 •

monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au •

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Rotary Donation Brings More Activities to Local Seniors

Thanks to a generous \$2,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Bungendore, Bungendore Seniors Association (BSA) is excited to announce two more local activities beginning in mid-October – Tai Chi and Qigong, along with the return of Boot Scooting on a new dancefloor. BSA President, Sharon Baxter-Judge said the Association was extremely grateful for Rotary's continued support. "Without this generous donation, the cost of qualified instructors travelling to Bungendore would simply make it way too expensive for many locals to attend these classes," she said. "Rotary's support means BSA can subsidise these costs, keeping the classes affordable while also

providing more opportunities for seniors to stay active, social and connected right here in Bungendore." Rotary Club of Bungendore President, Darren Kaehne, said "As a community service organisation with a strong focus on health and well-being, Bungendore Rotary is proud to sponsor the Bungendore Seniors. "Health and Community go hand in hand. Supporting our seniors provides them the ability to access quality instruction for things like tai chi, and for the fun of boot-scooting." "By supporting the Bungendore Seniors with the costs for these activities, we are investing directly in their health, happiness and

social connections enabling them to continue to be part of this great community." Darren added. Tai Chi begins on Monday 12th October, 1.45pm to 2.45pm and Boot Scotting returns on Friday 16th October, 10am to 11am. Both classes will be at the Bungendore Scout Hall, Turallo Terrace, Bungendore. See right for more details. Sharon said of the Rotary donation, "It really is community helping community – and that's what it's all about." Below: L-R Carol, Beryl (BSA Treasurer), Rotary Club of Bungendore President, Darren with Winnice and Sue (yoga instructor) after a yoga session.

Tai Chi & Qigong - begins Monday October 12

Would you like to move more easily, feel steadier on your feet, and relax both body and mind? This Tai Chi & Qigong session is designed especially for you – with gentle, guided movements that support balance, breathing, posture, and everyday comfort. The exercises are slow, safe, and adaptable, so you can move at your own pace. You don't need any experience or special fitness level – just comfortable clothing and a willingness to try.

- Feel more stable and confident
- Release tension and stiffness
- Enjoy calm, mindful movement

Come along and experience a session that helps you feel more relaxed, more balanced, and more connected in your body. Mondays- 8 sessions - see dates below

1.45pm to 2.45pm - Bungendore Scout Hall, Turallo Terrace, Bungendore

Monday 12th October
Monday 19th October

Break for two weeks then every Monday from 9th November until 14th December

Cost: \$10 per session for members, \$20 per session for non-members

To book please email bungendoreseniors@gmail.com, phone/text 0419 025 533

Boot Scooting finds a new dance floor! - begins Friday Oct 16

Boot Scooting returns on 16 October, and this term we're excited to be moving to the Scout Hall. With a great wooden floor perfect for dancing, it's time to dust off those boots and get ready for some toe-tapping fun and plenty of Boot Scooting atmosphere! Boot Scootin' is easy to learn, gentle on the body and a wonderful way to meet others. It is less about getting the steps right and more about having fun. Our friends from Bom Funk dance studio will guide us through this relaxed, beginner-friendly session. It is all about moving at your own pace, having a laugh and enjoying good company. You don't need to be a dancer or a country music fan – just comfortable shoes and a willingness to give it a go. Along the way, you'll improve balance, coordination and mobility, all while enjoying music and social connection. Fridays - 10am to 11am Bungendore Scout Hall, Turallo Terrace, Bungendore NSW School Term 4, beginning Friday 16th October & running for 10 weeks

Cost: \$10 per session for members, \$18 per session for non-members

To book please email bungendoreseniors@gmail.com, phone/text 0439 754 799



The lie that keeps on giving

National Seniors Australia Unless you're a multi-millionaire, you are going to have to watch your retirement savings, but Treasury thinks differently. For years, Australians have been told a simple story about retirement: retirees are too cautious, they're not spending their superannuation, and they're leaving behind large nest eggs when they die. The solution, we're told, is to encourage people to draw down their savings faster or to invest in products such as annuities and retirement income products. The problem is that this narrative rests heavily on a statistic that deserves far more scrutiny than it receives. A Treasury Retirement Income Review found that members of one large superannuation fund died with around 90% of the superannuation balance they held at retirement. That finding has since been repeatedly cited as evidence that retirees are underspending their savings and need help overcoming their reluctance to spend. But there is a crucial catch. It's not true.

The review's finding was based on data from a single, unidentified, large super fund. Critics have long questioned whether the fund's membership was representative of the broader Australian population, particularly given that large balances are often concentrated among a relatively small segment of retirees. Take our reader poll – What's your attitude to your superannuation / retirement savings? www.nationalseniors.com.au The real truth When we look at the retirement savings of ordinary Australians, a very different picture emerges. The latest available age-based superannuation statistics show that the median super balance for Australians aged 65 to 69 is around \$195,000. In other words, half of Australians entering retirement have less than this amount. Even for those aged 60 to 64, the median balance is only around \$201,000. These are not balances that allow people to live a lavish retirement, especially as living costs skyrocket. Nor are they balances that make it easy to absorb the growing

financial risks that come with ageing. Older Australians are increasingly expected to fund private health insurance, out-of-pocket healthcare costs, dental expenses, home modifications, assistive technologies, residential aged care contributions, and in-home care services. While the Age Pension provides an essential safety net, many retirees understand that their superannuation may need to last decades and help cover expenses that are difficult to predict. The fear of running out of money is not irrational. It reflects the reality of longer life expectancy and rising care costs. Yet policy debates continue to focus on ways to encourage retirees to spend more as if we are all multi-millionaires - good luck to you if you are! Successive governments and regulators have promoted the development of retirement income products on the basis that retirees are holding onto too much of their super. The assumption is that most people could enjoy a higher standard of living if they drew down their savings more quickly.

That may be true for retirees with very large account balances. It is far less convincing for everyday Australians. For many retirees, superannuation is not a vehicle for intergenerational wealth transfer. It is a contingency fund. It represents protection against ill health, aged care costs, the loss of a partner, housing repairs and the simple uncertainty of not knowing whether retirement will last 10 years or 30. Research challenging Treasury's conclusions found that many retirees do in fact draw down their super significantly over time, with balances often reduced substantially or exhausted altogether as people age - caravan anyone? Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA) analysis argued that some studies contained survivorship bias, overstating the extent to which retirees retain their savings because they focused on those still alive and still holding superannuation assets. This matters because policy narratives shape policy responses. If governments assume Australians are retiring with large balances

and dying wealthy, the focus naturally turns to spending more. If the reality is that most retirees have relatively modest savings and legitimate concerns about future health and aged care costs, then the priority should be helping people build and protect their retirement savings rather than encouraging them to spend them faster. The real story is not that retirees are hoarding riches. The real story is that most Australians enter retirement with modest superannuation balances and face considerable uncertainty about the costs that lie ahead. Until that reality is acknowledged, the claim that retirees are dying with 90 per cent of their super may remain what it has become in Australian retirement policy - a lie that is only serving those who want to separate retirees from their hard-earned savings. If you feel strongly about protecting super, join our retirement income and superannuation campaign today. Alternatively, share this story with family and friends on Facebook or by email. www.nationalseniors.com.au

Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra

Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra

One of the greatest honours a Rotary Club can bestow is the Paul Harris Fellow. It recognises individuals whose commitment to serving others has made a lasting and meaningful difference to their community. At its meeting on 3 September 2026, the Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra was very pleased to present Margot Sachse with a Paul Harris Fellow for her outstanding service to the local Jerrabomberra community. Margot has taken on key leadership roles within the Jerrabomberra Residents

Association for more than 20 years. She has been a tireless advocate for the Jerrabomberra community, bringing people together to build a strong community, and devoting countless hours to a range of issues that have shaped Jerrabomberra. What stands out most about Margot is not just what she has achieved, but the way she has gone about it - with dedication, perseverance and a genuine desire to work collaboratively to improve the lives of others in the community. These are the very qualities that embody Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self'. The Rotary Club of

Jerrabomberra congratulates Margot on her recognition as the Club's newest Paul Harris Fellow.

The Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra meets at the Jerrabomberra Community Centre from 6:15pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Prospective members are always welcome to attend - a courtesy email to Club President Vicki (vickijhale@gmail.com) will ensure you are counted for catering purposes.

Photo supplied Margot Sachse and immediate past President of the Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra, Ian Wholohan.



Legacy Badge Week 2026 - Thank you



Queanbeyan Legacy

The Queanbeyan-Palerang community has once again demonstrated its remarkable generosity during the 2026 Legacy Badge Week.

To everyone who stopped to donate, bought a badge, volunteered their time or simply took a moment to chat with our volunteers - thank you.

Your support makes a genuine difference to local families.

Legacy has been supporting the families of veterans who have lost their lives or suffered through their service for more than 100 years. Today, local Legacy volunteers continue that tradition by providing practical, financial and emotional support, companionship and assistance to families when they need it most.

Funds raised during Badge Week help Legacy continue this important work, supporting child education and welfare needs, maintaining accommodation and creating opportunities for veterans' families.

Thank you Queanbeyan-Palerang
Photo supplied

The Young Woman competition: apply now for judging on the 27 September

Bungendore Show

Bungendore Show has teamed up with our friends at the Queanbeyan Show this year to run our annual Young Woman Competition. This is not a beauty pageant; it's about celebrating our special regional and rural women, building confidence and leadership skills.

