

BWD

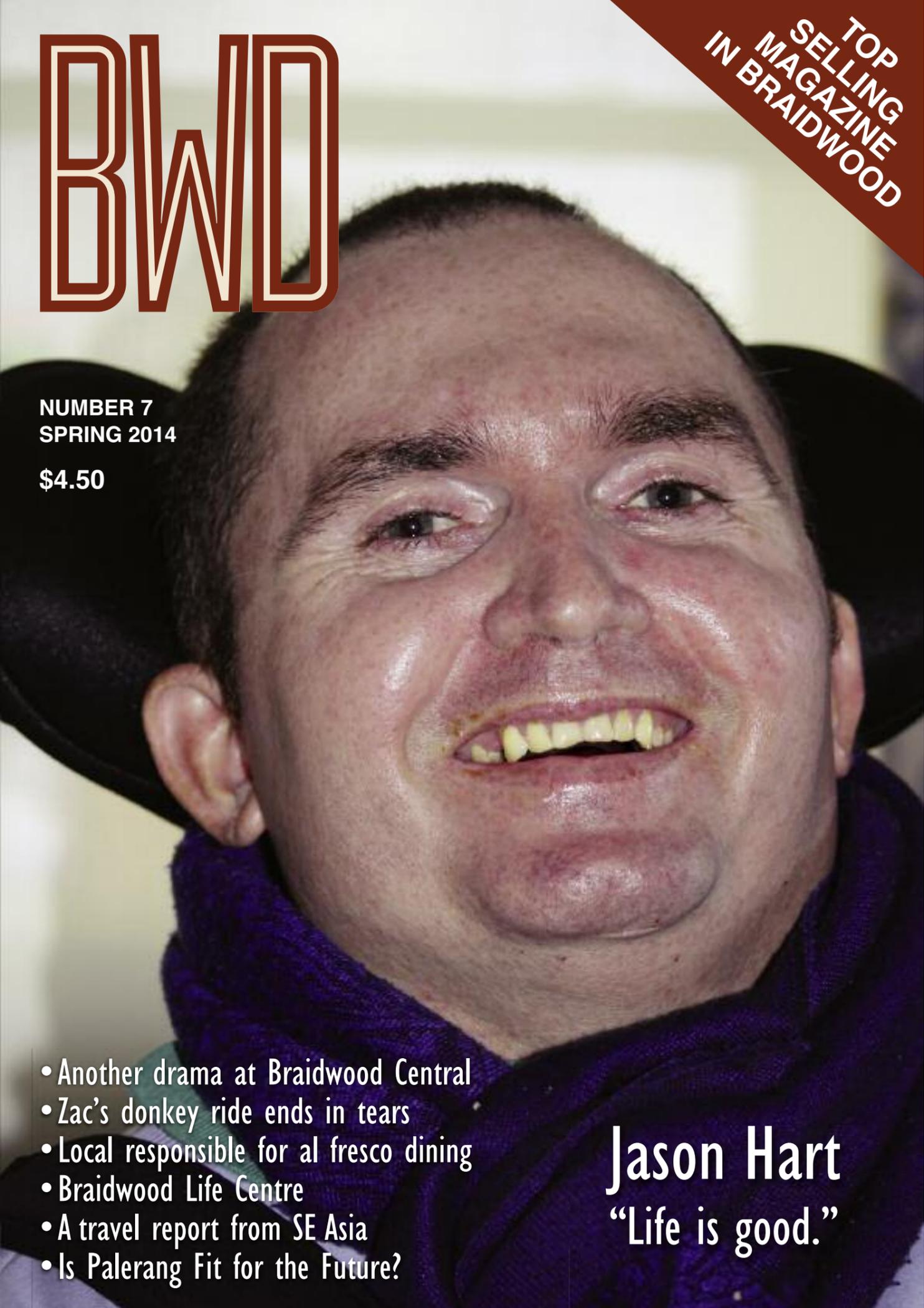
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- Another drama at Braidwood Central
- Zac's donkey ride ends in tears
- Local responsible for al fresco dining
- Braidwood Life Centre
- A travel report from SE Asia
- Is Palerang Fit for the Future?

Jason Hart
"Life is good."





Gough

Helen McKenna

I WAS STILL IN PRIMARY school when Gough Whitlam led the ALP to electoral victory in 1972. It was a defining moment. As I was growing up in Queensland, it was not until then that I realised it was possible for Governments to be something other than a Country-Liberal Party coalition.

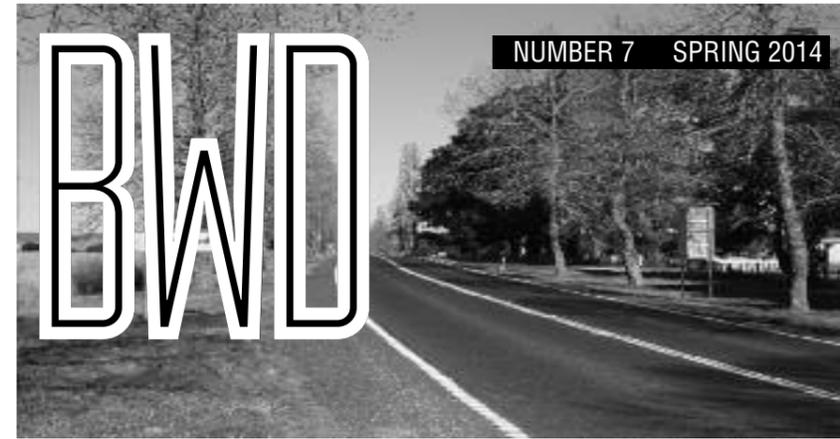
Most of my school friends, echoing their parents, saw a Labor Government as an unmitigated disaster. But it was difficult for even the most trenchant of critics to scoff when regional infrastructure funding brought sewerage connections to our little town as well as to western Sydney.

And when four of us went off to university a few years later, we all knew that it was only possible because Gough had abolished tertiary education fees. What we didn't appreciate at the time, of course, was the extent to which the breadth and audacity of his vision would fundamentally change the society in which we lived.

The record of achievement is so long it's incredible to think it happened in only three years. The headline items have been well rehearsed in the days since his death. Less well remembered, perhaps, are things like the introduction of the Single Parent and Widows Pensions, the listing of oral contraceptives on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule, Commonwealth funding of women's refuges, and reopening of the Equal Pay Case, all of which tackled systemic sex discrimination in very tangible ways.

However, Whitlam's most far-reaching legacy may be the way governments interact with the citizens they serve. The appointment of the world's first women's advisor (Elizabeth Reid) in 1973 signalled an intent to listen to different voices.

The appointment of the first woman to head an Australian Public Service agency (Marie Coleman) made it clear that the days of male-only mandarins were numbered. The establishment of the Royal Commission into Australian Government Administration (even though it reported after the dismissal), with its revolutionary calls for a public service based on merit, representative of the population it served, and committed to consulting with the community, laid the foundations for a more inclusive and open approach to public policy which still makes Australia a world leader.



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MOVING AT A SNAIL'S PACE TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

OH MY GOODNESS, is that the time? What happened to Spring? It was just arriving when I started production on this issue of *BWD*. Now it's nearly summer!

I promised in the last editorial to report on my trip to Canada with Alison. Well, they're just the same as us, in Toronto at least. They speak a language not too dissimilar, eat the same food, drink exactly the same wines (we have some excellent export trade deals going) and, like us, have a prime minister who places wealth acquisition as the noblest of national pursuits.

About those pedestrian crossings. In the beginning it seemed such a simple idea — install another crossing in the main shopping centre block so that darting, sprinting and propping skills were not a prerequisite for main street life.

The RMS never wanted to give us a crossing where cars had to stop for pedestrians. The community with its petition, the Seniors Association and some councillors kept up the pressure and lo-and-behold, they relented.

But the devil was in the detail. Large kerb extensions (because of our angle parking) and new brighter lighting so that pedestrians can be seen on bleak winter nights was in the small print.

Yes, I know — there'll be one every blue moon and why they'd wait for a car to come before crossing is anyone's guess. It's all about risk management, or liability mitigation really.

On the subject of council, amalgamation (see p14) is creeping ever closer. All our neighbouring councils are in the clear except for Queanbeyan which is marked down to amalgamate with Palerang. There are no other models, including boundary adjustments, on the table for discussion.

We must all jump to the state governments latest mantra and become, tada, cue echo: 'Fit for the Future'. Just giving us adequate funding to provide basic services and keep the roads in good nick is a solution too simple.

The good news is that from September 2016, I might be able to devote more time to *BWD*.

Paul Cockram

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GETTING TO

present in good numbers, are really having a great impact on the pest status of the bush fly. Al fresco eating is now an accepted and enjoyed fact of life, quite different from the days when the Aussie salute was the norm, and most eating was done indoors or in the evening when flies are not active. The biological control of bush flies by dung beetles is one of the great success stories of our times, not much lauded by the public, mainly because the absence of a nuisance is seldom noticed or commented upon. Only when these pesky flies are in our faces are they really noticed.

How we gave them the chop

IN THE MID 1960S the government decided that we were losing out on a lot of tourist dollars because people were not coming to Australia in the summer. So they put some money into the CSIRO to try and solve the problem.

Dick Hughes was appointed to the CSIRO Department of entomology to try and solve the bush fly problem. At the time we didn't know anything about bush flies. We didn't know whether they overwintered here or

MARINA FEEDING HER PETS.



Al Fresco and dung

Marina Tyndale-Biscoe on how flies time

HAVE YOU EVER GIVEN a thought to the influence that dung beetles have on your eating habits? No, not what you eat, but where you eat.

Those of us old enough will surely remember that thirty years ago there were no outdoor cafés or restaurants without insect screens in the cities. It was also a struggle to have a picnic or barbecue in daylight hours during the warmer months of the year.

Walking in the bush or in the paddocks one's back would have hundreds of bush flies sitting on it, and a goodly proportion of them would attempt to get into your eyes or mouth or nostrils. The Aussie salute was well known — in an attempt to keep these pesky insects out of your face.

Have you noticed any difference between the situation now and back then? Canberra, and indeed Braidwood, now have outdoor tables and chairs for eating and drinking and barbecues are not nearly as fly-blown as they used to be. As a result many people now happily sit in the streets and consume food and beverage without being particularly inconvenienced by flies. And the credit for this pleasant change goes to the humble dung beetle.

In the 1960s and 70s CSIRO introduced dung beetles into the district. About six species became established

and now beaver away, scarcely noticed by most people except the dedicated farmers and land care enthusiasts. Newly emerged adult dung beetles suck the juices out of the dung pad. They do not have chewing mouth parts and thus can only live on a liquid diet. When there are lots of them, they will totally dry out a pad, so only dry chaff-like matter remains on the surface of the ground. They ingest this food while developing their own eggs. The resulting dung pad becomes a totally unsuitable environment for the fly larvae which die.

However, our summers are not always totally bush-fly free. Like most biological control agents, beetles work most of the time, but not all the time. They sometimes are a little slow in starting in the spring, giving the flies a bit of an early advantage. Drought affects them, as does soil type. Birds and foxes prey on them.

The chemicals used in drenches and on pastures have a major impact on the survival of beetles and flies, but the flies can bounce back much faster than can the beetles. Thus often there may be a farm/region where beetle numbers have temporarily decreased, allowing flies a clear window of opportunity to breed successfully.

But on the whole, SE Australia is now a whole lot more pleasant during the warmer months, due to the activities of these little beetles which, when

THE MATTER OF THE BOTTOM

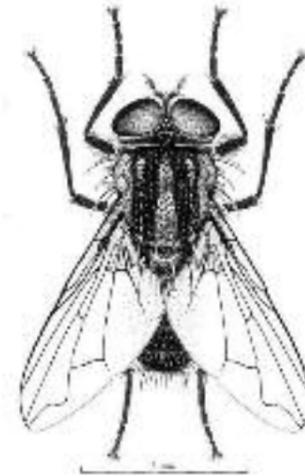
not. Dick had the idea that because they always disappeared in winter that perhaps they didn't overwinter here. Other flies always reappeared on warmer winter days but the bush flies never did.

So we thought perhaps they die out here in the winter but they are surviving somewhere else like up north. I was appointed as his experimental officer and my first job was to find a way of categorising the populations of bush flies. This means establishing the ages of individual flies. You catch a sample and you dissect the lot. Then you can establish the percentage that are newly emerged, those two weeks old, four weeks old or whatever. Each population has a signature age profile.

My first job was to work out how to do that. I worked out a way to dissect them, look at their reproductive organs and see what's happening in the ovaries.

Dick Hughes had the idea of driving to Burke, so one day

THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH FLY.



in October, with no flies in Canberra, we set off on a three-day trip. We'd stop two or three times each day and fry up a chop which we knew attracted flies and we'd stand around with our nets for about 20 minutes to see how many we'd catch.

We caught absolutely none until we got to Burke. We got to Burke late in the afternoon and we caught about 20 flies late in the evening. At midnight we set out our microscopes and dissected our flies.

These flies gave us their signature age profile. The next day due to sheer unadulterated good luck there was warm north westerly wind blowing.

So we hopped in the car early in the morning and started driving south and when we got to 100 km south of Burke we stopped and we caught the same flies. That is, they had the same profile as the ones we caught in Burke. So we stopped every hundred kilometres, each time catching the same flies until we got to Parkes.

It was pretty hard work catching flies by day, dissecting them at midnight while living on a diet of fly-blown chops the whole time.

By the time we got to Canberra there were still no flies there but within a week they had arrived being carried on the wind. As soon as the flies arrived in Canberra we caught some and they had the same signature age distribution as the flies we caught in Burke.

But very soon after that we started to get an influx of new flies, newly emerged flies, ones that have just developed. So as soon as the Burke flies got here they laid their eggs and it was warm enough for the eggs to develop within a week and a fly population just exploded.

These new baby flies are the really hungry ones, they must develop their own eggs and they're desperate to find protein in places like human eyes, noses and mouths.

