



Connecting without a connection

Thomas Biedermann wants Braidwood to come out to play. He explains why ...

Games, and board games in particular, are an excellent way for people to get to meet and to do something together. You just pick a game and you can play with anyone. It's a great way for people to try out intergenerational activities; go to a pub or somewhere and have a good time together. I'm really hoping that people start turning up, pick up a game, learn the rules and have a good time.

The game that we're playing here is called 'Settlers of Catan'. It's a classic, award-winning game where you try to get resources, settle a fictional island,

and rack up a bunch of points by building settlements, roads — and sometimes screwing over your opponents. You might think that when players are competing with one another you either win the game and lose friends, or you lose the game and keep your friends. Sure, it can be a bit rough at times, but usually your friends will get a chance to get you back the next time, so you don't lose friendships for very long.

When you get a good bunch of friends who know a game well, have maybe played it a few times, it can get pretty competitive, and it's really interesting to get this competitive game going. But

UPSTAIRS, EMILY, TOM, THOMAS AND TRISH FOUGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE LAND OF CATAN, WHILE THE DOWNSTAIRS MOB PLAYED SCRABBLE AND 'MAN BITES DOG'.



MATE YOUR MATE

when you're playing with new people who are just picking up a game and after a good time, I think playing the game is most important, and making sure that everybody gets to have a good time.

We have two player games, like chess and Mastermind, and a wild game called Hnefatafl which is a vikings chess game. We're trying to have a range of games, some which are fairly short and easy to play, and some which involve a few more players, and are a bit more of an involved and long experience.

It depends on how much time you've got or how old you are. Anyone can come pick up a game and just have a good time.

KEITH, KARUNA AND PIERS HAM UP THE 'TABLOIDS ON STEROIDS' HEADLINES.



and Karuna added ...

We're just hoping to tear people away from their digital screens for a bit and engage them with a bit of good old fashioned board games — concrete, real world sort of things. We're hoping it will be something that will attract people of all ages and give them an opportunity to socialise and have a chat; to meet other people perhaps and have a bit of good old clean fun.

Thomas Biedermann is the games nerd who's been pushing this. He's got the real passion for it, so we're happy to work around Thomas and his schedule. He's got a young family so whenever he wants to come to the Smokey Horse is when the games will be on. The days or nights could change. It's not really pinned down; we just want to test it out.

Our idea for the Smokey Horse is to have diversity. We've had live music nights and we've had some film nights. We like the idea of a games night, and we're open to other ideas. There are people out there who've got ideas of what they'd like to do here. We're very accommodating. ■

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THE EDITOR WRITES SOMETHING

My goodness, don't the weeks fly by. No sooner do the empties from new years eve go down to recycling than it's February.

This issue has a feature on local food producers. It was my intention to make a comprehensive list of all our producers, their products, contact persons, telephone numbers, Facebook links and everything — but the job was too great.

We have so many people in our region producing food (and other stuff), some on a big scale and some just a bit now and again. The more people I made contact with, the more I realised I was missing so many others.

So in this issue I've called it part one; part two will follow in BWD#19 in a few months time. The exact time might depend on what happens in Federal parliament over the next month or two. It will be an important election (they all are I guess) and I'd like to do an election special.

Getting back to food, if you are a producer, drop in or email me with details of what you're doing. I'd like to cover everyone who is not featured in this issue, unless the task is once again too onerous, in which case there'll be a part three.

It's hard to see a bright future for farmers if the drift towards supermarket dominance continues. If consumers are continually bombarded with 'lowest price' specials, it's surely going to be paid for by screwing down the farmer's takings.

Having a closer contact then between grower or maker and consumer, would seem to be the best way to challenge the 'maximum profit' ethos of large corporations run by people whose jobs are on the line if remote and disinterested shareholders' dividends are not up to scratch.

Plus, as so many of the growers featured in these pages will attest, fresh food really does taste better. Our local growers are the 'fresh' food people. The mob with the TV ad jingles are the 'freezer' food people.

And the money goes round and round in town and you can't beat that.

Paul

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