If you are an amazing woman, please apply by contacting our show secretary. If you know an amazing young woman, encourage her to apply. Judging will take place on the 27th of September 2026. More details will be provided to entrants.

There are Tiny-Tot, Junior, Teen (13-17 years) and Young Woman (18-25 years) categories. The Bungendore Show Young

Woman goes on to compete in the zone finals and potentially at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Young Woman competition seeks to inspire and develop the next generation of female leaders in rural and regional NSW. Formerly known as the Miss Showgirl Competition, it has a history of more than 60 years of celebrating leadership, community contribution and a passion for agriculture. More than a title, the competition builds confidence and capability, developing ambassadors who represent their communities and rural NSW with pride.

More information about the competition and applications: <https://www.bungendoreshow.com.au>



QUEANBEYAN
PERFORMING
ARTS
CENTRE

A MESMERIZING FUSION OF CIRCUS,
MAGIC AND ILLUSION.

THE QUIZZICAL MR JEFF

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OCTOBER





theq.net.au

+ Booking details

DAZZLING CIRCUS FEATS AND MIND-BEND



A DELIGHTFUL MIX OF ILLUSION

Celebrating the Volunteers Who Bring Our Communities to Life

Kristy McBain MP

September marked the end of another sitting fortnight in Parliament, and as we head into the school holidays, I want to take a moment to recognise some of the extraordinary people who make Eden-Monaro such a wonderful place to live.

Last week, the Southern Inland Volunteer of the Year Awards were held in Goulburn, and it was a powerful reminder of just how much volunteers do for our communities.

From the Snowy Mountains to Queanbeyan, and from Cooma to Goulburn, volunteers are at the heart of community life. They are the people who show up time and time again, giving their time, energy and skills simply because they care about helping others.

Whether it's running the local sporting club, supporting an agricultural show, serving in our emergency services, looking after a community garden, preserving local history or lending a hand to a neighbour in need, volunteers make so much of what we value in our region possible.

One of the best parts of my job is meeting volunteers right across Eden-Monaro. I meet surf lifesavers on our coast, SES volunteers in our towns, Rural Fire Service members preparing for the season ahead, Landcare volunteers restoring our environment, committee members keeping local clubs going, and community groups supporting people through difficult times. Their stories are always inspiring,



and they remind me that the strength of regional communities comes from people who are willing to step up and help others. That's why it was so wonderful to see local volunteers recognised through this year's awards.

Congratulations to Jacki Waugh from Goulburn, who was named both the 2026 Southern Inland Volunteer of the Year and Adult Volunteer of the Year for her tireless work in the community, including with the Goulburn Show Society.

Congratulations also to Steven Pow from Jerrabomberra, who was recognised as Senior Volunteer of the Year. Steven has dedicated more than 50 years of service to the NSW Rural Fire Service and has played a vital role helping communities recover after the Black Summer bushfires through

his work with BlazeAid.

Andrew Heaney was named Emergency Volunteer of the Year, recognising more than three decades of service with the Rural Fire Service and his contribution to emergency responses right across our region.

And congratulations to the We Love Goulburn Gardening Group, named Volunteer Team of the Year. For more than 20 years they have helped maintain Goulburn's parks and public spaces, creating places the whole community can be proud of.

These volunteers represent the very best of our region, but they are also a reflection of the thousands of people across Eden-Monaro who quietly give their time to make life better for others. I look forward to the South Coast Awards

which will be held in October.

I was also pleased to announce recipients of the 2025-26 Volunteer Grants Program, with funding awarded to the Boro-Mount Fairy RFS Brigade, Bungendore Seniors Association, Googong Community Garden, Lions Club of Googong & Surrounds, Meals on Wheels Queanbeyan and Monaro Hockey Club.

Volunteer Grants help local organisations purchase equipment, build capacity and support more people to get involved.

To every volunteer across Eden-Monaro, whether you're on the front line, behind the scenes, helping once a week or every day, thank you. Your generosity, commitment and community spirit strengthen our region in countless ways.

I congratulate all award recipients, finalists and nominees, and I thank every volunteer who continues to make Eden-Monaro such a caring, connected and resilient community.

For those lucky enough to take a break these school holidays, I hope you get the chance to explore all that beautiful Eden-Monaro has to offer. Travel safely, enjoy our incredible region, and support the local businesses that help our communities thrive.

If I can assist you or your organisation, please contact my office by phone on 6284 2442 or email at Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au

Photo supplied of the Southern Inland Volunteer of the Year Award recipients.

Proposed Changes to Waste Vouchers and Rural Recycling Stations

QPRC

We want your feedback on proposed changes to waste services across the QPRC region.

At its Ordinary Meeting on 9 September 2026, Council endorsed a proposal for public exhibition that would improve the current waste voucher system and discontinue the remaining Rural Recycling Stations (RRS) across the region.

The waste voucher system was introduced on a trial basis in 2025 to help rural residents access waste disposal services and encourage use of Council's Waste App. Feedback received during the trial has generally been positive, and Council is now considering changes to make the system more equitable and better aligned with community needs.

What is being proposed?

The proposal includes:

- Increasing waste voucher entitlements from 16 to 26 x 240L vouchers per year for residential rural properties that are outside the kerbside waste collection service area.
- Extending eligibility so that all residential properties that pay the General Waste Management

charge, including vacant residential land, receive waste voucher entitlements.

- Closing the remaining 10 Rural Recycling Stations located across the former Palerang area.

Why are these changes being considered?

Council has found that Rural Recycling Stations have been heavily contaminated with general waste and illegal dumping. As a result, much of the material collected cannot be recycled and must instead be sent to landfill. The stations also require ongoing servicing, clean-up of illegally dumped waste and repairs resulting from vandalism.

Under the proposal, rural residents would continue to be able to dispose of recyclable materials free of charge at Council's supervised Waste Transfer Stations, while the additional waste vouchers would provide greater support for disposing of general household waste at Waste Transfer Stations.

Financial sustainability

The estimated annual cost of operating the remaining Rural Recycling Stations is approximately \$148,000 per year. Council is proposing to redirect these resources into an enhanced

waste voucher system, helping improve services while supporting the long-term sustainability of waste services across the region.

In Summary

This proposal seeks to discontinue the ineffective Rural Recycling Stations and instead enhance the waste voucher system, with the additional cost of the vouchers offset by removing the remaining Rural Recycling Stations.

The proposed changes to the waste voucher system will deliver a significant additional benefit by providing extra vouchers to properties that do not receive kerbside waste collection services.

This will provide remote/rural properties with general waste disposal capacity equivalent to the fortnightly kerbside collection service available in some areas, although on a self-haul basis. It will encourage greater use of waste transfer stations and reduce incentive to dispose of waste inappropriately.

Share Your Voice

A final decision has not been made on this proposal.

Council is seeking feedback from residents, particularly those living in rural communities, before

considering the proposal again. Community input will help inform any future decision regarding waste vouchers and Rural Recycling Stations.

Residents can view the proposal and feedback can be provided by:

- Completing the online form, council Your Voice page
- Emailing feedback directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "Proposed Changes to Waste Vouchers and

Rural Recycling Stations"

- Handwriting your submission and delivering it to Council's Customer Service Centres

Posting your submission to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Submissions must be received by Council by Saturday 31 October 2026.

Below: Ballalaba RRC, photo QPRC



Council Meeting Agenda: 23 Sept

The Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 23 September 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 Ellerton Drive Noise Assessment

9.2 Draft Financial Statements 30 June 2026

9.3 Submission to Grants Commission - Proposed Changes to Financial Assistance Grant Formula

9.4 Submission to Review of Local Government Performance Ratios

9.5 Investment Report - August 2026

9.6 Request for Funding Support - Head Coach Australian Emus Touch Football Team

9.7 Renewal of Lease - Headspace Queanbeyan

9.8 Future Use of 172 Foxlow Street, Captains Flat

9.9 Sportsground Allocation

Policy

9.10 Post-Exhibition Policy Report - Place Naming Policy

Reports To Council - Items For Information

10.1 Infill Housing Strategy

10.2 Update on 88 Wallace Street Braidwood Carpark Project

10.3 Community Summary Engagement Report - Riverside Cemetery

10.4 Queanbeyan to Bungendore Bulk Water Supply Transfer Pipeline Update

10.5 Support for Koala Warning Signage along the Monaro Highway Corridor

10.6 Quarterly Rates and Charges Outstanding Report

Reports Of Committees

11.1 Queanbeyan Showground Advisory Committee Minutes - 10 August 2026

11.2 Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes - 27 August 2026

11.3 Sustainability and Climate Change Committee Minutes - 3 September 2026

Notices Of Motions

12.1 Notice of Motion - Queanbeyan Business Support

Councillor Questions

14.1 Question With Notice - Captains Flat Lead Containment Cell

14.2 Question With Notice - Bungendore Land Rezoning Discussions

14.3 Question With Notice - Solid Fuel Heater Installations 2025-26

Reports For Closed Session

16.1 Acquisition of Easement - Gibraltar Street, Bungendore

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.

16.2 GM Performance Review and Contract Renewal

Item 16.2 is confidential in accordance with s10(A) (a) of the Local Government Act 1993 because it contains personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) 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 Seniors 55+

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

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

We meet at 10am at the Bungendore Sports Hub ammentities building. Cost is \$5.00 per person, which includes morning tea.

See right for dates.

Everyone over the age of 55 is welcome!

Seniors Chair Yoga

-Chair Yoga: Tuesdays at the Bungendore Scout Hall - 2.30pm. Chair Yoga is **held during school terms only**. Cost: \$13 per session for members, \$18 for non-members.

