

Save the Date: Quilters
Exhibition, Bungendore &
Braidwood Sat 28 &
Sun 29 November

Bungendore
Show, this Sunday,
25 October

Pet
of the
Week



Regional Independent

Free

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

No. 471

Wednesday 21 October, 2026

Every Bird Counts: Join the Aussie Bird Count!

Have you ever stopped to notice the birds in your backyard, heard a kookaburra laughing in a nearby tree, or spotted a colourful lorikeet flying overhead? This National Bird Week, you can turn those everyday moments into something meaningful by taking part in the Aussie Bird Count, celebrating its 13th year in 2026!

Running from 19-25 October, the Aussie Bird Count is Australia's largest annual citizen science event, bringing together tens of thousands of Australians of all ages to observe and count the birds that share our world. Whether you're a keen birdwatcher or simply enjoy seeing birds in your garden, everyone is welcome to join in. You don't need to be an expert – just a little curiosity and 20 minutes of your time!

Getting involved is easy. Find a favourite outdoor spot, whether it's your backyard, a local park, the beach or even a window at work, and spend 20 minutes watching the birds around you. Count the birds you see, then submit your results through the Aussie Bird Count app or online web form. If you spot a bird you can't identify, don't worry! The handy Bird Finder tool can help you work out which feathered friend has caught your eye.

And the best part? You can take part as many times as you like throughout the week. Every count makes a difference, helping BirdLife Australia build a clearer picture of the birds living in our neighbourhoods and understand how our urban bird populations are faring.

With one in six Australian bird species facing the threat of extinction, keeping track of our birdlife has never been more important. By taking just 20 minutes to observe the birds around you, you'll be helping scientists better understand the changes happening to our feathered friends and supporting efforts to protect them for future generations.

The Aussie Bird Count is also a wonderful opportunity to slow down, connect with nature and discover the incredible wildlife right on our doorstep. It's a fun activity for families, schools, workplaces and communities – and a reminder that even the smallest contribution can make a big difference. Plus, by submitting your count, you'll go into the running to win some fantastic prizes!

So, grab your family, invite a friend or simply enjoy a quiet moment outdoors, and get counting. You might be surprised by just how



many birds call your local area home.

Every bird tells a story, and every count helps make a difference.

Join thousands of Australians this National Bird Week and help BirdLife Australia discover how our feathered friends are faring.

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<https://birdlife.org.au/campaign/aussie-bird-count/>

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CWA Southern Tablelands Group 101st AGM

The women of the CWA Southern Tablelands Group came together on Saturday 10th Oct for their 101st AGM at St Gregorys School Hall in Queanbeyan. This group meeting was hosted by Queanbeyan Evening Branch who did a fantastic job, their catering was delicious and enjoyed by everyone and no one went hungry. The AGM was officially opened by Mrs Elizabeth Dwyer, State Social Issues Officer of the CWA of NSW, who later delivered an engaging and thought-provoking talk on the social issues addressed by the Country Women's Association (CWA). She highlighted the importance of raising awareness of issues affecting individuals, families and rural communities, while emphasising the CWA's ongoing role in advocacy, community support and driving positive change. Bryce Wilson QPRC Councillor was also in attendance to represent QPRC Mayor Kenrick Winchester; as well as representatives from Central Western, Hume, Monaro, Southwest and Wollondilly CWA Groups. Each Branch report provided a valuable overview of the work being undertaken across the

organisation, highlighting their events, ongoing initiatives and the dedication of members in supporting the CWA's objectives. Following lunch, proceedings resumed with the election of office bearers. All positions were declared vacant, and voting commenced. It was fantastic to see every position across the Group Executive successfully filled. We look forward to working together. The following women were elected to the CWA of NSW Southern Tablelands Group Office Bearers. President - Maria Porreca Representative to State - Francis Flood Vice Presidents - Frances Flood; Margaret Clinton; Yvonne Quintrell; Leanne Lourigan Hon Secretary - Nicki Lyons Treasurer - Karen Pavey International - Jude Nettleingham Cultural - Kelly Gay Handicraft - Caroline Greig Landcooking - Karen Thorpe Agricultural & Environment - Jenni Cole Publicity - Suzanne Blair Social Issues - Glenda Chapman



Attention then turned to the presentation of trophies, recognising and celebrating the achievements, efforts and contributions of members and branches. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge their dedication and hard work throughout the year. AWARDS Prell Cup - Largest Average

attendance at a monthly meeting: Shared between Bungendore Branch & Crookwell Day Branch Seymour Trophy - Best Branch Secretary Report: Shiloh Middlemiss, Queanbeyan Evening Branch Lillian Davis Trophy - Best International Report: Queanbeyan Evening Branch Margery Granger Trophy - Most

increased membership in past year: Bungendore Branch Alison O'Brien Community Service Award - Bungendore Branch "The women of the CWA of NSW, the original Influencers, more than just Tea and Scones. Why not join your local branch today and help make a difference" Photo supplied

Fred Smith's America Offers Songs, Stories and Sharp Insight at The Q

With America once again under the spotlight of political division and cultural anxiety, Fred Smith's America arrives at The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre as a timely, funny and thoughtful musical journey through the "United States of Anxiety". Part musical travelogue, part storytelling performance, America draws on Smith's years living, working and touring in the US. One of the few Australian songwriters to hold both a US Marine Corps medal and a US merchant mariner's licence, Smith brings a perspective few performers could match. His songs and observations are shaped not by headlines or clichés, but by first-hand experience of the country's highways, small towns and fault

lines. This is very much Fred Smith doing what he does best. Long regarded as one of Australia's finest songwriters, he has built a reputation for combining wit, insight and emotional depth in songs that stay with audiences long after the performance ends. As Bruce Elder wrote in The Sydney Morning Herald, Smith is "simply the best folk/country musician working in this country", praising a body of work that is "wry, literate, witty, powerfully emotional and insightful." What makes America especially compelling is that it offers more than commentary. Smith's gift is to find the human story within big political and cultural questions, using music and storytelling to

make sense of places that can seem complex or contradictory. Accompanied by an all-star band of Melbourne musicians, he brings warmth, intelligence and plenty of humour to a show that promises both entertainment and substance. For audiences at The Q, America is a chance to experience one of Australia's great musical storytellers at work. Thoughtful, funny and richly musical, it's a show for anyone who likes their songs with a little story, and their stories with something to say. America performs at **The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre** on Wednesday, 3rd of November. Book tickets at theq.net.au. Photo supplied



Regional Independent

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

Distribution is **6,000** copies every fortnight, with stands in Queanbeyan, Karabar, Jerrabomberra, Bungendore, Braidwood and Wamboin.

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



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Debbie Evans

“Conversations with locals about

"I've had the pleasure of visiting several of the sites featured in this book with David, which involved clambering over fences and wandering across paddock (yes, with permission but David could have warned me of the randy bull!) and peering into deep gullies that you'd never know harboured such

David's research allowed him

The book's popularity has seen a second print run ordered and at just \$30 each it is a great read documenting a fascinating part of local history. If you want to secure your own copy, they are just \$30 each and enquiries can be directed

Pictured at the book launch L-R,
Brigid Whitbread, Peter McCarthy,
David Whitbread, David Hanzl,
Lisa Hanzl, Tim the Yowi Man and
Nick Fry

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Community News

Residents to wait until March for bridge opening

Debbie Evans

Briars Sharrow Bridge is not anticipated to open to traffic until March 2027.

Originally the bridge was to open in January 2027 but a statement from Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) last week has confirmed works are on track for a March 2027 opening.

Council stated the Briars Sharrow Bridge upgrade is progressing well.

“Last week, contractors completed the first two headstocks, which are the horizontal structures that will support the bridge planks.

“The next key milestone is the relocation of the overhead power lines. An authorised contractor for Essential Energy is currently scheduled to undertake this work on Friday October 23.

“Essential Energy has advised affected customers of a planned power outage between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm, subject to conditions on the day.

“Following completion of the powerline relocation, the bridge contractor will be able to construct the remaining piers and headstocks before installation of the bridge planks begins.

“At this stage, the project remains on track for an anticipated opening to traffic in March 2027.

“The project is currently tracking within the approved budget, noting that Council is yet to receive any variation claims associated with delays to the overhead powerline relocation works.” the Council spokesperson concluded.

At its June 24 meeting QPRC carried a resolution “that Council

approve acceleration of the construction of earthworks for the Briars Sharrow Bridge Upgrade funded by the allocation of \$300,000 from the Rural Development Contributions Plan.”

The accompanying report supporting that decision stated, “The Briars Sharrow Bridge Upgrade Project has a total budget of \$9M (all NSW Government grant.)”

At that meeting Cr Mareeta Grundy said, “the centrepiece of concern is the community has been significantly disadvantaged through no fault of their own,” by the bridge closure.

At its July meeting, QPRC said the allocation of additional funds would only be made if genuine acceleration of the program could be achieved, which was unlikely



due to “frequent wet weather and unsuitable ground conditions.”

Council received the grant funding from the NSW Government to upgrade Briars Sharrow crossing to a concrete bridge structure.

The new bridge will be 92m long, 9m wide and will be constructed 4m higher than the existing crossing.

Above: works continue. Photo QPRC

The Burra Community Shed, the first 12 months

The Burra Community Shed (The Shed) was started on an idea.

Statistics:

- The Shed was then started by a grant of \$39,106 from the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Grant Scheme and \$2,000 from the BCA (as a requirement for the grant to better succeed).
- 25 Volunteers from Burra, 1 from Michaelgo and 1 from Royalla, all from various backgrounds and skill types (7 women and 20 men), most having not been involved in the Community before; 6 trades from Burra and 1 from Michaelgo, all tradesmen volunteered their time and materials for their trade.

This is what community is all about.

After 10 months of hard work, totalling over 6,500 volunteer

hours (in volunteer grant dollars at \$25/hour that equates to over \$90,000). QPRC donated materials and labour and also over 11 local and regional businesses donated or heavily discounted materials for the project.

Estimated finished value over \$200,000; building then kindly donated to QPRC as a Burra Park asset.

What was achieved building wise:

New extension to the Annex, includes major upgrades to The Burra Scout Room, The Art Group Room, new amenities room and a new cantilevered verandah with all new matching external cladding and roofline, to make it a proud and respectable addition to Burra Park. Don't forget the new path to the tennis courts with tennis rackets, balls and Burra Park flora embedded in the concrete.

Extension: fully clad and insulated (the ceiling reused the old roof cladding), new awning (also reused old roof cladding), new concrete slab, new commercial powerpoints, LED lighting, sensors, flood lighting, electronic roller door, air conditioning and painted floor.

Scout Room: fully clad and insulated (the ceiling reused the old external wall cladding), new commercial powerpoints and painted floor.

Art Group Room (now Meeting Room): major renovation with new floating floor, repainted room, new blinds, renovation of the old kitchen with new instant mains pressure electric hot water system (no pressure or hot water for the past 30 years), LED lighting.

Amenities Room: all new rooms, toilet, basin, emergency wash down shower, LED sensor lighting, instant hot water and mains pressure, tiled floor and ceiling reused the old external roof cladding.

Verandah: all new cantilevered verandah (ceiling reused the old external roof cladding), LED lighting, new concrete slab and safety railing.

The Burra Community Shed Official Opening 14 September

2025:

Over 100 people attended from QPRC representatives, Regional Independent Newspaper, NSW Government Local Member, QPRC Councilors, and of course numerous locals from Burra and the region.

Other Community Involvement and activities at The Shed:

- Various locals have donated cash, materials and tools/ equipment for the operation of The Shed.
- Numerous locals and people from Canberra and Queanbeyan have donated tools, materials and equipment from their homes (garages) as mainly wives have lost a loved one (or moved to a nursing home). The Shed members have helped clean out the garage/shed to make the situation more easy for the families.
- 10 cent container collection (between Burra Hall and The Shed) with 2 chutes for anyone to donate their cans, glass bottles and plastic bottles with funds going to run activities for The Shed. This was originally the old library book return chutes at the Queanbeyan Library in Rutledge St Queanbeyan donated by QPRC.
- Two short courses have been run

by members of The Shed:

Rural Fencing Maintenance and Repairs,

Basic Electrical Understanding. Both courses were free to all local residents.

- Most new members of the Burra Tennis Club have started as members of The Shed, now being involved in playing, maintenance of the courts and restoring both the tennis club storage boxes on the verandah.
- Timber carving.
- Bird box construction.
- Dining table construction.
- Minor furniture restoration.

and numerous other activities that have brought other locals together for a cuppa and homemade goodies and a chat.

Normal Shed sessions are 1 to 4 pm Thursday and Sundays. Then a drink and chat afterwards.

Pop in and have a look and a chat.

John Convine Workshop Manager, Burra Community Shed.

Built by local volunteers for the Burra Community: The Burra Community Shed.

Photo supplied



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Community News

Community Bank Bungendore Show: this Sunday 25 October

A Classic Country Day
Out for Everyone

The Community Bank Bungendore Show is on this Sunday, 25 October, offering a packed program of entertainment, activities and traditional country show attractions. And the best part of all - nearly all of the competitions and entertainment are free as part of the purchased entry tickets.

The main stage will feature live music from 10am to 3pm, setting the perfect atmosphere for attendees as you explore the show. The stage is right next to the Pavilion where you can wander through and enjoy the absolute best in regional arts, crafts, cookery, and home-grown produce

and flowers. Recognising the importance of a family-friendly day out, the show has a dedicated Kids Zone, designed to keep younger visitors fully entertained without breaking the budget. The Kids Zone features free entertainment including a jumping castle, classic garden games, imaginative storytime sessions and creative face painting. Animal lovers will have plenty to see and do throughout the day. Bring along your well behaved and leashed dog and enter the Dog High Jump and the Flat Chat Dog Race. Show off your family pet in the Pet Parade. Sit back and watch the amazing Flyball dog

display and the working sheep dog demonstrations, and admire the horse, sheep and cattle judging. Meanwhile, those curious about native wildlife can head over to the interactive reptile display and information sessions, offering a rare opportunity to get up close and learn about some of Australia's most fascinating creatures. For those seeking a bit of high-energy fun, the mechanical bull is set to offer plenty of thrills and laughs for brave riders and spectators alike for all ages. Nearby, the Scouts' Adventure Course will give younger, energetic showgoers the perfect environment to test their physical skills, build confidence, and immerse



themselves in some classic outdoor adventure. Get a team together to enter the Tug 'O' War competition or pair up with a friend to compete in the wheel barrow races for a chance to win a cash prize plus your wheelbarrow! Adding to the lighthearted fun, the chaos of the always entertaining Mascot Race is guaranteed to make you laugh. When you need a break from all of the excitement head over to the Bungendore CWA canteen to enjoy home made sandwiches, coffee tea and cake, or choose from a diverse lineup of other delicious

food vendors. Wander through an extensive array of traders selling unique wares, alongside vital community information booths. With live music, animal displays, agricultural competitions, adventure activities, children's entertainment and traditional country show fun, the 2026 Community Bank Bungendore Show will have plenty to see and do for visitors of all ages. Get your tickets and view the full show program at bungendoreshow.com.au or scan the QR code on page 15 and follow the show on Facebook.