So as a result of discovering the way the fly population moved and proliferated in the warmer weather, we could feed this information into the dung beetle introduction program that was underway at the same time.



SEINE RIVER, FRANCE

A message from Lesley Lambert to all my dear friends in Braidwood:

“The time has come where I'd like to exchange the picture below for the one above.”

NERRIGA ROAD, BRAIDWOOD



- 2-3 bedrooms
- Steel-frame house
- 3-bay garage
- 5 acre block

4842 2074

HOUSE & LAND SALE

How this story came about:

I was talking to Zac one day about doing a story on the Paydirt Eatery. The conversation got round to controversy and human interest.

When I mentioned to Zac that I really liked the Martin Royds 'whizzer' story in BWD #2 he replied, "Oh boy, have I got a whizzer story for you."

And here it is ...

Nevzat Kadri

talks to Paul Cockram

ON THAT DAY IN 1974 I was dressed up in a suit, complete with lots of gold, feathery ornaments and a cape. It was a solo performance, I was the only one. I was paraded through the village on the back of a donkey and leading the procession was a band with drums and trumpets — the lot.

The parade did a circuit of the village for about an hour and then we ended up back at our house. The whole village knew what was about to happen. In those days all boys went through it at about the age of six. It's a religious practice and part of Turkish culture.

So we come back to the house, a roomful of people with cameras and a doctor in a white coat. I was petrified but at the same time excited I guess. There were promises of gifts and new outfits and everyone's there around you; but at the same time you realise that you're about to have part of your penis cut off.

Yes it was quite scary. I get there, I take the suit off and they dress me in a white smock. A first cousin, a really big bloke, was elected to hold me down while it all happened. It wasn't done on a bed, just in one corner of the room with everyone standing around waiting, watching and taking photographs.

So there I am being held and waiting with my willy hanging out while the doctor gets out the strop and sharpens his cut-throat razor. The only anaes-



ZAC IN HIS GARDEN BEHIND THE ALBION AND (BELOW) WAITING IN THE REFUGEE CAMP WITH OLDER BROTHER FOR A NEW LIFE IN AUSTRALIA.

thetic on offer was a piece of Turkish Delight. It was supposed to distract you from what was about to happen but I told them, "I don't want any Turkish delight. I just want my mouth shut because I'm going to scream". There's a photo of me with someone's hand clamped firmly across my mouth. I don't have any memory of pain, but of course there must have been. My strongest memory is of not wanting to scream because you're not supposed to. So the whole thing is done ... shpoom-bang ... and I get bandaged, the hand over my mouth is removed and I say something like, "thank God that's over — I'm never doing this again". And of course the whole room cracked up laughing.

And then the healing — it really hurts, trouble weeing, like a sprinkler of course and really painful.

To make matters worse, within a week Turkey invaded Cyprus and I remember being really terrified hearing the bombs going off in the distance. From

which ever direction I heard the noise I'd run to the other side of the house. Of course this doesn't offer any protection but I ran around anyway, all over the house weeing in fright as I went.



OUCH!



BEFORE, DURING & AFTER

My mother had to run around after me with a mop.

Not long after all this happened we made our way to a refugee camp for a few months and then, because we already had our papers for Australia, we were flown out here. To this day I can't go camping. Tents and squatting over holes in the ground — no, that's not for me ever again.

I was born in Cyprus and moved out here when I was seven. Dad and my two sisters were already in Australia working to save money to get the rest of the family out. We were part of the migration program that started in the 50s. There are nine of us in the family and dad and my two sisters had come here in 1972 or 1973. We lived in a village in Cyprus called Pafos.

It was quite difficult for me as a boy coming to Australia because obviously I was a 'wog' and couldn't speak English. At times it was a bit of a struggle but I liked being here and I always wanted to make something [work].

My parents and some of my older siblings still see themselves as Turks who once lived in Cyprus and now live in Australia but I knew from very early on that I was Australian. That was a big struggle for my family to watch I guess. In their eyes they were losing their kid.

Like a lot of migrant families, my parents are still living in the 1960s of the country they left. It's scary for them both here and when they return to modern Cyprus or Turkey.

So yes, I was the wog boy with the wog name. People would ask me my name and I'd say 'Nevzat' and I got sick of spelling it and pronouncing it and spelling it again so when I was 17 I called myself Zac.

I'm proud of my Turkish heritage but when I went back there the people were quite certain that I was no longer Turkish. After a bit of soul searching and sob-sob with my family I just had

to tell them they're not losing me to the dark side, it's just that I'm a f*cking Aussie now.

My heritage influences my tastes in cuisine to a certain extent, but mainly, it's the foods with the flavours I love. When I started eating out in Sydney in the eighties, discovering Vietnamese and Thai, I just instantly loved the whole aspect of south-east asian food.

It was only after I embraced who I was as an Australian that I started to appreciate, even miss, Turkish cuisine — as an observer rather than being it.

Some of the dumplings I make, the fetta cheese, the halumi cheese, the mince lamb with paprika and pickled radish, all this is nostalgic — snippets influenced by home-cooked dinners at my sister's house.

As far as my garden goes, I like being close to the earth. I can get in there and just be with whatever's happening right there without taking in too much baggage. It's about what turns up and the food aspect of it I love even though

I don't have as much time now that I'm running a restaurant.

I haven't been able to give the garden as much attention lately and with the late frost I lost so many things. Now it's a bit more of an ornamental garden and I've put in more fruit trees.

For me it's an escape — not for isolation — I felt more isolated in the city than I do in Braidwood but I can go into my garden and get lost. I can switch off with nothing around but the birds chirping, seeds shooting and new life starting. And I like getting my hands in the dirt.

(Then if I want, in two seconds I can get a good coffee.)

The closer I get to the ground the more I enjoy interacting with it. Then I can grow it, cook it, feed it to people and enjoy their appreciation.

That's a part of my heritage that has remained strong — the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean focus on hospitality and the pleasure in feeding others.

IN THE PAYDIRT EATERY WITH LIZZIE.





Bruce Part 1: P.O.

There are two sides to every story and sometimes every person too. Bruce Keely provides BWD with one side here and the other later on ...

IT HAD GOT TO THE STAGE where my life in the Army wasn't going anywhere, so I decided to apply for a job in the public service. Then one day I thought, "What am I doing this for? I want to get away from the public service". I didn't even like the public service because as far as I was concerned they had too much control in the Army over matters military. I was working in the GPS section and it was a constant battle between us deciding what the Army needed to do and the bean counters saying, "sorry you can't do that this year because we don't have the dough".

Then one day in 1998 when my dad was over from Perth we took him down to Araluen to have a look. On the way back to Canberra we stopped in Braidwood and looked in the real estate agent's window which in those days was in the Altenburg run by Denise McMurtrie. On the display board we saw that the Post Office was for sale and I said to Phyllis, "That looks like something we could do".

After thinking it over for few months and developing a business plan, we bought it. So it wasn't a case of us choosing Braidwood, we just happened to be here and Braidwood chose us.

Running the Post Office is very much like that TV series about the vets 'All Creatures Great and Small'. I reckon I could write a series of books like James Herriott wrote about being a vet. Mine would be about running a country post office and all its interesting characters.

Of course when you're sorting the mail each day you see everybody's letters and it's amazing how agile the human mind can be if you apply it to something on a daily basis.

When we got here we didn't know anybody of course because we were from out of town. Then I'd meet someone and he'd say, "My name is Jones", and I'd say, "Ah yes Jones, you're box 120 aren't you".

Pretty soon people would be coming in

POST SOMETHING

and saying, "I am ... or I live ..." and I'd say, "I know who you are" or "I know where you live". You get to know people and think you understand them.

An interesting thing about Braidwood I noticed in the first twelve months of being here — and this is not a commentary on Pauline Hanson — but if you live in Sydney Melbourne or Brisbane and you wrote a letter to the paper saying, "I love Pauline Hanson" or "I hate Pauline Hanson" nobody would give a damn. They might think, "what a clown", but nobody would care except perhaps your next door neighbour.

But if you write a letter like that in the paper in Braidwood you immediately nail your colours to the mast. I thought to myself I'm not doing that and I never have. In fact, someone came in here once and asked me if I was a Labor voter and I said, "No I'm not". A little while later they said, "So you vote for the Liberal Party". And I said to them, "No, no, no, no, no". I said to them, "Go a bit to the right of Genghis Khan [laughs]. I only said that to throw them off, but what I'm trying to say is no matter what you think, it's often wise just to shut up. Braidwood is just like anywhere else — it's just distilled into a smaller population.

If you live in an affluent part of Sydney that's all you see, the same if you live in a depressed area. In Braidwood you see the whole lot. Between the newsagency, the doctors and the Post Office I think we get to see the whole cross-section of town life.

I'm not one of those people who has lots of friends, I'm not a guy that wants to go out and make friends. What I like are some people who are good friends because I don't think you can spread yourself too thin. I'm differentiating here between people you call friends and people you call acquaintances — people you treat in a friendly manner but not have a lot to do with.

Friends then, are the sort of people you can go and pour your heart out to, chew their ear, or tell them they're a bunch of clowns — and because they know you they won't take offence. It's only in the last twelve months really, that I've expanded my circle of friendships. The interesting thing is, when you get involved with stuff, like opening the woodwork exhibition at BRAG, people see you in a completely different light.

I had people come up to me at the BRAG exhibition and say, "You're not the bloke who works at the Post Office".

WHEN YOU NEED A HAND ...

Braidwood Life Centre

Peter and Helen talk to Kylie Dominick about what the Centre is, what it can do and how it helps

Peter: First, the Braidwood Life Centre is a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status and a not-for-profit incorporated association. Its objects as a charity are to help people most in need within the 2622 post code.

There's a lot of people in our region who basically do it tough. When you don't have much to live on it is all too easy to find yourself excluded to some degree from ordinary society. BLC is there to help people connect better and to do that we've divided our work into two areas: one is community support and the other is youth.

What types of community support services do you offer to people in financial need?

Peter: First emergency relief, that means we provide \$50 vouchers for food or petrol, people can phone our mobile number or come and visit us in the Anglican Hall once a week and receive those vouchers. Or, some people need emergency accommodation for a day or two. Some people need wood. Or water in summer. So the emergency relief is exactly that, for people who really need some emergency support, people who wouldn't have food on the table for the kids if we weren't able to supply a voucher. With that, when we talk to people we try to find out a bit about them, to help them up, to support them.

Helen: It's to get them back on their feet.

P: To help them get ahead somehow. Because sometimes they just haven't got the wherewithal at the moment, but if they know someone's there to help, they can move forward. Another way we support people is we work in conjunction with St Vincent de Paul to give out Christmas hampers.

Are your people mainly regulars, or people who have a sudden emergency and need help just one time?

Peter: Both. I'd say the majority are regulars.

Helen: The hope is that they're regular only for a while, until they get back on their feet. I saw somebody last week that we've been seeing for a long time, and we actually bought water for them. And that person said, when I'm back on my feet I'm going to pay you back for that water.

Is there a point where you can no longer help someone and you need to refer on?

Helen: We've built relationships with a lot of people and they're in a place now where we can refer them to appropriate services, or where we can explain what we can't do.

Peter: It's important to know that we are not professionals; we don't have Social Work qualifications. We do refer people when they need professional help, it's not us that give it. We act as a mediator to get them to the right people.

Where can you send people for further help?

Peter: That depends on their needs. The professional services provided

through our MPS are vital. For people in need of urgent accommodation outside of Braidwood there are places in Queanbeyan and down at the Bay there's a group house for men and another for emergency accommodation for anyone, run by the Anglican Church.

In a small town, there can be stigma when people are having problems. How can we deal with that? Do you reach out to them if they won't come to you?

Peter: You try to develop the relationship of trust, so they know you're not going to be telling anybody what their business is, and that they can just share without being judged.

Helen: All we need to do is built trust with people, so they know we won't be talking about them. But still there are people we know who are in need but they won't come.

Peter: These wonderful people are of course very proud individuals — they don't want that sort of contact. As

PETER MALONE, PRESIDENT AND HELEN GODDARD, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BRAIDWOOD LIFE CENTRE.



much as we're able, and it's appropriate, we try to let them know. That's where our pastoral care program comes in.

What is pastoral care?

Helen: Holding somebody's hand. Literally visiting, talking, getting to know people. Helping them in a crisis. Listening. Giving comfort. There's a huge range. Befriending and supporting.

Ten of us have been trained via the Hospital. We've been trained to do pastoral care with people – at the moment we're doing it at the Hospital and Narbethong and in the near future this will be extended to home visits in the community.

The Hospital is working to expand its palliative care services within people's homes and we are discussing with them ways that our volunteers may support this. I think it's wonderful that we will be able to be involved in a new thing. We aim to be there for emotional support for the person and their family afterwards, which to me makes so much sense.

With all the types of pastoral care we offer, we take a non-judgemental role.

Peter: Primarily it's not our place to make moral judgements, but we are all

moral beings and it's impossible not to bring a set of moral awarenesses into your interactions. In a pastoral care situation, if a person indicates they wish to talk about a particular issue, moral or otherwise, then it's up to the pastoral carer to listen to that and share on that level. Our carers don't make judgements. It might turn out to be their job to refer someone to, for example, a counsellor.

Do you have professionals within the organisation, or do you use professional contacts?

Peter: There are ten members on the committee and they bring a wide range of skills and backgrounds: professional counselling, government skills, financial management – the wonderful thing about the Braidwood Life Centre is that it is all-inclusive, with all the churches involved and representatives from the whole of community as well.

Helen: We don't take the role of professionals when volunteering at BLC. For example, my background is in counselling but I'm not using that in this role, I'm just a volunteer and refer people on to appropriate professionals as needed.

What are the youth services provided by Braidwood Life Centre?

Peter: We are currently running the Duke of Edinburgh award program. And that broadens our scope beyond people who live in poverty, to people within our community – young people who need broader experiences and greater challenges in life.