All welcome to attend

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

Thurs 1 October
Thurs 15 October
Thurs 29 October
Thurs 12 November
Thurs 26 November

FRIDAYS

Fri 25 September
Fri 9 October
Fri 23 October
Fri 6 November
Fri 20 November

Tai Chi & Qigong - begins Monday October 12

Boot Scooting finds a new dance floor! - begins Friday October 16

See page 10 for more details



Gold Creek Village Discovery Day



Come along with Bungendore Seniors for a day exploring Gold Creek Village. We will depart at 9am from the Bungendore CWA Rooms and head straight to Cockington Green Gardens (entry & train ride is included in the price).

Venture into the delightful and fascinating display of meticulously crafted miniature buildings at Cockington Green, Featuring houses and monuments from more than 30 different countries, from Scotland's Braemar Castle to Peru's Machu Picchu, you'll be captivated by this enchanting world of tiny people and tiny structures. The obvious attention to detail in

the constructions and surrounding gardens is remarkable, and the miniature steam train ride is fun for everyone.

After the gardens, we have some free time to explore Gold Creek Village (morning tea & lunch is at own expense).

For those who wish to explore Gold Creek further, you can visit the National Dinosaur Museum, Canberra Walk-In Aviary or Canberra Reptile Zoo. *Entry fees apply for these extra activities and are at own expense.

See Stunning First Nations art at Aarwun Gallery or the Aboriginal Dreamings Gallery or just sit back & relax at one of the cafes.

Date: Thursday October 8

Time: Depart CWA Rooms, Bungendore 9am, home by 4pm

Cost: \$15 for members, \$48 non-members

Cost includes - coach, entry to Cockington Green Gardens & train ride.

Morning tea, lunch and any extra entry fees are at own expense.

Seats are limited so bookings are essential.

Email: bungendoreseniors@gmail.com

Text/phone: 0419 025 533

This trip is subsidised by the Bungendore Seniors Association Inc



AIDER

ASSISTANCE FOR INFIRM, DISABLED AND ELDERLY RESIDENTS

What is AIDER?

AIDER is a one-off free service provided to infirm, disabled and elderly residents who live in bush fire prone land, to better prepare their properties for bush fire, in conjunction with the development of a bush fire survival plan.

Who is eligible?

Those who live in bush fire prone land, and who are infirm, disabled, or elderly.

AIDER services may include:

- > thinning vegetation
- > removing leaves, sticks and fallen branches
- > trimming branches from around and overhanging the home
- > mowing or slashing long grass
- > cleaning gutters.

An assessment of your property will be completed by NSW RFS staff. Assistance can be provided to complete a Bush Fire Survival Plan. All works are completed by NSW RFS Mitigation crews.



A ONE-OFF FREE SERVICE TO REDUCE BUSH FIRE HAZARDS



Visit the AIDER page on the RFS website



To find out more please call: 1300 011 737



Bungendore High School Buzz



Bungendore High School students recently took to the stage at the Queanbeyan District Arts Festival (DAF) at Canberra Theatre Centre, delivering an exciting performance of *Welcome to the Black Parade*. The performance brought together members of the Rock Band, Vocal Ensemble and Dance Ensemble, with music, singing, dance and even hula hoops combining to create an engaging performance piece.

For some students, this was their first time performing on such a stage, and they absolutely rose to the occasion. Every student contributed to the success of the performance and represented our community with pride. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, confidence and commitment shown by everyone involved. Ahead of their game against the NSW Waratahs, the ACT Brumbies dropped in to Bungendore High School. Players Moses, Ollie, Triston

and Darcy answered students' questions before leading them in a range of skill-based activities. Students appreciated the opportunity to interact with professional rugby players. The advice of the players to work hard and be a good person applies not only to succeeding in sport but in all aspects of life. Thank you to the ACT Brumbies for taking the time to visit us, run us through some drills and sharing their experience. Photos supplied



Thousands set to benefit as Mobility Parking applications go online

More than 100,000 mobility impaired motorists and passengers will no longer need to visit a service centre each year as applications to renew Mobility Parking Permits go online. The new digital service removes the need to print application forms, scan and upload them as the transaction goes digital. Of the 140,000 people who applied for a mobility parking pass last financial year, 98 per cent of them attended a Service NSW centre to submit their application. Now the form is digitised and the process for GPs has been simplified, thousands of people living with a mobility disability can access the services they need more easily. Anyone looking to apply for parking concessions under the NSW Mobility Parking Scheme and the Disability Parking Scheme can now open

an application online from the comfort of their own home through the MyServiceNSW account. This new digital process provides a secure and faster way for practitioners to submit medical certificates directly into MyServiceNSW accounts, reducing the need for the manual handling of forms. The Mobility Parking Scheme supports individuals with permanent or temporary mobility impairments, including older Australians, people with disability, and those recovering from injury. If needed, assistance can still be accessed through Service NSW Centres and phone support, ensuring people can use the method that best suits their needs. For complex applications or where assistance is required

applicants may still need to visit a centre, but for the majority of applications this will not be the case. Vision Australia's Lead Policy Advisor, Bruce Maguire said, "The Mobility Parking Scheme is a great benefit to many of our clients, but in the past there have been barriers to applying for and renewing permits because all the forms have only been in print and on paper. "With the digitisation of the Scheme, it will be much easier for people who are blind to benefit from it and participate in the community. We commend the NSW Government for this empowering initiative." For eligibility and more information, motorists can apply for parking concessions here: Apply for, replace, or renew a Mobility Parking Scheme permit (individual) | Service NSW

Join us for our 2026 Annual Fundraising Dinner

2026 Annual Fundraising Dinner

Come together with our community, supporters and friends as we raise vital funds to continue providing support, care and practical assistance to those affected by breast cancer.



Saturday 24 October 2026

Top of the Cross Room Canberra Southern Cross Club Woden

Guest Speaker: Jonny Warren

3 course dinner | lucky door prizes | cash bar | live entertainment

Dress: Semi-Formal/Cocktail

Live Auction & Silent Auction

All funds raised go directly to supporting those diagnosed with breast cancer
6.30pm for 7pm Dinner Tickets \$132 per person
To purchase tickets, visit: www.bosombuddies.org.au

Presents the **Y-POP POETRY COMP** **THEME: MY TOWN**

collins booksellers QUEANBEYAN

Young Poets of the Palerang

Winners Awarded at a special event with Omar Musa

28 November 11-1pm QBN Library

Eligible Participants
Little Voices (Ages 8-11)
Rising Voices (Ages 12-14)
Young Voices (Ages 15-17)

With award-winning Queanbeyan local Omar Musa on the judging panel!

PRIZES
★ **FINALISTS** \$30 Gift Voucher, Penguin Books Prize Pack, Feedback from Omar
★ **WINNERS** \$50 Gift Voucher, Penguin Books Prize Pack, Feedback from Omar, Publication in the Regional Independent Newspaper

EVENT RULES
• Send your entry by 8 Nov including your name, age and contact information for a parent/guardian
• One entry per person
• Up to 300 words
• Judging criteria:
 - Connection to 'My Town'
 - Originality & Imagination
 - Imagery & Language
 - Emotion & Impact
 - Poetic Craft
 - Voice & Authenticity

How to Enter
Send your entry to queanbeyan@collinsbooks.com.au

Contact: Collins Booksellers Queanbeyan for more information

BUNGENDORE JUNIOR CRICKET

Stage 1 Comp: ages 8-10
Stage 2 Comp: under 13s
Stage 3 Comp: under 15s

Register Now!

Contact David: boyd.david@outlook.com
0459 336 883
Bungendore Junior Cricket

Health, confidence and wellbeing through boxing



Debbie Evans

Concerned by declining support and direction for Queanbeyan’s youth, local man Brett opened Ringside Boxing Gym in Blacksmiths Lane in May.

Brett’s gym focuses on self-respect, self-improvement and self-defence, with a special emphasis on boxing beginners.

A familiar face in the community, Brett has operated local service stations for 30 years and has seen young people’s behaviour gradually decline.

He is most concerned about children with little parental guidance and the challenges they face in trying to stay on the right path.

“Kids must deal with so much these days, especially violence in schools. I want to give them the self defence confidence to handle random attacks.

“Since opening we have started working with groups from Karabar High School under the guidance of Chris Anderson from the school.

“We’re hoping our gym can help fill the void after the closure of the Boxing Program at the Queanbeyan Police and Community Youth Club.

“It’s not about hitting people; it’s about giving young people the skills and confidence to defend themselves when necessary.

The gym also supports adults, with women over 50 learning self-defence skills and staying fit through boxing.

Anyone with an interest in boxing and staying fit is welcome to join Ringside Boxing and the gym is open Monday to Thursday 4.30 – 7.30pm for supervised training and

group classes are conducted from 6pm – 6.30pm.

Personal training is also available, and other hours can be arranged by appointment.

Corporate Groups are also welcome.

Ringside Boxing Gym aims to offer a supportive, relaxed space where people can train.

For more information hop on their Facebook page or call in and see them during their opening hours, upstairs at 58 Monaro Street (near the Italian Restaurant and Walsh’s Hotel).

Photos supplied



Meet the Maker of School Holiday Fun

There’s magic, there are homemade robots, and there’s plenty of chaos. But Mario the Maker Magician offers families something more than a few clever tricks when the internationally acclaimed performer arrives at The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre this October.