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Common Sense Prevails as Bill to Cut Higher PHI Rebate Kicked Out of Senate

Seniors will be breathing a sigh of relief as the Senate voted to kill the Bill, last Wednesday, 14th October, which would remove the higher Private Health Insurance rebate for Australians aged 65 and over.

A motion, brought by Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Senator Anne Ruston and Senator Jacqui Lambie, was supported by Senators across the chamber, and has meant the Bill will be taken off the Senate's agenda.

While the move kills the bill in its current form, the government has already indicated that it is committed to changing the rebate and will resurrect the bill, likely with some form of carve out to gain support from the Greens.

"Common sense has prevailed. The cut to the higher Private Health Insurance Rebate for people aged 65 over has been hit on the head" National Seniors Australia (NSA) Chief Executive Officer Mr Chris Grice said. "Older Australians were facing significant increases in the cost of health insurance. No one supported the cut to the higher rebate, except for the government."

"NSA has been leading the fight against this change since the cut was announced by the Health Minister ahead of the budget. We welcome the support of the Opposition and crossbench parliamentarians in opposing and killing the bill. We thank the tens of thousands of older Australians who have supported NSA's campaign to oppose this change."

"Senator Anne Ruston, Senator Jacqui Lambie, Dr Monique Ryan MP, Rebekha Sharkie MP and Dr Anne Webster MP have led the charge within parliament to oppose this bill supported by many others. We now look to the Greens to show leadership as the government looks set to court them to pass a new version of the Bill. We need the Greens to say no. Enough is enough."

"There is significant uncertainty about the impact of the cut on private and public hospitals and on the health of older Australians. Supporting seniors to retain private health insurance will ensure that our ageing population remains healthier for longer, alleviating pressure on our broader health and aged care systems. Government needs to see this as an investment in the future, not a burden on the budget."

NSA survey shows greater impact on seniors

National Seniors Australia's surveys suggest the government has grossly underestimated the impact of the cut to the Private Health Insurance (PHI) Rebate with pensioners, part-pensioners, and self-funded retirees likely to downgrade or drop their Private Health cover should the cut go ahead.

A National Seniors Australia (NSA) Survey* conducted last month asked participants their most likely response to a premium increase on 1 April 2027 due to the rebate cut (not including annual premium increases).

- 15.6% of respondents said they would drop PHI
- 16.6% of respondents said they would downgrade their PHI
- 20.3% of respondents said they would cut spending
- 21.8% of respondents said they would draw on savings
- 19.5% of pensioners said they would most likely downgrade their cover and 20.5% said they would most likely drop their cover.

28.6% of self-funded retirees said they would most likely draw on their savings to meet the premium increase from the rebate cut 30% of self-funded retirees said they would either drop or downgrade their cover (16.3% downgrade and 13.7% drop their cover).

Consistent with NSA's previous survey work, full rate pensioners are more likely to drop their PHI than others. However, the proportion of those who say they would most likely drop their PHI is far higher than being reported by government and independent modelling.

**The National Seniors Australia survey asked participants to use the NSA rebate estimator so they accurately knew what the increase would be before completing the survey question about their intentions.*

Celebrating Children's Week 2026 with a free festival for kids this Sat



The children of Queanbeyan and surrounding towns are in for a treat this month, with a huge party being thrown in their honour.

To celebrate Children's Week, different organisations are coming together to put on a FREE festival, with fun activities for young children.

Being held on Saturday the 24th of October from 10am-1pm at Queanbeyan Town Park, the event is open to all children from across our region, and their parents and carers.

The 2026 theme of Children's week is: "Children have the right to use their own language, celebrate their culture and practice their religion".

The Children's week National Theme is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 30. Organisers have worked hard to make sure the activities reflect this theme.

Children will lead an Acknowledgement of Country at the start before enjoying some fabulous activities.

Story time, nature play, dance, music, healthy snacks, scavenger hunts, obstacle courses, sensory play, exploring and loose parts play, craft time - these are all important activities to boost children's wellbeing.

There will also be food and drinks for sale, including a variety of multicultural flavours to enjoy!

See page 13 for more details.

Photos supplied



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Community News

Stitches, Stories and a Very Special New Crafter

There was plenty of creativity, conversation and laughter at this fortnight's gathering of Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative, as local women came together for their regular BYO Craft Project night.

With the usual venue,

Bungendore School of Arts, unavailable this time, the group was warmly welcomed into the beautiful home of one of its members. A heartfelt thank you goes to this generous crafter for opening her home and providing such a lovely setting for a fun and relaxing evening.



As always, everyone brought along their own projects, with hand sewing, embroidery, sashiko, knitting, crochet and mending all represented. While hands were busy and projects progressed, conversations flowed, stories were shared and plenty of inspiration and new ideas were exchanged.

There was a particularly useful sharing of knowledge around sashiko and embroidery, with members offering advice, demonstrating handy hints and learning new techniques from one another. Sharing the latest project ideas and finding inspiration in each other's work is a much-loved part of these gatherings.

But the evening had an extra-special highlight. The group was delighted to welcome its youngest-ever crafter, a beautiful baby born to one of the co-operative's most beloved crafters. There were plenty of smiles and cuddles as everyone took the opportunity to meet and welcome this precious new addition, who of course was sporting a handmade alpaca-wool jumper. It was a very special moment for a group that values not only creativity, but also friendship and

connection.

Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative was formed to help local women make time for their creativity. Meeting every fortnight provides a welcome opportunity to set aside the busyness of everyday life and enjoy time doing something important that they love. It is a warm, welcoming and inclusive group where everyone can work on their individual projects in an atmosphere of encouragement, admiration for each other's creativity, a generous sharing of ideas and, above all, friendship. Whether someone is an experienced stitcher or just beginning to explore a new craft, there is always something to learn, something to share and plenty of inspiration to take home.

The group's next gathering will be held on Thursday, 29 October, at Bungendore School of Arts from 6.30-8.30pm. Members look forward to another evening of making, sharing and connecting – and perhaps welcoming a few more crafters along the way.

Photo supplied

Bungendore Quilters: Retreat at Mt Carmel

At the beginning of October we held our second retreat of the year at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in southern Sydney. Everyone had a great time and apart from lots of chatting and quilt discussion, much progress was made on quilts and other projects. Many wanted to finish their quilt tops ready for quilting and binding as they are keen to display them in our exhibition at the end of November.

One of the finished quilt tops was Trudi's sampler quilt which was started during Chris' refresher classes held last year. The blocks are unique with two

coordinating colours used and a different pattern in each block.

Our 17th Annual Exhibition is on the weekend of Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November sponsored by Bungendore Community Bank branch. Please save that date to be dazzled by colour and imagination – there is something for everyone! Raffle tickets are now on sale (\$2.00 each) to win one of our three handmade quilts. We'd love to welcome you to our show!

Photo supplied of Trudi's finished quilt top



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Community News

Queanbeyan Show: Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November

The Queanbeyan Show is back for its 129th year and promises to be the biggest one yet! The showgrounds are set to roar to life on the 7th and 8th of November as more than 14,000 people descend on Queanbeyan to experience the very best our region has to offer. This year's show is jam packed with entertainment included with admission. This includes the Community Bank Canberra and Regions Barnyard which returns with an interactive hands-on animal experience for showgoers young and old, allowing them to put down their phones and touch grass, metaphorically speaking. The Priam Arts and Crafts Pavilion is always a fan favourite, expertly

guided by show stalwart and chief steward Janice Moore and her loyal group of volunteers. This is where you will be able to appreciate the pure talent of the Queanbeyan region with show staples, jams, cakes, fruits, flowers, vegetables, photography, wool and so much more! But be quick, entries close 30 October at midnight. The main arena will be abuzz with a massive range of entertainment spanning both days. All the way from Sesame Street, Elmo and Cookie Monster will be delighting crowds with live shows across the weekend. Live music from the Royal Military College Band and the inaugural busking competition

in which punters can win \$1,000 will fill the grounds. Our emergency services will be facing off against the showies in the Lennock Ram truck pull competition which will see them go head-to-head for glory. Making their agricultural show debut this year is the FX Freestyle Kings who are used to selling out stadiums across the world. "The FX Freestyle Kings have previously sold-out stadium shows across the world and with the support of TeamMoto Yamaha and Lennock Ram we are so excited that they'll be at the show this year," said Queanbeyan Show Vice President Brent Hunter. "The Saturday Night Spectacular is going to feature heart pumping stunts, fireworks, music and so much more. It's not something you'll want to miss!" continued Mr Hunter.

Returning to the Queanbeyan Show for a second year is the DockDog National Titles and K9 Superwall, hosted by Farmer Dave of Big Brother fame. The national titles proved a smash hit attracting competitors from right across Australia and dazzled attendees for hours on end. The new, large Langes Automotive Dog Areana



has been setup to capitalise on the popularity of the four-legged champions promising a bigger and better viewing experience across the weekend. Ticket prices for the Queanbeyan Show start as low as \$10 for a child, \$18 for an adult and \$50 for a

family of four. Children aged 6 and under are free. More information on what's happening at the Queanbeyan Show will be added to their website in the coming weeks -<https://queanbeyanshow.com.au/> Photo supplied



Bungendore High School Buzz

Year 10 headed to the National Museum of Australia and the Museum of Australian Democracy (at Old Parliament House) as part of our study into Rights and Freedoms. Through our guided tour, we viewed items in the First Australians Exhibit and heard stories about notable Indigenous Australians such as John Moriarty who designed the artwork on the Qantas 747 plane, and Faith Bandler who campaigned for Indigenous Australians to be counted in the census as part of the 1967 referendum. Through this excursion we were able to view a range of primary sources that would

help us with our assessment task. While we were waiting for our guided tour at the Museum, we managed a quick visit to the Antarctica exhibit. We made the most of this amazing opportunity and explored the exhibit with enthusiasm. We then headed to the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House) which was also both educational and engaging. We participated in the "Our Voice, Our Choices" program, where we reenacted a historical debate about the damming of the Franklin River in Tasmania. This gave us the opportunity

to experience what it was like to discuss an important political issue. In addition to supporting our topic we were learning last term, we also explored a section about the rights and freedoms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, learning about the challenges they have faced and their ongoing fights for equality and recognition. Overall, the excursion helped deepen our understanding of Australia's history, democracy and the importance of having a voice. Written by Abby and Jasmine, Year 10 Photo supplied



See you at the
Bungendore Show
Sunday, 25 October 2026

A fun-filled family event with something for everyone!
Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors for supporting this spectacular community event.

Kristy McBain MP
Member for Eden-Monaro

 Kristy.McBain.com.au

From Your Local Captains | October

A bush fire plan needs a trigger

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

Many people living in bush fire-prone areas will tell you they have a bush fire survival plan.

They know they would leave rather than stay and defend. They have thought about where they might go, what they would take and how they would move their pets or livestock.

But there is one question that can reveal a dangerous gap in even the best-intentioned plan:

What, exactly, will trigger you to leave?

It sounds simple, but 'we'll leave if it gets bad' is not a trigger. Neither is 'we'll see what happens' or 'we'll wait until someone tells us to go'.

By the time a fire looks or feels dangerous, leaving may already be difficult - or no longer safe.

Bush fires can move quickly and conditions can change with little warning. Smoke can reduce visibility, fallen trees may block roads,

power and phone services can fail, and the route you planned to use may no longer be available.

An official warning is important information, but it should not be the only thing standing between your household and action. Warnings may not arrive as early as you expect, and a fire can escalate faster than warnings can be issued.

That is why your decision needs to be made before there is smoke in the air.

Choose your trigger now

A trigger is a clear, pre-agreed point at which your household stops considering its options and puts the plan into action.

Your trigger might be:

- an Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating;
- a Total Fire Ban combined with forecast hot, dry and windy conditions;
- a fire starting within a particular area;
- the fire reaching a location, road or landmark you have identified in advance;
- receiving a particular warning level; or
- advice from the NSW

Rural Fire Service or another emergency service to leave.

The right trigger will depend on your household, your property and where you live. However, it must give you enough time to leave safely.

Households with young children, older people, someone with a disability or medical needs, or pets and livestock may need to act much earlier. Moving horses, loading animals, collecting medications or helping someone with limited mobility takes time - usually more time than we imagine when making plans on an ordinary day.

Make the decision specific

Sit down with everyone in your household and finish this sentence:

We will leave when...

Then make the rest of the plan equally clear:

- Who makes the final call?
- Where will you go?
- Which route will you take?
- What is your alternative route?
- What will you take?
- Who will collect children or other family members?
- How will you move your

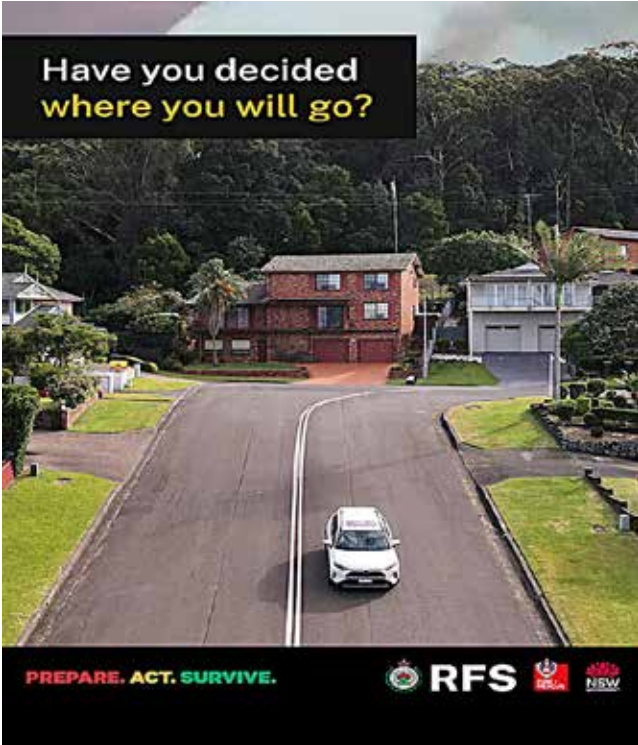
animals?

