

Upcoming shows at The Q

For tickets go to www.theq.net.au or call 6285 6290.



Have your say on Your Voice

The Your Voice website is our online community engagement hub and one of the ways that we engage with the community.

We will be looking for community input into the following projects plus more in the first half of 2021:

- Monaro Street upgrade
- Draft Cat Containment Policy
- Frogs Hollow, Bungendore
- Jumping Creek Local Planning Agreement
- Planning Proposal for E4-zoned land - Bywong and Wamboin
- Draft Operational Plan
- Draft Fees and Charges
- Draft Revenue Policy

Register as a member to participate in engagement activities and discussions. You will be notified about new projects and be provided with further opportunities to be involved.

Sign up now at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au>.



QPRC News

Official newsletter of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council



February 2021

Thank you BlazeAid

The BlazeAid camp that was established at Braidwood after the 2019-20 bushfires was farewelled in November 2020. The team of volunteers donated 9,392 volunteer days rebuilding 249km of burnt fencing for local farmers between January and November last year.

BlazeAid spent \$497,192 locally and saved farmers a collective \$1.87 million in rebuilding costs.

With the work behind them, a farewell and dinner was held in Braidwood in November to thank all those involved.



BlazeAid Farewell

Bungendore Flood Risk Management Plan



shrubs and 570 new native trees. The trees are a mix of Eucalypt, Casuarina, Black she-oak and Acacias.

This is the first of three measures designed to reduce flooding of Turallo and Halfway Creeks. In the past, flooding of these creeks has resulted in economic and social impacts to residents and business owners in Bungendore.

Further measures will be implemented in the future and include upgrading the existing Turallo Terrace levee and construction of an overflow channel across Tarago Road.

Work on the first mitigation measure in the Bungendore Flood Risk Management Plan was completed recently. We worked with contractors to clear non-native vegetation and reshape the area where Turallo and Halfway Creeks meet to provide more storage for flood waters and to improve flows. We planted approximately 30,000 new plants including 29,000

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Planning approval for Civic and Cultural Precinct



In December 2020 the Southern Regional Planning Panel approved the development application for the new Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct.

Tenders for final design and construction will be assessed and presented to Council for endorsement.

The development will have a strong focus on community and cultural purposes, with more than 40% of the precinct comprising community spaces, gallery linkages to The Q and Bicentennial Hall, new basement parking and public domain. Work is expected to begin on the site in the coming weeks.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, TIM OVERALL

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021. I was honoured to be part of the recent Australia Day celebrations and see local community champions recognised with Australia Day awards in their communities. We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated citizens in our local government area.

There are several major projects underway or scheduled to commence this year in the region. Work is continuing on the Burra S bends and Nerriga Road. In Queanbeyan, we will begin construction of the Civic and Cultural Precinct and progress planning for the Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade. In Bungendore, construction will commence on the new roundabout at the corner of Malbon and Molonglo Streets and stage one of the new Bungendore Sports Hub. In Braidwood, we will upgrade Lascelles Street and undertake further upgrades at the Braidwood Pool.



Clean Up Australia Day



Clean Up Australia day is on Sunday 7 March 2021. You can get involved by either registering a site or joining a clean up.

Find all the participating sites and join one near you at www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au

Bungendore project updates

Construction of the new roundabout at the intersection of Malbon Street and Molonglo Streets in Bungendore has been delayed while we worked with Transport for NSW to gain final approvals, and avoid peak holiday traffic. We expect the approvals to be provided shortly, which will enable construction to commence in February 2021.

Work to relocate underground utilities in preparation for the roundabout construction has been completed and contractors have been engaged to undertake the main construction.

The first stage of the new Bungendore Sports Hub off Bungendore Road will have two flood-lit sports fields, two flood-lit hard courts, car parking and amenities including change rooms, toilets and canteen facilities. In February we expect to commence our earthworks which will also cater for the four future playing fields.

We are in the early stages of designing the new 25m outdoor, covered Bungendore pool that will be part of the Bungendore Sport Hub. We will progress designs and planning approvals during 2021.

Revised designs have been prepared for the new car park, located off Ellendon Street, after further engagement with the community. The car park will include a public toilet block, charging stations for electric vehicles, WiFi and CCTV. We expect to seek tenders for construction in February and work should commence in the first half of 2021.

Australia Day award recipients

Congratulations to the winners in this year's Australia Day awards. Recipients of these awards were nominated by members of our community.

Carol and Dennis McGrath received a special Mayoral Award for their tireless work as the coordinators of the Braidwood BlazeAid camp. From January to November, Carol and Dennis were based at the Braidwood showground coordinating the rebuilding of fences damaged by the 2019-20 bushfires.

Captains Flat

Citizen of the Year in Captains Flat was Russell Dandridge who was recognised for establishing the Captains Flat Men's Shed. Russell has been responsible for researching, sourcing and applying for grants.

Braidwood

In Braidwood, Geraldine Sutton and Jamie Raynolds were announced as joint Citizens of the Year. Geraldine was recognised for her work in running the monthly Saturday markets at Ryrie Park, which she has done for more than 32 years. Jamie receives the nod for his years of service in community organisations, including the Araluen Progress Association, Braidwood Apex and Braidwood Show Society serving as president from 2014-2019. Braidwood's Young Citizen of the Year was Angali Williams. Angali grew up and was educated in Braidwood. She is the Secretary for the Braidwood District Education Foundation and Braidwood Touch Football Club and is a committee member of the Braidwood Show Society.