Mario Marchese is a New York performer known for combining magic with homemade robots and DIY inventions. Instead of relying on flashy tricks, he has built a show that feels fresh and original. By bringing together comedy, storytelling, and handmade creations, he shows children how imagination can turn ordinary objects into something special.

At a time when much of children’s entertainment is built around

screens and constant distractions, Mario’s show reminds families of the value of making things by hand. His props and robots may look playful and homemade, and that is exactly the point. His show encourages children to experiment, create and discover that a good idea doesn’t need to be perfect or expensive to become something special.

It’s an approach that has taken Mario around the world, with performances across the USA, Australia and the UK. He has appeared on Sesame Street, Universal Kids and The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, and has toured with magician David Blaine, who described him as “the best kid’s magician in the world.”

The review suggests audiences

are in for something special too. One4Review called the show “instant and infectious chaos in the best possible way”, awarding it five stars, while The List UK praised Mario’s curiosity and determination to share his sense of wonder with audiences.

With only three performances at The B across 3 and 4 October, Mario the Maker Magician is a great school holiday outing for families looking for something funny, inventive and a little unexpected. Come for the magic and homemade robots; you might just leave inspired to make something of your own.

Tickets are available at theq.net.au

Photo supplied



Get Ready for a Cracking Good Night in Bungendore!

There’s something a little different coming to Bungendore this Wednesday – and you won’t want to miss it!

From 6pm on Wednesday 30 September, the Bungendore Bowls and Sporting Club will come alive with Aussie banter, good mates, cold beers, a classic barbecue – and some seriously impressive whip cracking!

Taking centre stage will be Nathan “Whippy” Griggs, Australia’s #1 whip-cracking entertainer and a five-time Guinness World Record holder.

Based in the Northern Territory, Nathan has spent more than a decade travelling across Australia and around the world, entertaining audiences with his incredible whip skills, handcrafted whips and trademark Aussie humour.

With hundreds of towns and countless shows under his belt, Nathan knows how to put on a show – and Bungendore is next!

And while you’re enjoying the entertainment, the Rotary Club of Bungendore will be firing up the barbecue, the Club bar will be serving cold beers, and there’ll be merchandise available for those wanting to take home a little piece of the action.

The event is FREE, everyone is welcome, and Nathan will be passing around his hat for a crust – so if you enjoy the show, bring along a few dollars to show your appreciation.

So round up your family, grab your mates and head down to Bungendore Bowls and Sporting Club.

Wednesday 30 September from 6pm.

It’s going to be a night of laughs, legends, whips and plenty of Aussie spirit.

Come along – and get ready for a cracking good time!

Photo supplied



Queanbeyan Seniors 50+ Activities

Mondays

Chair Yoga 9.30am to 10:30am

Mat Yoga 11am to 12pm

Axis Centre, 22 Campbell St
Next to Lions Bookshop in
Queanbeyan Town Park - Cost
\$10
Contact Sue at www.agewell.
yoga

Scrabble 10am to 12pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Craft & Chat 11am to 2pm
Bring your own lunch and project
or a Seniors project.
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Cards 500 1pm to 3pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Tuesdays

Exercise Class 9.30am to

10.30am
Seniors Centre - Cost \$10

Zumba Gold 9.30am to 10.30am

Zumba Normal Impact 11am -
12pm
Axis Centre, 22 Campbell St
Next to Lions Bookshop in
Queanbeyan Town Park - Cost
\$10

Wednesdays

Canasta 10am to 12pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Tai Chi Qigong

2 Classes
10.30am to 11.30am
11.45am to 12.45pm
Booking essential - you can book
via Trybooking or come to the
first class.
Seniors Centre - Cost \$10

Euchre 1pm to 3pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$3

Mahjong 1pm to 3pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Thursdays

Hand & Foot 1pm to 2pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Exercise Class Chair 9.30am to
10.30am

Exercise Class Mat 10.45am to
11.45am
Seniors Centre - Cost \$10

Zumba GOLD 11am to 12pm
Veterans Hub Upstairs
251 Crawford St - Cost \$10

Rummikins 1pm to 3pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Fridays

Mat Yoga 9.30am to 10.30am

Chair Yoga 11am to 12pm
Contact Louise
https://sunlightyoga.com.au/
Axis Centre - Cost \$10

Carpet Bowls - 1pm to 3pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2

Membership renewals are due
for the 2026-2027 financial year.

New members - first year \$20
then an annual renewal fee
of \$10. Thank you to all who
have already renewed their
memberships.

Welcome to our new members.

October

Batemans Bay cruises and
lunches: Wed - Oct 7 and Fri
- Oct 9. Book online using the
Trybooking app or in person at
the Seniors Centre - weekdays
9am - 3pm

Annual General Meeting (AGM):
Tuesday Oct 20, 1pm

Upcoming - Save the dates

Melbourne Cup Lunch; Nov 3 -
Yass Rd Bowling Club

Christmas Party - Dec 3

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

Photo supplied of just some of
the items on sale at the Fete

Queanbeyan Uniting Church Jumble Sale: Saturday 26 Sept

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!

Donations needed: If you are doing some
spring cleaning please keep the Jumble
Sale in mind. You can drop your donations
off at the church on Tuesdays between 9
and 10am. Thank you!

Photo supplied



Home

in

Queanbeyan

Home

Patron: The Hon. Sir William Deane

2026 Raffle

\$25 per ticket

Discounts available for multiple tickets

8 Amazing Prizes to be Won!

\$13,534 Prize Pool

PRIZES INCLUDE:

\$6,630 Luxury Stay at Jamala Wildlife Lodge

\$2,000 Cash from Queanbeyan Leagues Club

\$820 Zoo Tour

Plus:

AxxE \$100 voucher

GO BOAT Canberra \$200 voucher

Questacon Canberra \$70 family pass

Tigers Club 4x \$50 voucher

Hotel Queanbeyan 4x \$50 vouchers

Dendy Cinemas 4x movie passes

2x Osara Wine glasses valued at \$218

\$500 Westfield Voucher

Travel Lite briefcase - Cognac valued at \$345

Travel package valued at \$527

IGA Cannons Googong hamper valued at \$100

Sonia Price Massage \$100 voucher

Dan Murphy \$100 voucher

R8 Children's Ride on Car valued at \$229

Bunnings Fyshwick \$100 voucher

\$40 voucher from Common Grounds Corner Gowrie

The Q \$50 yearly membership

Woolworths Queanbeyan \$50 voucher

Lindbeck's butchery \$100 voucher

Holey Moley Golf Club \$72 voucher

Curtis & Schwarzrock Studio + Glass pieces valued at \$445

Hair flair Boutique 2x \$95 Hair care packs

New York Nail and spa \$50 voucher

www.raffletix.com/homeinqueanbeyan2026

QR Code

Scan to enter

Giraffe

Tiger

Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub

RSL LifeCare

Here for veterans and their families, every day

What's on at the Hub

MON:

Invictus Yoga

- 10:00am to 11:00am

Beginner Guitar Course

- 12:00pm to 2:00pm

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

- 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

RSL NSW

South East Local Land Services News

How Can Local Land Services Help You?

Managing rural land comes with both opportunities and challenges, and you don't have to face them alone. Our experienced team can provide practical advice, reliable information and on-ground support to help you make informed decisions for your property.

Local Land Services staff have expertise in natural resource management, primary production, livestock health, biodiversity and pest animal and weed management. Whether you're looking to improve the productivity of your land, address environmental challenges, or

prepare for future risks, we're here to help.

Through our strong partnerships across government, industry and research organisations, we can connect you with a wide range of resources, programs and specialist knowledge to support your land management goals.

With natural disasters such as drought, fire, floods and storms an ongoing reality, planning ahead is one of the most effective ways to reduce their impact. We can assist you to develop practical plans, build resilience and make

informed decisions before difficult conditions arise, giving you greater confidence when challenges come your way.

At Local Land Services, we're committed to helping landholders care for their land, strengthen their businesses and prepare for the future.

Sign up to our e-newsletter to receive the latest updates by scanning the QR Code.

Or simply give us a call on 1300 795 299 to discuss your interests.

Photo supplied



Take control of erosion on your property

Andy Taylor, Senior Natural Resource Management Advisor

Free workshop | Michelago - 16 October 2026

Heavy rainfall, stock tracking and overgrazing can all contribute to small-scale erosion, gradually reducing the productivity of paddocks, reducing water quality and creating costly management challenges.

The good news is that many small-scale erosion issues can be addressed with simple, practical techniques before they become major problems.

On Friday 16 October 2026, Local Land Services will host a hands-on workshop designed to help landholders identify, manage and prevent small-scale erosion on their properties.

The workshop will focus on teaching practical, low-cost solutions that can be implemented by landholders using readily available materials, landscape knowledge, a little bit of ingenuity, and elbow grease.

What will be covered:

- understanding water movement in the landscape
- identifying the causes of your erosion
- maintaining groundcover as a priority
- stabilising small rills and bare areas
- using vegetation to protect vulnerable soils.

Small-scale erosion is easier and more affordable to address when detected early.

By understanding how water moves through the landscape and implementing preventative measures, landholders can protect valuable topsoil, improve the environment and farm productivity and contribute to healthier waterways across the region.

Join us in Michelago on 16 October 2026 to start taking control of erosion on your property.

Scan the QR Code to register for this event or contact Andy Taylor on 0427 750 891 or andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au for more information.

If you would like us to run an environmental restoration event like this in your area, then get your neighbours together and reach out to Andy to discuss next steps.