- Who needs to know that you have left?
- What will you do if some household members are away?

Write the answers down and make sure everyone understands them. If different members of the household have different ideas about when to leave, resolve that now - not while a fire is approaching.

Hazards Near Me NSW is an important tool for monitoring fires and warnings, but downloading the app is not the same as making a plan. Set a watch zone around your home and other important locations, understand the warning levels and check information from more than one reliable source.

Make sure more than one household member has Hazards Near Me NSW installed, with watch zones covering your home, workplaces, schools and anywhere animals are kept. Agree on how you will contact one another and where you will meet if you are separated when the plan is activated. You can create or review your household



plan at myfireplan.com.au.

Most importantly, decide what information will cause you to act.

A bush fire survival plan should remove decisions from the most stressful part of an emergency. It should tell you what to do while you still have time, visibility and safe roads.

Having a destination, a packed bag and a plan for the pets is valuable - but only if you have also decided

when to begin.

A plan tells you what you will do. A trigger makes sure you do it in time.

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



You risk more than your own safety going a few **K**'s over.

No matter how quiet it is, or how many times you've driven the road, every kilometre over the speed limit increases the risk of a serious crash.

Isn't it time we got serious about casual speeding?



CASUAL SPEEDING.

EVERY **K** COUNTS

National Service in Australia: 1911-1972

Part 1 of 2
Theme For Remembrance Day in Bungendore

10.00am 11 November 2026
Australia had four military service schemes between 1911 and 1972. The schemes were all part of National Service (NS). Earlier schemes aimed to build a reserve of trained citizen militia, rather than a professional, full-time standing army. Later ones boosted military strength to meet defence needs. NS had a huge impact on the lives of the men and their families. Some appreciated the mateship and duty but it disrupted careers, education and relationships, with lasting consequences. Many men suffered or even lost their lives because of NS.

Conscription and National Service

The terms ‘Conscription’ and ‘National Service’ are sometimes used interchangeably. But they don’t mean the same thing.
‘Conscription’ is when a civilian is forced to enrol in the armed services, such as the Army. This is mandatory military service. Governments sometimes introduce conscription during national emergencies or periods of war.
‘National Service’ is a broader form of compulsory service to a nation. NS is when a civilian is forced to join a national organisation for a set period. It can be military service or civilian duties, such as working in hospitals or community programs. In Australia, all NS schemes have been for military service.
The terms ‘called up’ and ‘drafted’ are used to refer to compulsory enlistment in the armed services. People who have been conscripted

are sometimes called ‘conscripts’ or ‘draftees’.
‘Militia’ usually means a citizen or reserve military force or organisation. A militia is a part-time service and is not part of the regular military services (Navy, Army or Air Force).
In Australia, there have been four Service Systems since 1911. All have been for Military Service

- Universal Service Scheme 1911 to 1929
- National Service Scheme 1940 to 1946
- National Service Scheme 1950 to 1959
- National Service Scheme 1964 to 1972

Universal Service Scheme 1911 to 1929
Under the Defence Acts of 1903 and 1904, the Australian Government could call up ‘unexempted’ males in time of war. The Defence Act 1909 (Cth) made military training and service compulsory in times of peace.
The Defence Act 1909 excluded men who were not ‘substantially of European origin or descent’ from the scheme. This effectively excluded First Australian men. This clause was often used to exclude First Australian men from the regular army services, but many found ways to enlist and serve anyway. It is likely that similarly, First Australian men found ways to join the Scheme if they wanted to.
The Universal Service Scheme was Australia’s first Service System. It began in January 1911 and continued throughout World War I.
The main aim of the Scheme was

to build a reserve of trained citizen Militia.
At the time, the permanent Army had only a few thousand men whose main tasks were to administer the Army, train the Militia and staff the coastal forts. If Australia were invaded, the Government could mobilise the Militia to form an army that would defend the Country.
The Universal Service Scheme required all males aged 12 and older to undertake military training. They had to be British subjects and had to have lived in Australia for at least 6 months. Under this Scheme, participants joined either the Cadets or the Citizen Forces.
Some men were automatically excluded from the Universal Scheme. Others could apply for an exemption for specific reasons.
From 1 January 1911, the Scheme required:

- boys aged 12 to 18 to train at school as junior or senior military cadets
- men aged 18 to 20 to join and train with the Citizen Forces
- men aged 20 to 26 to join the Citizen Forces (limited to one registration or one muster-parade per year except in a period of imminent danger).

Adults aged 18 to 20 served for 16 days a year, including 8 days in their local military training camp. The Cadet scheme ended in 1922.
Adults over 20 had to attend an annual 6-day training camp and drill (military training exercises).
Some 636,000 men were called up to serve in the Citizen Forces - the Militia during the first four years of the Universal Service Scheme. Citizen Force members could not serve overseas nor be conscripted into the regular Army.
The structure of Australia’s Defence Forces changed with the start of World War I. At the time, members of the regular Army and the Militia could not serve outside Australia under law.
In 1914, to overcome this, the Australian Government raised two forces for overseas service:

- the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF)
- the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

Thousands of Australian men wanted to sign up when recruitment offices opened on 10 August 1914. By the end of 1914, the AIF had recruited more than 52,000 soldiers. After broadening the conditions of enlistment in June 1915, another 165,000 men enlisted by the end of 1915.
Australia’s Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, (the Little Digger) strongly supported Conscription during World War I. He tried to introduce it twice. A Plebiscite (non-binding vote affecting Constitution) conducted in October 1916 was unsuccessful (49% in Favour and 51% Against). A subsequent Referendum (vote changing the Constitution) conducted in December 1917 was again unsuccessful with 46% in Favour

and 54% Against. More than 2.2 million Australians voted in the first instance however fewer voted the second time.
When the Scullin Labor Government was elected in October 1929, it quickly set out to: abolish compulsory military training, promote voluntary enlistment for defence force recruiting, and suspend compulsory training and Citizen Forces from 1 November 1929.
National Service Scheme 1940 to 1946
Days after the beginning of World War II, the War Cabinet determined that the Army reserves - Citizen Military Forces (CMF) - must maintain a strength of 75,000 adequately trained men. So, on 15 November 1939, the Menzies Government announced that compulsory military training would start on 1 January 1940.
Officially known as the ‘Commonwealth Militia (Citizen Military Forces) National Service Scheme’, it was often called by different names in the newspapers.
Eligibility: This national service scheme required unmarried men who turned 21 in the registration period to complete 3 months of training in the CMF.
Exemptions and deferments: Some men were automatically excluded from national service. Others could apply for exemption or deferral (delay) for specific reasons.
First Nations men and men of non-European descent were not specifically excluded from national service this time. Those who had resided in Australia for six months or more, were British subjects and met the age requirements were eligible for national service.
Men were deemed exempt from the scheme if they were either: a member of the Permanent Forces (RAN, Army, RAAF), a member of the Reserve Forces (Citizen Naval Reserve, CMF or Citizen Air Force).
Men could apply for an exemption if they were:

- a conscientious objector (on moral or religious grounds)
- a minister of religion, a member of a religious order or a full-time theological student
- employed in a specified reserved occupation, such as police officers or prison officers
- living in a remote location
- medically unfit for service (mental or physical disability).

Men could apply for to defer if they were:

- employed in an industry or occupation deemed essential to Australia’s war effort or ‘in the national interest’
- supporting dependants (single-parent family, aged parents, widowed mother, orphaned siblings).

Training and service
By mid-1942, some 290,000 men were enlisted in the CMF. At this time, National Servicemen could

only serve in Australia. They could not be deployed to serve in the war overseas. NS for 21-year-old males continued throughout the war.
Conscription policy of 1943
With the escalating war against Japan, the Australian military and Government were under increased pressure in 1943.
On 26 January 1943, the Curtin Government passed the Defence (Citizen Military Forces) Act 1943 (Cth). This meant that members of the CMF could be deployed to the South-Western Pacific Zone (SWPZ). Previously they could only serve in Australia. The boundaries of the Zone are defined in the Act.
National Servicemen in the CMF could be ordered to serve anywhere in that Zone, including:
Australia, Australian Territory of New Guinea, Australian Territory of Papua, Borneo, British Solomon Islands, Protectorate parts of Dutch New Guinea, parts of the Netherlands East Indies (not Sumatra) and the Philippines, Timor.
A number of militia units fought on the Kokoda Track in the (then) Australian territories of New Guinea and Papua. A small number of National Servicemen served in Dutch New Guinea.
Approval of conscription under the Defence (Citizen Military Forces) Act was set to end 6 months after hostilities ceased.
Both National Service and deployment to the SWPZ ended in 1946.
Postwar political pressures
Global politics after World War II were largely shaped by the escalating Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States (US) and the nuclear threat.
The postwar rise of the US as a global economic and political power influenced how other nations pursued their goals and foreign policy in the global domain.
To strengthen Australia’s alliances with its ‘great and powerful friends’ - the US and the United Kingdom (UK) - it was important to be able to make adequate military contributions to an allied conflict or action. For example, Australia’s commitment to the United Nations in 1950 at the start of the Korean War.
Asia-Pacific instability
During World War II, Japanese forces displaced European colonial powers in the Asia-Pacific region. These events destabilised political affairs in the region.
After the war, colonial powers (France, Netherlands, Portugal, UK) either withdrew or tried to reimpose colonial rule in many of their former colonies and territories.
In response, independence or nationalist movements arose, some of which were communist or socialist. This led to conflict with colonial powers or between competing movements.

continued next page



National Service in Australia: 1911-1972

Continued from page 10

Happening so close to Australia, the Malayan Emergency from 1948, the Korean War from 1950 and the Vietnam War from 1955 were perceived as credible threats to Western democracy.

Support for National Service

After World War II, the size of the Australian military was substantially reduced. This was mainly due to postwar demobilisation and the government focus on economic development.

Across all services, Australia's defence force shrank from around 500,000 personnel to less than 50,000 by 1950. Voluntary recruitment was not enough to increase numbers in the armed services.

National Service was seen as an effective way to ensure that Australia's military force had enough personnel to meet operational needs and kept reserves (the CMF) at full strength.

Many politicians and much of the public perceived National Service as a social good. It was thought to be a way of building character, physical health and ability and promoting social cohesion.

National Service Scheme 1950 to 1959

In the context of the intensification of the Cold War in Europe, Communist insurgency and success in South-East Asia, and the Korean War, the Menzies government sponsored the National Service Act 1951. The legislation provided for the compulsory call-up of males turning 18 on or after 1 November 1950, for service training of 176 days. Trainees were required to remain on the Reserve of the Commonwealth Military Forces (CMF) for five years from initial call up. Men could nominate the service in which they wished to be trained. Those nominating the Navy or the Air Force were considered only if they volunteered for service outside Australia. The first call-up notice was issued on 12 April 1951.

Between 1951 and 1959 over 500,000 men registered, 52 intakes were organised and some 227,000 men were trained.

Those who elected to undertake their training in the Army could break up their training requirements into two periods, 98 days in the Australian Regular Army and 78 days in the CMF.

Those who elected to undertake their training with the Royal Australian Navy (6862) or the Royal Australian Air Force (23,500) had to complete their 176 days in one stretch, but later amended to 154 days in 1955 and ended in 1957. Members had to remain in the Reserve Forces (Naval Reserve, Citizen Military Forces or Citizen Air Force) for 3 years from the date of call up.

Except for a minor few, National Servicemen completed their training and service in Australia.

National Servicemen in this scheme did not do any active service unless they enlisted in the regular services. At least 3 who did, served and died. During the scheme, around 50 other National Servicemen died, mainly through accidents.

The scheme was criticised as being irrelevant to modern Defence needs, with skill becoming more important than numbers. The scheme was also costly for the Regular Army, as manpower resources and funding had to be diverted from ongoing operational requirements to support the recruitment and training of short-term personnel.

On 24 November 1959 Cabinet decided that National Service call-ups should be terminated.

To be continued....

Peter Hugonnet
for BWMC

QPRC bans smart glasses in aquatic centres

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has voted to ban AI smart glasses in its aquatic centres to help protect the privacy and safety of residents and visitors.

The ban follows growing concern about wearable devices that can discreetly record video, take photos and capture audio. The change will help ensure aquatic centres remain safe, respectful and welcoming places for everyone.

Mayor Kenrick Winchester said the decision was a practical response to emerging technology and community expectations around privacy.

"Council is committed to creating safe

and respectful environments across all of its facilities, so residents and visitors feel welcome, safe and comfortable," Mayor Winchester said.

"We've recently seen a rise in wearable technology such as smart glasses and similar devices. These devices can record video, take photos and capture audio without other people being aware.

"While I recognise this technology has legitimate uses, including for people who need accessibility and disability support, it also raises important privacy and child safety concerns.

"Council already has rules in place around

photography, filming and inappropriate recording activities in our venues. With this new technology, it makes sense to provide clear guidance about when these devices can be used and to make sure everyone remains safe.

"These emerging technologies warrant a review of our existing position, rules and regulations to make sure our community, and everyone who uses our facilities, remains safe and respected."

Council will update conditions of entry and signage at its aquatic centres to reflect the ban.



You don't have to go it alone
with your mental health

Medicare Mental Health has a range of free, connected services.
Visit the website, talk to a qualified mental health practitioner over the phone,
or find a Medicare Mental Health Centre near you.

FREE TO ACCESS. NO REFERRAL. NO APPOINTMENT.

Call 1800 595 212 or visit medicarementalhealth.gov.au

medicare

Mental Health



Australian Government

Maria’s Community Corner

Maria Porreca

October is the month for CWA AGM’s. So far I have attended 4 and more to come.

On Tuesday 6th we had a visit from the Executive Assistant of CWA of NSW and we held discussion with EPIC (where the 2027 State Conference will be held) and with Mayor Winchester and a couple of QPRC staff. They were very excited with the arrangements to date and are looking forward to an influx of visitors in May 2027.

Then on Thursday 8th the Queanbeyan Health Walking Group celebrated the Group’s birthdays for October at the Urban Bar and Grill. The food was delicious and the service was very friendly. We all had a great time.

