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Here you are — sorry it's late. Ha, that's how I started the last editorial so nothing new there. In fact I've managed to increase my lateness two-fold and hence, I'm ashamed to admit, this issue is Spring too, just like BWD Number 9.

A year zipped by but what a year it was. In the last issue I was but a servant of the people in my day job, but now with the deckchairs having been re-stencilled with QPRC on the back, I've lost my epaulettes.

Of the nine Palerang and ten Queanbeyan councillors, eight of us have been appointed by the Office of Local Government to a Local Representation Committee — and the ex-mayor of Queanbeyan Tim Overall, has been appointed Administrator until the elections in September 2017.

Although the LRC has no executive influence in the running of QPRC we can, and do, represent our areas and provide advice to council.

I don't have to get into what will be best for our region in this issue of BWD because I've made a commitment to not fall below the frequency of a quarterly so I'll wait until Summer. I'll be assisted and reminded of this by Lyn Cram who has fortuitously come on board to sell advertisements. It's not something I excel at but of course it provides the revenue to make the whole venture affordable.

Eagle-eyed or picky readers might well notice that nepotism has crept into this issue. There are two articles by family members and too many written by me. It's always a bit of a lottery which stories materialise in time for publication but I can promise you this: if you submit a good story, I'll publish it.

I hope nobody finds the inclusion of the 'Householders Handbook' to be in poor taste. It is, after all, an official government publication but it comes from a time of different values. I also hope that it hasn't been removed to hang on a nail in the bunker; for then all the stuff I've written on page 18 will be sitting out there like a shag on a post-apocalypse rock.

What more can I say? Thanks for buying the magazine, or at least reading it. I hope you like what's here.

Paul Cockram

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