The Bushfire Sevens tournament, organised by the Braidwood Redbacks Rugby Union Club, was recognised as Braidwood's Event of the Year. The tournament attracted 44 teams and more than 1,500 visitors and players into Braidwood for the event. Through donations and raffles, \$15,000 was donated to Braidwood APEX to support the redevelopment of the Bombay picnic area that was burnt in the bushfires.

Queanbeyan

In Queanbeyan the Citizen of the Year was Richard Gregory. Richard has performed outstanding volunteer work in both Wamboin and Queanbeyan for more than 25 years donating his time to both St Andrews Church in Wamboin and the Legacy Club of Queanbeyan-Eden Monaro. In early 2020, he arranged and held collections for donated tools and equipment which were then distributed to victims of the bushfires on the South Coast. Richard's work with the Legacy Club of Queanbeyan-Eden Monaro is commendable. He has held many board and executive member positions during his time with Legacy. Young Citizen of the Year was Taylor-Ann Cannell, for her work in youth employment services. Taylor-Ann also organised events to help boost community morale during COVID-19 restrictions.

The Event of the Year was the Queanbeyan Show. The Show Society consists of a small group of volunteers who give up a huge amount of time each year to bring the community an amazing show each year. Profits are donated to other local community groups.

Bungendore

Bungendore's Citizen of the Year was Chloe Pailthorpe. Chloe has inspired and built a community-centred op-shop and food hub. Chloe has also been very involved in establishing a weekly Farmers' Market which is held in the grounds of St Phillip Anglican Church, Bungendore - supporting local farmers and community members seeking fresh organically grown local foods.

The Young Citizen was Hudson Fogarty-Apps, who was recognised for his outstanding fundraising efforts. Hudson was diagnosed with high functioning autism at the age of seven. Hudson met Ricky Stuart when he was 12 and he decided he wanted to assist Ricky and his foundation raise money and try and help other children with autism. Hudson started a Facebook page called Huddy Day - Raising Autism Awareness and has raised \$80,000 in three years through merchandise sales and other fundraising.



Dennis and Carol McGrath
photo courtesy of Canberra Weekly

Amphibious all-terrain vehicle

Council's Natural Landscapes team recently hired an amphibious all-terrain vehicle (AATV) to help survey remote waterways.

Biosecurity officers were specifically searching for Gorse plants, a rare weed that we are trying to contain and eradicate before it becomes established.

The AATV successfully handled a diverse range of environments, including deep water, shallow water with low rocky outcrops, riffles and sandy beaches. The value of the AATV will be reviewed as part of the 'Gorsebusters' project, also considering Council's broader need to safely inspect waterways where priority weeds can rapidly spread and impact on natural values.

The 'Gorsebusters' project is funded by the regional Weeds Action Program to help find any Gorse plants that may have spread downstream from isolated infestations on the Shoalhaven and Endrick Rivers.

The surveys were successful with new infestations of Gorse found along both rivers. Surveys and control will continue in 2021 including the use of kayaks and drones to support the safety of staff in these difficult worksites.

More information on Gorse and other priority weeds is available on our website www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity



2020 sighting statistics

Results are now in from last year's platypus and rakali sightings. Over the course of the year, there were 71 platypus and 82 rakali reported at locations including the Queanbeyan, Shoalhaven, Molonglo and Corang Rivers.

Residents are encouraged to report sightings online at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/platypus or via email to platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au



Rakali - image by Mandy Leigh

Hope Marland Playground work complete



Upgrades to the playground equipment at Hope Marland Playground in Letchworth were recently completed. Funding was provided from the NSW Government's 'Everyone Can Play' program.

Hope Marland spent 30 years serving as a Councillor for the former Queanbeyan City Council. She also spent more than 50 years volunteering her time with numerous charity groups including Legacy and

Turallo Creek

the Queanbeyan Hospital Auxilliary.

Members of the Thomas and Howard families, who are direct descendants of former Councillor Marland, were in attendance at the official opening.

Cash payments accepted again

Council is now accepting cash for payments at all facilities and offices. We introduced an interim 'no cash' policy last year and after completing our Transacting with Council consultation, Council resolved at the December meeting that we resume accepting cash payments.

Waterwise program



Our new Waterwise Policy offers incentives for eligible owner-occupier households connected to Council's water supply. You can apply for a free home audit carried out by a licensed plumber which will include:

- inspection of plumbing fixtures
- water meter checks
- pressure tests
- cross-contamination and leak checks
- professional on-site advice to identify further water saving opportunities.

After the audit eligible households are entitled to replacement of up to two standard dual-flush waterwise toilet suites.

Rainwater tank subsidies are also available for new tank installations above 4,000L capacity. The larger the tank, the bigger the subsidy!

For more information on subsidy amounts, or to register for your free home audit, simply head to www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Water.

Recovery to Renewal grants

We have recently finalised recipients of the Recovery to Renewal grants program. These grants were made available to support business recovery following the 2019-20 bushfires.

The program was designed to support small to medium-sized businesses located in the QPRC region that were impacted by the bushfires.

Seventy local businesses received \$3,000 each to assist with marketing support, online, e-commerce development or community and business events.

View the list of grant recipients online at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/bushfire.

Local Government elections

Local Government elections will be held on Saturday 4 September. We will be holding information sessions for anyone interested in becoming a Councillor. Details will be available on our website.