The CWA Southern Tablelands Group Council held their AGM on Saturday 10th in the school hall of St Gregory’s School. Over 60 members attended and included our Guest Speaker, Elizabeth O’Dwyer, who is an officer of the CWA State Social Issues Committee. Elizabeth is a very inspiring speaker, I had the pleasure of listening to her speak at this year’s State Conference in Forster. Other guests were Cr Bryce Wilson (representing Mayor Winchester), members from Central Western, Hume, Monaro, South West and Wollondilly Groups and members from Branches within the Southern Tablelands Group. Queanbeyan Evening Branch hosted the event and as usual they excelled in their efforts. All positions were filled on the day, which was a fantastic result.

I also attended the AGM of the Italian Community Centre on the Monday evening. Their Executive was elected but they are hoping for more Committee members. If you would like to be involved, please contact them via their new webpage (Italian Community Centre).

The following evening the CWA Queanbeyan Evening Branch held it’s



AGM at the Axis Centre. About half of our membership attended and all positions were filled on the night. Congratulations ladies, fantastic result.

A group of us like to support the businesses along Monaro Street and on Wednesday 14th we had our catch-up lunch at the Tourist. The food was great and we had an enjoyable afternoon.

And to round off the fortnight I travelled to Taralga on Thursday to attend the CWA Branch’s AGM that evening. I stayed overnight with a gorgeous friend, and it was lovely to catch up. All their important positions were filled and given that it is a small community (population approximately 330) that was fantastic. This Branch holds ‘Tea & Talk’ monthly where the public can call into their rooms for a cuppa and a chat. They are also involved in Community Open Days, Tractor Rallies, Taralga Spring Fair, Rodeo, Biggest Morning Tea, AP&H show and so much more. Congratulations ladies, well done.

Till next time, take care everyone.

Maria

Photos supplied



Council Meeting Summary
- 14 October 2026

- QPRC
- Here is the summary of the Ordinary Council meeting of 14 October 2026.
- The archived recording of the meeting is available at: <https://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/archive.php>
- Council approved the Leave of Absence application submitted by Councillor John Preston for the 14, 21 and 28 October 2026 Council meetings
 - Council heard from nine members of the public and staff who made presentations about items on the agenda including: Development Application at 11 & 21 Slate Place, Enviroana for construction of a warehouse; Endangered Heritage Partnership; Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union and Sports Club Limited v QPRC; amendment to Development Application for a roof canopy of the Queanbeyan Bowls Club; Captains Flat Lead Management Working Group; Post Exhibition Report concerning naming Alma Lane; and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Chair’s Annual Report 2026
 - Council granted conditional consent to Development Application at 11 & 21 Slate Place, Enviroana for construction of a warehouse, ancillary office, and signage for use as a light industry and a variation to the maximum permissible building height
 - Council granted conditional consent to Development Application at 26 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan (Queanbeyan Bowls Club) for amendments to extent of roof canopy, erection of modular walls to enclose roof canopy, and removal of consolidation condition
 - Council endorsed concept of a comprehensive QPRC Housing Strategy, noted that work on outstanding actions in the Affordable Housing Strategy 2023 will continue and be reported upon, and will reconvene the Affordable Housing Working Group as needed
 - Council endorsed the draft Infill Housing Strategy for public exhibition at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au> and will consider the results of public submissions prior to adopting the Strategy
 - Council approved a Cultural Grant of \$2,850 to the Cordialis Foundation to assist with costs for three community heritage singing events in Queanbeyan
 - Council endorsed proposed partnership with Endangered Heritage Pty Ltd for in-kind specialist services in exchange for occupancy of the Queanbeyan Printing Museum site and authorised the General Manager to finalise and execute an agreement for up to two years
 - Council will not progress the naming of the laneway from Duncan Street to the rear of the QPRC Braidwood Depot as Alma Lane, and will place the name Alma on the QPRC Roads Register and Place Names Register for consideration for naming a new road or community asset
 - Council adopted the Complaint Management Policy
 - Council adopted the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter 2026
 - Council received information report about Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Chair’s Annual Report
 - Council received information report about Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union and Sports Club Limited v Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
 - Council received information report about Dunns Creek Road Stage 1: Tralee to Hume (ACT) Connection Update
 - Council received information report with letter of response from Minister Aitchison about Foxlow Bridge and Briars Sharrow
 - Council received information report about the Faster Assessments Incentive Program Round 2
 - Council received information report about the Captains Flat Lead Management Working Group
 - Council received information report about Disability Access Audit Works
 - Council received information report with the resolution action sheet
 - Council received and noted the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 14 September 2026
 - Council will apply to the Geographical Names Board to name a road or street after the late Lord Joseph McGrail-Bateup
 - Council will ban the use of AI Smart Glasses from all
 - Council received information report with answers to councillor questions about matters on the 23 September Council meeting agenda
 - Council received information report with answers to councillor questions about Captains Flat Lead Containment Cell
 - Council received information report with answers to councillor questions about matters on the 14 October meeting agenda
 - In closed session, Council authorised acquisition of land, easements and right of carriageway for water supply works associated with the Queanbeyan to Bungendore bulk water pipeline project at 164 Bundulok Road for sum of \$69,500 and 194 Bundulok Road for \$17,000 #QPRCLive. Council will classify the land parcel acquired at 164 as operational land and authorised General Manager to execute any documents associated with the acquisitions
 - In closed session, Council awarded contract 2026-78 for Road Rehabilitation Services to Fulton Hogan Australia Pty Ltd for the tendered Schedule of Rates using Rise and Fall conditions of the contract until 30 June 2027. Council agreed to extend the contract by a further 2 years (in 1-year increments) based on satisfactory performance of contractor as determined by staff and negotiation of tendered Schedule of Rates
 - In closed session, Council awarded contract 2026-76 for Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing works to Norman McMahon Patches Pty Ltd trading as Patches Asphalt for the tendered Schedule of Rates using Rise and Fall conditions of the contract until 30 June 2029. Council agreed to extend the contract by a further 2 years (in 1-year increments) based on satisfactory performance of contractor as determined by staff and negotiation of tendered Schedule of Rates with the contractor
- 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

Jerrabomberra High School expansion completed ahead of schedule with new VET facilities, classrooms now in use

Students at Jerrabomberra High School have begun Term 4 learning in brand-new, permanent classrooms and vocational education and training (VET) facilities, after the state Government delivered a major expansion ahead of schedule.

The fast-tracked project doubles the school's capacity to 1,000 and gives students immediate access to industry-standard VET facilities, including a dedicated VET kitchen, as they pursue hospitality and vocational pathways alongside their HSC studies.

The upgrade includes a new two-storey building with 16 additional classrooms, a vocational education and training (VET) kitchen, an additional semi-commercial kitchen, a new science laboratory, an additional timber workshop, and a multimedia workshop, studio and store.

The upgrade also delivers expanded outdoor green space, a large shade structure, additional staff and student facilities, and expanded bike storage and parking.

The new VET kitchen and semi-commercial kitchen give students hands-on, industry-standard training facilities to pursue hospitality qualifications at school, while the expanded timber and

multimedia workshops support trades and creative industries pathways.

Jerrabomberra High School Principal Scott O'Hara said, "Our school community is thrilled to see Stage 2 delivered ahead of schedule, giving our students access to these outstanding new facilities sooner than we expected."

"The new VET kitchen and workshop spaces will give our students genuine hands-on pathways into vocational careers, alongside the academic opportunities our school already offers."

The expansion was a 2023 election commitment from the NSW Government, addressing enrolment demand in the growing Jerrabomberra and Queanbeyan region after the permanent school opened in 2024 with capacity for 500 students. The expanded capacity at Jerrabomberra High School will support this population growth and ensure local students have a place at a world-class public school close to home.

Deputy Premier of New South Wales and Minister for Education and Early Learning Prue Car said, "We made a commitment to the Jerrabomberra community to deliver this expansion, and I'm proud that we're delivering it ahead



of schedule.

"These new facilities mean local students no longer have to wait for the world-class VET and vocational training opportunities they deserve."

"This is what our record investment in public education looks like - permanent classrooms and modern facilities, delivered for growing communities like Jerrabomberra."

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education and Member for Monaro Steve Whan said, "Coming up to the last election the community and the two local P&Cs told us that the high school was not big enough. I'm thrilled that we have delivered our commitment ahead of schedule. It's ready for new cohort of Year 12 students starting this week."

"As Skills Minister I am also thrilled that the new facilities boost opportunities for vocational training."

"The new VET kitchen at Jerrabomberra High School gives local students a genuine head start on a hospitality career, with the same industry-standard equipment they'll use in the workforce."

Photo supplied

Children's Week 2026

childrensworld.org.au

FREE ACTIVITIES for children

24 October - 1 November

Theme: Children have the right to use their own language, celebrate their culture and practise their religion.
- Based on Article 30 of the UNCRC

Artwork Winner: Aurelie (10 yrs) inspired this design with her artwork.

Join us to Play and Celebrate

The Children in Queanbeyan

When and Where?
Saturday, 24 October
10 am to 1 pm
Queanbeyan Town Park
(alongside Campbell St)

What will happen? Storytime, healthy snacks, obstacle course, loose parts play, sensory games, dance and music, Police, SES and RFS vehicles, information stalls from local services and schools, and lots of fun for everyone!

Don't forget to bring your water bottle, a healthy snack for morning tea, a hat, and of course, your friends and family!

*** BBQ, coffee and snacks available for purchase**

*** In the event of bad weather, we will celebrate at Queanbeyan Public School Hall**

*** follow us to be updated**

Queanbeyan Children's Week

BUNGENDORE BOWLING AND SPORTS CLUB

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

JERIKAYE

2026 **THE VOICE** CONTESTANT

LOCAL TALENT. POWERFUL VOICE. BIG ENERGY. DON'T MISS IT!

DJ / SINGER MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

6 PM - 10 PM

Great Music • Great Night • Great Company

BUNGENDORE BOWLING AND SPORTS CLUB
TURRALLO TERRACE, BUNGENDORE NSW

LIVE MUSIC • COLD DRINKS • GOOD TIMES

Everyone Welcome!

Captains Flat left waiting as State steps back from lead fight

Debbie Evans

Responding to recent news that the Premier’s Department will no longer have a permanent representative on the Captains Flat Lead Management Working Group, Cr Katrina Willis said it “Looks like the Government is walking away”.

Speaking at the October 14 meeting of Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council, she added that the “People of Captains Flat have a right to feel abandoned by the State Government”.

In a report to the meeting, it was announced that “The Regional Coordination Unit, which sits within NSW Premiers Department, has notified Council that it will no longer have a direct role in coordinating lead management in Captains Flat through the Lead Management Network.

The report stated “Whilst the Unit will continue to support good inter-agency communication and connection, it will no longer attend meetings. Council will continue the role of coordinating the working group within our governance framework and capacity.”

Captains Flat Community Association President, Ellanor Pavlovich, addressed Council in open forum expressing the

community’s disappointment with the withdrawal of the Premiers Department, especially where things are at with the remediation plans.

Without them she said Council and the community would not be progressing lead decontamination of Captains Flat very far.

She said the withdrawal was “very disappointing and a disheartening signal from the State Government.”

Cr Willis also questioned why this was the first time Council had heard about the withdrawal when the email announcement was received in May.

QPRC General Manager, Rebecca Ryan, said it had been a matter of timing as she had wanted to make sure the Working Group were aware, we didn’t see it was such a big issue, the regional co-ordination group attending didn’t add much more value.

“We have good engagement with the EPA, Crown Lands and Transport who we are contacting and engaging with them,” they attend meetings when contacted or asked to.

“So, it was just a timing matter of when I had a Working Group meeting to inform them.”

Cr Willis said she thinks the decision is unacceptable, and looks bad, adding she felt Council should lodge a complaint over the matter.

“We spent quite a bit of time a couple of years ago talking about how to get the state government involved in this challenge at a senior enough level and this is the outcome.

She noted that the containment cell set aside to receive contaminated soil will close in four months, yet guidelines for accessing the \$1 million allocated to remediate private land have still not been announced.

She said as a Councillor who has tried to represent the community’s interest, the withdrawal was “very shoddy treatment.”

This is an enormous challenge, but it isn’t insurmountable, we can meet it, but we can’t do that if the State government just goes “hands off.”

“We can’t meet if the State Government isn’t going to be there helping us.”

Cr Bryce Wilson said Council should not let the State Government off the hook.

“This has to be fixed by the Crown

i.e. the NSW Government.”

The Minns State Government announced the \$1 million fund on July 3 this year as part of the 2026-2027 NSW Budget.

The purpose of the funding being to provide financial assistance to households with surface soil lead concentrations above the national health investigation level, by supporting practical works such as applying clean topsoil and returfing affected areas to reduce exposure.

In August local member for Monaro, Steve Whan, told the Independent “The funding will be administered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for eligible residents.

“The EPA is currently working with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and NSW Government agencies to finalise the design of the program.”

He gave assurance in his August 23 response that “Residents will be able submit a formal expression of interest (EOI), with details of eligibility, testing and application requirements to be provided in the next few weeks.”

Nearly two months later, residents still have no guidelines on how to apply for funding to remediate their

land.

Ms Pavlovich said she doesn’t feel now is the time for the Premiers Department to pull away, they need to be the ones to pull all the departments together for the people of Captains Flat. Departments involved include Crown Lands, Legacy Mines, the Environmental Protection Authority, Transport for NSW and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council.

“They should be leading us; their withdrawal is very disappointing.

“I’ll try to keep plugging along and do my best to make them see the error of this decision.” She concluded.

The Council report stated “Attendance by a core group of five community members is providing constructive engagement (on the Captains Flat Lead Management Working Group). NSW Agencies have been encouraged to connect and engage with the Captains Flat community through their monthly market days. Council will again operate a stall at a market day early in 2027 to disseminate information, receive feedback and discuss any Council issues and projects of interest to those attending.”

New activities for Bungendore Seniors

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

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



conversation, a few laughs, some games and morning tea.

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

See right for dates. Everyone over the age of 55 is welcome!

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

For more information email bungendoreseniors@gmail.com

Tai Chi & Qigong Mondays 1.45pm

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 - returns on 16th November until 14th December

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

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

Bookings are essential.

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

Chair Yoga Tuesdays 2.30pm

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

All welcome to attend

Boot Scooting Fridays 10am

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 Jan on 0439 754 799

Photos: Seniors recently had a fabulous day out exploring Cockington Green Gardens and Gold Creek.

Get Togethers: games and morning tea THURSDAYS

Thurs 29 October
Thurs 12 November
Thurs 26 November
Thurs 10 December

FRIDAYS

Fri 23 October
Fri 6 November
Fri 20 November
Fri 4 December
Fri 18 December



COMMUNITY BANK BUNGENDORE SHOW 2026



A great day for everyone!



