



## Braidwood Heritage Centre Update

A lot has happened since my last report, but construction wise, nothing has happened.

- We are looking down the barrel of losing the Bush Fire Recovery Funding for anything not completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Public Works Advisory has withdrawn as the Project Managers.
- QPRC has taken over the project management.
- The builder, Greenwich Constructions have departed and gone into voluntary administration.
- QPRC have committed to pay outstanding invoices from sub-contractors.
- Tender for a new builder has been issued by QPRC.
- The so-called Stage 1 has been re-scoped and will probably only consist of completed accommodation, new entrance to museum, museum toilets, museum air conditioning and limited landscaping.
- No blacksmith shop, no artisan studios, no café, no exhibition space, no co-working spaces, no Heritage Centre toilets, limited landscaping and no suitable fencing.
- The \$3.75 million was supposed to complete the whole concept.
- It should be made clear that Braidwood & District Historical Society did **NOT** receive the funds and were not and still not the project managers. **We are not responsible for the failures.**



***Councilors and tradesmen checking out the proposed entrance***



***Councilors and builders checking out the project so far.***

## *The Inside Story*

- Our State and Federal politicians have failed to explain the Government waste and provide a way forward to complete the project.
- MLC Nichole Overall has addressed the issue in State Parliament and is waiting on a response from the Government. She nailed it! Thanks Nichole!

**See Nichole's speech by clicking on this YouTube link.**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGfVMkPOBM0>
- The Canberra Times, ABC Radio Canberra and other media are interested in further exposing the shameful story and the Government's failure.
  - It seems the view of those responsible is that the rescoped version means job done! ***Nothing to see here!***
- The limited scoping does not work or achieve the purpose of the Grant being for economic stimulus and increased employment.
- The generous and supporting pledge from our Community Bank of \$520,000 is conditional on securing funding to complete the project. It has an expiration date.
- We need the government to back the community not just justify waste and failure.
- The good citizens of Braidwood have not received any benefits from their town, being the only town in New South Wales with a State Heritage Listing.
- Finishing the Heritage Centre should be a government priority and go a little way to providing some benefit under the Heritage Listing.

### **Where to now?**

- We need to back QPRC to engage a new project manager and new builder to complete the limited re-scoped works.
- Meanwhile we will vigorously continue our efforts for a government commitment to make the original vision of the Braidwood Heritage Centre fully functional.
- No one doubts a completed Braidwood Heritage Centre will bring benefits for our community, the shire, the state and even the Commonwealth. Braidwood is ideally positioned to be a centre for lost crafts, heritage tourism, showcasing a rural town with a rich history.
- We just need the government to make good and fund the completion of construction.

***We can do the rest!***

**Peter Smith –President**

## ***Historical Society Annual Dinner***



**Our dinner**

**is set for**

***Saturday 21st June***

**National Theatre**

**Please support us**

**and Braidwood**

**Details will follow soon**