Photo supplied



Weeds to watch this spring

Alicia Kaylock, Senior NRM Advisor

Spring is one of the best times to check your property for weeds.

Finding and controlling infestations before plants flower and set seed can save a lot of time, effort and money down the track.

A warm winter, combined with forecasts for a hotter and drier than average spring and summer, may influence both pasture growth and weed management across south east NSW.

ideal time to map infestations and prioritise control efforts.

Protecting native vegetation

Before starting weed control, take time to identify any native grasses, wildflowers or regenerating shrubs. Many native plants are flowering in spring and are easier to recognise.

Where possible:

- avoid unnecessary disturbance to native vegetation
- retain healthy native groundcover
- time control works to minimise impacts on flowering plants and pollinators
- follow up treatments to prevent reinfestation.

While dry conditions can slow the growth of some species, they can also place desirable pasture species under stress, giving weeds an opportunity to establish and spread.

With seasonal conditions in mind, focus your efforts where they'll have the greatest impact. Prioritise new infestations, isolated plants and high-risk areas first.

Tackling small outbreaks early is generally far easier and cheaper than dealing with large infestations later. Maintaining healthy perennial pastures and native groundcover can also help reduce opportunities for weed establishment.

What can you do?

This spring, set aside time to walk or drive around your property and look for emerging weed problems.

Focus on new outbreaks and isolated plants first, as they're often the easiest and cheapest to control.

Recording infestations with photos or maps can also help track changes over time and guide future management. Early detection and prompt action remain some of the best tools for preventing weeds from spreading and protecting productive, resilient landscapes.

Across the Southern Tablelands, you should keep an eye out for grass weeds such as serrated tussock, African lovegrass and Chilean needle grass. These species can reduce carrying capacity, outcompete productive pasture species and spread quickly if left unmanaged.

Spring is an ideal time to:

- check known infestations and monitor previously treated areas
- map new outbreaks while plants are actively growing and easier to identify
- control isolated plants and small infestations before they become established.

Learn more about the weeds on your property by searching for them via NSW WeedWise - www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Need help identifying a weed or developing a management plan?

Contact Local Land Services via 1300 795 299 or your local Council for advice on weeds in your area and suitable control options for your property.

Photo supplied

Keep an eye out for species such as St John's wort, Scotch broom, Cape broom, gorse (below) and Spanish heath.

Their flowers make them easier to spot in spring, making it an



A decade of action puts woodland birds in the spotlight - but they’re not out of the woods yet!

Andy Taylor, Senior NRM Advisor

Ten years ago, a vision was set in motion: to inspire local communities to recognise, protect and restore habitat for the Scarlet Robin and other woodland birds across the Southern Tablelands and Monaro.

Today, that vision has delivered some great results, with landholders, community groups and conservation organisations working together to improve hundreds of hectares of habitat and strengthen wildlife corridors across the region and raise awareness of the plight of woodland birds.

Since 2016, South East Local Land Services, with support from the NSW Government’s Environmental Trust, Saving Our Species and Catchment Action NSW programs, has led the Save Our Scarlet Robin project.

What began as a targeted conservation initiative has grown into a remarkable example of collaborative stewardship.

The numbers tell an impressive story. Over the life of the project, 78 voluntary conservation agreements were established with private landholders.

More than 330 hectares of remnant native vegetation have been protected, managed or enhanced, while 170 hectares have been revegetated with more than 38,000 native plants.

In addition, 65 training and awareness events engaged more than 1,300 community members, helping landholders understand the practical steps they can take to improve habitat for woodland birds.

These achievements would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment

of participating landholders and project partners including Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council, Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee, Molonglo Conservation Group, Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C), Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

While the Scarlet Robin has been the project’s flagship species, the benefits of this work extend far beyond a single bird.

Woodland conservation efforts have helped create habitat for a suite of threatened and declining species, including the Flame Robin, Hooded Robin, Speckled Warbler, Brown Treecreeper, Dusky Woodswallow, Diamond Firetail, Gang-gang Cockatoo and Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

Yet despite a decade of positive action, the challenges facing these species remain significant.

Habitat loss and fragmentation continue to be among the greatest threats to woodland birds. Across much of south-eastern Australia, native woodlands have been cleared, reduced to small, isolated patches, or divided by roads, fences and agricultural development.

As habitats become fragmented, birds can struggle to find food, breeding sites and safe movement pathways between patches of vegetation.

Another less visible but equally important threat is habitat simplification. Many woodland birds rely on a diverse understorey of native shrubs, grasses and groundcover for shelter, nesting habitat and protection from predators.

When these layers disappear



through clearing, overgrazing or inappropriate land management, the landscape may still contain trees but lose much of its value for wildlife.

For species such as the Speckled Warbler, Brown Treecreeper and Hooded Robin, healthy understorey vegetation can mean the difference between persistence and decline.

Indeed, Brown Treecreepers and Hooded Robins are no longer detected east of the Great Dividing Range.

Similarly, seed-eating species such as the Diamond Firetail finch depend on native grasslands and grassy woodland habitats, while Glossy Black-Cockatoos rely on healthy woodlands with suitable hollows to breed and their preferred feed trees, the Casuarinas and Allocasuarinas.

This is why conservation on private land remains critical.

Much of the region’s remaining woodland habitat occurs outside National Parks and reserves, making landholders central to the future of these species.

Actions such as protecting remnant vegetation, and old paddock trees, managing grazing pressure, fencing waterways and establishing strategic native plantings all contribute to healthier, more connected landscapes.

The Save Our Scarlet Robin project demonstrates what can be achieved when communities work together towards a common goal, but the task of securing the future of woodland birds is far from finished.

The achievements of the past decade have been the first steps in getting the message out to landholders and those that don’t want to see birds disappear from their farms.

For the Scarlet Robin and its

woodland friends, every patch of habitat protected and restored today is a step towards securing their very existence.

Join us at one of our project wrap up events this October to learn more from the landholders who were involved. Scan the QR Code and register for a day at either Braidwood, Forbes Creek or Michelago.

If you or your community want take action on restoring woodland habitats in your area, then contact Andy Taylor and his colleagues from the Natural Resource Management team at South East Local Land Services. They can help identify the natural features in your local landscape and help design ways to improve and connect them.

Contact Andy on 0427 750 891 or andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au to get started.

Photo supplied

The true cost of hay and silage

Ross Kuchel, Snr Ag Advisor

Storing excess fodder in the forms of hay and silage is often touted as a cheap way to mitigate against feed shortages during dry times.

How simple is it - the grass is free and all you must do is bale it up and put it into a shed (or a pit in the case of silage).

However, have you considered the full cost. That being the cost of the nutrients you are removing from the paddock.

Work done by Agriculture Victoria has shown that for every tonne of pasture hay cut from a paddock, there is up to 3.5kg of Phosphorous (P), 25 kg Potassium (K), and 2 kg Sulphur (S) removed with it.

For silage, these numbers increase to 4.3 kg P, 27 kg K and 2 kg S. For lucerne hay, the amount of nutrient removed per tonne of dry matter is 4.3 kg P, 27 kg K, 2 kg S.

As an example, if we are cutting a pasture paddock for hay and averaging five tonnes (dry matter) per hectare, or approx. 14 x 350 kg

round bales per ha (51/2 bales per acre), you are removing 16.5 kg P, 125 kg K and 10 kg S.

Based on using common grades of fertiliser (superphosphate and potash), the cost of replacing these nutrients equates to around \$7.15/kg P, \$2.34/kg K, and \$6.50/kg S (Based on - SuperP @ \$715/t, Potash @ \$1170/t).

If using other forms of fertiliser like manures or composts, ensure you get a nutrient analysis and calculate the cost accordingly.

Therefore, for every tonne of hay removed the cost of nutrient replacement alone equates to \$100/t, or around \$34/bale.

In the example above where you are harvesting 5t hay per hectare, the cost of nutrient replacement totals approx. \$500/ha.

If a contractor is charging around \$50/bale (\$165/t) to cut/rake/bale, you’re looking at a total cost of around \$265/t or \$80/bale (if you own your own equipment, you need to factor in repairs and maintenance, fuel, labour, interest

and depreciation).

Current hay prices are sitting around \$350/t for cereal/pasture and \$450/t for lucerne (depending on quality and location).

You may be better off leaving your grass in your paddocks and buying in feed tested hay/silage that comes with a guarantee for quality in terms of energy and protein.

Production costs are a constant no matter the quality of the product. These costs are magnified if the hay/silage cannot meet the nutritional needs of the livestock to which it’s fed.

In all situations, if you make it yourself or buy it in, get a feed test!

When it comes to soil nutrition, there is no magic pudding. If you remove it, it needs to be replaced from an external source.

If not replaced, you are effectively mining the soil, lowering its capacity to grow pasture, store carbon and be sustainable for the long term.

Photo supplied



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Lowe Street Intersection closure

The Lowe Street intersection in Queanbeyan will be closed from the evening of Saturday 26 September for approximately two weeks while contractors upgrade underground infrastructure and surface reconstruction as part of the Monaro Street upgrades.



Find more information and the road closure map at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Monaro-Street



Never miss bin night again!

Download **LoopedIn Councils**, our new and improved waste and recycling app





Download our new app LoopedIn Councils

Download the LoopedIn Council app to access waste vouchers! If you're an urban resident, you can use vouchers to dispose of bulky waste. If you're a rural resident without access to kerbside collection, you can use waste vouchers for general waste disposal.