25 OCTOBER 2026

BUNGENDORE SHOWGROUND, MATHEWS LANE BUNGENDORE



LIVE
MUSIC



DOG & PET
EVENTS



SHEEP DOG
DEMONSTRATIONS



FREE
KIDS ZONE



SHEEP, CATTLE &
HORSE COMPETITIONS



PAVILION



FOOD &
DRINKS



MARKET
STALLS



AND SO MUCH
MORE!

Saint Mary Of the Cross Memorial Walk at St Mary’s Bungendore

Mary Helen MacKillop was born on 15 January 1842 in Fitzroy, Melbourne, to Scottish immigrants Alexander and Flora MacKillop, the eldest of eight children. Money was tight and stayed that way, so by her mid-teens Mary was working, as a clerk, then a governess and then a teacher, to keep her family afloat. Long before she became a saint, Mary MacKillop was simply a young woman who did what needed to be done.

At the age of 24, Mary made the boldest decision of her life. She dedicated herself to God and took the name Mary of the Cross. It was a turning point, and the beginning of a life spent moving toward the people others overlooked.

Mary opened a school in a disused stable in Penola, South Australia. Her vision was simple and, for the time, radical: every child deserved an education, regardless of their family’s means. Other women were drawn to that vision and joined her. Here Mary founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Australia’s first religious order.

The Sisters were committed to working alongside people experiencing poverty, going wherever the need was greatest and living among the communities they served. That commitment took Mary across the country; into rural and remote towns most people had never thought to reach.

Mary’s path was not an easy one. She faced fierce opposition throughout her life, including a period of excommunication, a punishment she did not deserve and one that was later lifted.

Through it all, Mary held to two things at once: she refused to let anyone speak ill of those who had wronged her, and she never wavered in her convictions.

In 1992, Pope John Paul II declared that Mary had lived a life of heroic virtue, tested by adversity. It was the first formal step in the Church’s recognition of her as a saint, and from this point she was known as the Venerable Mary MacKillop.

On 19 January 1995, Mary McKillop was Beatified by Pope John Paul II at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney. Its significance being, the recognition happened in Australia, on the ground she’d walked and taught on. Australia had its own Blessed Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

About a month later, on 26 February 1995, the celebration of the Beautification of Sister Mary McKillop was held in Bungendore with dancers from Scotland, the Philippines and Tonga, and participants from the Aboriginal Community, all performing. The celebrations included a mass at the Showground attracting about 2000 people from Canberra and surrounding districts.

On 17 October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI canonised Mary of the Cross MacKillop in Rome. She became Saint Mary MacKillop, Australia’s first saint.

Bungendore has a positive connection with Saint Mary of the Cross that was demonstrated by her visits to St Mary’s to review the performance of her resident Sisters of Saint Joseph, operating

the St Mary’s School Bungendore in 1895, 1899 and 1901.

But her real legacy isn’t the title, it is the schools she opened, the sisters who carried her work forward, and the belief that every child has a right to an education.

Saint Mary MacKillop, Australia’s first saint, died on 8 August 1909. The Tomb of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop is located within the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel in North Sydney NSW.

Tess Montesin, a long-term Bungendore resident, previously a sister of Saint Joseph, retired from her calling to look after her aged parents. On her own initiative, Tess commenced the sole development of a Saint Mary of the Cross Walk in the garden grounds of St Mary’s Catholic Church at Bungendore and this venture is now being supported by the Parish Community.

The Walk is essentially a series of stainless-steel plaques that describe who Saint Mary of the Cross was and hopefully whom is with us in spirit at St Mary’s today.

A formal dedication of the Walk was held at St Mary’s Bungendore on 17 October, commencing with Mass at 10 am in the Garden and celebrated by Father Sijo Jose, parish priest. A number of the sisters of Saint Joseph from Goulburn also attended the dedication.

The memorial garden is in the grounds of St Mary’s and is open to respectful visitation from the Bungendore community.

Peter Hugonnet (long-time parishioner)

Woodchop Event Supports Braidwood & District Education Foundation



On Saturday, the 3rd of October, saw the second Majors Creek Hotel Woodchop event.

Although the weather was not too kind, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd and the woodchoppers.

A giant raffle of 12 prizes was organised by Jackie and Rowan Clark, proprietors of the Majors Creek Hotel, with the proceeds of ticket sales going to the BDEF. A total of \$1,602.00 was raised which also included meat tray raffle funds conducted by the Hotel in the weeks leading up to the Woodchop.

The Foundation would like to thank the businesses and individuals that contributed to the raffle along with those that attended the event and purchased the tickets. Of course, many thanks go to Jackie and Rowan and their staff.

Interestingly, 9 of the 12 prizes were won by Majors Creek residents.

The BDEF has been established for over 20 years and provides

financial assistance and support to our local youth with their university and TAFE studies.

Since our inception, we have assisted over 330 students through our scholarships. These scholarships assist with costs such as accommodation, laptops, travel, textbooks, tools of trade, uniforms etc. We rely on the generosity of our donors to continue to support our youth. As we are a registered charity under the Country Education Foundation, donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Applications have closed for the 2027 scholarships with over 15 submissions received. We wish these students all the very best with their studies knowing that our community is right behind you.

If you wish to learn more about the BDEF the link is <https://cef.org.au/foundations/braidwood/> or email cefbraidwooddistrict@gmail.com

Nick Fry
Chair, Braidwood & District Education Foundation

Photo supplied

Scholarship program to benefit Braidwood’s and Bungendore’s youth

Braidwood and Bungendore students will again benefit from a scholarship program, which will supplement their study costs in their first and second year of higher education.

Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank Branch Chairman Garry Cook said the Community Bank Branch Scholarship Program, which is open until 30 November 2026, was launched because the Branch believed local students deserved every opportunity to achieve their dreams.

“An investment in education yields great long-term dividends and by helping young people gain access to tertiary education, the returns to the student, their families and the local community are significant.”

Applications will also be considered from students wishing to undertake study at TAFE or school-based apprenticeships.

“The Community Bank Branch Scholarship Program is a transformative undertaking that changes the lives of local students,

strengthens communities for the long term and is a tangible example of the good that banking with us can achieve.”

“Our young people are our future, and we believe they deserve the best support possible to help forge their careers and achieve their dreams.”

Successful Community Bank Scholarship applicants will initially receive funding for one year and depending on academic performance, the scholarship may be renewed to assist in the second year of their study.

Applications are invited from eligible students, starting their studies in 2027. Applications close on 30 November 2026 and will be assessed in December 2026.

Last year, the Community Bank Branch Scholarship supported local student Jacques with his Advanced Diploma of Screen and Media at Sydney Actors School.

“This scholarship has greatly helped me in putting a strong foot forward in the renting world of Sydney allowing me to keep my

head above water in this flowing river and put all my attention on making the absolute most of this studying period.”

I would 100% recommend others apply as it’s run by lovely people who really care about where your going in life and how you want to get there!” - Jacques

The Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank Scholarship is part of the Bendigo Bank Scholarship Program, which partners with Community Bank branches, Rural Bank and The University of Melbourne.

The program has now supported over 1,984 students, with more than \$13.4 million in funding since its inception in 2007.

For further information please contact Director Jill Kuchel or Community Engagement Manager Nick Fry, Community Bank Braidwood and Bungendore on 0413 091 896 or visit www.bendigobank.com.au/scholarships OR <https://palerangfsl.smartygrants.com.au>

Vale Betty Pollard

On Thursday 8th October the Bungendore art and craft group that comprises the Thursday Club met for their usual gathering at the Bungendore War Memorial Hall. This time they held a morning tea in memory of one of their original members, Betty Pollard who passed away on 19th September at the age of 92.

Betty and her husband Lindsay had lived in Bungendore since 1984 and were well known as members of the Bungendore Show Society, organising the Bungendore Dog Show for many years.

Betty was a regular at the Bungendore Market each month, where she sold her knitted, crocheted and cross-stitched items and at Christmas her wonderful shortbread. She had a wicked sense of humour, always accompanied by a twinkle in her eye and she was a good friend to many.

Betty’s daughter Helen was in attendance to cut the cake and share with us the memories of a life well lived.

Lyn Randall
Photo supplied



No health, no wealth



Phil Harvey
As an independent financial adviser, I spend a lot of time planning for and helping achieve a better financial future for our clients. We help them build their super, invest, reduce debt and minimise tax. We talk about retirement, cash flow, insurance, investment returns and what needs to happen financially over the next five, ten or twenty years. All very important stuff. However, over the last few weeks, I have been reminded that while taking

care of our finances is important, it means very little if we don't have good health. We spend a lot of our lives planning for the future. We make sacrifices today so that we can travel later. We contribute to super so that we can enjoy retirement. We pay off the mortgage, build investments and accumulate wealth so that one day we will have greater freedom and choice. But there is an important assumption sitting behind all the planning. That we will be healthy enough to enjoy them. Money can give us control, certainty and confidence. It can give us choices and remove some of the stresses that come from not having enough. And good financial planning can absolutely improve our quality of life. But money itself isn't the goal. The goal is what it allows us to do. Spending time with our family. Travelling. Helping our children. Having the freedom to work a little less. Enjoying our hobbies. Being able to say yes to experiences without constantly worrying about what they cost. And sometimes, in concentrating so much on building the future, it can be easy to neglect the things that make that future worth having. So, by all means, minimise your tax, keep an eye on your super and investments, reduce unnecessary debt and make sure your insurance is appropriate. But also book the check-up you have been putting off. Lose a few kilos if you need to. Get some exercise and eat a little better. Get enough sleep. Take holidays. Pick up the phone and call someone you

haven't spoken to for a while. And above all, make time for the people who matter. None of that is particularly complicated, but that doesn't mean it's easy. Work gets busy, life gets in the way and there is always something that seems more urgent. We all need reminding occasionally. Me included! Financial planning is ultimately about creating choices and helping people live the life they want, both now and in the future. So perhaps the most important question isn't simply, "Will I have enough money?", but "Will I have enough good health to enjoy my money?" The best financial plan should support a good life. It can't replace it.

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



Burra Car Boot Sale: Sunday October 25

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026 from 9am to 1.00pm
All funds raised will go towards The Burra Community Shed for member projects, equipment and short courses, all in the name of Community Involvement. Burra Park, 3 Lagoon Road Burra NSW 2620
Stalls are just \$10 each. FREE entry to the general public. If you have any questions and to book a stall or two, please feel free to contact John on 0417 676 664. Food and drink on the day Rhonda from Cameleon Icecreamery will be here again with Home Made Ice Creams, milkshakes, thickshakes, slushies and dairy Free ice cream. The Burra Shed Cafe with volunteers will also be there with bacon and egg rolls, sausage sandwiches, soft drinks, juices and water. Coffee will be available by Brewing4Change. 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. Come and enjoy the sunshine and country hospitality in Burra. Thanks John Convine Workshop Manager The Burra Community Shed. Photo supplied



19-25
October
2026

AUSSIE
BIRD
COUNT

aussiebirdcount.org.au

YOU'RE INVITED

Captains Flat
Ball

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

WHERE: CAPTAINS FLAT
COMMUNITY HALL

TIME: 6.00PM

DRESS: GATSBY - 1920's

COST: \$70

INCLUDES 3 COURSE MEAL
& LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ages 18+ Only

Tickets

Bungendore Fine Art Gallery, Exhibition November - December Opening Saturday 24 October

Featuring Saturday Painters
and Sophie Baker

Opening Saturday 24 October
Join us for drinks and nibbles and

meet the artists 1 - 3 pm.
'The Saturday Painter's Exhibition,
during November - December at
Bungendore Fine Art Gallery offers
a variety of artistic styles, subjects



and media. These include, still life vignette, coastal scenes, outback, bird life and more. The artists are Edwina Walsh, Sue Crommie, John Bosler, Irena Zarebski, Trish Dillon, and Annette Rennie. "We have been working all year, striving to create some interesting paintings. We hope you enjoy our little joint exhibition.

Also on exhibition at the gallery is artist Sophie Baker.

Sophie paints with watercolour, acrylic, grit & wax, she paints Plein-air & tries to capture the movement in the landscape & her Landcare family with her naivety style.

Bungendore Fine Art Gallery
42b Ellendon Street, Bungendore
2621

Mobile: 0490 796 257
Images supplied



Queanbeyan Town Park Masterplan: comments close Wed 28 October

QPRC
An in person workshop was held on Wednesday 23 September 2026 to begin the community consultation phase of the Town Park Masterplan.

Thank you to everyone who attended and provided their thoughts.

In wake of that workshop, an online survey is now available. You can access it at the bottom of this page.

Summary

We are developing a Queanbeyan Town Park Masterplan and we want your input.

The Town Park is much loved by our community and we want to make sure that it remains so for years to come.

With this masterplan, we want to ensure the town park continues to be suitable for all members of our community well into the future.

We want a future town park to cater for families through play and recreational opportunities, provide accessible infrastructure for older residents and people with disability, support community events and social interaction, recognise and celebrate First Nations connections to Country, improve the attractiveness and activation of the town centre, and

be a flexible space for residents and visitors.

The masterplan will help us plan and deliver improvements that meet the needs of stakeholders and the community.

You can review the current facilities at Queanbeyan Town Park here on the YourVoice webpage

Have your say

Feedback can be provided by:

- Completing the online form on the YourVoice webpage
- Emailing feedback directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "Queanbeyan



Town Park Masterplan"

Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

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

Submissions must be received by Council by Wednesday 28 October 2026. Any submissions received may be included in the final report to Council.

\$1.4 billion aged care underspend as 106,000 older Australians wait for support

Aged care spending came in \$1.4 billion below budget even as more than 106,000 older Australians wait for ongoing Support at Home funding and thousands remain stuck in hospitals because appropriate care is unavailable.

Ageing Australia says the underspend exposes a stark gap between the funding allocated to aged care and the care reaching older Australians, with money left unspent despite significant and growing unmet demand.

Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said the figures raised serious questions about why funding had not been directed to people waiting for care.

"We don't have \$1.4 billion less need for aged care. We have more than 106,000 older Australians waiting for ongoing Support at Home funding and thousands stuck in hospital because there is nowhere appropriate for them to go.

"Whatever the reason for the underspend, the result is both

crystal clear and totally impossible to justify when so many older Australians are waiting for the care and support they desperately need."

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stuck in hospital because there is nowhere appropriate for them to go.

"Whatever the reason for the underspend, the result is both crystal clear and totally impossible to justify when so many older Australians are waiting for the care and support they desperately need."

