

Hello everyone,

Highlight of this fortnight would have to be the three Palerang Council community forums which I attended last week. There was for the most part a very positive vibe and enthusiasm from both community participants and council staff who were all there voluntarily. Lots of good connections made for PANS from the communities of Bungendore, Burra and Royalla—welcome to our newer email list members!

In this update:

1. PANS receives funding for the Bungendore WorkHub feasibility study
  2. Palerang Council community consultations report and a call for a community coalition to promote and help implement Council's community plan.
  3. Update from Anne-Marie Duke in Braidwood
  4. Travelling cinema update
  5. Bungendore Locality Public Transport Action Group Update
  6. Upcoming events
  7. Funding opportunities
3. **What can I do?** Please contact Mel at [melophorus@bigpond.com](mailto:melophorus@bigpond.com) if you know someone who would like to receive this weekly update, or if you have something you'd like to see included.

1. **PANS receives funding for Bungendore workhub feasibility study**

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3. Earlier this year Sustaining Our Town's Project Manager Tracey Rich was successful in obtaining funding from the NSW Environmental Trust for a feasibility study into the workhub concept to help commuters to work remotely from centres around the ACT like Bungendore, Cooma, Yass and Goulbourn.
4. Bungendore was selected as the focus for a feasibility study, and PANS will be involved in delivering the project

Workhubs are becoming common overseas and there are a number operating in Australia. At its most basic a workhub is a flexible workspace offering 'an office when needed' for micro businesses and mobile workers. Shared facilities typically include bookable 'hot' desks, formal and informal meeting spaces, high speed

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broadband and costly or space-hungry professional equipment.

There are many creative ways we could apply this concept to commuter centres like Bungendore – perhaps in our wildest dreams a sustainability centre showcasing best practise technology and bringing together a creative range of associated local businesses, government departments and artists with a great kids playground, central to town!!

We will have to start with a smaller version to prove its viability first of course. One of the key areas of overlap of this project with PANS current activities is the market research survey which is currently under development. It is likely we will be looking for a third person to join our team to work casually on this project so keep your eyes out for this.

**What can I do?** Please contact Mel at [melophorus@bigpond.com](mailto:melophorus@bigpond.com) if you are interested in or have some experience you can offer us for this project.

### 2. Palerang Community Consultations

I was able to attend three of these forums held in the western part of Palerang last week: Bungendore community, Bungendore business and government, and Burra/Royalla.

The forums were chaired by Martin Bass from UTS Centre for Local Government. We sat at tables of approximately 8 people and had two Palerang Council staff at each table who volunteered to facilitate or scribe. A subset of Councillors was present at each forum but were observers only.

Both evening (community) sessions that I attended got into the spirit of positive visioning for the Shire. All of us struggled to think of

issues that were bigger than our own localities, but none-the-less there were some common themes emerging.

At Bungendore some of the issues that were raised included: finishing the LEP, managing the rapid population growth sustainably and without losing local character, managing increased traffic, water supply, accessibility to toilets, pathways, taps, and shade around town (designing for climate change), more services like ambulance and an aged care facility, space for commercial premises, council strategy to increase its income base, for and against a by-pass in Bungendore, sustainable transport options, heritage and bike trails, theatre, Community Development Officer in Council and community notice boards in Bungendore to name just a few. A bigger goal suggested was to become accredited as a 'cittislow' region – a concept arising from the slow food movement in Italy – as Katoomba has recently done (<http://www.cittaslow.org.au/>).

At Burra some of the issues raised included: better controls on subdivisions, improved funding base for council, better communication with council (including website) improved timeframes for DAs, support to aging residents, river health, better management of recyclables pick-up, television access, development of the Googong township, café/men's shed, mobile library, finish LEP, Grants Officer at Council, reintroduction of Wards, popularly elected mayor, community hall for Royalla and resolve which shire the community as a whole belongs to, tourism, welcome kit provided by council with council and community information

The Government and Business Forum at Bungendore was a little more caught up in current issues with Council but also raised a number of issues: changing demographics, against a bypass, two storey development in commercial centre, water management, high school, ambulance, improved public transport, improved communication with Councillors and staff, improved passage of developments through council, council run like a

business, improved council culture, information gained from locals rather than external consultants.

One of the less obvious outcomes of the forums was the visible improvement in relations between Council staff and participants. Staff participated enthusiastically and seemed almost relieved to be in a position where they could discuss things positively and perhaps generate a little more understanding about what they can and cannot do, whilst accepting the inevitable criticism in good humour.

At the end of each forum the General Manager detailed the process by which the notes from the meeting will become available on the website, the data will be analysed, a telephone survey conducted, the Community Plan developed and then how this in turn affects Operational and staffing plans.

PANS has written an open letter to be published across Palerang's media in coming weeks, asking other community groups and individuals to join us in a community collaboration to keep Council to the agenda set at these meetings, and provide the community effort that will be required to make it happen. Watch this space!

### 3. Update from Anne-Marie Duke

For those of you I don't know, my name is Annie Duke and I live in Braidwood with my partner Ben and our 2 young children. I am a building designer and Ben is on the verge of completing his degree in Ecological Agriculture. We operate an integrated design practice and seem unable to avoid getting involved in community ventures including the Braidwood Urban Landcare Group, the Braidwood Community Gardens, Braidwood Fruit Club, The Braidwood Literary Institute, the Braidwood Transition Initiative and more. We have recently started owner building what will become our home on a lovely block in

Braidwood overlooking Monkittee Creek. I feel amazingly lucky to be where I am and a part of this community.