Search for the app in the Apple App store or Google Play store by searching LoopedIn Councils and select Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council as your council.

► Find out more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/waste-app

Work with Council

Current vacancies include:

- Water Industry Operator (Network) (Queanbeyan)
- Team Leader - Waste Strategy & Planning
- Team Leader - Waste Education
- Team Leader - Urban Transport Maintenance (Braidwood)
- Eastern Senior Pool Attendants
- Eastern Pools Operations Officer
- Leading Hand - Intermittent Works (Bungendore and Braidwood)
- Civic Sanitation Officer
- Labourer (General Equipment Operator)

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

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Agricultural Chemical Use in Public Places Policy	25 September
Planning Proposal to Rezone 350 Wirreanda Road, Wamboin	28 September
Dunns Creek Road	6 October
Priority Parking Enforcement Policy	8 October
Bungendore Economic Stimulus Trial	13 October
The Scar Dog Park Community Feedback	15 October
Proposed changes to waste vouchers and Rural Recycling Stations	31 October

► 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:

- 23 September 2026 (Queanbeyan)
- 14 October 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.



Queanbeyan-Palerang Arts Trail back for 2026

The Queanbeyan-Palerang Arts Trail returns this October over three consecutive weekends in Braidwood, Bungendore, Queanbeyan, and Captains Flat.

Join the celebration of art by following the trail through a variety of art galleries and artist studios. Meet the makers and experience the wealth of talent and creativity in the region, including ceramics, glassworks, paintings, textiles, jewellery and much, much more.

Join us in:

- Braidwood: 3 and 4 October
 - Bungendore: 10 and 11 October
 - Queanbeyan: 17 and 18 October
 - Captains Flat: 3, 17 and 18 October
- Find out more at treasuretrail.com.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

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.

Code Word

If LARK = 1234 and COOT = 5667, how quickly can you work out these birds? You should identify two more letters as you go along.

1 3664

2 56542766

3 56548381

4 8398

5 7839

6 1669

7 53298

8 6376129

Mini Jigsaw

Fit the pieces in the grid to spell out a fabric in each row.

1

2

3

4

5

6

C A M O I N A S L H

C O I R S K L E V

M U C A D A B O M A U C

Add Up

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

10

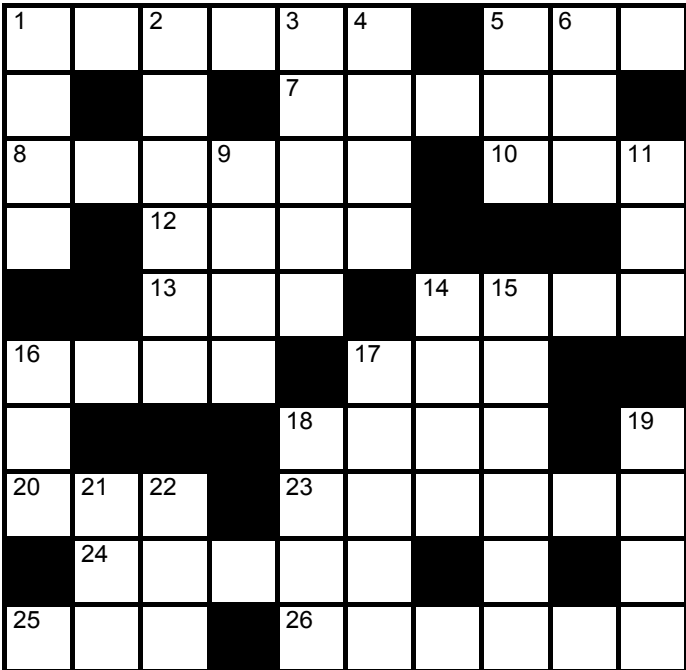
11

14

19

22

Quick Time Crossword



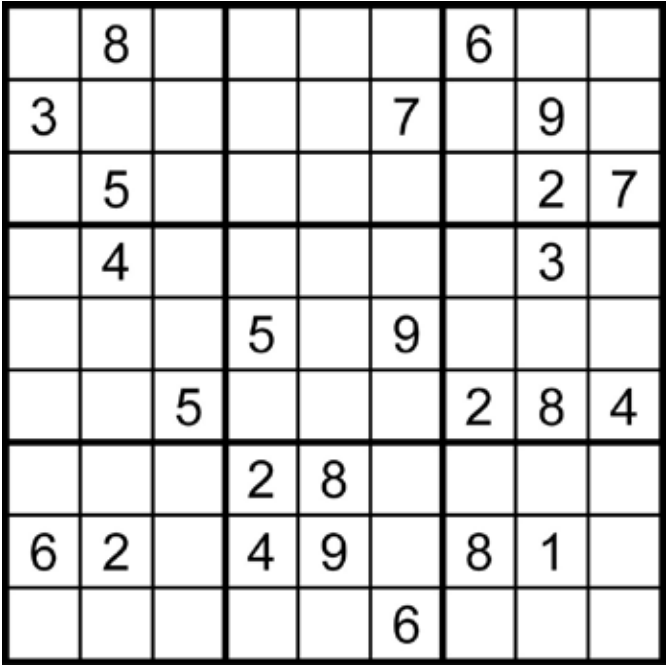
- Across

 - 1 Small insects (6)
 - 5 Everything (3)
 - 7 Wingless parasite (5)
 - 8 Plant with prickly leaves and head (6)
 - 10 Distress signal (3)
 - 12 Delicate fabric (4)
 - 13 Newt (3)
 - 14 Former Russian leader (4)
 - 16 Land measure (4)
 - 17 Consume (3)
 - 18 Satisfy fully (4)
 - 20 Land measure (3)
 - 23 Ancient Jewish ascetic (6)
 - 24 Sharp ridge (5)
 - 25 Cricket sundry (3)
- Down

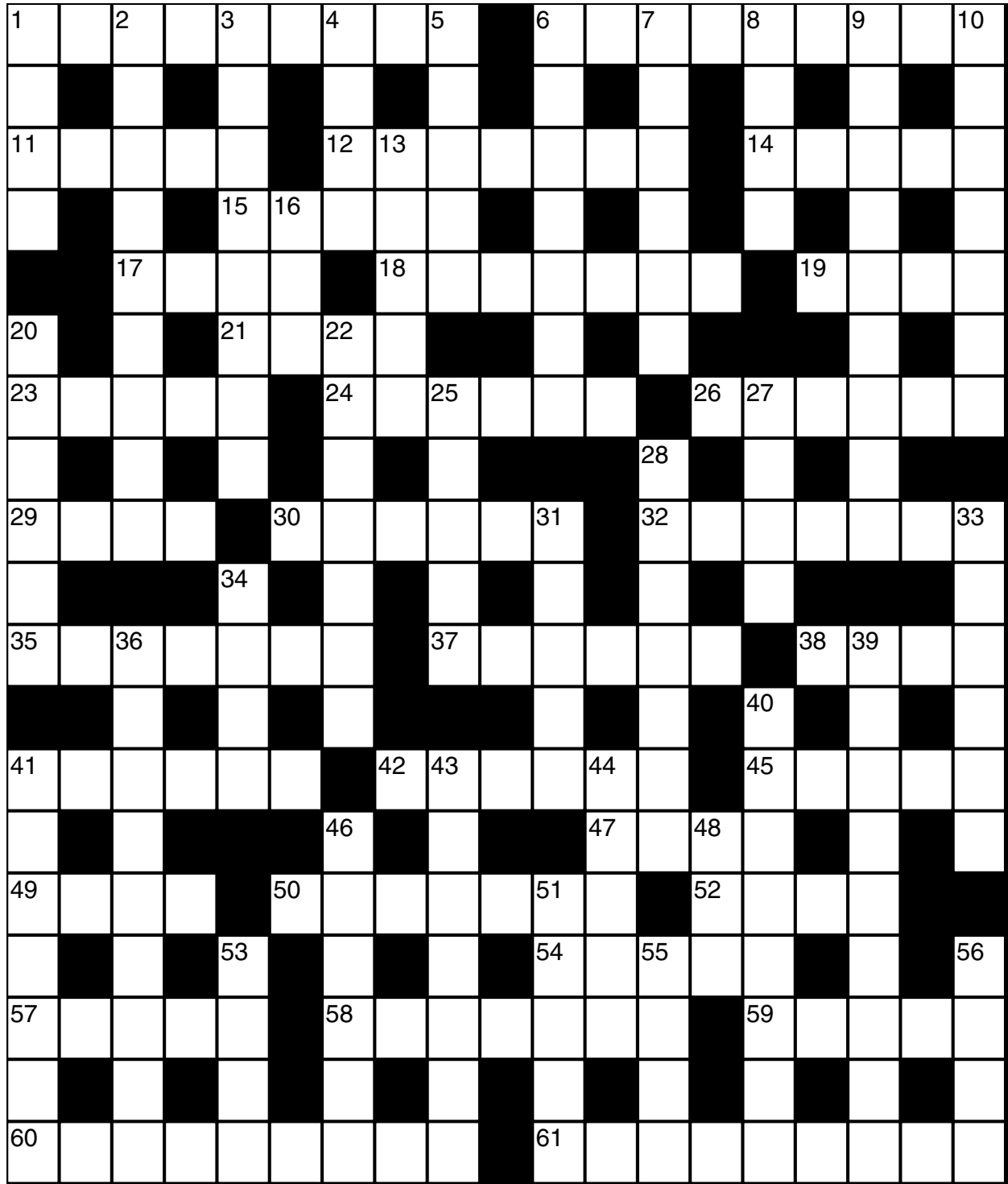
 - 1 Figment (4)
 - 2 Trader (6)
 - 3 Choose by vote (5)
 - 4 Flatfish (4)
 - 5 Donkey (3)
 - 6 Zodiac sign (3)
 - 9 Free from danger (4)
 - 11 Knight's title (3)
 - 14 Makes lace (4)
 - 15 Unfeeling (6)
 - 16 Turkish commander (3)
 - 17 Canvas support (5)
 - 18 Puts in a certain position (4)
 - 19 Lacerate (4)
 - 21 Narrow beam (3)
 - 22 Before (poet) (3)
- 26 Killer (6)

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.