Another thing we do is try to identify any community education needs, and one that Helen identified through the community support group is Parent Effectiveness Training. Recently a woman has created an online course, and Braidwood Life Centre offered to subsidise any Braidwood parent who wanted to do the course. To gain our subsidy, the parent needs to be on some kind of government support or proof of limited income.

Helen: When I was a young mum, I did this course, and I found it so helpful. I'd love to have people get in touch about that.

Tell us more about your youth work.

Peter: Jo Parsons was involved in developing the centre from the very beginning, and came with a passion for youth. And that's why the youth subcommittee remains an integral part of Braidwood Life Centre. Jo and Ted Younger have been very involved with the youth side of things. First thing,

the Duke of Edinburgh scheme – they have nine people doing the Bronze Level Award. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme helps young people to grow in self-awareness and self-esteem through voluntary community activities which are part of the program, as well as team work on group hikes, overnight camping excursions. As you go up the scale of bronze, silver and gold levels they become more intense in the scope of what you do. It's a great way for people to start in that program. There's a range of volunteers involved with that, as well as some young Braidwoodians who've gone away to university, but they come back and help.

Then there's been a coffee catch-up group for Year 11 students, to provide some mentoring over coffee. During school holidays, day trips to Canberra have been organised, to give local kids an opportunity to go to Canberra with some of their friends. We fully support the creation of more facilities for young people in town and are actively working towards that goal. Youth can get in touch with us via the mobile phone, or through Helen or me or Ted or Jo.

Who started the Braidwood Life Centre? Why and how was it started?

Peter: Prior to Braidwood Life Centre there was Braidwood Care. I'm not certain when that started but it was at the instigation of churches in town. It provided, as far as I'm aware, emergency relief. It handed out funds when needed. It reached a point where Jim Warman, who was running Braidwood Care at the time it wound up, retired. In the lead up to all that, Geoff Hoad, who was Anglican Minister at the time, started talking to Helen about needs within the community, and what would help meet those needs. It was Helen and Geoff who came up with the original concept for the Braidwood Life Centre.

Helen: This was about 2009 or 2010. I was new to living in town and had come from a counselling business in Sydney, so I was very aware, looking about the place that there was a need. Geoff and I started talking. We had lots of ideas and put some of them together, and really, Geoff left just as we were setting up. He set up the concept of the three churches and the rest of the community. We wanted it to be the whole of the community, not just isolated in one area.

Peter: Geoff wanted to look at how to address peoples' need, and to do so in the best way. It was fairly obvious to him and Helen that resources in this

town are limited, so the only way to really be effective is to get everyone on board and working together.

Helen: As well as the churches, we get regular help from the Lodge of Truth, the Lions Club, Braidwood Community Bank, and lots of individual donations. We are very grateful for all the donations we receive.

Peter: ...and it's tax deductible! We haven't yet been successful with government grants. The restructured State system means you would have to take responsibility for a huge geographic area, and we of course can't do that, so we have to seek to partner with other organisations.

How can someone in need reach you? For example, if they're having a crisis on a Monday night?

Peter: People can use our mobile phone to get in touch any time. It really is a 24-hour number: 0437 989 993. Otherwise they can visit us at the Anglican Hall on a Thursday between 10.00am and 12 noon.

How many people are helped?

Peter: To give you an idea, we started our voucher system in August 2012, and we've given more than 500 vouchers since then. It has increased substantially each year. It's a combination of greater need and greater awareness that we exist. In the 2011-2012 financial year, we gave \$3,000 of direct support. In 2012-2013 it was \$8,500. In 2013-2014, the year just finished, it was \$20,000. In that time, we've got ourselves better organised and better known, so there's no doubt that's a factor, but equally the kinds of things people are presenting with speaks of an increased need.

Do you expect various elements of the Federal budget might affect you?

Peter: If what comes to pass in the budget, cuts support to people on low incomes, you'd have to imagine that will increase the pressure on those individuals.

Helen: A lot of people who visit us think that things are going to get worse.

Peter: If you live on an income that is already insufficient and not able to meet all your needs, then if government puts extra costs on you it's only going to increase that pressure.

How do you decide what you can realistically help with?

Peter: Our guiding ethos is to do the things within the community that aren't currently done. We do our best to fill the gaps of need. Those gaps will change over time, we try to keep our

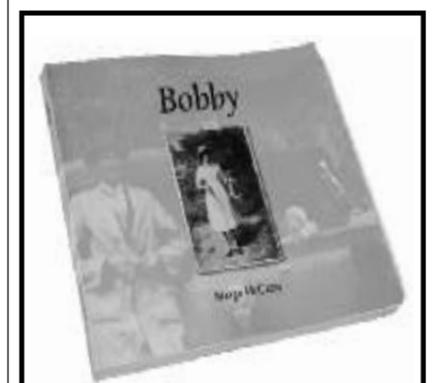


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eyes and ears open and be conscious of what those needs are now and how they might grow or change in future. The palliative care at home issue is a good example of Helen listening to the hospital and what their plans and needs are. We are open to ideas, but we don't want to duplicate. We're not trying to build an empire or take from anyone else.

Helen: We certainly wouldn't jump into something without consultation.

Are you meeting all your aims at the moment?

Helen: I'm quite excited at the moment, I think we're on the cusp. I'm excited about the pastoral care and being involved in the community in a bigger way. And gaining tax-deductible gift status. We're developing a website and we're looking at getting a credit facility. That all excites me that by becoming better known our support grows and we're able to provide more services to the people who need it most.

Would there be a point where you'd be swamped?

Peter: From a financial perspective, that happened a couple of months ago. We just ran out of money. We had to have the honest discussion with clients that we just couldn't help financially at that point, but was there anything else we could do for them. It was the first time and the wonderful thing was the community rallied and gave more donations.

Is there anything you would like to say to the Braidwood community?

Peter: Just how really, really grateful we are to the Braidwood community, because all our money comes from the community and they've really supported us.

Helen: And especially the Braidwood Community Bank, the Lions and Lodge of Truth.

To contact Braidwood Life Centre, please drop into the Anglican Hall, Wilson Street, on Thursdays between 10.00am and 12 noon, or call the BLC phone on 0437 989 993, or Peter Malone on 0438 461 333.

Donations can be made via the BLC donation tins in various locations around town or by making a deposit into the Braidwood Life Centre Inc. account at the Braidwood Community Bank (BSB: 633-000, Account: 142477629)

To become a member of the BLC, it costs only one dollar and you can help your community for a lifetime! What a bargain!



Talking turkey

If you're interested in raising your own Christmas dinner you should have started before now. Bronwyn provides the tips for next year if you want to raise your own

SERIOUS PLANNING to ensure you have all the ingredients, has to start early. The turkey poults need to be ordered by the end of July for delivery by the end of August. These are delivered or picked up as day olds and as they are babies (and very cute I might add) they have of course to be kept warm and cosy. You will need a heat source and a secure space. Ideally you should set up the brooder area 48 hours before the poults arrive. This is particularly important in cooler areas like Braidwood. This gives a chance for the bedding material to warm up and to

ensure that the heat source is operating properly. You are now ready for their arrival. All poultry brought in this way is transported in the first 24 hours from hatching as they do not need to eat or drink during this time.

There are three important aspects to raising young turkeys:

- Keeping them warm
- Feeding
- Keeping them healthy

Of course these aspects are part of the basic tenets of animal husbandry. Our animals are raised with loving care. This does not mean that they are

treated as pets but it does mean that we treat them with respect. We care about what they eat, their health, their housing and their environment. They live happy lives and this is very important to us. An animal that lives a happy health life will provide quality food. So just as with organic gardening you need vigorous health soil so that you have vigorous health plants, we believe you need vigorous, healthy, happy animals to raise healthy meat.

So the poults have arrived and are ensconced in their brooder space. Turkey poults look about the same size as chickens when they hatch however they are nowhere near as robust. In the first few days they often need encouragement to eat and drink. Placing bright sparkly objects in their water and food bowls can help greatly. While poults may not be as robust as chickens, or as smart at this stage, they are incredibly curious. Bright shiny things really get their attention and rouse their curiosity.

The feeding schedule becomes the most important aspect of raising turkeys and for that matter all poultry for meat. It starts from the day of their arrival until the day they leave for the abattoir in 16 to 20 weeks time.

We mainly feed the turkeys a home-made mash. We don't rely on prepared pellets. We consider pellets as a convenience food. That is, it is mass-produced, homogenized and quantified into a one size fits all. We use pellets when we are busy etc but not as a staple diet. By feeding mash we can individualize, adjust and modify specifically to the animals needs. So as I have already said, organic gardening relies on the principle of healthy soils to create health plants likewise to sustain health animals resistant to disease they need to be raised on healthy soils and good food. All animals require healthy gut activity to maintain the balance of parasites and resist disease. By feeding our turkeys a homemade mash we can add mineral and herbal supplements to maintain their health. So just as Kentucky Fried Chicken is cooked with a blend of secret herbs and spices Wynlen House turkeys eat a blend of herbs and minerals.

As poults they will get fed up to six times a day and by the time they are a month old this will have reduced to four times a day and will continue at four times a day until they are ready for processing. Feeding turkeys is a major activity.

Keeping turkeys healthy has its own challenges. Turkeys do not build up immunity to the poultry disease called



blackhead that is present wherever you keep chooks. Up until recently a blackhead preventative medication was included in all pelleted turkey food. However this product was withdrawn from the market and has not been replaced. All the books on raising turkeys will tell you not to raise turkeys on the same property with chooks but if you are producing on a small scale this is not really practicable. Blackhead is a protozoa carried by worms. Once the protozoa has been ingested it will work its way through the gut wall and into the liver. It causes death quite quickly. A key aspect to managing blackhead is to manage intestinal worm infestations. However as the blackhead protozoa can also be carried by earthworms other preventative measures need to be taken. This can include removing all soil from your property to a depth of 2 feet. I kid you not this is one of the solutions offered. But on a more realistic basis we have been using herbs with reasonable success. So apart from the mineral supplements of seaweed, dolomite, sulphur and copper given to maintain healthy gut

activity and reduce intestinal worms we also feed the turkeys garlic, oregano and St Mary's Thistle.

Garlic is an all round antibacterial and health giving herb.

St Mary's Thistle is used to support the liver and maintain liver health and oregano maintains stomach health. More particularly oregano contains plant phenols that stimulates the shedding of the stomach lining that occurs naturally in poultry and by this process will also assist with the expulsion of worms especially if given at the time of a full moon when worm gut activity is at its highest.

The recipe

In late September early October you need to ensure that the herbs and veggies you plan to use are growing well. Turkey thyme – great with turkey and other poultry, sage, oregano. We tend to go for salads made from what's in the garden. Possibilities include:

- Broad bean, garlic and coriander
- Cabbage and khol rabi coleslaw with a garlic and mint mayonnaise
- Green salad with fresh beetroot and shelling peas.
- Broccoli with pine nuts and garlic

In November harvest the garlic that was planted in April. In December take the turkeys to the small farm abattoir at Bega.

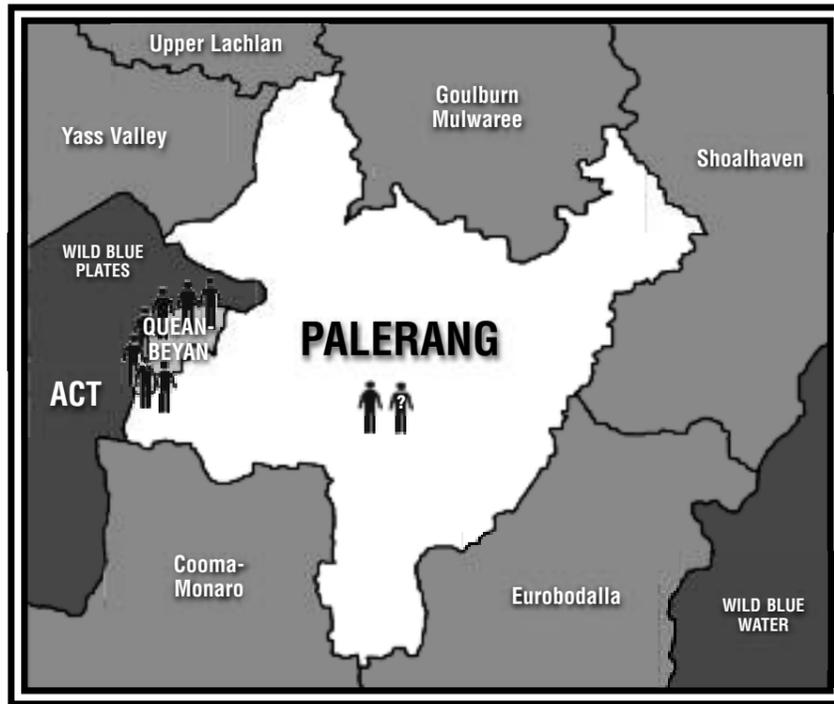
Finally — you are ready to cook the turkey.

Turkeys grow rapidly and are delightful creatures to raise. They are very human focused, much more so than any other poultry and it is very easy to flock and herd them. They will listen to what you have to say and like to participate in many farms activities and will chatter away in a melodious dtldlltejtjt. Happy eating.



SLOW FOOD

Slow food is a movement that started in Europe essentially as an opposing force to fast food. Fast food being massed produced, sourced world wide, homogenized, synthesized, quantified and packaged in a sesame seed bun in three minutes while you wait. Slow food on the other hand is local food grown where it is consumed, full of flavour, seasonal and distinctly individual. If you want to eat it, then you should grow it or try to locate it from the local region. It's about caring where your food comes from, how and where it is grown, and how it is processed, prepared and shared. Slow food offers opportunities to put meaning and productivity into your life. Participating in the cycle of life keeps you grounded, provides focus and gives immense joy.



Fit for the Future?

The State government has told Palerang and Queanbeyan councils that it would prefer an amalgamation.