Ageing Australia estimates around \$510 million could fund all three of its emergency residential aged care measures this financial year:

- lifting this year's AN-ACC increase from 2.55 per cent to 5 per cent
- increasing the hotelling supplement by 3.5 per cent pending a review of the real funding need
- bringing forward the planned \$5 increase to the accommodation supplement from March 2027 to October 2026.

That would still leave around \$900 million, which Ageing Australia estimates could immediately take 30,000 older Australians off the Support at Home waiting list.

"The numbers make the choices pretty stark. The \$1.4 billion underspend the Government has banked could fund all three emergency measures we've proposed to stabilise residential aged care as well as delivering services to 30,000 older Australians waiting for Support at Home.

"The Government says Australia needs to build around 10,000 aged care beds every year for the next two decades. Yet in the space of a month, more than 3,600 planned beds have been shelved or put at risk following a real terms funding cut.

"That's almost the same number of older Australians currently stuck in hospital because there is nowhere appropriate for them to go.

"The Government cannot say we desperately need thousands of new beds and then make funding decisions that stop those beds from being built."

Ageing Australia is calling on the Government to ensure future aged

care underspends are reinvested into addressing unmet demand and building the capacity needed to care for Australia's ageing population.

"This isn't a story about there being less need for aged care than expected. The need is staring us in the face.

"Leaving \$1.4 billion unspent isn't a saving if the care it was intended to fund still needs to be delivered.

"The money was budgeted to meet the needs of older Australians. Those needs haven't disappeared. People are still waiting, hospitals are still full and desperately needed residential aged care beds are now being shelved by the thousand.

"We know where the problems are and we know what it would cost to start fixing them. The money was already budgeted. It is sitting in the government's bank account waiting to be spent. Every older person denied timely care deserves to know why."

Community News

Queanbeyan Seniors 50+ Activities

- Mondays**
Chair Yoga 9.30am to 10:30am
Seniors Centre - Cost \$10
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
- 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
- Thursdays**
Hand & Foot 1pm to 2pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$2
Exercise Class Chair 9.30am to 10.30am
Seniors Centre - Cost \$10
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



- Euchre** 1pm to 3pm
Seniors Centre - Cost \$3
<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.
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.
Photos supplied

Queanbeyan Uniting Church Jumble Sale: Saturday 24 October

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



Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub

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
	9D Breathwork	- 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Visit the Hub today
Level 1
251 Crawford St, Queanbeyan
Open Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

In partnership with



African lovegrass season is here

Bella Hart, Land Services Officer

African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is more than a weed - it's a landscape transformer - it fundamentally changes the composition and structure of the whole system. Once established, it replaces native and productive exotic species with dense stands of low-value feed for native and domestic herbivores. It alters wildlife habitat, contributes to longer and more dangerous fire seasons, degrades soils, and can lock the whole landscape into a lovegrass-dominated state that is costly and difficult to reverse.

The Monaro and ACT regions have become overrun with dense infestations of African lovegrass - but we need not meet the same fate. With prompt, coordinated action we can avoid this outcome.

What is African lovegrass?

African lovegrass is a highly invasive, hardy, tropical (C4) grass that thrives in poor, sandy or acidic soils, and tolerates heat and drought. While it originates from warmer climates, it has several adaptations that have allowed it to dominate in varying landscapes across the globe. These adaptations include:

- Perennial - one plant can survive for over a decade.
- Rapid response to ideal conditions - can complete its entire lifecycle

(germination to seed production) in 6 to 8 weeks when there is enough moisture and temperatures are higher than 20oC.

- Prolific seed producer - 300 to 1000 seeds per seed head (multiple per plant) that can remain viable for 17 years and build up a large seed bank. In an area with 52% coverage of African lovegrass, 45 million 350 thousand seeds were found in the soil waiting to germinate1.
- Low palatability and feed quality - encouraging animals to selectively graze other species first and creating more room for African lovegrass to occupy.
- Loves fire - very flammable, burns hot and outcompetes most other species post fire, creating even higher density infestations.

Impact

Where established on a large scale, it has financially crippled farms with control costs and loss of productive pastures. African lovegrass has also devastated native areas by choking out groundcover species and altering habitat composition.

This leads to a less resilient landscape that is more susceptible to other issues like erosion and can also decrease resale property values.

It extends the fire season

and makes infested areas (including in urban environments) more dangerous for longer periods, threatening infrastructure and human life.

It can also impact the mental health of those managing affected land. The persistence of this weed has led people to 'give up' or 'sell up', walking away from their way of life.

How to spot it

African lovegrass can be difficult to identify as there can be some variation between individual plants and there are several other similar looking native grasses.

To narrow it down, look for Christmas trees and curls:

- Christmas tree shaped seedheads when fully developed.
- Curly leaf tips when mature.
- Grows in tussocky clumps 30cm to 1.2 m tall.
- Narrow (roughly 3 mm) wide leaves.
- Typically has long hairs at the base of the leaf blade.

Practice makes perfect, so if you are unsure, get closer and look for these features before you come to a conclusion on what you are looking at.

How it spreads

- Seed spreads easily via:
- wind over short distances



- livestock, native animals and other domestic animals like dogs
- machinery, vehicles and people (clean you boots!)
- contaminated hay or feed
- water
- contaminated soil or mulch
- mowing when there is seed present

What you can do

Preventing further spread is the best control.

- Keep vehicles, boots and equipment clean, especially when travelling or getting outdoors.
- If feeding livestock, know where your hay or feed comes from and use a designated 'sacrifice' paddock for feeding or to allow animals to empty out before moving to clean areas. Cattle can excrete

viable seed for up to 10 days after consumption, and seed can also stick to fur and hooves.

- Avoid overgrazing and maintain sufficient ground cover - preferably over 90% during peak germination periods.

If you already have African lovegrass:

- Be careful to avoid mowing over African lovegrass with seedheads.
- For smaller infestations or individual plants, chip them out with a mattock and dispose of in the red bin.
- For larger but less dense infestations, spot spray with a semi-selective or broad-spectrum herbicide, and cut, bag and burn developed seedheads.

- For large, dense infestations seek professional advice.
- Sow and promote other competitive species.
- Make good management decisions to avoid further seed spread, and time control efforts to stop seed set.

African lovegrass is a landscape changer, but with early action and good hygiene practices, we can slow its spread and protect our productive and natural spaces. For more information or help with identification, scan the QR code to visit the NSW WeedWise website, or contact Local Land Services, QPRC or your local agronomist for more specific management advice or identification assistance.

Photo supplied

Migration holds ecosystems together

Andy Taylor, Senior NRM Advisor

Every year, billions of animals embark on extraordinary journeys across continents, oceans and landscapes. From tiny insects riding seasonal winds to birds crossing hemispheres and mammals following ancient migration routes, these movements are far more than remarkable wildlife spectacles. Migratory species are the living threads that connect distant ecosystems, carrying nutrients, energy, genes and ecological services across vast landscapes. Without them, many ecosystems would function less effectively, and some could struggle to survive.

Insects provide some of the most dramatic examples. The Bogong moth, famous for its annual migration from breeding grounds across inland south-eastern Australia to the Australian Alps, transfers energy from productive inland plains to alpine environments. In

the mountains, bogongs become an essential food source for species such as the Mountain Pygmy-possum. In other phases of their migration, they are pollinators and food for birds, reptiles and amphibians. A decline in bogong moths represents a decline in the many plant and animal species connected to it.

Bird migrations have equally important ecological links. Many migratory birds provide natural population control by consuming vast numbers of insects and invertebrates during their journeys and seasonal stopovers. Australia hosts about 37 species of migratory shorebirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, including the Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Red-necked Stint. These birds rely on food-rich mudflats and wetlands where they consume worms, molluscs, crustaceans and other invertebrates. Their feeding helps regulate invertebrate communities in intertidal ecosystems. If these

predators were removed, populations of benthic invertebrates could increase substantially, potentially changing sediment processes, nutrient cycling and the structure of mudflat ecosystems.

Insectivorous birds like the rainbow bee-eater, fork-tailed swift and more locally the scarlet and flame robins help regulate insect populations in forests, woodlands, farms, wetlands and grasslands. Their arrival can reduce pressures on plant foliage (from insects) and contribute to healthier ecosystems and agricultural landscapes.

Migration can be very localised or link places that may be hundreds or thousands of kilometres apart. What happens in one landscape can negatively influence the health of another if the migration pathway gets broken. Successful migration depends on available resources at either end of the journey but also along the migration route. This

means landscapes linked through corridors of habitat that cross private land, travelling stock reserves, state forests, national parks and conservation reserves are all very important. Every patch of native vegetation can act as a stepping stone, providing food, shelter and resting places along the way. But these stepping stones and corridors have been fragmented over time.

Landholders play a vital role. Actions like retaining native vegetation, protecting paddock trees, restoring creek lines, controlling weeds and replanting flowering native plants can all help migratory species complete their journeys. These practical land management activities can complement productive farming and contribute to healthier landscapes.

Ultimately, migration reminds us that ecosystems do not stop at fence lines, park boundaries or property maps. The health of one place is often linked to the health of another. By



maintaining connected landscapes, we help sustain the movements of migratory species and the countless ecological services they provide. In doing so, we strengthen the living threads that bind our natural world together.

Local Land Services can help you assess your native habitats and understand how they connect with the

surrounding landscape and different species. Contact our NRM team in the Braidwood office to hear about our programs and discuss your property goals. Phone 1300 795 299.

Photo supplied: The Scarlet robin migrates to the QPRC region for the winter months before returning to higher altitudes to breed in late spring and summer.

Bogong moths return to the night sky

Andy Taylor, Senior NRM Advisor

After years of concern about their dramatic decline, Bogong moths are once again appearing in impressive numbers across eastern Australia, delighting scientists, landholders and First Nations communities alike. The recent increase in sightings has sparked renewed interest in one of Australia’s most remarkable insects.

The Bogong moth (*Agrotis infusa*) is famous for its extraordinary annual migration. Each spring, adult moths emerge from breeding grounds across southern Queensland, western New South Wales, Victoria and parts of South Australia. Believed to be guided by the moon and the stars, they fly up to 1,000 kilometres to the cool caves and rocky crevices of the Australian Alps. There, millions of moths spend summer in a dormant state known as aestivation. In autumn, they return to inland breeding areas, mate, lay eggs and die.

Female Bogong moths lay eggs on low vegetation, particularly in areas with winter-growing plants. The eggs hatch within days to a few weeks, depending on temperature and moisture conditions. The



caterpillars feed through winter on grasses and broadleaf plants before pupating in the soil and emerging as adults in spring. Adult moths feed on nectar from flowering plants during their migration, making them important pollinators.

For thousands of years, Bogong moths have held deep cultural significance for Aboriginal peoples of south-eastern Australia. Each summer, groups travelled to the Australian Alps to harvest the nutrient-rich moths. These gatherings were important social, ceremonial and trading events, strengthening connections between communities and Country.

The species suffered a catastrophic decline between 2017 and 2019, with drought and warming alpine conditions contributing to population crashes of more than 99 per cent in some areas. As a result, the Bogong moth was listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List in 2021. Thankfully, favourable rains in breeding areas has led to a noticeable recovery, with citizen scientists reporting large influxes of moths across New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT.

How landholders can help the Bogong keep on returning: You can help the Bogong moth and other beneficial insects by:

- protecting native vegetation
- planting diverse flowering species
- reducing pesticide use
- building healthy soils

minimising unnecessary outdoor lighting at night.

Small actions across many properties can create vital habitat connectivity and help ensure these remarkable travellers continue their ancient journey across Australia.

Join your local Landcare or community group and contact the NRM team at Local Land Services if you’d like some help designing improvements to your native habitats. Phone 1300 795 299.

Photo supplied: The Bogong moth pollinates many different native plant species on its migratory journey.

Rabbit numbers on the rise: landholders urged to act now

Louise MacDonald, Senior Biosecurity Officer

Landholders across the Queanbeyan-Palerang region are reporting a noticeable increase in rabbit activity, prompting renewed calls for early and coordinated control efforts. Rabbits are prolific breeders, capable of reproducing year-round. Young females can reach sexual maturity at just 4 months of age and can conceive again only hours after giving birth, allowing populations to escalate rapidly if left unmanaged.

A striking example of their breeding capacity: **2 rabbits can produce up to 184 offspring in just 18 months.**

The environmental damage caused by rabbits is significant. Their grazing and digging destroy native vegetation, undermine root

systems, and contribute to soil erosion impacting both agricultural productivity and the wider landscape. Their presence also threatens biodiversity, with 156 Australian species listed as being adversely affected by competition and land degradation caused by rabbits.

With spring growth, now is the ideal time to implement control measures. Effective rabbit management requires the ongoing use of multiple control methods, and the best results are achieved when neighbouring landholders work together. Even small numbers of rabbits can quickly reinvade treated areas, particularly where warrens remain intact. Control programs should aim to remove at least 90 per cent of the local rabbit population to prevent rapid rebound.



For guidance on effective control techniques, visit PestSmart and download the updated Glovebox Guide for Managing Rabbits using the QR code, or contact one of our biosecurity officers for tailored advice on 1300 795 299.

Upcoming events:

Scan QR Code to read more and register:

How to restore woodland bird habitats - Michelago (25 Oct) and Forbes Creek (1 November)

Join us for an engaging field day to learn how to attract more birds to your property. Come for a morning birdwatch and discussion on some of the species in the area and what you can do to

improve their habitat.

Sheep eID workshop - Yass - 29 October

Get the information you need to ensure you can tag, scan and transfer sheep and goats on the NLIS database with confidence.

LANDSCAN sustainable farm management - Murrumbateman and surrounds -



Kicks off 30 October
LANDSCAN assists land managers to assess natural resources, to better match land use to land capability, and to balance production, profit and sustainability.

Market experts headline at Over the Gate 26 livestock producers forum

Anne Johnston, Climate Smart Agriculture Project Officer

Cattle and sheep producers looking to sharpen their business decisions for next season or the next decade are being encouraged to register for Over the Gate 26, a South East Local Land Services livestock producer forum being held in Goulburn on Thursday 12 November, 2026.

The one-day livestock producers forum will be held at Goulburn Race Club from 10 am to 6:30 pm, bringing together six respected industry speakers, interactive Q&A panels and a producer interview, with practical, actionable ideas

producers can take back to their own businesses. Humans of Agriculture’s Oli le Lievre will MC the day.