I am very excited by the opportunity I have gained, through being involved in Sustaining Our Towns as a Home and Garden Sustainability Adviser and more recently in my new paid role with PANS (the Palerang Action Network for Sustainability). I welcome this opportunity to work towards increasing my own, my family's and the Palerang community's resilience and capacity to cope with the environmental, ecological, economic and social changes that we already have before us and will increasingly find confronting us.

I have been involved with PANS from its formation in a voluntary role and have recently been put to work more formally to help move the steering committee into a more long lasting structure. This will involve developing a business plan over the longer term and more immediately gaining not-for-profit Incorporated Association status, allowing the group to access ongoing funding for continued operation and to support and establish on-the-ground initiatives. As part of this we are seeking volunteers from across Palerang to take up a role on the management committee of the group and to commit to guiding this group for its first year. If you think this may be an area where you can contribute please contact me or Mel.

Mel and I have also been given the opportunity to begin a feasibility investigation into the need for and possible type of remote work facilities in Palerang - a local work hub of sorts. You can expect soon to be asked to participate in a survey around this type of facility and if and how such a place might meet your needs. The hope would be that such a space could more sustainably provide for local employment and business opportunities and reduce the need for long commutes into bigger centres to work. Another benefit of this type of facility is the potential for support, networking and mentoring. So again, stay posted for more information on that one.

As I mentioned above, I am always happy to be contacted with regard to some of the local Braidwood activities I am involved in, such as the Community Garden and ideas for community supported local food and agriculture. The Braidwood Transition Initiative just had a gathering to mark the winter solstice where we feasted and enjoyed some lively discussion around the issues of peak oil and climate change. New faces, opinions and ideas are always welcome.

[Want to know more?](#) Contact Annie at [annimee1@gmail.com](mailto:annimee1@gmail.com) or ph: 0450 283 241

#### **4. Travelling cinema update**

Welcome aboard Angie Matsinos who has volunteered to help put our program together and get it happening. [Want to help us?](#) Contact Mel at [melophorus@bigpond.com](mailto:melophorus@bigpond.com).

#### **5. Bungendore Public Transport Group**

This group had its first meeting on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June. We determined that our priorities would be to:

1. Promote currently available public transport options more widely through the local press, Palerang Council website and applying for a grant for a dedicated timetable notice board opposite the Bungendore Post Office. Researching what is available via community aide and the community bus service out of Queanbeyan Council.
2. Open discussions with CountryLink and Deanes about improved local services which avoid the mistakes of the past. Also Murrays and Stevens further down the track.
3. Have input into the PANS survey regarding the sorts of questions about people's interest and willingness to pay for improved services and/or car pooling options.

## 5. Upcoming Events

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**Nursery session Wamboin Landcare** at 38 Birchman's Grove, Wamboin. The usual time of 9am – 11am. Please advise Geoff and Jean if you plan to attend. – Ph: 62369158 <mailto:gbu22182@bigpond.net.au>

**Platypus Walk in Queanbeyan.** Join Tanya Rucosky Noakes, Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Facilitator at 5 pm on 2 July 2011 to participate in a platypus walk. Meet at the Q Arts Centre in Queanbeyan.

### 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July

**'Less is More: Adapting community for the future.'**  
**Silver Wattle Quaker Centre, Lake Rd via Bungendore.**

A time for families and for building community for a sustainable future. We will learn skills for meeting needs without plastic and with less carbon, growing food, harvesting renewable energy, enjoying company – while slow-cooking, making useful things, and having fun with music and all-inclusive activities. Cost: adult \$422 single/\$378 share room, children welcome and <16 free. For more information contact: Helen Bayes, Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Director. [director@silverwattle.org.au](mailto:director@silverwattle.org.au)

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July

**Bungendore Landcare and Community Garden AGM** will be held on Sunday 17th July at 12 noon. We plan to have the AGM and shared lunch at the Community Garden (Turallo Tce Bungendore), followed by a walk on the nearby Common. Friends and family welcome.

To help with catering, chairs, etc. I would be grateful if you could RSVP to me (David Watson) at 62381234 or [millpost2621@bigpond.com](mailto:millpost2621@bigpond.com)

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

Kathy Handel is co-ordinating tree-planting at Wamboin

Community Hall for National Tree Day.

## 7. Funding opportunities

**Australian Ethical Investment** - community grant: close Friday 01 July, 2011

### **NSW Environmental Trust Education Grants.**

The Education, Eco Schools, Protecting Our Places and Restoration and Rehabilitation Programs opened on 19 March 2011, however closing dates are staggered. Please note that the Education program has a two-stage application process. For more information visit the UMCCC website: <http://umccc.org.au/node/396>.

### **Communities in Landscapes Small Grants Scheme.**

The CiL Community Small Grants Scheme will provide funding of up to \$3000 inclusive of GST to suitable projects within the Central West, Lachlan or Murrumbidgee catchments where improvement in the condition, capacity or understanding of Box Gum Grassy Woodlands can be demonstrated. For more information visit the website:

<http://cil.landcare.nsw.gov.au/smallgrants>

### **Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant.**

In conjunction with local landcare groups, these organisations (any school or organisation including youth groups, scouts groups, pre-schools, primary schools, high schools, day care centres) can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects. Closing date is Friday 5 August 2011. For more information visit the website: <http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/>

### **Caring for our Country Community Action Grants 2011-12.**

The Caring for our Country Community Action Grants round for 2011-12 is now open. These grants aim to assist community groups to take action to conserve and protect the natural environment. For more information, or to start an application, go to:

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/index.html>