Palerang mayor Pete Harrison explains to BWD how the process is going thus far ...

What is the NSW government's 'Fit for the Future' plan and what does it require of councils?

The 'Fit for the Future' plan is the NSW government's blueprint for the future of local government. It is their response to the findings of the Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP).

The FfTF blueprint is based on ILGRP's 65 recommendations for the reform of local government. These recommendations cover issues ranging from financing and governance, including asset management, audit processes and rate models, to structural reform, including mergers. It suggests the establishment of rural councils, community boards, and joint organisations.

The NSW government has set councils a target of June 2015 to prepare what amounts to a business plan that is consistent with this FfTF blueprint. Each council is being asked to look at its current situation and consider the future needs of its community.

How will becoming FfTF benefit Palerang's financial long-term future?

Councils, that present a proposal adjudged 'FfTF compliant' by an independent panel, will be considered to have planned for a financially sustainable future. To achieve this end, councils will need to address the parameters defined in the government's FfTF blueprint.

This may present a serious challenge in some cases, but the ILGRP identified a range of options that would be available to councils to fix the problems it identified in its research. The expectation is that by embracing the necessary recommendations, be they modifying rating, charging or other internal financial structures, or merging to create a more capable entity, all councils could become financially viable.

Is it a forgone conclusion that Palerang and Queanbeyan must merge?

This is certainly not the view being taken by Palerang Council. The directive from the State is, however, that both Palerang and Queanbeyan start by defining the parameters that would underpin a suitable merged structure.

The State has offered to provide a fully funded facilitator to assist in this process. The facilitator would assist a Transition Committee, comprising representatives of each council, in developing an appropriate model for a merged entity.

The two councils may then choose to develop alternative structural models, using the merged structure as a reference point. If the councils decide not to proceed with the merger plan, however, they will need to demonstrate that their alternative structural model does not disadvantage their respective communities, and can still satisfy the strategic goals embraced by these communities.

Is it likely that the government will provide information on how local representation, wards or whatever, would provide for the far-flung Palerang communities in the event of a merger?

It would appear that these sorts of issues would be managed within the proposed Transition Committees. This would be part of the structure of a merged entity that would require consideration. Any related proposal would have to be presented when canvassing community sentiment during the required consultation process.

Do you think merging will solve the funding crisis that most local governments find themselves in with infrastructure backlogs etc. and if not what is the likely solution?

It is a fairly widely held view that merging two weak councils, by whatever measure, will not produce a stronger council. At that level, therefore, merging is unlikely to alleviate any funding crisis.

The broader funding problem facing local government is tied up with the so-called infrastructure backlog, ageing infrastructure that financially weaker LGAs cannot afford to replace. This problem tends to be directly related to population density, with sparsely populated rural communities, with large transport infrastructure networks, most heavily impacted. Once again, merging two such entities is not likely to improve the position of either.

The alternative, in each case, might be to merge a weaker council with a stronger neighbour, with the view that the stronger council's position will carry through to the merged entity.

An alternative approach being considered is to retain independent LGAs within some new structure that would strengthen the individual positions of the contributing entities. There are

two models under consideration in this context: a new structure for [small] rural councils, and Joint Organisations of councils.

The more relevant in our case is the function of Joint Organisations (JOs), which we believe will operate much like the current Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs). Like ROCs, JOs should enable neighbouring councils to develop collaborative agreements, taking advantage of both individual strengths and the power of a larger organisation.

Do you think the NSW government has taken account of Palerang's relationship with the ACT?

This appears to be a major issue with the reform package as proposed, because dealing with an external jurisdiction in the way necessary to formally recognise the existing relationship between the ACT and adjacent NSW LGAs may be beyond the scope of the present reform process. Nonetheless, to ignore the role of the ACT in the economic viability of LGAs in our region would be to ignore the reality of the economy of SE NSW.

Being proactive on this matter, Palerang has been lobbying for recognition of the importance of the ACT within the region from the outset of the review process. It is one of a number of councils that have volunteered to form a pilot Joint Organisation that would embrace the goal of ensuring that the legislative structure that underpins the new JOs supports the necessary relationship with an external jurisdiction such as the ACT.

Vanishing representation

THE FINAL REPORT FROM the Independent Local Government Review Panel put the 2011 population of Queanbeyan as 39,826 and Palerang as 14,835.

That's close enough to a 70:30 split. In a 9 member council quota it's 6.3:2.7. But not everyone in Palerang will vote for a local candidate.

Voting for party tickets, Liberal, Labor and Green, will send votes to the first and second positions on party tickets. Their number crunchers will insist on Queanbeyan candidates in those top winnable spots.

It's more than likely that Palerang will struggle to get two out of nine councillors and very likely just one. Those one or two councillors will, looking at the population numbers, most likely come from Wamboin.

What your local pharmacists can do for you.

We thought it may be of interest to tell you about the services available from Braidwood Pharmacy.

Dose administration aids – this is a fancy name for the weekly packs that we make up for our customers – often called **Websterpaks**. To help manage your daily tablets and capsules we make up packs on a weekly basis. This is particularly helpful when you have lots of tablets or find it difficult to remember if you have taken your medication.



We also provide devices for some glaucoma eye drops to help with use of the bottles and getting the drop into the eye.

NDSS: National Diabetes Supply Scheme. We are an agent for the NDSS and via the scheme supply strips for blood sugar meters and needles for diabetic patients.

Blood pressure: You can have your blood pressure checked at the pharmacy if needed.

Certificate of Leave: We provide certificates for work places if you are unwell – we can give you a certificate to cover one day only.

Home Medicine Reviews: As the name states this is a review by a pharmacist of your medicines in your home. To have such a review you need a referral from your doctor and need to fulfil some criteria in regard to the medication you are taking.

Services we are looking to introduce:

MedsCheck: This is a service where we will go through your medication in the pharmacy and help you make a list over your medications and look for potential problems.

MedAdvisor App: This is an app for your smart phone where the pharmacy helps you keep check on your prescriptions and when they are due. This requires you to keep your prescriptions in the pharmacy.





TED HART, SUE RENDELL, MEREDITH MCKINNEY, WENDY HART, JASON, MICK KELLAWAY, BENTE HART, DAMIEN HART AND SCOTT HART CELEBRATING JASON'S BIRTHDAY AT THE SERRATED TUSSOCK.

“You get what you get.”

Jason Hart has Multiple Sclerosis. He's been in a wheelchair for ten years and he lives in Braidwood Hospital.

Jason tells his story to Paul Cockram

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY fifteen minutes of fame as Andy Warhol said. But I want more.

Tell us about your earlier life.

I had a blast. My young life was great and I spent a lot of time with animals, Arab horses. It almost cost my parents their sanity and loads of money as well, but it kept me entertained.

But when I fell off the rails, I really fell off. I had a very bad bout with booze and pot. And while I don't see anything wrong with people having a social drink or smoke, you can go too far.

There are medical applications for marijuana but they are not yet approved in this country.

And your life now ...?

I am in one of the best facilities one could be in. The staff here, for the most part, are excellent. My mum and dad are just down the road, my

brother lives just around the corner and my sister five minutes away on Little River Road. I also have great friends.

It's all coming together now. I'm 43 now ... took me probably since I was 35 to get it all together.

What don't you like?

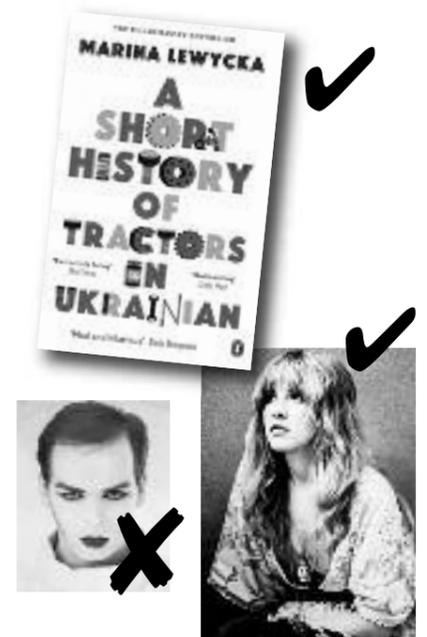
Okay — and mum can back me up on this — the roads are in a shocking state for the most part. We go up the street regularly. Ma takes me out quite a bit and in the wheelchair, man, I feel it and it's awful. I think they need to



THANKS TO ALL MY FRIENDS

spend less on doing shit like fixing that ... pedestrian crossing. (Don't get me started on that).

Mark my words. The people from Canberra will be looking for a quicker way and they'll be going through here [Monkittee Street] at a great rate of knots. We need speed humps near here, near Little River Road.



Just after I became a patient here, Cecile was good enough to take me to see Gary Numan at the Enmore Theatre where Matt Nielsen was working. Matt took me right up to the stage and I could have touched Gary but I thought, “What a bleeping disappointment”. I used to like him when he had blue hair and wore heaps of make-up but am over Gary Numan now.

What are you into now?

Harry and Nicola, Meredith and Jo all come and read to me so I'm very privileged ...

The book Jo is reading at the moment is *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka. Jo is such a proper lady [they were my first employers] and she's reading a book that's not smutty but is a bit racy at times.

I also watch a lot of DVDs.

Would you like to do a movie review for BWD?

Don't expect any sugar coating. I tend to be rather direct. You'll have to edit out the swear words.

Anything else you want to add?

Getting YPRIC funding was great for me. It's money for young people in nursing homes. Money for someone to take me out and for physio twice a week. It was a good thing that the government did at the time and there should be more of it. I'm also grateful for the support given to me by this great community. What a place to be! The thing about it is most young people in nursing homes have some

degree of intellectual impairment, but with me that's about the only thing that works.

What's the secret to being a horse whisperer?

Don't shoot them. It's the same thing with me — if you're a Jason whisper, don't shoot me.

As Quan the Buddhist priest who came to visit me said: “You get what you get.”



BRAIDWOOD PHARMACY

Julie Ballard & Bente Hart

Mon – Fri 9 am - 5.30 pm
Saturday 9 am - 12.30 pm



Climate action day

On September 21 people from all around the world rallied to draw attention to the need for on-going action from all governments to address climate change.

Catherine Moore organised the Braidwood event.



It is appalling is that the government has the attitude that it does to climate change and to renewables.

I went to the renewable energy target solidarity meeting in Queanbeyan a week ago and the local member didn't even turn up. There were hundreds of people there from industry including farmers, solar and wind installers — and they were all really worried about their futures because of the government's attitude.

And here we are, now lagging behind the rest of the world where once we

were leading. It's utterly appalling. This event today is happening all over the world but I didn't want to drive all the way to Canberra so I thought let's do something locally. I rang Alex to get an ad in the paper, a little bit on Facebook, a few posters round town all in the hope a few people would come here today. It's to show solidarity on this issue and for Braidwood to be part of the global movement in support of action on climate change.

Catherine Moore

This is a very important issue that needs to be supported; it's a global day. I think the idea that people are getting out globally is very important. The sort of financial power that some



ROBIN

of the deniers have gives them a disproportionate voice which upsets things. I think it is important that people come from rural areas because I think often the farming community, or some of them, have a slightly paranoid view on notions of climate change. Whereas they as a group will be most affected over a period of time by these changes. So I think to have these meetings, all around the world to make this point, as a collection of people is most important.

Robin Wallace-Crabbe

Solidarity with the rest of the world that's the point.

Gilles Bonin



GILLES

FROGS IN A SAUCEPAN COMING TO THE BOIL

I'm here today because I believe in clean energy and I'm committed to climate change action. There are lots of things we can do at an individual level; you can insulate your house, you can wear clothes that suit the weather conditions. You can wear a jumper in winter so you don't have to have the heater up so high. You can keep the house closed-up during hot summer days so you don't have to run the air conditioner so much.

At a society level, at the Australian level, we should certainly be keeping the renewable energy target and we should continue to be world leaders in climate change mitigation rather than the world laggards we are in danger of becoming.

In terms of lifters and leaners we are becoming one of the world's greatest leaners on climate change; and I think that's appalling.

Su Wild River



TIM, SU AND FORBES



I think it's important that people come out on a day like today to show the rest of Australia that we care about this issue.

Jay Davies

Governments tend to take notice only when people demonstrate, so people need to show this is an issue that they care about. I think there are many, many more people that do care about it than this government pays any attention to.

When people come out like they have here today it makes it more likely that we will get to see some policy change because what's happening at the moment is absolutely shameful.

Bidda Jones



HARRY

We have to show solidarity for the cause. We got to do something, that's blatantly obvious and politicians need to listen. My message for the current government is this:

You shall be judged by your actions and frankly everything you are doing is taking us backwards. You can't even maintain the status quo and people are not very impressed. You know there is a

majority, over 60% of the public, who want strong action on climate change and yet you seem to be dead set on winding it back. Various leaders have lost their positions through inaction on climate change and I would advise you to do something about it now.

Harry Laing

I think it's fairly clear what we want to say: it's a beautiful day and we don't want it to get any hotter. [Interjection: it's at least 3° above average.]

Sue Fisher



William Verdon Jeweller

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- we can do all manner of things!

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4842 2882**





HUGH

Stop growth. We will never succeed if continue with this economic philosophy of everlasting growth. It must cease and so must the mining of coal in Australia because if we don't, we're going to guarantee that the world will cook.

Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe



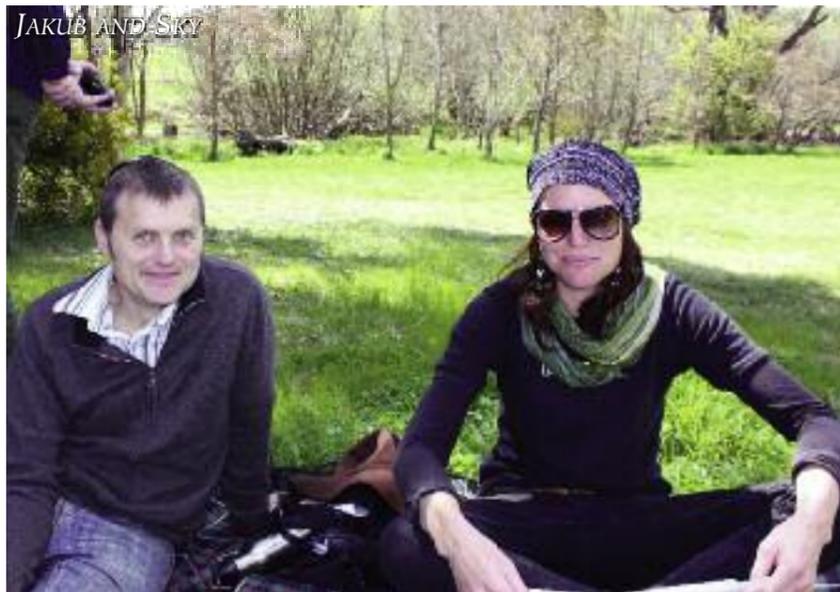
SUE AND JO

I'd like to send a message to the Prime Minister. Don't stop a new industry that is growing in this country; and that is the solar industry. Forget about all the old industries and support the new industry. That's what I want to say.

Marina Tyndale-Biscoe

We are here because we think the government needs to do something about climate change. It needs to cap emissions and it needs to regulate pollution.

Sky Kidd



JAKUB AND SKY

ALBERT, LILY AND ARCHIE



I'm here to be part of a bigger movement, a bigger movement to tell government that we need a reality check. If we don't deal with it now our kids will all struggle with it.

I don't think what needs to be done will be particularly painful. It can all be done in an economically viable way



DAVE



FORBES AND SUE

but we have to knuckle down and do it.

We have to recognise climate change as a real threat that is beyond all acceptable levels of risk. We just cannot afford to accept this level of risk. We need to act in a big way and in a short time frame.

Dave Hillhorst



BERT

Bruce Part 2:

The man behind the plane in the workshop behind the Post Office

WHEN I LEFT SCHOOL, and I think my father was partly responsible for this, my interest was kindled in old motor vehicles like most boys are. I became interested in old cars and old vehicles and I bought a motorbike to get to work. That led me to collect old Harley Davidsons and that became my recreational pursuit, collecting and restoring old motorbikes. In those days I was a surveyor and I spent a lot of time in backyards and I'd come across bikes. You'd stick your head over the fence and see old motorbikes. In those days nobody wanted them and I picked them up for next to nothing. So I was restoring motorbikes (this was the late 1960s) but my dad was a keen woodworker and I grew up with his workshop. He was a motor body-builder after the war. In his workshop he was always making things and fixing things up around the house. I grew up in that typical Australian environment where fathers were fairly self-sufficient and the boys worked with them. The girls would be in the house with mum learning to do woman things.

I've always liked furniture and one day while in the newsagent I picked up a magazine called 'Fine Woodworking', an American magazine that was quite popular in Australia. I opened it and saw this particular piece of furniture. I just looked at it and it struck me and I thought, "I'm going to make that".

So I sold a motorbike and I went and bought a Triton, one of those work stands, and I made a couple of dolls houses just to start my skills, or re-learn the skills I'd learnt at school. After I progressed a bit I got to the stage where I thought I could do something a bit more challenging. All through this process I'd been accumulating more magazines and going, "Oo-ah. Ooh-ah — I can make that".

At the recent BRAG exhibition there was a box I made and in the accompanying notes I mentioned that it was an exercise in dovetail joints. After I perfected the technique I made that box.

As I got better I branched out into making varying pieces of furniture. I have restored some furniture as well but I don't find that anywhere near as challenging as making a new piece. And that's partly because everybody thinks because it's old it has to be better. But I can tell you this, there are tradesmen of 150 years ago who took as many shortcuts as a tradesman of today might take.

I reached a point where I was confident in what I could do. When I first came to Braidwood I wanted to run a Post Office but also to indulge myself in my woodworking. In those days I made quite a few pieces, some I sold and some I gave away. I'd reached a point where I felt I was able to tackle just about anything. I was in my workshop two days a week while Phyllis and Jocasta looked after the Post Office.

I want to make pieces like the ones I had in the BRAG exhibition and just enjoy the pleasure of working with wood.

I like to work alone but I also enjoy talking to other people about woodworking and going to see how they do it. I'm self taught but in the early days I really enjoyed going and talking to guys like Lyall Crisp and Steve Kidd



(LEFT) BRUCE AT HIS LECTERN AT THE BRAG OPENING. (BELOW) THE WOODEN BOX FROM THE SHOW.



and Joe Lyons who was Lyle's apprentice at the time. They had the technical knowledge and I had the interest and desire to learn. But I'm a good reader and a good learner and just like a recipe, if the book says this is how you do it, then for me, it wouldn't be written if that wasn't how you did it, so that's what you do.



Self-sufficiency is not easy

But trying can be fun laments
Paul Dann enthusiastically

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN APPARENT from the start, 40 years or so ago, that there was something wrong with this place near Mongarlowe.

I'd salvaged some very old, classic French grape vines from a vineyard removal job near Canberra and with great love and care, planted one at the foot of each verandah post of the shed. I drove off with juicy visions of a shed draped, in a few years time, with torrents of luscious black bunches. But it was not to be.

Returning several weeks later, I was disappointed, to say the least, to see that no vine remained in its lovingly selected place. Instead, each had been savagely — or so it seemed — ripped out and left lying metres away in the bush. Subsequent replantings met with the same fate. It just seemed that something — wombats? — didn't want me to be there.

This introduction set the pattern for the next 40 years.

Environment, and its components — particularly wildlife and particularly wombats — can be a hard taskmaster. For ten years or so I was growing admirable crops of sweet corn, three metres or so tall, enjoyed by good markets in Canberra and Braidwood. Then the wombats heard about it.

They'd hole the fences and straddle the rows of corn, pushing each plant over until they reached the cobs which were gobbled without so much as a thank-you. Fix a hole and another one

would soon appear. Cunning electric fences? My wombats were shock-proof.

Steel mesh buried sixty centimetres or so? Too expensive for some half a kilometre. Swinging gateways? Thanks, they might say. Some other control options are better left unmentioned. So I gave up on growing corn. I never liked eating it, anyhow.

How about the birds then? For the first decade or so the birds left enough for me, neighbours, and some sales. But now it seems that the population has expanded to meet the food supply, and they leave nothing for me. Everything has to be protected with netting or there's nothing left. For hundreds of trees that's aesthetically and financially unacceptable.

A pet hate is bower birds — they get so greedy when feeding it's possible to sneak up and grab them. One consolation is that several bower birds can make, so it is said, an acceptable stew. (But wombats? ... doubtful.)

That's enough about biological problems for a while. The climate here is a major challenge, particularly when it comes to temperature. One can accept the savage frosts in mid-winter, when it's possible to slide a dog out onto an iced-up dam, but the sneaky November and December minuses are the ones that hurt.

Deciduous fruit and nut trees can forgive several mild spring frosts, but get discouraged by persistent later

ones. I have photos of 20-ft high chestnut trees blackened to the top; no nuts that year, nor deciduous fruits. In fact, crops of stone fruits rarely happen. Trying to be clever by planting tender species under the shelter of big eucalypts doesn't work here. The quickest way to kill an Araluen avocado is to transplant it at Mongarlowe — even in a big pot under the shelter of a verandah. Although the only successful grape vine here is growing thus, however, this is where my hatred of bower birds originated — can't win, eh?..

Before I go out to shoot myself (no doubt all these failures are a measure of my ineptitude and my attempts to do things as a minimalist) let's consider a few more biological problems in this environment.

One of the big disappointments here has been the discovery of the sneaky little soil-borne disease phytophthora. Raspberries once grew 3 metres high; now they just don't grow. But the sad thing is the 30-year old chestnut trees that suddenly just die from the root-rotting disease. Dozens have expired thus, before I realized the problem.

There's some alleviation by injecting an appropriate fungicide into the trunk; but this involves a number of spring-loaded syringes, expensive, and suspicious-looking when encircling the trunks in a chestnut grove, a Mongarlowe shooting gallery.

Then a bit higher up the evolutionary scale is the longicorn beetle, which after some 30 years decided it liked hazelnut trees. It bores down the trunks and cleverly chews the wood from the inside, leaving a stump which looks as though it resulted from a fine-toothed chain saw; and dozens of trees which just fall apart.

So a trendy little market for 'organic' hazelnuts and chestnuts has to do without the Mongarlowe contribution. Getting back to birds. For several decades I had successfully reared fish, mainly bass, in various farm dams.

But in the last couple of years they seem to have all gone; cormorants, I'd say, coming in when I'm not around. Could be marauding neighbours, perhaps — whatever, it's a biological pest problem.

The upside is that on a balmy summer evening the surface of a dam near the house used to erupt with voraciously feeding fish, splashing not-so-clean water onto the windows. Now at least I can look out more clearly onto the many failures in my landscape.

Exotic feral animals take their toll too. A pair of geese multiplied over

some years into a free-ranging flock of fifty or so, grazing in the paddock with minimum attention. No need to lock 'em up at night it seemed until a fox heard about this silly over-confidence and they started to disappear, one or two a night. At least it was a frosty winter, and deep-frozen partially demolished carcasses could be picked up in the morning, thawed, plucked, and enjoyed as massaged poultry. This could be a useful strategy when the oil runs out and there's no more roadkill. At one stage I thought I had invented a fox-proof poultry system by teaching chooks to roost beyond the reach of nocturnal foxes — which don't like climbing ladders — on top of a glass-walled vegetable garden. Free-range, of course, they ranged through several acres of bush during the day and deposited the thus harvested nutrients onto the vegetables at night. Trendy, eh? And it worked for about ten years until until some fox, smarter than I, woke up to it.

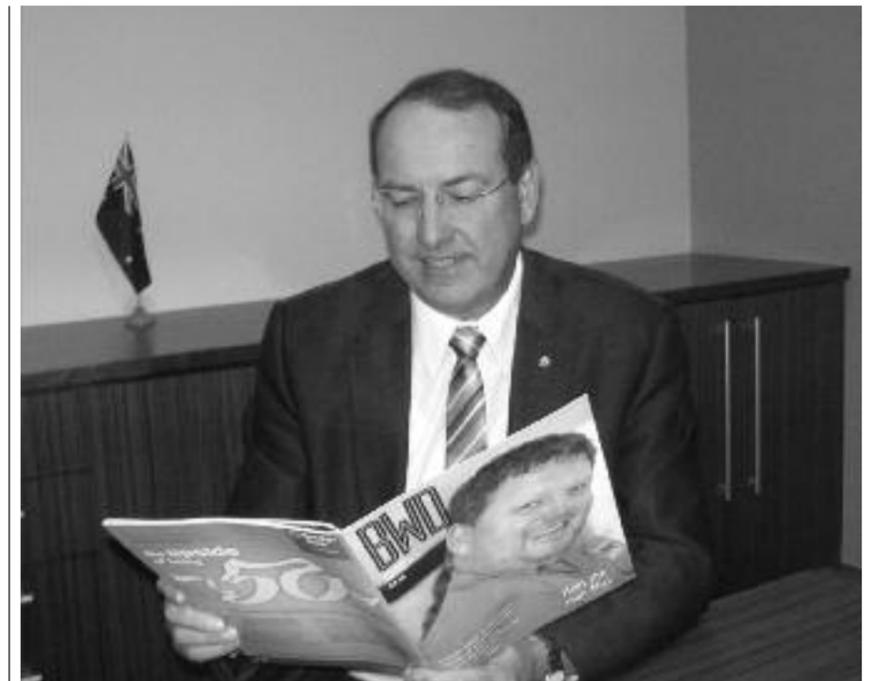
Though lacking traditional skills, I even tried bush tucker, nibbling on lomandra and native raspberries and so on and planting stuff like yam daisy and bunyas — only one of the latter surviving and that only because I wrapped it in my doona for the first few years. And it doesn't look enthusiastic about providing nuts in my lifetime. The creek in the early days used to give good fishing for eels and perch and so on, but not any more. Even mussels, which I can't abide, and yabbies are no longer reliable. I don't know ...

So I have tried lots of approaches. But the floating gardens sank; birds flew empty into the sunpits and out the other end dripping with bunches of grapes in their beaks; wallabies danced on the sunpit canopies to let the frosts in; the moats in the moat garden dried up; and so on, until I realized: Hell. It's easier and cheaper to go buy your stuff from IGA in Braidwood.

If you want to save the world by being self-sufficient or sustainable, don't try it around here is my suggestion. Probably better, instead of being sustainable, try to be a bit less unsustainable. And as we're only here to fill in time between life and death, why not enjoy it as much as possible.

So as I sit here on my balcony, flagon of muscat at one hand and favourite old dog at the other, and gaze out across my landscape — some of which I created — to the mountains, I find it easy to ask: "who wants to be self-sufficient anyhow?"

"But gee, hasn't it been fun trying!"



Peter Hendy

Kylie Dominick tracked down our local member for Eden-Monaro and this is some of what he said ...

As of a few weeks ago, Australia has no carbon policy at all which worries many people. What are the government's plans to implement Direct Action? Which elements of Direct Action would apply to our area?

I don't agree there's no climate change policy in action now — there is. The Direct Action plan has already started; elements are already in operation.

The government has abolished the Carbon Tax but we do have our Direct Action programme which over the course of the next four years is around 3.2 billion dollars, rolling out over four years. The centrepiece of that policy is an emissions reduction fund and that is not unlike the Clean Energy fund that the previous government put in place, which actually is still in place because we were going to abolish that fund and replace it with our Emissions Reduction fund but we're working on a compromise agreement so we can still roll out what we plan to do.

That policy of the Emissions Reduction fund is a research and development fund that will subsidise those activities where we see there is real bang for the buck in producing technologies that will reduce CO2 emissions and other climate change gas emissions.