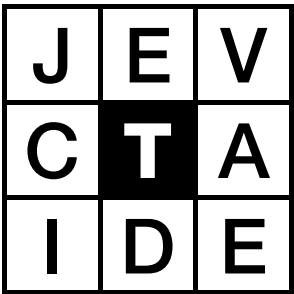
Crossword



Target Time

Target: Average - 14, Good - 20, Excellent - 24+

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 Breaks up
 - 6 Make up
 - 11 Terms of reference
 - 12 Dashes
 - 14 Type of grass
 - 15 Mount
 - 17 Threesome
 - 18 Gravity
 - 19 Slavic native
 - 21 Soar
 - 23 Sun-dried brick
 - 24 After
 - 26 Emphasis
 - 29 Speech defect
 - 30 Feverish
 - 32 Cock
 - 35 Girl's underwear
 - 37 Constraint
 - 38 Offshoot
 - 41 Obscured
 - 42 Choice
 - 45 Colourless gas
 - 47 Weaken
- Down

 - 1 Sleeping-room (coll)
 - 2 Costly
 - 3 Unusually large
 - 4 Passage permit
 - 5 More firm
 - 6 Surround (5,2)
 - 7 Halve
 - 8 Part of a foot
 - 9 Diversion
 - 10 Display
 - 13 Shako feature
- 49 Eminence
 - 50 Deduct (4,3)
 - 52 Sole
 - 54 Onion relatives
 - 57 Filter through
 - 58 Bird of prey
 - 59 Transparently thin
 - 60 Having two sides
 - 61 Colour (5,4)
- 16 Dove sound
 - 20 AFL restart (4-2)
 - 22 Counterpart
 - 25 Detested
 - 27 Cage
 - 28 Hindu deity
 - 31 Pembroke or Cardigan dog, eg
 - 33 Rough-edged
 - 34 Code word for "M"
 - 36 Sundown
 - 39 Type of flour
 - 40 Very big
 - 41 Supporters' group (3,4)
 - 43 Knot-shaped biscuit
 - 44 Proposition
 - 46 Talk rapidly
 - 48 Variety
 - 51 Panache
 - 53 Secure
 - 55 Nervous
 - 56 Reliable

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Spring colour

PET OF THE WEEK



Name: Priscilla (aka Little Chook)
Age: 25 weeks
Likes: Mealworms, proper cuddles, and getting special scratches right on her ear lobes. She also loves inspecting the nesting boxes the absolute second they have been freshly cleaned. She has laid strict claim to the bottom nesting box, and everyone in the coop knows nobody else is allowed to use her spot!
Dislikes: Sharing her designated bottom nesting box and anything less than VIP treatment.
Claim to Fame: Priscilla is an elite producer who frequently blesses the household with double-yolker eggs, proving she is an overachiever in every sense of the word.

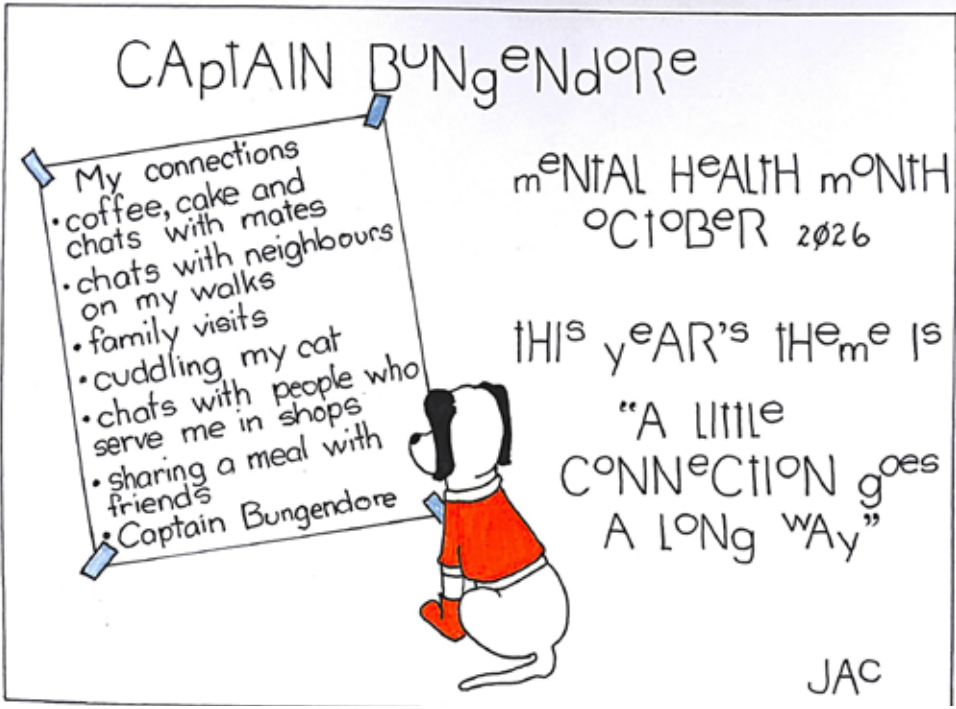
Bungendore Christmas Parade Returns after 100-year hiatus: Floats and Festivities Wanted!

Christmas is under 100 days away, and we want to ring in the festive season with holiday cheer. The first Bungendore Christmas Parade in approximately 100 years will officially take over Gibraltar Street on Saturday 5 December 2026, bringing the community together for an afternoon of spectacular floats, music, and seasonal celebrations. Organised by a separate committee, supported by the Rotary Club of Bungendore, Bungendore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Queanbeyan-

Palerang Regional Council, we aim to make this year's parade a highlight of the local calendar. To make it the biggest and brightest event yet, the community is being called upon to get involved. Local businesses, sporting clubs, community groups, schools, and creative individuals are all invited to register. Whether you want to showcase your community group, promote your local business, or simply spread some holiday magic, the parade is the perfect platform. Come and join the Bungendore Seniors as they boot-scoot along Gibraltar St and bring a smile to the faces of residents and visitors alike while celebrating the close of another year in our region. Planning is already well underway, and organisers are urging all interested parties to secure their spot early. The strict deadline for all participant registrations is Sunday 1 November 2026. Submitting your entry by this date ensures the coordination team can



finalise the parade lineup and logistics. Don't miss your chance to be a part of Bungendore's favourite holiday tradition. Gather your team, brainstorm your festive themes, and register your entry before the November deadline. Registrations can be completed using the QR code, or more information on how you can get involved or volunteer on the day, please contact the committee through the Rotary Club of Bungendore via their email bungrotary@gmail.com. Guidelines for registrants will be provided closer to the date. Let's make the 2026 Bungendore Christmas Parade an unforgettable celebration!



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.

7 AND 8 NOVEMBER 2026
QUEANBEYAN SHOWGROUND

BUSKERS COMPETITION...

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY:
Country Rocks

WWW.QUEANBEYANSHOW.COM.AU

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/>



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

VINTAGE & RETRO

Vintage and retro shop open Friday, Saturday and Sunday - 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

ART BY ANDERS 144 Uriarra Rd Crestwood Queanbeyan.

BUNGENDORE SENIORS

Next get together will be Friday 25 Sept, at the Bungendore Sports Hub amenities building \$5.00 per person.
ALL OVER 55's WELCOME
Tai Chi begins on Monday 12th October, 1.45pm to 2.45pm and Boot Scotting returns on Friday 16th October, 10am to 11am. See page 10 for more details

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

SAGE HUT WIZARD

Need answers? Just bring your questions! Empowering intuitive readings at The Sage Hut in Bungendore. Over 30 years experience. E:wizardwisdom22@use.startmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/sagehut-wizard.com.au



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.

Pickleball in Bungendore: Saturday mornings

Bungendore Park Tennis Club is now running an open social session on every Saturday between 9 and 11am at the courts (weather permitting). All abilities are welcome and we have several good paddles (bats) available for those that don't have their own. Contact Lyn for more information at bptc.pickleball@gmail.com



MAZDA 3 TOURING FOR SALE



2014 Mazda Sedan, Model 3 Touring. NSW rego until 18.12.26. 146,899kms. Full log book service records, new battery, excellent condition. Pink slip already received & submitted. \$13,800

Phone/text 0419 025 533



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 16 October. Phone Jim on 0428 194 105

Gavin's Courier Service

Braidwood - Canberra - Goulburn - Braidwood

Monday - Friday

Mob: 0428 968 162

There are lots of new faces at DAS – as well as some long termers. ALL are ready & waiting to begin the next chapter of their lives.

