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PLODDING OFF TOWARDS THE FUTURE WITH MAL & CO.

Was it really 2012 when the first BWD hit the newsstand? Looking back at the issues of those days it's clear that we are boldly tiptoeing into the future at a pace not unlike that of a snail.

QPRC has snuck quietly into our lives and it seems hardly anybody has a problem with that. We do have access to a larger pool of resources now and if we can somehow keep adequate local representation the gain should be worth the pain.

On that score, we are no closer to having an advocacy group for Braidwood and surrounds to lobby the three levels of government for local funding. A chamber of commerce would be a good place to start but there are other sections of the community requiring a voice too.

There are a couple of issues that need nailing down.

One: the bypass question. If there is ever to be a traffic bypass for Braidwood, a line, or lines, need to be drawn on the map and the issue open for debate. At the very least, affected landholders need to know if they will eventually end up living next to the Kings Freeway.

Get out those Google™ maps, draw some lines and let's have a discussion.

Two: the council depot. Construction will commence on the new transfer station this year and it's planned to have it operational in 2018. The depot will eventually move to that site.

When it does, the huge block of land behind the National Theatre will be up for grabs. It's my guess that the QPRC bean counters will consider selling some or all of it to feed the balance sheet. This may not be in the best long-term interests of Braidwood and we should pre-empt such notions by exploring our own options.

We certainly need a good connection between the depot land and the main street. Whether it's a carpark, low-cost housing, a market area, skate park precinct or whatever — it would be a terrible oversight if it did not connect to Wallace Street.

Relocating the toilet block next to the National Theatre is an obvious option but there may be others made available in the future. Just like the bypass, it needs to be on the table now because, as I said at the start, decades can pass by like days.

Paul

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BWD is published by Artplan Graphics  
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Printed by: Trendsetting, Fyshwick ACT