Which elements of Direct Action are in place now?

We've got a policy to roll out the planting of new trees across the whole of Australia — twenty million trees. One focus we've got is promoting the use of technologies that would improve the use of soil carbon. We think there's mileage in putting research and development funds into that area because that would help a lot.

There's a perception developing that the present government is taking a stance against renewables. How would you respond to that?

I don't subscribe to that. As part of our Direct Action programme, renewables are very important. That's the government's view and that's my personal view. In confronting the climate change issue, encouraging the development of new and better technologies and renewables is very important.

Recently I was down at Nimmitabel to inspect the Boco Rock wind farm project. They are building about 67 wind turbines as stage one. And stage two will bring that to about 127. That's proceeding and is a very big project. I regard wind farms as one of the sensible options in regards to renewables. They're one option, solar is another.



Here in Queanbeyan there is an innovative technology firm called Dyesol, and they're into a new generation of solar panels where the whole of the glass structure of a commercial building would be solar panels. It's quite an innovation, very very smart. They're the sort of things we have to encourage.

Where Australia can help in terms of the climate change issue is that we have cutting-edge scientists and technicians who can really help in advancing these technologies.

As an economist, do renewables excite you?

It is an exciting area. Because whatever the debate about climate change around the world, we do have to address the issue of using fossil fuels. One area I've been taking particular interest in is how the automotive industry is developing and there's significant developments in terms of non-fossil fuel developments. You will see within the next ten to twenty years that we'll be moving away from petrol-powered cars and towards other technologies such as hydrogen and batteries. But it's about the smart people being able to make these things commercial.



Should we continue to expand coal in the meantime?

I don't think we are anywhere near the time coal will cease to be the main form of energy. Coal will continue to be one of the sources, but I do think it's important we explore other methods. I think we'll be relying on coal for decades yet.

In the last few years there've been quite a few same-sex couples from Braidwood heading overseas to get married because they can't be married here. As the Liberal party moves toward a conscience vote on the issue, what's your own position?

We've not moved to a conscience vote yet. The party has a clear position that we took to the election, as I did in Eden Monaro, that we did not support a change to the Marriage Act and that's where we're at as of today. And that's it.

I know that people have talked about a conscience vote, but it's like a lot of things when you're a candidate — I was out there, I was asked this question multiple times before the election, I stated the party position and I'll have to stick with that.

Do you have an admired politician past or present, and why?

If I was to pick one you wouldn't expect, it would be Teddy Roosevelt, he was a politician who stood by his principles, he got a lot done, and when he faced opposition he built up coalitions of support and advanced his agenda, and I think he's a good role model for people generally as somebody who got into politics for good reasons and implemented good policies.

It's not his style I admire — he was a big, bombastic egomaniac, and that's not my style — it was more his character.

I'll have the Tjälknul

Sandra von Sneidern serves up a Swedish dish

THE NORTHERN PART of Sweden is very beautiful, with a mountain all along the border to Norway that is like the Koscuszko Range, in that both have lost several kilometers being ground down by glaciers. However, the Arctic Circle slices through this part so the winters are long, cold and dark with metres of snow [snö]. The cold is severe: -53C when I was there. Surprisingly, it does not seem as dark with the snow reflecting the stars.

Thick forests reach up to the snowline and then the snow takes over. Within the forests are many pools of water that freeze over in winter, Sweden is like a sieve, especially seen from the air!

Hunting is an important activity during autumn and winter. The number, age and sex of elk [älg], deer, hares and capercaillie [tjäder], that can be taken is strictly adhered to and controlled by rangers who are part of the hunting group. The carcass is then distributed amongst members according to the size their families [familjen].

The Sámi (Lapps) run reindeer herds like we do sheep. The reindeer [ren] are the staple of Sámi life, providing them with meat, pelts [pälts], sinews for sewing skin together, bones [ben] for knife handles which become beautifully engraved with the point of a knife [kniv].

Because of the cold, people have a natural freezer; for centuries food has been stored in special 'outhouses'. Meat had its own storage place [plats] cut in chunks as it was killed and nothing was wasted. To cook frozen meat, the special techniques developed back in time are still being used.

This is a Swedish recipe that came from my grandmother's district in the north. I have used it countless times with different kinds of meat.



TJÄLKNUL (FROZEN KNOB)

1.5 – 4 kg deep frozen beef, elk [älg], venison, lamb [lamm], mutton or pork. (Less tender pieces can be used). (Boneless is preferable but I have used whole leg of mutton or lamb)

Put the unfrozen meat into an ovenproof pan (several pieces can be cooked at the same time). Place in lower part of the oven [ugnen] and set the temperature to between 90 – 100C. Cook meat 8 to 12 hours e.g. overnight. When slightly thawed, or after a few hours, stick a meat thermometer in the thickest part. At 60C meat will be rare, at 70C medium, and at 75C, well done.

Prepare marinade: For each litre of water add:

- 100ml. (or less) of salt
 - 1 teaspoon sugar
 - .5 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 crushed bay leaf
 - 15 crushed juniper berries
- Boil marinade 4-5 minutes

When meat is cooked to the required degree place into container that just fits and pour over the boiling marinade, must cover meat, close lid tightly and allow to cool for 5-6 hours. As the meat cools the marinade is drawn into the meat. Slice thinly like roast beef and serve with Béarnaise sauce.

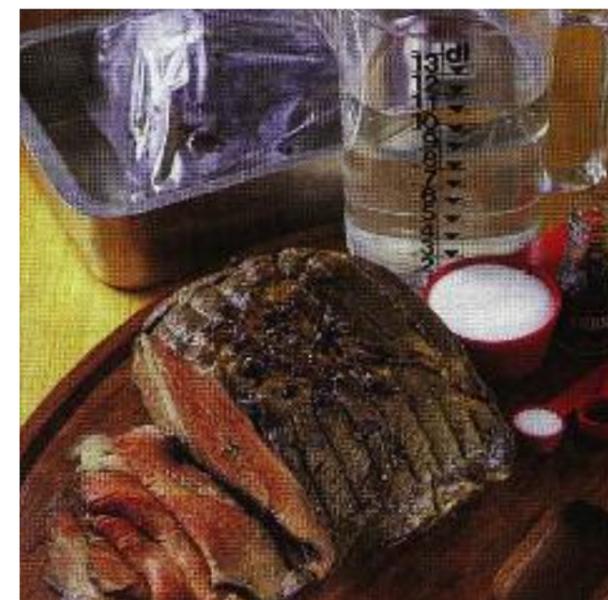
TIPS: Use less salt for pork, instead of juniper berries use thyme.

With lamb and mutton use rosemary.

Just a few things I have found: When I cooked a 4 kg scotch fillet the first time the outside dried out a little. So next time I used an oven bag and kept the juices for sauce. Now I always do.

Cooking a scotch fillet for Christmas lunch/dinner has been a boon for me. The night before I just have to sling the frozen meat in the oven, set temperature and go to bed early. If is a cold day, I can serve it up still warm with baked vegetables, if a hot day it's fantastic with various salads. In this area we can never be sure whether Christmas will be hot or cold, can we? Be prepared!

• The Norse language, to which Swedish belongs, has many words that have contributed to the English language. I have included a few.



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Greg and Merrie's excellent adventure

Some people around Braidwood received email missives from Merrie Hamilton and Greg Sugden as they wheeled their way across Asia.

Here are some highlights for the rest of us ...

AFTER FLYING OUT OF SYDNEY, we had a two-hour stopover in Kuala Lumpur. The airport was a bit spooky. Airport security were all Muslim women dressed in black like ninjas and made it very clear with just their heavily made-up eyes and their abrupt shouted orders that they did not like westerners. Maybe they were having a bad day.

KAMALA

We arrived at Phuket airport at 9 pm and after a 30-minute taxi ride moved into a large apartment at Kamala beach well away from the crowds at Patong. We were a novelty and the locals were very friendly towards us.

We ventured down to Patong on the bike a couple of times but quickly retreated from the hordes of tourists back to Kamala.

We have not cooked a meal since we left. The variety and the deliciousness of the food is a highlight. So is the price — usually from \$6 to \$8 for the two of us including drinks (cold beer). We hired a motorbike our first day in Kamala and have continued to have one ever since. Traffic is hairy but I ride defensively. Road rules like driving on one side of the road are not necessarily adhered to and stop signs and traffic lights are more like sugges-

tions than obligations. It is always hot and humid but cool on the bike.

Each day in Kamala, we rose early to avoid the heat, swam in the pool and then explored the beaches and countryside on the bike. It was lush and green and hilly. Most afternoons it rained heavily for an hour or so and we'd hang in at the resort and watch a movie or two and then go out for dinner.

On our last night we splurged and went to Fantasea — a singing dancing floor show extravaganza with mime, trapeze, fireworks, traditional costume, 20 elephants, dozens of trained chooks, monkeys, goats, a laser light show; often all up on stage at once in a packed indoor theatre that holds thousands.

We kept to ourselves and did little socialising in Kamala. After a week, we flew north.

CHIANG RAI

We had booked a few nights in Chiang Mai but it was always our intention to move to the smaller city of Chiang Rai.

Our lodgings were in the old quarter of CM and we tuk-tuked to old buildings, palaces, temples and shrines.

The numerous food markets and night markets buzz with people and music and dancing and food and an amazing

array of merchandise I've never seen before.

Chiang Mai was too big and busy and after three days we bused it to Chiang Rai, two hours away.

CR was just right for us. There were lots of whities in CM but there were virtually none in Chiang Rai. Again we stood out and were stared at but we quickly came to realise they were keen to befriend us.

We spent two weeks there and engaged with three families who each spoke a little English. We ate in their homes or restaurants, and we saw them regularly.

I spent time at a government high school in Chiang Rai. It was huge, 3000 students, and I witnessed Wai Kru day — teacher appreciation day — when students pay respect to their teachers for the gift of learning and thank them for the knowledge they receive.

In an elaborate ceremony, each class presented their teacher with a beautiful sculpture made of flowers they had spent three hours making the day before.

The ceremony began with the students kneeling and bowing with their heads on the ground as their teachers walked single file into the huge assembly hall. The teachers then sat up on stage in front of an array of the flower sculptures while the students recited a Buddhist chant and sang three songs of thanks and humility. There were tears in the eyes of both the teachers and students.

We explored extensively on the bike the country around CR as well as joining cafe society in the city itself. When you are the only westerner around, everyone wants to engage with you. All you have to do is break the ice with an hello.

CHIANG MAI

Back in CM for our last week in Thailand we stayed at the Lanna Mantra resort. It had been recommended to us by a Thai friend in Australia who grew up there. It was a fabulous retreat from the city only 10 minutes away — decorated and landscaped Lanna style to echo Thai culture. It had an atmosphere of peace and tranquility and a pool that we used morning and night. Our room was on the second floor with a balcony overlooking the pool and the river.

HANOI

We flew into Hanoi at about three in the afternoon and after getting yet another Sim card for our phone and withdrawing five million dong (about

WHY MOPE AT HOME WHEN YOU CAN MOPED ABROAD?

\$250) from an ATM, the difference between Vietnam and Thailand became immediately obvious.

The Thais are marked by their politeness and I don't remember hearing a car horn in the whole month we were there. In the taxi ride from Hanoi airport to our hotel in the old quarter, our driver must have used the horn hundreds of times, as did everyone else on the road.

Here if you are about to draw up alongside someone or overtake them or someone is joining the traffic, everyone honks their horn. In the city the result is a constant cacophony of toots and beeps. Since renting a bike here I do it myself constantly.

In Thailand we did not experience culture shock but wow, Hanoi was another matter. It was total culture shock.

Outside our hotel it was swarming with people, motorbikes with five people on them including babies, street vendors selling things you could not imagine; everywhere stepping around families cooking and eating on the footpaths. People sitting, sleeping, socializing in the middle of the road, bicycles totally overloaded with flowers or you name it and western tourists trying to find a way through aggressive hawkers. Toddlers running everywhere, the car and bike horns and the obvious poverty.

On our first night we went to dinner at a Viet restaurant in the old quarter. The food was delicious. It was 9 pm on a Monday night and outside it was swarming. I was sitting facing the street and looking out, honesty I thought I was living on the set on Blade Runner. I liked it immediately.

One feature of our stay in Hanoi was that we were often accosted by students from Hanoi university wanting to speak English with us. There is a lake near the old quarter where we would go in the early evening. It is a favourite place for thousands of people to promenade.

A crowd draws a crowd and one student quickly became six. Sometimes Merrie would have six and I would have another six all wanting to improve their English. Once we attracted the attention of the police who came up blowing whistles. I thought they suspected us of subverting the youth with western ideas but the students told us the police thought we were being harassed. We assured the police we enjoyed the students so they stayed with us.

After a week we left Hanoi for Tam Coc 100 km to the south.

KHANH HOA

We knew nothing about the place. We put a pin on a map and picked the next big city in Vietnam south of Tam Coc that was near the beach.

We saw only one other white person during the whole week we stayed there. We were like celebrities. Locals wanted to be photographed with us in shopping malls and restaurants. Generally, they were shy but very friendly. Many had never had any contact with a westerner before.

In Thanh Hoa whenever we walked into a restaurant all hell broke loose with everybody staring, the staff falling over each other to accommodate us. Always wanting us to sit near the front so they could show us off to passers by.

LUANG PREBANG

We flew from Hanoi to Luang Prebang in Laos, not in a big jet, but in a little plane with propellers that held about 50 people.

We manage to eat cheaply at sit down street vendors where you watch them cook the food or in restaurants full of locals. We've now eaten out for 63 nights in a row. We usually pay about \$6 to \$8 including drinks.