(5 Sept 2026)



Jazz

Cattle Dog x Staffy (F)
Approx 9 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/jazz



Tigger

American Staffy x (M)
Approx 7 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/tigger



Opie

Mastiff x (M)
Approx 11 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/opie



Will

Cane Corso x (M)
Approx 5yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/will



Remi

Amer Staffy (M)
Approx 7 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/remi



Stella

American Staffy x (F) Approx 12 mths

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/stella



Cruz

Kelpie x Staffy (M)
Approx 12 mths

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/cruz



Bonny

American Pitbull x (F)
Approx 7 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/bonny



Arinna

American Staffy (F)
Approx 3 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/arinna



Terra

Staffy x (F)
Approx 5 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/terra



Murray

Staffy x (M)
Approx 10 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/murray



Sam

Staffy (M)
Approx 12 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/sam



Buster

Amer. Staffy x (M)
Approx 1 yr

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/buster



George

Pitbull (M)
Approx 6 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/george



Sophie

Aussie Bulldog x Red Heeler (F) Approx 9 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/sophie



Cleo

Amer. Staffy x (F)
Approx 1 yr

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/cleo



Koda

Amer. Staffy x (M)
Approx 2 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/koda



Electra

Amer. Staffy x (F)
Approx 2 yrs

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/electra



Soldier

Staffy x (M)
Approx 8 mths

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/soldier



Chester

Amer. Staffy x (M)
Approx 1 yr

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/chester



Gator

Crossbreed (M)
Approx 5 mths

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/gator



Gideon

Crossbreed (M)
Approx 5 mths

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/gideon



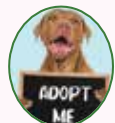
Ace

Boxer x (M)
Approx 1 yr

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/dogs-for-adoption/ace

When adopting, please remember dogs take

- ✓ 3 daysto decompress
- ✓ 3 weeks to learn routines, and
- ✓ 3 months to feel fully at home.



For an up-to-date list of all dogs available for adoption: www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/adopt

For information on adopting a dog from DAS:

www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/adopt-a-dog

All they want is a 2nd chance

Sport

Wamboin Golf - September 2026

Sunday, 6 September. Spring began almost shyly, modestly hiding her burgeoning fecundity behind a clear warmish day with a touch of the zephyr. Regional golfers gathered at the Hall for the annual Spring Trophy. The event was sponsored by Joan and Lofty Mason whom we thank for the prizes and repast, especially Joan's spring rolls. They opted for a Handicap Ambrose competition for teams of two, following which players took to the course kicking away the rising grass, the birdies and the hosts of golden daffodils.

Back at the picnic, as the acting Captain struggled with the higher maths, we scanned the world. Looks like the Cullerin Range between Gunning and Yass is the Bermuda Triangle for burning trucks. Best to stay out of it. CIT, the degenerative brain disorder, is disrupting technical education in the ACT. Naturally, the Government is considering merging it with the financially and managerially crippled University of Canberra. What could go wrong?

At least the ANU is flourishing in safe hands according to TEQSA. Not only are we acquiring Orcas and drones to defend ourselves in increasingly volatile times, we are to get a whole pile of rockets of some description. Of course this won't be soon, unless the sign on the base of the rockets says 'light blue touch paper and stand back'. Other explosive issues include the problematic Federal Court, the Graceless Tame, Trump's \$US5k bribe to voters and Pauline calling out the Hasty use of hearsay to rat on BRS.

Elbow may be gathering a bit of dust. First there's the Community Grants container of pork and his golf club but that'll rub off because the other mob did it too. And our Kristy did well in the carve-up so we don't want to make too much noise. Second is his habit of making embarrassing or vague public utterances. But nobody since Howard has been much of a communicator. Then there's the fraying Budget but no treasurer since Costello has built one that

worked (before Howard then bugged it). There's the plunge in house prices and construction but I guess the budget was expected to do that. Most importantly we're all feeling the pinch, but that's not entirely Elbow's fault. I think you can blame him for public spending and the amount of tax needed to fund it but he could fix that by giving his mate Prince Chalmers a good kick on the milking side (which he probably won't).

Elbow's not helped by that malignant, passion-fingered misanthrope and the rest of the degenerate underclass masquerading as a US Administration, doing their best to stuff the world economy by starting wars between Gulf States, forcing up the cost of petroleum products and bunging tariffs on everything else. People of your correspondent's vintage (approaching early middle age) may remember the GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It was a big deal in the 60s and 70s when enlightened



economists were seeking to stem the tide of tariff protection and bilateral agreements in favour of multi lateral agreements and free trade. It was based on the views of J M Keynes and others that "it is better to trade with a rich man than a poor man". It was the start of globalisation. GATT'S place was taken by the World Trade Organisation, famously based in New York. It was a dead duck even before 9/11 because voters in already prosperous nations didn't understand that lifting less-developed countries would lift everybody and populists like Trump gained power. But what's the option? Go back to rich man/poor man? If your game is guessing the future of free market economics, good luck. Here endeth the lesson.

We sprang to attention when the a/g Captain cracked the whip. He welcomed our guests, new Wamboin residents Angus McKerchar and daughter Maisie. There were no takers for Ted's Joke. Perhaps some, like your correspondent, were thinking that the one they could call to mind may have been, shall we say, a trifle 'warm' for the delicately nurtured.

The googly ball was awarded to Vicki Still whose orange ball bounced six times, hit a tree and was never seen again. The dummy spit went to Rob Gorham for accusing Vicki, without evidence, of spitting the dummy which she did not (at least within my hearing). The encouragement award went to Mazy. LD and NTP ball winners were Pete Harrison 2, Glen Crafter 2, Angus and Vicki Still. Pete also won the raffle. Winners of the nine hole comp were the team of Pete and Stephen Harrison 27.75 from Rob Gorham and Craig Purdam 31.25. Winners of the 18 hole comp were the team of Tim Barter and Vicki Still 59.75 from Glen Crafter and Paul Griffin 60.25. Well done all!

Next month being October we will be playing for the culturally appropriate Oktoberfest Stein. Don your leather pants and join us at the Hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 4 October for the dependable 12.30pm firing of the Spandau. Meanwhile, on the bright side the Chooks are Champs. Another top year for regional sport!

Larry King, golfer
Photos: Pete Harrison



Mudchooks So Close To Another Trophy

Stewart Wilson

The Bungendore Mudchooks rugby team came ever so close to adding to its already successful premiership-winning season by losing just 36-33 to the mighty Tuggeranong Vikings 1st XV in the inaugural Brumbies Shield grand final on 13 September.

The Vikings are a large Canberra-based powerhouse club, fielding five men's teams, all of which made their grand finals in 2026. The fact that the single team, country rugby Mudchooks made it to the Shield grand final is an achievement in itself - that they came within three points of toppling the Vikings boys is quite remarkable.

David took on Goliath and very nearly won!

The game was held at the Bungendore Sports Hub in what was a big day for the venue and town. The Mudchooks versus Vikings clash was the support act for the main event, the ACT

Brumbies against the NSW Waratahs which brought with it masses of equipment to support this professional level of rugby as well as the largest crowd the Sports Hub has seen so far.

An enormous amount of organisation was required, the Bungendore Rugby Union Football Club prominent in that. The main game was televised live on Stan Sport and resulted in a solid win for the Waratahs. A Waratah/Brumbies Under-19s fixture ended the day's entertainment.

The Brumbies Shield is a new competition involving clubs from Canberra, the Mudchooks' Southern Tablelands Monaro Cup competition and others which come under Brumbies banner. Teams and competitions from Wagga Wagga, Goulburn, Albury Wodonga, Queanbeyan, Griffith, Western Districts and elsewhere were involved.

The Brumbies Shield is a knockout competition, teams progress by

winning games against others in their own regular seasons and semi-finals until there's only two left, in this case the Mudchooks and Vikings.

The game itself was tight in just about every statistic. Both teams scored five tries, both kicked four conversions and there was only a penalty goal difference - three points - between them in the end.

The Mudchooks started spectacularly, scoring early tries by flanker Geeps Pretorius and winger Jy Clarke, both of them converted by halfback and captain Tom Worman. Bungendore up 14-0 after only ten minutes!

Then the Vikings started to implement their game plan which was to play for field position. All five of the Vikings' tries came from close range after lengthy bombardments of the Mudchooks' line with slick backline moves rarely seen.

The Vikings scored three converted tries that way in the

remainder of the half, leaving the score at 21-14 in favour of the visitors at the break.

The Mudchooks actually outscored the Vikings in the second half but fell just short. The visitors increased their lead to 26-14 with an unconverted try shortly after play restarted but there was no way in the world the Mudchooks were going to do anything but fight to the end. Prop Joe Nagauna went over ten minutes later and Tom Worman converted to make it 26-21.

The Vikings then scored the crucial penalty goal which proved to be the difference in the end and followed that with another converted try - 36-21 with about 15 minutes to play but the Mudchooks kept fighting.

And they did, magnificently against their much more fancied opponents. Two more tries (Tyran McCudden and Jack Stanford) and a conversion followed to bring the score to its final 36-33 but there

was arguably a lost opportunity near the end.

One more pass in a backline move would surely have resulted in another try to put the Mudchooks in the lead and on their way to a possible victory, but the pass wasn't delivered and the movement broke down.

The Brumbies' official report on the game said it "was a classic city versus country grand final that swung wildly from start to finish.... an instant high scoring classic, defined by non-stop momentum shifts, lead changes, and relentless attacking rugby."

It was a very entertaining and probably disappointing end to a very successful season for the Mudchooks, coming so close to what would have been a famous victory. They were magnificent on the day and all the players and the coaches can hold their heads up high. "They did us proud," said one local spectator to this writer after the game, and he was correct.