

## ON MY HOBBY HORSE

## Dismayed, of Mongarlowe

Don't get me wrong – I love reading the papers and I'll be 'Devastated of Mongarlowe', when they are no longer available. Most of the time, however, when reading articles I am busy composing letters to the editor, signed 'Dumbfounded of Mongarlowe', as I increasingly become aware that I could perhaps be reading a paper published twenty years ago.

I was reading the paper the other evening, skimming the headlines, harrumphing with annoyance, before turning to the crossword page for some light relief, when my friend said, "You sound like 'Dismayed of Mongarlowe'!"

"Too right", I said, "reading the paper is turning into a very effective exercise regime to get my blood pressure up. Listen to this."

## POET SENTENCED TO LIFE OVER ARAB SPRING VERSE

Dismayed of Mongarlowe.

I read a little further, not too far, mind you. I only got to page three, and there was another one,

## PRIEST UNDER SCRUTINY

Distressed of Mongarlowe

Although, to be fair, on the same page was a headline that made me feel a little more hopeful about the state of the nation.

## CONROY BEEFS UP LOCAL TV CONTENT ON FREE-TO-AIR

Delighted of Mongarlowe

I read on, and on – the news is generally depressing, occasionally heartening. Why is it that after reading the paper for thirty years nothing seems to change?

There's the Murray Darling issue. Still the states argue, still the vested interests have their sway, still everyone feels hard done by, still the river and country suffers. The latest plan – I can't tell whether it is good or bad.

## FLOOD OF CASH DROWNS OUT OPPOSITION TO MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

Confused of Mongarlowe

Then we get to Climate Change. Need I say more?

## IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

Despairing of Mongarlowe

Not to mention the Middle East. When will that issue ever change? Perhaps, a glimmer of hope this week?

## PALESTINE RISING

RAMALLAH REJOICES IN HISTORIC VOTE, ALTHOUGH FEW EXPECT CHANGE  
UN REBUFFS ISRAEL TO RECOGNISE PALESTINE  
Doubtful, but cautiously optimistic, of Mongarlowe

But then,

## ISRAEL'S GROWING SETTLEMENTS ARE FAST APPROACHING 'POINT OF NO RETURN'

Dashed of Mongarlowe

Then of course there are the loopholes, the scams, the little man being squeezed by the powerful. It's never-ending. The country is being taken over, we will all be ruined, the country is going to the dogs, the dog whistlers are out in full force. How long do I have to read all that crap for!

Corruption of our political masters? What's new. Check this out,

## REVIEW URGES GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE MINING TAX LOOPHOLE

ICAC HEARS OF MEETING WITH 'A SON OF A POWERFUL MAN'

SORDID DEALS BEHIND THE OPULENT DOORS ON LEAFY NORTH SHORE

EXIT STAGE RIGHT: FEARS NEW LAWS COULD ALLOW CORRUPTION

BROKER SOUGHT \$350,000 FEE FOR COAL LICENCE

Disgusted of Mongarlowe

However there was nothing in the paper today about immigration, refugees or asylum seekers. I feel cheated.

Will things ever change?

Alison Alder, Doubtful of Mongarlowe.

\* All headlines – Sydney Morning Herald, December 1-3 2012.



## Hobby Horse — 2

THE TIMES MIGHT BE A-CHANGIN', BUT THE NEWS STAYS THE SAME

## Pick that Peach — 4

ON YOUR TOES STRETCH TO REACH, INTO THE BAG GOES THE PEACH

## Eyes in the Sky — 6

LOOK UP, LOOK OUT, THERE ARE DRONES ABOUT

## Bedrooms across the Border — 7

IN SOME HOUSES YOU NEED A PASSPORT TO GO TO THE PISSPOT

## When yer gotta Go — 10

NO MORE HOPPING FOOT TO FOOT

## Claim to Fame — 12

TAKE A SWIPE AT THIS ONE

## A Life well Illuminated — 13

HALFWAY ACROSS THE GLOBE

## Bed and Breakfast — 15

NEXT TIME THE RELIES COME TO VISIT GIVE THEM A TREAT

## Who used to live in a Bookshop? — 16

COME ON, YOU REMEMBER

## A bus rolls In — 18

BUS FOR HIRE IN OUR SHIRE

## A ghostly Tale — 19

HOLIDAY FICTION TO CHILL YOUR SPINE

## December planting Tips — 21

WHAT YOU DON'T PLANT YOU DON'T EAT

## Get Appellated — 18

THERE WILL BE ROOM ALWAYS FOR QUALITY PRODUCE

## It's us Stupid — 24

HATE THOSE LATTÉ ENVIRONMENTALISTS

## Great monuments in History — 25

## Art and Cakes — 26

## The story behind the Photo — 28

## The Barbed Wireless still snagging Listeners — 28

## Horrorscope and Crossword — 30

## Heavens above barons below — 31

ANOTHER PLEA FOR PANELS IN PALERANG

A HEART-FELT THANKS to all the people, and there were a lot of you, who expressed support for a Braidwood magazine.

Nearly everyone I've spoken to seems to like the idea of sharing the experiences, talents and services of the community. The more people I talk to the more I realise how much there is to the town.

I can't promise that the magazine will last for ever, or even a few more; it all depends on whether BWD can make the jump from pet project to commercial venture.

I know money is tight these days, expected to get even tighter in 2013, so I'll keep working on the business plan, such as it is, and I'll be around the place pestering businesses for advertising support.

I don't expect Braidwood's businesses to treat BWD as a charity though and my job is to keep the editorial standard high so that the readership can be demonstrated by healthy sales.

Next year I will start interviewing movers, shakers and politicians about pressing social and environmental issues around Palerang. I welcome your input about what you'd like to know.

Nearly everyone would know that I have another hat as a Palerang councillor and so I will always be mindful of any conflict between the two jobs.

It's not really a big deal; plenty of other councillors have jobs in the real world in areas where there's an overlap of interests.

But I have to be careful in these times of endless 'conflict of interest' seminars and rules. Funnily enough, at the same time, we are witnessing unfolding conflicts of interest sagas at the state level that beggar belief.

So, anyway onwards to 2013. I don't know about the rest of you but my life seems to have flicked into fast-forward. It's always Friday or December or something — way later than I think it should be.

See you sooner.

Paul Cockram



HAVE A COUPLE OF COLD ONES OVER THE HOLIDAYS.

## The BWD acronym competition:

Last issue we issued the challenge for readers to suggest what BWD might be short for.

Here are the results ...

... and the winner of dinner for two at a Braidwood eatery is Kristy Moyle for:

## Bulletin Without Direction

Thanks to all who responded; the standard was high but in terms of capturing the spirit of modern-day life, especially politics, Kristy's entry was hard to beat.

Braidwood Whimsical Division  
Beyond Worldly Disappointments  
Be Wise Dude  
Brave Words Delight  
Braidwood Weeder's Digest  
Best Wishes Dearie  
Because We Dream  
Braidwood Wireless Device  
Brainy Witty Dispatch  
Braid Woodians Diary