

**LEN MUTTON & CO** — *shop local this Christmas*



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The cornerstone of customer service in the Braidwood community for over 100 years.

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Australian-made Tilley products including soaps, candles, handcreams and diffusers. Huge range of fragrances.



Made in Madagascar — hand-woven hats and bags. A stylish addition to any outfit.



'Heritage' Fine bone china mugs. Beautifully gift boxed, a perfect present for someone special.



Gourmet food range — made in Australia. The ideal addition to a hamper.



A book is a gift you can open again and again. A beautiful range of children's books and toys.



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STAYING ORGANISED ENOUGH TO MONITOR CAPITALISM

Here we go again. This issue had to come out before Christmas to be able to promote the benefits of keeping our commerce local. The response from advertisers has been most gratifying and it goes to show that having the right person in a job makes all the difference.

Lyn Cram (pictured on left on the catwalk at Muttons) has left no call unanswered in her quest to provide local businesses with a new way to promote their services and wares. I hope you support BWD's advertisers so that they can then in turn support the magazine.

Even with the ascendancy of social media, or perhaps because of it, I think local publications have a bright future. The Braidwood Ratepayers and Locals Facebook page, for example, provides an excellent vehicle for blow-by-blow accounts of local issues.

But it, and other social media sites, leave little in their wake after the heat of the moment. In fact, I was toying with the idea of running a column in BWD titled, "Did they really say that?". Of course it's an ethical nightmare figuring out who has the right to publish Facebook posts.

Do people say (write) stuff on social media with such abandon because it's so temporary? What should be kept? In amongst the off-the-cuff rebuffs, rejoinders and recriminations there are many pearls of wisdom.

While I was a councillor I spent many a night glued to Facebook and lurching between outrage, shame and shiraz. I don't miss that part of the job at all.

I'll keep thinking about how we might keep track of the best suggestions that come from the community. If anyone has a good idea for 'preserving the deserving' let me know. You could 'PM' me as they say in cyberspace jargon.

International events remind me of friends who have on their bathroom wall the cute nuclear-age teddy saying, "I want to grow up, not blow up".

So, while we may despair globally, acting locally is still the best path to the future.

Paul

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