

CHANGE FOR TIME



THE BIG DAY OF BABY BEN'S BIRTH. NICK FRY AND MEMBER FOR MONARO JOHN BARILARO AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

be designed in a way that it would hold the silhouette detail as well as be able to be made into sections so that pieces could be hinged and moved.

One of the most difficult things was to get the scale and visualise what it was going to be like, so I made cardboard cut-outs that we held up on the roof. We all stood on the other side of the road and went, "What do you think about that?"

The installation was set up and rushed to meet the deadline for the opening and is by no means the end of the installation. There are still a few pieces to be added and things to be done. Maybe there'll be some post-cards and photographs in the Visitor Information Centre and Instagram tags like #braidwoodwoodclock, #baby-benbraidwood.

Craig Pettit explains the community bank model

The move towards community banks started about twenty years ago when the major banks started pulling out of small country towns. Bendigo Bank decided to build a model based on shared outcomes for both the community and for the bank.

It is based on a fifty-fifty model, which means that at the end of the day, the income is shared.

Half goes to Bendigo Bank and half goes to the community bank to pay its local costs, staff and rent etc.

The profit the community bank makes is then designed so that twenty percent goes to the shareholders who put their money in to buy shares to get the community bank going in the first place. The remaining eighty percent goes to the community by way of grants.

It doesn't always work that way exactly because we have to hold some money back for different things, to make sure we've got a viable business. It's basically a franchise model with a shared income stream and once the money gets to the community bank, Palerang Financial Services in our case, then the money is split between the shareholders and the local community for projects.

Palerang Financial Services owns both The Bungendore and Braidwood branches. That's fairly common across community banks. They tend to have one company to run several banks because it's more efficient.

CRAIG PETTIT ON BABY BEN'S BIG DAY.



Nick Fry winds up the story

Since the launch of Baby Ben, the number of people we see taking photos on the hour or the half hour, is just amazing. On the weekend they're lining up on both sides of Wallace Street ready for the clock to hit the hour.

Hopefully they'll tell their friends and relatives about Baby Ben in Braidwood and that will bring more people into the town. Baby Ben is not a marketing tool for the bank, it is a gift — a fifteenth-birthday present from the bank to the town in a way that hopefully will grow the town. So that's the point that we want to get across.

BWD: Do you think the time might come when our last Palerang councillor may be forgiven for the driving part he played in putting that big concrete viewing platform on the other side of the road?

I think he should be congratulated. He had great foresight — that one day it was going to be used for such an important thing.

The next part of the Baby Ben journey is that across the road, outside the theatre, we're looking at having an explanation or a little story that depicts what the metal figures represent on the sides of the clock. Then people will understand why we've got the bush rangers, market gardeners and gold diggers etc. Something to show people from out of town what all those figures mean to the history of Braidwood.

GOING IN STYLE

It's all cisterns go at the Anglican Hall

Kylie Dominick sat down with Helen Farley

Helen Farley from the Community Management Committee of the Braidwood Anglican Hall gives us the news on what is happening at the Old Anglican Hall in Wilson Street.

Helen: The Hall was one of the first public buildings in Braidwood, built in the 1850s. It was moved to its present location in the 1920s and the wings were added.

KD: Tell us where the restoration project is up to.

The Anglican Parish of Braidwood made over the Hall to a community trust in 2016, appropriately named the Community Management Committee of the Braidwood Anglican Hall. The committee has the job of running the Hall and its day-to-day operation. It also oversees the sourcing of funding and fundraising. The committee is Phillip Hart, Kirsty Altenburg, Gilly Burke, Matthew Hulse, Lyn Cram and myself, and we all bring different skills.

The first major project is to remove the old toilets and replace them with men's, women's and disabled-access toilets and showers.

The Hall has been a really important place in the community — there wouldn't be many locals who haven't been there at least once, more likely many times. It's been used for every possible purpose over the years, it means a lot to everyone. The acoustics are world-class!

KD: Tell us about the project for the new loos.

Eric Martin has drawn up the plans and the DA has been approved by council. The old, ground-level toilets are being knocked down. The new toilets and showers will cost over \$100,000, but we're doing it properly and we're only doing it once, and there won't be any stairs, so they'll be accessible to everyone.

KD: What will the Hall be like in five years' time?

In five years' time the Hall will be properly refurbished — after the new toilets we'll be working on repainting, asbestos removal, the commercial kitchen, all the necessary repairs, and the floor will be re-stumped and the boards re-laid. We've got people who want to book the venue when it's ready, for different classes and of course there will be wakes and twenty-firsts and all those things again, and ongoing use during the day and at night.

KD: How can the community contribute?

One way to help is with work-in-kind as the need arises — painting and that sort of thing. When we get to that stage we'll be holding working bees where the community can come along too and help out.

The other way is donations — we've been lucky so far to receive donations from IGA and from the Braidwood Folk Club. We've got donation tins in businesses around town, we'll be holding a street stall in May and June; and we've been working with the National Trust to achieve tax-deductible gift donation status, so in future people can claim donations on their tax which will be a big incentive. We've got more fundraisers in the works — really fun things that people will love! In winter we're planning a sit-down dinner based on Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management, with hares hanging up and all those things — it might be a bit crazy but such a fun thing to do! People can support us by joining in the many fundraisers we have planned for the future.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS HELEN FARLEY, GEORGINA HALL, LYN CRAM AND MATTHEW HULSE GET STRAIGHT INTO IT.