South East Local Land Services Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator, Henry Goodall said the forum was designed to give sheep and cattle producers direct access to leading market analysts, researchers and fellow producers under one roof.

“The forum will focus on improving production performance and helping enterprises respond to evolving market and consumer expectations,” Henry said.

“We’ve brought together six respected voices from across

the industry, from global market analysts to local producers, so attendees hear both the big picture and the on-farm reality.”

“Each session is followed by an interactive Q&A panel, so producers can put their own questions to the experts and hear how others are tackling similar challenges on their properties.”

The day’s program includes international beef market analysis from Simon Quilty of Global AgriTrends, sheep genetics insights from MLA’s Peta Bradley, carbon opportunities from NSW DPIRD’s Warwick Badgery, wool market forecasting from Andrew

Woods of Independent Commodity Services, and farm business planning from Agrista’s John Francis alongside Mandurama producer Stuart Tait.

Registration is \$30 per person and will include lunch, afternoon tea and evening canapés, with the day rounding out at ‘Conversation Corner’, an informal networking session where producers can connect with speakers and each other over shared ideas and experiences.

“Tickets are limited, so I’d encourage producers to register early,” Henry said.

“This is a great opportunity to

invest a day in your business and come away with ideas you can put into action straight away.”

Over the Gate 26 will be held on Thursday 12 November at Goulburn Race Club, Racecourse Drive, Goulburn, from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Tickets are limited and can be bought by scanning the QR Code.

Over the Gate is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and delivered by Local Land Services, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.



cleanseeds rural

Buy a 15L Q Drench for your chance to win a YETI 400 Loadabout Gobox!

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

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.

Mobile Code

If ASP is 277 on this phone keypad, which reptiles have the following numbers?

1 262

2 26272

3 43256

4 887853

5 448262

6 83772746

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
* 0 #

1 ABC 2 DEF 3 GHI 4 JKL 5 MNO 6 PQRS 7 TUV 8 WXYZ

Two of a Kind

Can you sort each set of letter blocks into two words with the same meaning?

1 TH RI VE TRU TY

2 NA BE TE OW DO ST

3 SU PT AB EN RU DD

4 IN ELA GY SPR IC ST

5 OW ED HA CR ED LL SA

Logical

Try solving this logical problem in your head before putting pen to paper.

Three neighbours were due to retire on the same day from their respective jobs. From the information given, work out how long each of the three had been in their job, the gift they received from their colleagues, and the destination of their celebratory holiday.

At 35 years, George had been in his position less than either of his neighbours. Alan, who was hoping to holiday in Snowdonia, wasn't the neighbour to receive a wristwatch, the male recipient of which was planning on holidaying in Rome. Doreen was retiring after 45 years in her job, which was 5 years more than Alan had served. She wasn't the person who received the fob watch. Texas was the holiday destination of the neighbour given the carriage clock.

Quick Time Crossword

1	2	3		4			5		
6				7		8		9	
10			11			12			
		13			14				
		15					16		17
18	19			20		21			
			22						
23		24			25			26	
	27						28		
					29				

- Across

 - 1 Begins to appear (5)
 - 6 Be indebted (3)
 - 7 Greek epic (5)
 - 10 Lacerates (5)
 - 12 Illuminated sign (4)
 - 13 Devil (5)
 - 15 Water pitcher (4)
 - 16 Indian state (3)
 - 18 Girl (coll) (3)
 - 20 Girl's name (4)
 - 22 Habitual (5)
 - 23 Sporting items (4)
 - 25 Take by theft (5)
 - 27 Effort to overcome resistance (5)
 - 28 No score (3)
 - 29 Lines between abutting edges (5)
- Down

 - 1 Being weakly affectionate (6)
 - 2 Solemn wonder (3)
 - 3 Small carnivore (6)
 - 4 Family members (7)
 - 5 Papua New Guinea town (3)
 - 8 Small hotel (3)
 - 9 Extinct bird (4)
 - 11 Uncooked (3)
 - 14 Excites into action (7)
 - 16 Lead-glance (6)
 - 17 Coral isles (6)
 - 19 Woe! (4)
 - 21 Posed for a portrait (3)
 - 22 Custom (3)
 - 24 Sesame (3)
 - 26 Goal (3)

Sudoku

Sudoku, it's a game of deduction rather than maths. Fill each row, column and 3x3 square with the numbers 1 - 9, without repeating. Each number can only appear once in each row, column, and frame.

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

Crossword

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10
11										12								
13										14	15		16		17			
						18	19											
20		21								22	23		24		25		26	
							27	28										
29						30	31						32					33
						34				35								
36											37	38				39		
44										45					46			
												47	48		49			
50		51						52	53					54			55	
								56										
57												58						
59								60							61			

Target Time

Target: Average - 16, Good - 23, Excellent - 30+

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.

B	S	N
T	A	L
D	A	S

- Across

 - 1 Bring upon oneself
 - 4 Regarding (3-1-3)
 - 8 Helped
 - 11 Saviour
 - 12 Bearing
 - 13 Type of lens
 - 14 Hack
 - 17 Economical
 - 18 Trench
 - 20 Resulted
 - 22 Infrequent
 - 25 Publicised
 - 27 Wonder
 - 29 Large Aussie birds
 - 30 Quick
 - 32 Withdrew from
 - 35 Dash
 - 36 Finished
 - 37 Attire
 - 39 Erases (coll)
 - 40 Close-mouthed person
 - 44 Fundamental
 - 45 Roster
 - 46 Precede
- Down

 - 1 Uninteresting
 - 2 Illnesses
 - 3 Re-examined
 - 4 Deviated
 - 5 Minted
 - 6 Computer game or ___ game
 - 7 Explore the Internet
 - 8 Harmony
 - 9 Performing
 - 10 Hung freely
 - 15 Mister in German
 - 16 Strip the skin off,
- as of fruit

 - 19 Starchy tubers
 - 21 Writhes
 - 23 Retaliate
 - 24 Young eel
 - 26 Exhausting city life (3-4)
 - 28 Not moving (2,4)
 - 31 Hate
 - 33 Cease
 - 34 Beheading device
 - 38 Afternoon (coll)
 - 41 Surly youths (coll)
 - 42 Soft powder
 - 43 Teacher of Plato
 - 44 Under
 - 48 Approved
 - 49 Writing implement
 - 51 Used a keyboard
 - 53 Directive
 - 55 Greek epic poet
 - 56 Rubbish containers

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Become an educator with Family Day Care

Queanbeyan-Palerang Family Day Care are looking for educators to join their network. There are many benefits including setting hours that work for you, being your own boss, and working from home.

Available vacancies for children

We also have vacancies available for children, offering flexible care options in small mixed-age group settings with qualified educators across our LGA.

- ▶ Learn more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/family-day-care
- ▶ Or contact info.fdc@qprc.nsw.gov.au 02 6285 6253

Animal Desexing Services available this November

We're partnering with AWL (Animal Welfare League) at our Animal Management Facility in Queanbeyan next month.

- Monday 16 November: Vaccinations, microchipping and health checks, 11am–3pm
- Tuesday 17 November: Dog desexing day, from 8am
- Wednesday 18 November: Cat desexing day, from 8am
- ▶ Numbers are limited and depend on registrations. Register at bit.ly/AWL-animal-desexing



Australia Day Awards

Nominate now for the 2027 Australia Day Awards!

Categories include:

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

You can nominate in each category across Bungendore, Braidwood, Captains Flat, and Queanbeyan

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

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Queanbeyan Town Park Masterplan survey	28 October
Proposed changes to waste vouchers and Rural Recycling Stations	31 October
QPRC Financial Statements 2025-26	28 November

- ▶ Find all the details at 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:

- 21 October 2026 (Extraordinary Meeting) (Queanbeyan)
- 28 October 2026 (Braidwood)

Written Questions on Notice

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

Crawford Street Intersection works - road closure



The map shows Crawford Street closed from Monaro Street to Bungendore Road. Detours are indicated for traffic heading north and south. A key indicates red lines for road closure and green lines for road open.

Crawford Street intersection closure

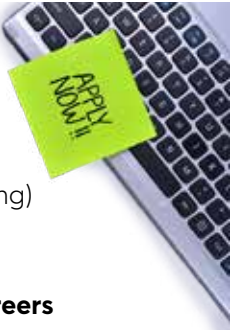
The Crawford Street intersection in Queanbeyan is closed until the Monaro Street Refresh project is complete in December.

- ▶ Learn more about the detours at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/MSR

Work with Council

Current vacancies include:

- Apprentice Gardener
- Trainee - Civil Construction
- Senior Water Industry Operator (Treatment) (Googong)
- Senior Water Industry Operator (Treatment) (QSTP)
- Labourer (General Equipment Operator)
- ▶ For more information and roles see bit.ly/QPRC-Careers



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

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

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eepurl.com/codv-v 

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Save the date: Queanbeyan Show 7th and 8th November

PET OF THE WEEK



Name: Bobbycat
Age: 12 years
Likes: company of all kinds
Dislikes: inadequate food and attention
Claim to fame: performs exuberant parkour if slaves are in bed when food is wanted.

Bungendore Bridge Club: all welcome

BUNGENDORE BRIDGE CLUB
Friendly people. Great game. All welcome.
COME AND PLAY!
Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, you'll find a warm welcome at Bungendore Bridge Club.
REGULAR PLAY SESSIONS
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS - 7.00 pm
SATURDAY - 10.00 am
SOCIAL BRIDGE ONLY - MONDAYS 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

St Andrew's Church, 9 Poppet Road, Wamboin - NO PARTNER REQUIRED
FRIENDLY & WELCOMING
Enjoy good company and a relaxed atmosphere.
BUNGENDORE SCHOOL OF ARTS
57 Gibraltar Street, Bungendore NSW
Enquiries: 0408 409 989
President@bungendore.bridge-club.org
bungendore.bridge-club.org
Photo supplied



Do you have a Photo of the Week? Or, if you would like to see your beloved pet featured as Pet of the Week, please email your photos to info@regionalindependent.com.au

The Regional Independent - letters to the editor need to be no more than 230 words. Please email your letters complete with your full name, address and phone number to info@regionalindependent.com.au

Only your name and suburb will be printed.

Bungendore Food Hub
A HELP UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY, SUPPORTED BY OUR COMMUNITY

Food, toiletries, additional support, community resources are all available here!

OPEN WEDNESDAYS 10AM-12PM

Located behind Bungendore Anglican Church, Gibraltar Street, Bungendore.
0422 605 009 | foodhub@bungendoreanglican.org.au



A Ministry of Bungendore Anglican Church

 **LIONS COMMUNITY BOOK SHOP**
A non-for-profit group with all funds donated to local charitable organisations

LOCATED IN THE QUEANBEYAN PARK

OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm

SECONDHAND BOOKS, MAGAZINES, GAMES, JIGSAWS, CRAFT



For more information: Phone 0461 365 831 Email: queanbeyan.nsw@lions.org.au
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lionsofqueanbeyan/>

Public Notices

Proposed Road Disposal Section 152D Roads Act 1993

In accordance with section 152D of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given of the proposed sale of the Crown public roads listed in Schedule 1. If a sale proceeds, the road(s) will cease to be a public road upon transfer of the road to freehold land in accordance with section 152H of the Act.

Schedule 1:

- The Crown roads at Boro, those within and adjoining the property known as 'Branxton Park' at 726 Goulburn road. (File ref: 23/04349, Cluster: 685617)

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal via the email address below or to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure - Crown Lands, PO Box 2215, DANGAR NSW 2309 within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of this advertisement.

Any person is entitled to make submissions with respect to the sale or disposal of the road. Please note that submissions may be referred to third parties (such as council or the applicant) for consideration in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

For the Manager, Divestments

For further enquiries please visit the website <https://roads.crownland.nsw.gov.au/> or contact Adelaide Carey by email at Adelaide.Carey@crownland.nsw.gov.au or on T: 02 6640 3977 quoting file references above.

Queanbeyan Evening Branch of CWA: next meeting Tues 10 Nov

The next monthly meeting of the Queanbeyan Evening Branch of Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW is on Tuesday 10th November 2026.

If you would like to share a light meal, then please arrive at 6.00pm. Regular Monthly Meeting will commence at 7.00pm.

Again, we will be meeting at the Axis Youth Centre, right next to Queanbeyan Park and Lyons Bookshop, Corner Campbell & Park Streets.

Please note time and location change.

The CWA aims to improve conditions for country women and children. We reach that aim in various ways including lobbying for change, helping the local community, creating a network of support and meeting together. New members are always very welcome.

For further information or inquiries about us, please contact the Branch Secretary, via email: queanbeyaneveningbranchcwa@gmail.com.

Feeling lonely, anxious or depressed?

Join a GROW mental health group in Queanbeyan. Meet people who understand, share experiences and find support in a welcoming setting.

Every Wednesday, 10 am-12 noon

Free to join. No diagnosis or referral needed. Come along any Wednesday.

Call 1800 558 268 to find out more.

AGM + VOLUNTEERS AFTERNOON

All welcome to the AGM

If you volunteered throughout the 2026 season, join us for a **Gratitude BBQ**

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 2026

AGM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BBQ FROM 1:00 PM

BUNGENDORE SPORTS HUB

Thanks for your time, support and commitment to our club!

BUNGENDORE BASKETBALL FOR ADULTS and TEENAGERS

On every Wednesday 6pm till 7pm during School Terms

On at the Bungendore Primary School Hall, Gibraltar Street, Bungendore

All welcome. For more information contact Keith on 0419 693 484

Assistance Aids

Bungendore Community Aid Inc loan out Assistance Aids to Bungendore locals and immediate surrounds, FREE of charge.

We have wheelchairs, wheelie walkers, shower chairs, over toilet seat raisers and crutches, to name a few items.

To find out more about what we have and the procedure to loan out these Aids please phone. Lauren on 0402 329 067 or Linda on 0439 381 359

We are volunteers, if we don't answer immediately, we will get back to you.

The MANGO FUNDRAISER

Fresh North Queensland Mangoes from the farm to you!

Support the Bungendore Scout Group Mango Fundraiser

Premium fresh, juicy Kensington Pride mangoes picked and packed during the prime harvest season.

Cost per Tray is: \$30.00.

Scan the QR code to place your online order:

Orders must be completed by C.O.B Tuesday 27th October 2026.

Orders can also be placed through our website: 1st-bungendore.group.scoutsnsw.com.au/shop

Mangoes will arrive in Bungendore in early December and must be collected from the Bungendore Scout Hall. You will be contacted when delivery day is known.