The sights you see commonly on

motorbikes — mothers riding one handed while nursing a baby, or mother riding one handed with baby and toddler standing on the scooter in front of her and another sitting and holding on from behind. Families of 5 on the one bike with no helmets; 3 teenage girls on the one bike all texting on their phones, people carrying loads 10 times bigger than their bike, a guy riding his bike with his foot on his mate's bicycle or motorbike alongside that is maybe out of petrol to push him along, young cowboys with no helmet speeding thru traffic dangerously as if they're in a video game, people riding slowly 3 or 4 abreast chatting away while ignoring the frustration of the people behind them and always, constantly riders on the wrong side of the road riding straight at you often texting at the same time.

One thing I am enjoying is the butterflies. They are big and beautiful — black, aqua, yellow, red plain or spotted and fluttering everywhere we go.

While we are enjoying it all, we are also missing home. But we know it's freezing back there and now that we're here, we should see and experience has much as we can before rushing back home to what we know.





BOBBY SITTING ON THE TABLE WITH SISTER HEATHER, DESMOND AND HER DAD AT COAL BURRA, NEAR NOWRA. "DAD ALWAYS TOOK THE FAMILY CAMPING AS HE LOVED THE OUTDOORS AND WANTED TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE WITH US."

Marge McCann

Now living at Majors Creek Marge, known as Bobby, has published a book about her long and colourful life.

She allowed BWD to publish a few excerpts ...

I WAS BORN ON THE 2ND February, 1928 at Lakemba, Sydney, delivered by Nurse Gee, a midwife and weighing 12lbs. My name is Marjorie Joan Berriman — but I later became known as Bobby after Bobby Breen, the young boy singer from the picture *Rainbow on the River*.

My arrival meant there were too many mouths to feed in our family so my maternal grandmother was put into the 'old people's home'. It was really an asylum and she died of a broken heart. Dad's decision to remove her affected my mother so much that she didn't want to care for me.

It was the beginning of the great depression and my father, who was a builder by trade, was out of work and decided to buy a taxi located at

Punchbowl Station that was going cheap.

I was six weeks old when my mother started driving the cab during the day while my father minded my two older sisters, Betty, aged four and Caroline, aged six, while he worked on small jobs at home.

Mum would breastfeed me while waiting for a fare. She would sit all day without taking a fare. Dad would sit all night, again no fares. They couldn't work out why nobody wanted to take their cab until a friendly fellow told my father why. He said the previous owner had a mistress as well as a wife. He got his mistress pregnant and when she drove the cab, she too had a baby on the front seat. But she was called

all sorts of things by the locals, and her child a bastard!

My father immediately put up a large sign that said 'UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT' as people thought that my mother was the mistress! Business then started to improve.

Back to the city

At the end of 1931 my father decided to move us back to Sydney. My mother was eight months pregnant with my brother, Desmond Arthur.

Dad packed up his brother's lorry with the piano and bits of furniture tied on with rope and put us three kids on the back. It was a bitterly cold, dark night travelling on the back of the lorry and I was sitting on the outside to keep my two sisters warm. When I saw the city lights it was wonderful and I yelled, "I can see the lights of Syd-in-ee". I still feel the same when I see lights at night.

My dad rented a house at Lakemba. There were only gas street lights which were manually lit each night. The house had small gas lights in the main rooms. The stove was heated by fuel, wood, coke or coal. In the backyard

we had a huge pepper tree. I spent many hours climbing higher and higher in that tree. It was my world.

Our toilet was further up the yard with a wooden seat and a large pan under it with a hole. Once a week the 'nightman' would remove the full pan and leave an empty one. If the pan was too full, he would pour some out onto the grass, and then swing it onto his shoulder on a leather pad. He'd then run to the waiting truck, slide the full one in, pick up the empty then run to the next backyard dunny. I saw him as a bloke who knew what he was doing and would often stay awake on the nights he came so I could see how he performed his job. Later in life, working as a professional cleaning supervisor, I appreciated my 'nightman's' time and motion methods.

There was no toilet paper rolls in those days. We'd cut newspaper into piles of 6 by 4 inch squares. Punch a hole into the corner, thread a piece of string through it and hang it on a nail near the seat. On Christmas Eve, mum would wrap a piece of Christmas pudding in brown paper and leave it on the toilet seat for the nightman. He would eat it on the truck during his ride around the area. They called them the nightmen because we didn't see them during the day.

I would always go out and say good day to him. Nobody would be game to go to the toilet at night as it was usually pitch black and the toilet was up the back of the yard. The nightman might come if you were there in the dark. So we would use a jerry at night which was a porcelain bowl with a handle, or tin which made a noise and was in the kids' room. The jerry was also called a potty or a chamberlain.

Work during the war years

It was 1942 and I had left school when it was no longer compulsory at 14 years and three months of age. My mother said we all had to start paying board when we turned 14. My first job was working in a milk bar at Punchbowl where I served customers behind the counter. I also did voluntary work as a seamstress making gaiters for the soldiers.

Volunteers worked for the War effort making up food parcels to be sent to servicemen on active services. The parcels contained fruitcakes, eggs covered with cold dripping in tin containers and canned fruit.

The war opened up new opportunities for women who were paid for men's work. I was 15 when I started in the grocery trade on male rates of pay with a nice lady boss who taught me the

trade. I started work at 'Goodlands' in Lidcombe as a grocery assistant and I soon had a bank account to put every spare bit of money in.

It was expensive to travel there by train so I applied for and got an experienced grocery hand job with the Derrin Brothers in Enmore where the manager was a very active elderly lady who trained me in all aspects of running a Derrin's store. In those days groceries were supplied in bulk. Goods like salt, sugar, dates, sultanas etc all had to be weighed and put in thin brown paper bags. Imagine six pounds of sugar in a thin paper bag which would often split and then we would have to wrap it in newspaper, because we didn't have enough big bags to repackage it!

Every week we would weigh up the groceries and package them into thin brown paper bags. The clear honey came in a large drum which was fitted with a tap at the bottom. During the summer months the honey ran freely. I would wait for it to fill and then trim it off. During the winter months the runout was very slow so I would serve a customer or two while it filled. Sometimes I was lucky but most times it overflowed and I would softly tell myself how stupid I was while cleaning up the sticky mess.

The butter would come in a butter box in one pound packets which we would then cut up into half and quarter pound blocks. A side of bacon had to be boned and cut on a cutting machine turned by a handle. Cigarettes and tobacco were scarce and only kept for our 'special' customers who were those who placed weekly orders with

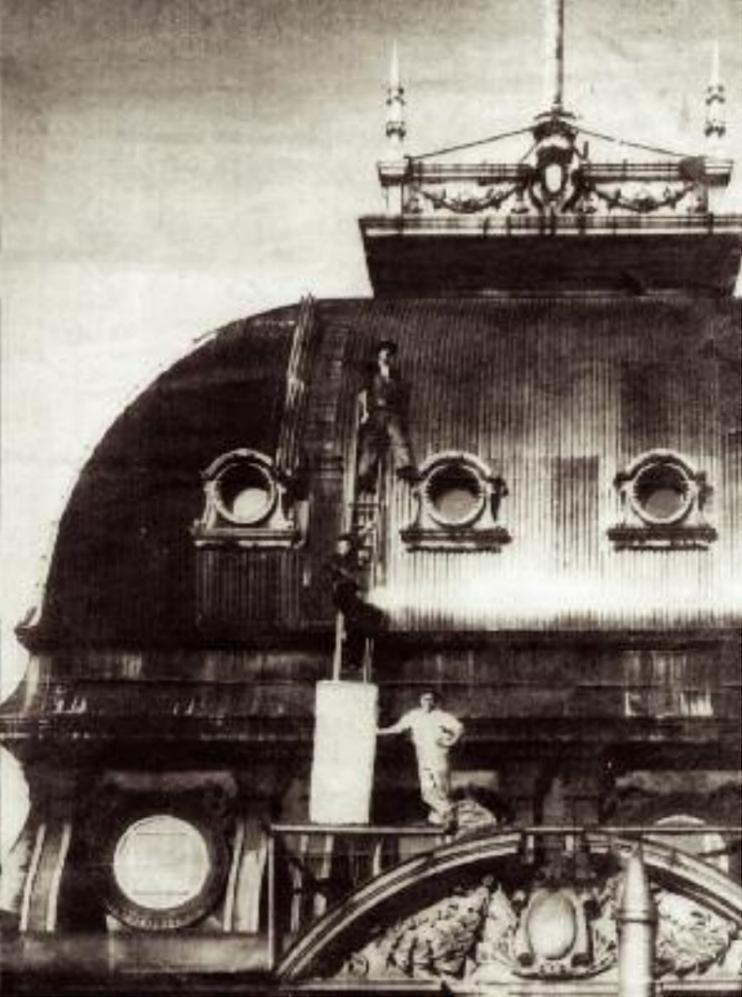
us. We sold wax matches as there were very few safety matches in those days.

During the war years tea and butter were rationed and we had to use coupons to reorder a box of butter or pack of tea for the store. Every family and single adult were given a sheet with food ration coupons that we would have to cut out before we gave them their tea or butter. We ended up with tiny slips of paper that we would then paste onto another sheet.

Trams were very popular for moving passengers to and from Sydney. The

BOBBY WITH SISTERS BETTY AND CAROL IN SYDNEY IN EARLY 1945.





BOBBY'S DAD ARTHUR, TOP OF THE LADDER, WORKING ON THE ROOF OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S BUILDING IN PHILLIP STREET, SYDNEY DURING 1938.

conductor took the fares from the outside of the tram where he clung by his eyebrows while standing on the running board in all sorts of weather conditions. Petrol was also rationed. The owner of a car would receive so many ration tickets for a work car during the war. Trucks were fitted with charcoal burners and most had solid narrow rubber tyres with no inner tyre. Rubber was scarce in those days.

One day it was raining and I took the tram home from work. It was packed and when I was getting out at Marrickville Station my umbrella was stuck in the crowd. When I pulled it, this bloke started yelling, "Stop! stop!".

I looked around and saw that my umbrella's handle was hooked into his fly and had pulled off the buttons. They never wore underpants in those days and all I could see was the hair! It was so embarrassing but I couldn't tell anyone.

During those war years there were large numbers of 'swag-gies' — men who walked the country with their swags on their backs and a billy tied on with wire to the swag. This would swing as they walked. They usually carried a mouth organ or a Jew's Harp in their pocket. They had no home and no work. Sometimes their wives died because of lack of food as there was no welfare to assist them at that time.

I was told that during the First World War, when the husband left his wife and children to go to war he would fold a penny with a hammer to conceal its date which was their wedding year or a birthday. He would give it to his wife and say, "I'll be true to you and I will be back".

(To obtain a copy of *Bobby*, see the ad on page 11.)

Poetic Patinas*

David Anthony waxes

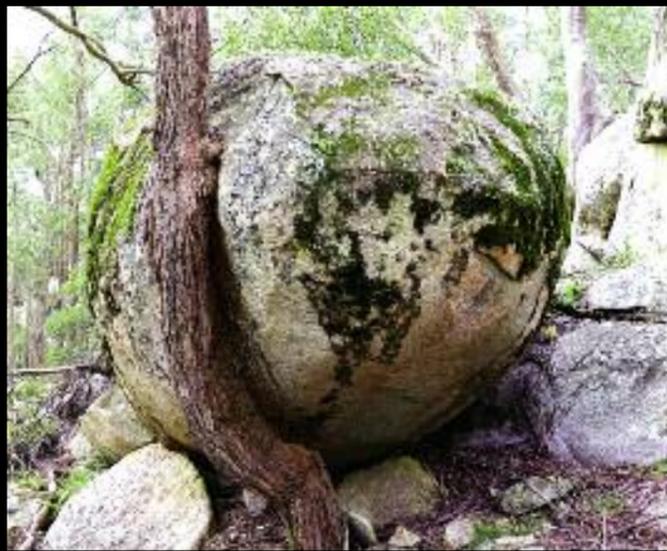
ONE OF MY DAYDREAMINGS while driving around the local district is reconstructing the stories of the landscape by adding the dynamic processes of time, functionality and significance to visual remnants both natural and human in origin that I come across during my daily journeys.

Eroded rocks — that bear witness to the massive processes that have occurred over huge expanse of geological time.

Abandoned cars — the shining symbols of functional modernism finally succumbing to nature's colonisation. Complex patinas of rust and decaying colour revealing both beauty and the impermanence of these aging objects of desire.

Bound trees and fence posts — markers of man's imposition of an artificial order on a continuum of nature

What you can't see in these photos is the poetic rhythm of time, not just the realisation that everything is in a constant state of flux, but the order and juxtaposition of these images that make up the background rhythmic patina of the day.



* Patina: 'a film or incrustation produced by oxidation over time'.



Kate Stevens again makes finalist for portrait prize

Tom Alder gets the story and the photo

I WANTED TO PAINT A PORTRAIT that showed two sides of masculinity. He's just come out of blasting inside a cement silo and he's wearing the 'uniform' of masculinity — and then the pose is in complete contrast to that.

I wanted to show the actual softness of the character with the pose and the conflict with the environment. I hadn't seen that depicted before, so it's a new way of showing the role of being the hero, of being a male in this day and age. It's a portrait of Jonny Beale a local photographer because for the Portia Geach, as in the Archibald, you have to paint someone who's prominent in science, writing or the arts.

I chose to paint Jonny not as a photographer but in the other part of his life — the hydro blasting, the part that earns the money. I like the contrast — because behind most artists there's a real job [laughs].

It took a long time to paint. I had to do it in stages, first the background then the figure emerging on top. Because of the colours I had to physically paint it in that way, building it up so that the figure just pops out.

I loved painting it — I really enjoyed the process of it.

Drama at BCS

Elisa Bryant speaks with Paul Cockram



ELISA BRYANT

COMING HERE WAS SO different to me that at first I thought, "What am I going to do with myself". So I decided that I'm just going to make theatre, and then more theatre and make sets and all that.

It's as a result of coming from Sydney and having been very highly involved in theatre there. The upcoming production is, I think, the seventh I've done since I came to BCS.

Recently we did Peter Pan, the last production was the 'Wizard of Oz' and

we're currently working on 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

I've been teaching for nearly 2 years now. My story starts when I was 14 years old. I didn't get into my school's musical so my parents got me singing lessons and it came out that I could sing opera. As a result I got a singing scholarship to St Vincent's College in Potts Point, studied opera and decided it wasn't me. The culture of opera is really pretentious but I loved theatre and performing.

So I went and did a performing arts degree at Wollongong University. After three and a half years I had my drama degree and I explored some very interesting theatre, predominantly independent theatre. I worked with a theatre company 'Strings Attached' which gave me the great privilege of performing on Cockatoo Island at the Underbelly Festival, in OJO directed by Younes Bachir.

In that production we explored the deconstruction of the end of the world. Through this process I was exposed to the organic process of starting with an idea and turning it into a story. At the same time I was working as a nanny for a family whose children I adored



MYRTLE WILD AS A POPPY.

and that is what inspired me to start teaching.

I hadn't wanted to teach before that. My mum was a teacher and I thought, "Bleah". No one wants to be a teacher when their mum's a teacher I think. But then I thought, she's a science teacher and I want to be a drama teacher and they're such different things. I mean we roll around on the floor in drama, we don't have desks and we have lots of fun.

When we produced 'A School For Scandal' it was an interesting time as it was my first time directing school students. It was a fun show and a really good experience. The Year 11 and the Year 9/10 productions are intended as a learning experience as part of the syllabus.

Then we did 'Prince Cinders'. A primary school musical is a first for BCS. Primary school students previously only had parts, like doing a number, in high school musicals. I thought there was more wealth in primary students having their own production. 'Prince Cinders' was an adaptation of a picture book by Babette Cole and it involved Years 3 - 6.

We ended the year with 'Thumbelina' which was the Year 9/10 production. This year we started with another primary production, 'Peter Pan', again using 3 - 6. Then in term two we did

"I think human suffering is one of the most interesting concepts to explore in theatre."



GEORGINA CAMPBELL AS DOROTHY AND LILY MUNNINGS AS GLINDA.

our Year 11 production which was 'Medea'. Then in term three we had the big production that we'd been working on since term one in sport time, the 'Wizard of Oz'.

Now we we're doing 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe', but right now I can't tell you how that's going to go. You can't ever know if it's going to be a huge success, you just have to believe in it. We are adding music because there is something special about having music in shows, putting it in underneath. It carries the show. In 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' Lucy is going to sing Abba's 'I have a dream' as she's playing hide and seek with her brothers and sister and ends up finding the wardrobe.

I think about shows ages in advance and if I gather enough resources I can go, "Yeah, we'll do that one. We've got Abba's 'I Put a Spell on You' as performed by Creedence Clearwater Revival and 'Killing in the Name', which most of my boys love because they're part of the metal crowd who do the Wednesday/Friday afternoon radio show.

As a group they just love playing up the characters. They are really melodramatic. They just love that tacky moment, that lame joke.

In Year 9/10 drama we start the year off with kids who haven't done drama

before. First we study improvisation working to accept each other's offers. I might say, "We're falling off a cliff" and they could all screaming imitating falling off a cliff. Or I might say, "Let's get on a boat and go on an amazing journey". The need to learn to accept all offers.

We all have to open slightly to accepting because a lot of people don't. They could just go, "Well that's stupid,

there's no boat here". But it's in the imagination and that is why drama can be so much easier to do with a primary school group.

Because there isn't that closed off attitude. They still pick up dolls at home and will have imagination games with each other on the playground. In high school we need to recreate that because it gets somewhat lost in those early years of high school. That's why we don't study Realism in years 9/10.

We want them to be huge on stage, to be disgusting, to be the demon, to be involved in physicalised forms of theatre.

Hopefully by the time we get to the production they have opened a little bit, and then a little bit more. They can trust that their ideas are going to be accepted and are going to be good. Sometimes students suggest something ridiculous and you say, "Oh we can't do that". But then at other times they're brilliant ideas.

Like, it's a bit hard for some of the characters in this piece to be melodramatic. They are upright British children from the 1930s and 40s who have been forced by the war to live in the country. They need to be very proper and to be grotesque is not an option for them in this play. But they find moments where they can be humorous and this is part of the process we've been going through. They've found the way to do it.

Drama is something they already had that in themselves and it's our role to allow that to bring it into the open. They begin by sharing that with me and the class — and of course on the night, with the audience.

TALITHA MANN, ELIZABETH VELLA, TEISH BOOY, JACK CHALLER AND LILY MUNNINGS WITH ELISA IN FRONT OF THE UPCOMING WARDROBE.



HORRSCOPE FOR THE SPRING MONTHS 2014:

To allow for the vagaries of the universe and interpretive inexactitude, it might pay to read everyone else's stars as well.

SCORPIO

Your local council must become 'Fit for the Future'. The state government is convinced that yet another slogan-driven campaign will do the trick. Providing more money might seem to be a simpler approach but not as much fun as fiddling yet again with the boundaries.

SAGITTARIUS

If you are a student at Braidwood Central School I am sure you got a lot out of this day. I am also sure that all of you performed to your personal best. How do I know all this? Read the school newsletter and you'll discover that all students always do and somehow the teacher always knows this.

CAPRICORN

The progression of houses from angular through succedent and cadent and back to angular again symbolizes the flow of life experience. Just like how my 3G internet clags out when the full flow of Canberra tourists on the blower gets preferential band-width allocation.

AQUARIUS

It's not a time to be afraid. A good meal, a comfy bed, a warm shower in the morning and sharing your life with friends and family. It might not be perfect but you won't be shot dead by unemployable morons with big guns and no idea.

PISCES

Obliquity is currently around 23 degrees 26 minutes and varies slowly over the centuries. Oblivion on the other hand, or in the other bar, is currently around 10 minutes before closing time and hovers around like a designated driver.

ARIES

If you are a student looking for a higher

education then stay alert in choosing the right institution. Of course if you were to vigorously protest about something, say rampant coal-seam gas fracking, you might find George's new meta-data laws will allow you to bypass Christopher's pricier options and head straight into a cheaper, but more correctional facility.

TAURUS

The love life of the people falling under Taurus is going to be delightful but perhaps not quite so for those of you that go under a Nissan Dualis.



GEMINI

If you're getting on a bit and want to plan for beyond retirement, you might like to consider ordering a place at the local cemetery. If you leave it too late you might lose the plot.

CANCER

Your life will take unpredictable turns and when you go back to the dealer they will say what do expect when you buy a European car where the steering box is only on that side in 5% of the cars they make? Thanks to the British-built railways the Japanese drive on the wrong side too or all our cars would be rubbish.

LEO

This month you'll have many profitable professional proposals in your court. If they involve financial advice, herbal tea or erectile disfunction you might end up in someone else's court. Fret not — if you're middle class, well dressed and articulate, just plead momentary insanity or melancholy over the recent loss of your dog and your barista will get you a coffee — sorry, I mean your barrister will get you off.

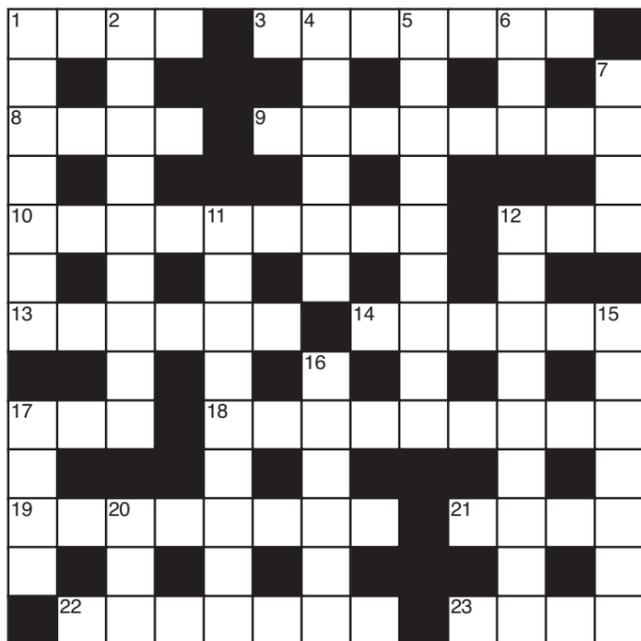
VIRGO

You will get into some healthy ego building by the end of the month and this is a good thing. Do not be put off by the small parts that are so difficult to find. What? Oh, bloody proofreaders; it's so darn hard to get a good one. Of course it should have read Lego building.

LIBRA

Professional challenges are ready to grab you. The GST may go up to 12.5%. Let's see now, add a tenth of the tax free price plus a quarter of that. God knows what you divide by to strip out the GST.

BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER #7



ACROSS

- 1. Remedy (4)
- 3. The winners' attitude at the MCG this year? (7)
- 8. Harrowing (4)
- 9. You see it. You want it. You...? (3,2,3)
- 10. Was Russell crowing when they won? (9)
- 12. People carrier (3)
- 13. I'll see you in my? (6)
- 14. MacDonald's favourite shade? (6)
- 17. Resting place (3)
- 18. Dug puzzle, thirstily and quickly (anag.) (7,2)
- 19. Baby geese are goslings and baby sheep are (3,5)
- 21. French Dad (4)
- 22. Look out Rattus, Rattus! (4,4)
- 23. Da'ish (4)

DOWN

- 1. Emergency signal (4,4)
- Unusual or scarce (4,4)
- 4. At all events (6)
- 5. Needles are used when she does this. (5,4)

- 6. It's roolly, roolly great! It's ... cool! (3)
- 7. Common newts (4)
- 11. New arrival (9)
- 12. Say goodbyes to 21 across (3,6)
- 15. Young 'uns (7)
- 16. We had one of these on Wallace Street but now we have two modern ones instead! (1,5)
- 17. Come here on one of these and you could end up on Manus Island! (4)
- 20. Meadow (3)

SOLUTION TO BAFFLER #6



An intelligent grid can wean us off coal

Most young engineers can explain how the power grid can be upgraded to take advantage of renewable and distributed energy

I'M A RAILWAY BUFF and the other day as I was browsing my way through *Trains* by S.P. Gordon, published in 1976, I came to this timely quote:

"Any innovation that presents a challenge to existing practices and methods will usually be subject to a period of discredit. Electric traction in particular was seen as a threat to the alliance of coal and steam which held a monopolistic position as the source of all industrial power.

"Britain, as a major coal-producing country, could probably also see the demands for this product dropping considerably if steam motive power was abandoned, so the railways' 'anti-attitude' [to the introduction of electric locomotives in the 1900s] was no doubt given support from political as well as business circles."

So there you have it. We've been through all this, "Oh woe is me" stuff from the coal industry before. But of course it didn't work because electric (and diesel/electric) locomotives are obviously so much cleaner and easier to maintain that steam engines.

In the 1950s there were steam locomotives hard at work on every continent. By the 1970s they had nearly all been scrapped. In fact, almost the only steam engines left on the planet working for money are in power stations.

These inefficient and dirty engines will be scrapped eventually just as surely as the locomotives. The coal industry will fail once again in its efforts to put self-interest ahead of technical innovation and the march of progress.

If the coal barons did not have such influence in government and sections of the media, we would not have to put up with so much drivel about how coal is here to stay. First it was for ever, now it's 'for decades yet' — and it will be used for quite some time but the important statement that our leaders must make is this:

"Coal has contributed hugely to the industrial development of the world but it is a dirty and finite fuel source and we're trying to replace it as fast as we can."

When Tony Abbott says, coal is 'good for humanity' and the 'foundation of prosperity', he runs the risk of making those comments his and the current government's legacy quotes. History will treat them as kindly as it has all Luddites who resist change at the behest of vested interests.



Into the future by Paul Cockram

Then there's this from the New South Wales Mineral Council. "Coal will remain a key energy source, especially for billions of the world's poor who still do not have access to cheap and reliable power."

But will it — and should it? At the beginning of this month 160 million people in Bangladesh suffered a sudden blackout lasting up to 10 hours when a 400-kilovolt transmission line from India suffered a 'technical glitch'.

Way back in 2009, before CSIRO stood for Coal Stays In Renewables Out, that once-proud and independent scientific research agency produced a 600-page report, 'Intelligent Grid'. It made a coherent case for redesigning



our electricity grid to make it more efficient and less prone to overloading.

The way the grid presently works is as old-fashioned as the steam engines that provide the grunt power. For starters, a huge amount of the coal's energy is wasted as unused heat exhausting up the chimney with the CO₂.

Then, the electrons forced at the power station to bump into their neighbours with such vigour, lose quite a lot of their enthusiasm by the time the energy wave arrives at the power point hundreds of kilometres down the wire. We know all this, but electricity has become such a 'non-discretionary' purchase that inefficiencies can be absorbed and ignored by the producers by simply raising the price to the end user.

The CSIRO report shows a better way, a more efficient way and a less-polluting way to maximise our energy resources. It shows how decentralised energy production leads to vastly better outcomes for consumers and the environment.

That's why the coal industry's sudden epiphany about the plight of the billions of Earth's citizens who have no access to electricity is as ridiculous as it is self-serving.

The last thing a developing country would think of doing is to copy the production and distribution network paradigm that our best brains are busy redesigning — unless of course the countries in question have their own influential mining magnates of similar proportions to ours.

Whoops, funny that. We need to put all the coal enthusiasts — government, corporate, media and private into a cave and roll a rock across the entrance. Then the rest of us can work in the sunshine on a better model for the future.

We have everything in Australia. Abundant solar energy, creative minds and surplus manufacturing capacity, all ready to go. First, we design local power-producing units; solar, wind, gas co-generation (heat recovery and use) — whatever fits the need. Then we make them into modular packs for export to the developing world.

For every new power plant built here or overseas that doesn't need a continuous and expensive supply of coal (or uranium but that's another story), the environment wins, the consumer wins and future generations win.

The only people who will lose are ... well, you can tell who they are by what they say. And it's true — they're just a pack of losers.



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