For further information contact Penny on 0401 819 277.

Money raised will be used to assist Venturer Scouts going to World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027.

South Coast & Country COMMUNITY LAW

Free legal advice appointments

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

When: Thursday 29 October 2026 10:00am to 1:30pm

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

Appointments are essential - please call 1800 229 529

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

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

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

Mayor's Column

The Crawford Street intersection with Monaro Street is currently closed as works take place to improve the Crawford Street and Monaro Street intersection. The intersection will remain closed until the Monaro Street Refresh project finishes in December. The closure will be in place from Fallick Lane to the Headspace car park. Keeping the intersection closed for the rest of the project simplifies traffic arrangements for drivers and pedestrians and helps contractors finish the work sooner. U-turns are allowed at both ends of Crawford Street for local traffic heading back to Morisset or Rutledge Street. Thank you for your patience as we get closer to finishing this important upgrade. Find more information at qprc.nsw.gov.au/Monaro-Street-Refresh

The Draft Infill Housing Strategy for Central Queanbeyan is currently on public exhibition. The Infill Housing Strategy is a long-term plan that guides how additional homes can be sensitively integrated into the existing neighbourhoods of Queanbeyan, Queanbeyan East and Crestwood. This is so that they can be placed close to shops, services, transport, parks and other community facilities while maintaining the character and historical significance of Central Queanbeyan. You can read the Draft Strategy and provide feedback at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

On Tuesday 27 October, there is a supplier information session from 5pm - 6pm at the WB Freebody Council Chambers in the Nellie Hamilton Centre, Queanbeyan. The session is an opportunity to connect with Council and position your business for future opportunities. This session is for small and medium-sized businesses, existing Council suppliers, businesses interested in quoting or tendering for Council opportunities, new and prospective suppliers, contractors, and consultants. You can register for the session now at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Doing-Business-with-QPRC

Council has voted to ban smart glasses in its aquatic centres to help protect the privacy and safety of residents and visitors. We've recently seen a rise in wearable technology that can record video, take photos and capture audio without other people being aware. While this technology has legitimate uses, such as for people who need accessibility and disability support, it also raises important privacy and child safety concerns. The ban will help to keep the aquatic centres safe for everyone to use.

There is an Extraordinary Council Meeting tonight 21 October starting at 5:30pm. This meeting will discuss the Dunns Creek Road Options Report. The meeting is being held in The Q, to accommodate any extra audience members for this important decision. We are holding our next ordinary Council Meeting in Braidwood at the National Theatre, next Wednesday 28 October. You can register to make a presentation, read the agenda or watch the livestream at qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings

Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor

Target Time

Target: Average - 16, Good - 23, Excellent - 30+ alas, anal, anta, aslant, atlas, bald, balsa, banal, band, bant, basal, basalt, bass, bast, bland, blast, blat, data, land, lass, last, nasal, natal, salad, salsa, salt, sand, sandal, SANDBLAST, slab, slant, slat, stab, stand, tabla, tala, tana.

Brain Training

MOBILE CODE: 1 Boa 2 Cobra 3 Gecko 4 Turtle 5 Iguana 6 Terrapin

TWO OF A KIND: 1 Truth/Verity 2 Bestow/Donate 3 Abrupt/Sudden 4 Elastic/Springy 5 Hallowed/Sacred

LOGICAL: Alan, 40 years, Fob watch, Snowdonia, Doreen, 45 years, Carriage clock, Texas, George, 35 years, Wristwatch, Rome

Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku

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

Quick Time Crossword

D	A	W	N	S		L	
O	W	E		I	L	I	A
T	E	A	R	S		N	E
I		S	A	T	A	N	
N		E	W	E	R		G
G	A	L		R	O	S	A
	L		U	S	U	A	L
B	A	T	S		S	T	E
	S	I	E	G	E		N
	L			S	E	A	M

Crossword

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

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

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

OPENING TIMES WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

Bungendore waste transfer station:

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

Bywong waste transfer station:

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

Captains Flat waste transfer station:

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

Braidwood waste transfer station

Fri, Sat Sun & Mon - 10am to 4.30pm
Braidwood buy back centre: Sunday 10am-4pm

AUSSIE SKIP BAGS

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

RURAL CONTRACTING

David Sillis - 0428 265 111

VINTAGE & RETRO

Vintage and retro shop open Friday, Saturday and Sunday - 10.00 am to 5pm

ART BY ANDERS 144 Uriarra Rd Crestwood Queanbeyan.

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



WANTED: HOUSE

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

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.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WANTED

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

CB BOBCATS

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



Gavin's Courier Service

Braidwood - Canberra - Goulburn - Braidwood

Monday - Friday

Mob: 0428 968 162

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



HYUNDI I30 FOR SALE

2019 HYUNDI I30. NSW rego until 23.11.26. 75,000kms. Full log book service records, new battery, excellent condition. \$14,000
Phone/text 0419 025 533



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. Just look at their hopeful expressions. (17 Oct 2026)



Jazz Cattle Dog x Staffy (F) Apo 9 yrs



Tigger American Staffy x (M) Apo 7 yrs



Opie Mastiff x (M) Apo 11 yrs



Will Cane Corso x (M) Apo 5yrs



Remi American Staffy (M) Apo 7 yrs



Arnna American Staffy (F) Apo 3 yrs



Murray Staffy x (M) Apo 10 yrs



Bonny American Pitbull x (F) Apo 7 yrs



George Pitbull (M) Apo 6 yrs



Terra Staffy x (F) Apo 5 yrs



Sophie Aussie Bulldog x Red Heeler (F) Apo 9 yrs



Electra American Staffy x (F) Apo 2 yrs



Chester American Staffy x (M) Apo 1 yr



Cleo American Staffy x (F) Apo 1 yr



Lulu Crossbreed (F) Apo 6 mths



Casper Rottweiler (M) Apo 2 yrs



Freya German Shepherd (F) Apo 1 yr



Junior Kelpie x (M) Apo 12 mths



Beau Pitbull (M) Apo 10 yrs



Frankie English Bull Terrier (M) Apo 3 yrs



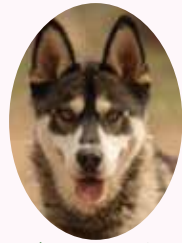
Cheryl Staffy x (F) Apo 8 mths



Jax Bull Arab (M) Apo 6 yrs



Dougie Pitbull (M) Apo 3 yrs



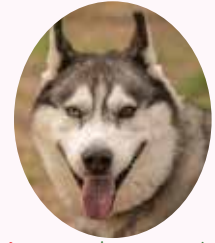
Lux Siberian Husky (M) Apo 4 yrs



Tonka American Staffy x (M) Apo 7 mths



Rex Bull Arab (M) Apo 12 mths



Aurora Siberian Husky (F) Apo 4 yrs



Daizy Staffy x (F) Apo 2 yrs



Dusty Ridgeback x (M) Apo 2 yrs



Macey American Staffy x (F) Apo 12 mths



When adopting, please remember that 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



Wamboin Golf - October 2026

Sunday, 4 October, the day after the Great Deluge, we gathered in our lederhosen to contest the Oktoberfest Stein. Hint: ensure your lederhosen aren't made from chamois leather. The day, humid, partly cloudy, was sponsored by the Von Harrison family whom we thank for the prizes (biersteins) and refreshments (schickelgruben, schweinohcken, kartoffelsalat und sauerbraten). Their son Steven (bratwurst) was not available to help in the kitchen. Play was to be determined by the Von Stableford method. Donning their gum boots players set out on the Hunt for Red Oktober.

Back in the dry room, as the Captain did the sums, we cast skeptical eyes across the landscape. Apparently more oil is getting through Hormuz because Iran's vice-like grip is loosening. So why is diesel still costing an upper and lower limb? At least it's given Dr Prince Chalmers an excuse for the state of play in the Australian economy, i.e. recession

bound. This is despite the views of reputable economists that it's mostly our own fault because of our addiction to a wide range of expensive government services. Our governments, lacking visceral fortitude, dare not refuse us in fear of being spurned for another outfit which promises even more. Sadly, the Australian productive sector, which provides the taxes on profits and wages, is too thin and weak to keep up with the spending.

Your correspondent's boss, SB-J, sent me to the US to take the temperature before the Mid Terms. Unlike CNN et al, we at the Regional Independent had not lost our accreditation to the White House media room so I am able to report the President's glowing estimation of progress in his Gulf War. He said very big progress had been made, US forces had made very big gains and a very big deal would be done very soon. He then left to play golf or just drive around in a Clubman. I was thus able to spend

some time with senior members of the Administration. I asked J D Vance if 'J D' really stood for Juvenile Delinquent. He said it did not and pointedly asked where I came from. When I said Australia he asked Marco Rubio where it is. Rubio asked Pete Hegseth who said his wife thought it was somewhere between Germanv and Switzerland. He asked me to point it out on the map. Just to be safe I pointed to New Zealand but got back on message by stating we would take all the Orcas they could catch. I returned home after a brief stopover in Bangkok. My expense account enabled me to rent a cot in a boarding house. The flickering red light kept me awake much of the night. Next day in the bar I got into conversation with some ex pats who were discussing that book which bagged Charles III's reaction to his former wife's death. I made some profane comment about the King which was mistaken by a passing policeman as a reference to the



Thai Monarch. I was arrested and taken to the nearest police station. By the time we ironed out the misunderstanding 300mm of rain had fallen on the capital. The cop shop was the driest place in town so they let me stay. I was put in a cell with some desperate characters. It was pretty bad but I've been in worse (oops, I shouldn't have let that slip). For the record, I am not an escaped criminal. In fact I served my full sentence.

AI will kills us all, according to some of the people who make it. But what then? Logically, being trained to mimic and exceed human cognitive patterns, it will turn on itself until there is no AI left. Maybe its digital, atavistic, self-destructive tendencies will lead to its extinction before it can turn on us, leaving us in a world wiped clean of all digital information i.e. pre World War II. Sounds OK? Then we can start all over again knowing what to avoid (which we won't).

The acting Captain attracted our attention by calling for googly ball

nominations. Winner by a mile was Pete Harrison whose stance on Lambert's Leap was impeded by a coiled snake. Your correspondent, mindful of his duty to report the absolute truth, sought details of the snake's breed, colour, length, distinguishing features and witnesses. For this he was unjustly awarded the dummy spit. The encouragement award went to Tony Bond. LD and NTP ball winners were Rob Gorham 2, Craig Purdam 2, Paul Griffin 2, and Scott Mason 2. Winner of the nine hole comp was Craig Purdam with 19 Stableford points OCB from Rob Gorham 19. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Scott Mason 41 from Paul Griffin 37. Well played all!

In November we hold the Wamboin Open. Join us at the Hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 1 November for the prompt 12.30pm start. Meanwhile, in Israel good old Bibi Netanyahu has been heckled by a Mr Godot. It's been a long wait.

Larry King, golfer
Photos: Pete Harrison



Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club dives into a new season

Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club

Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club is making a splash this summer, with a new season underway and an invitation for local swimmers and families to get involved.

The Club kicked off its season on Wednesday 14 October with 17 weekly club nights running throughout summer from 5.30pm Wednesdays at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre. There are plenty of opportunities for both new and returning swimmers to dive in.

Club nights provide a friendly introduction for children to try racing with 25m through to 200m races and relays. So if your child has the ability to swim 25m, then this is an opportunity to put their skills into practice, experience the excitement of racing, progressing at their own pace and building confidence in the water.

The beautiful summer evenings by the poolside are enhanced by our weekly Club night BBQ with affordable dinner for families with all proceeds going towards running the club.

Club members are also able to compete at development meets, testing themselves

alongside swimmers from clubs in and around the ACT. Along with the Wednesday Club nights, Development Meets provide a great opportunity for school aged swimmers to build their confidence and prepare for next year's school swimming carnivals.

Our more competitive swimmers can use Development meets as a pathway towards intermediate and qualifying meets where swimmers can progress towards state and national level competition.

For children who have completed Learn to Swim programs and are looking for their next challenge, the club has partnered with Swim Coach Igor Denim who runs multiple squad training sessions mornings and evenings throughout the week and clinics during the holidays.

Come along and give it a go

New swimmers and families are always welcome, and there's no need to commit before finding out whether club swimming is right for you.

Simply come along to a Wednesday club night from 5.30pm, introduce yourself

to a member of the club executive, and the club can arrange a trial session.

Membership options are available through Swim Central, with the committee happy to help families navigate the process.

Swimming ACT/NSW Development meets coming to Queanbeyan in November

For the first time since pre-COVID, Swimming ACT is holding a Development meet in Queanbeyan.

This twilight meet will include long distance races on Friday 6 November, and shorter distance races on Saturday 7 November. Swimmers can enter at www.swimmingact.com.au/ until Monday 2nd November

Support Queanbeyan Leagues Swimming Club

This year the club is inviting local businesses to get involved as sponsors. With membership growing, sponsorship will help meet ongoing lane hire costs and support the club's development. Building these partnerships is an important part of the club's ambition to become a lasting community asset for Queanbeyan



swimmers

For those who would like to support the club in another way, a fundraising raffle is also underway, with 14 fantastic prizes donated by local businesses. Queanbeyan Leagues club has donated our first prize, a Canberra Raiders Corporate Hospitality Experience for 8 people at a local raiders

game in 2027. <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=e6hm4>

More information

Whether you're looking to take your first step into competitive swimming, improve your personal best or simply become part of a friendly local sporting community, Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club would

love to see you poolside this summer.

For further information about club nights, membership, sponsorship or the upcoming development meets, email QLSCcommittee@gmail.com or visit the @Queanbeyan Leagues Swim Club Facebook page.

Photo supplied

**EMPOWER GOLF**

EMPOWER GOLF CLINIC
Queanbeyan Golf Club
JOIN EMPOWER GOLF'S WELCOMING COMMUNITY
Learn to play golf, regardless of your disability.
Limited spots at our clinics - sign up today!

**OGC QUEANBEYAN GOLF CLUB**
5 BROWN ST, QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620
FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
11AM - 12PM
COACH TRENT BRITTON
MAX NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 10
PARAGOLFER NOT AVAILABLE

**SCAN TO SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW!**
info@empowergolf.com.au
empowergolf.com.au




**BUNGENDORE CRICKET BLASTERS PROGRAM**

- Weekly skills-based sessions
- Building confidence and cricket skills while having fun and making friends!
- For children 5-8 years old.


First Session: Friday 30th October 2026
Final Session: Friday 11th December 2026
3.30-5.00pm
Warren Little Oval
Bungendore

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