

NAMBUCCA VALLEY **N**ews Of The Area

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Friday, 26 January 2024

FREE

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Funding For Energy Upgrades



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Blueberry opposition at Council's first meeting of 2024



By Ned COWIE

FOR the fourth time in as many months, the general meeting of Nambucca Valley Council was overrun with residents and visitors concerned about commercial, industrial-style blueberry farming in the valley.

A noisy crowd attended last Thursday to hold Council to account and to request faster action on the issue and its subsequent land-use conflicts.

Despite there being no allowance for members of the public to interject during Council meetings, the crowd frequently spoke over speakers and called out from the public gallery during the first half of

CONTINUED Page 3



Christopher Mulvihill and Melina Murphy spoke out against the unregulated influx of blueberry farming in the Nambucca Valley at the Council meeting last Thursday.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Council's Community Satisfaction Survey to begin in February

By Ned COWIE

NAMBUCCA Valley Council will spend \$24,900 on a community satisfaction survey to be conducted by Sydney-based Taverner Research

Group (TRG) in the first half of 2024.

A draft of this survey was presented to Council members at the general meeting last Thursday.

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Nambucca Valley Council's Community Satisfaction Survey to begin in February

FROM Page 1

The last survey of this nature, also conducted by TRG, was held over nine days in December of 2021.

TRG employed eight people on a part-time basis to call 400 adult residents of the Nambucca Valley before results were analysed and presented to Council.

Most councils periodically carry out satisfaction surveys and according to 2019 budget estimates, Coffs Harbour City Council (now City of Coffs Harbour) expected to spend \$35,000 on its survey of approximately 500 residents in 2020.

The questions for this next survey of adult Nambucca Valley residents are largely the same as the ones presented in 2021, with several alterations.

The previous survey highlighted community dissatisfaction was highest on the matter of unsealed roads in the region.

Other points of analysis were that the community considers river water quality and sealed roads to be high priorities.

Each survey is compared with previous surveys and it was noted that overall satisfaction with Council fell to a mean score of 3.3 in 2021, down from a score of 3.43.

These scores are also benchmarked against other councils surveyed by TRG to find if this level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction is considered high or low when compared to other councils.

According to the TRG report, Nambucca Valley Council's level of community satisfaction

in 2021 was slightly above the mean for its regional peers.

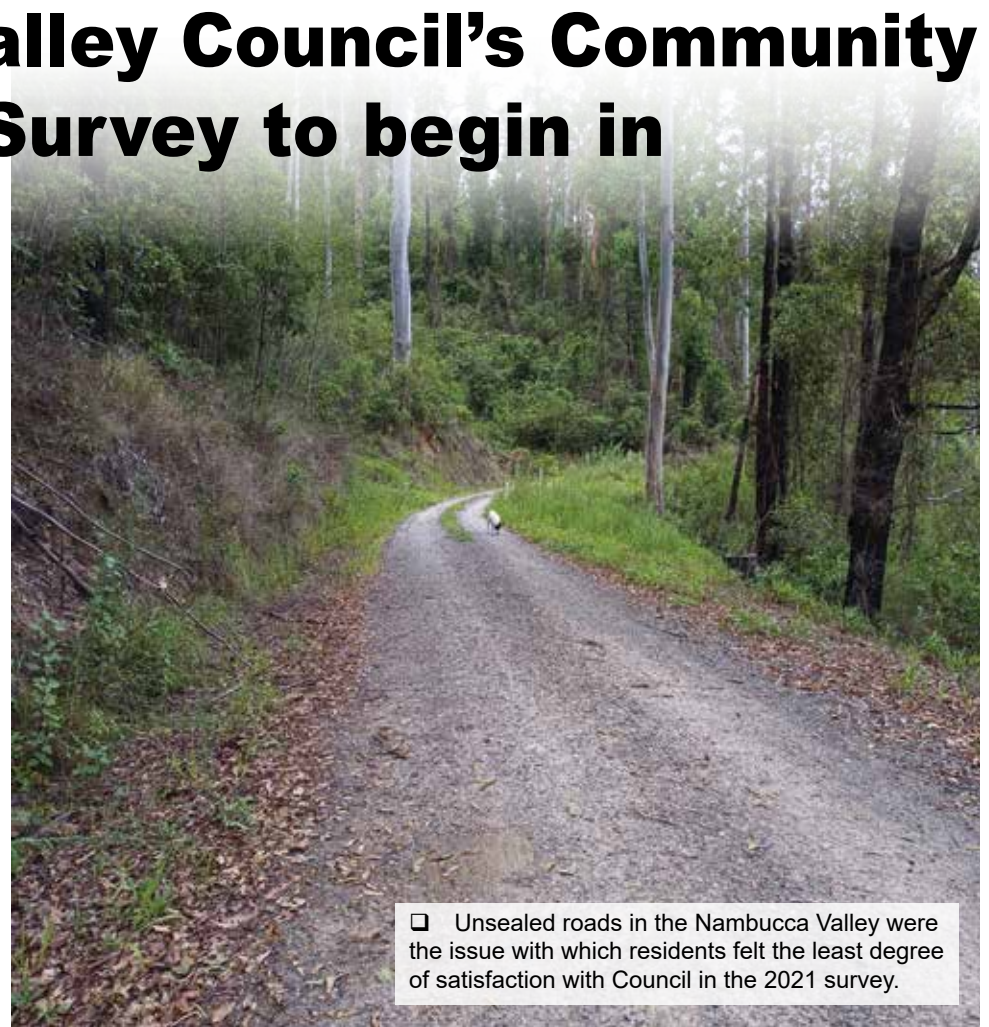
Another analysis looks at where Council needs to spend money to increase community satisfaction by using a formula which looks at the mean of scores that respondents have given to

determine what areas have highest priority yet lowest satisfaction in the eyes of the community.

By this scale, although unsealed roads received the lowest satisfaction, they were not considered a high priority by the community and therefore were unlikely

to receive extra funding.

In its meeting last Thursday, Nambucca Valley Council moved to adopt the draft submitted subject to any amendments and engage the Taverner Research Group to conduct the survey in February 2024.



Unsealed roads in the Nambucca Valley were the issue with which residents felt the least degree of satisfaction with Council in the 2021 survey.



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Blueberry farming causes more headaches for Nambucca Valley Council

FROM Page 1

the meeting.

Local celebrities Bryan Brown and Rachel Ward were also in attendance at the meeting, showing their support for those speaking up against Council inaction on the issue of blueberries.

Three people used the public forum to denounce the commercial blueberry industry, which they say is heavily reliant on pesticides, fertilisers and utilises large amounts of water daily.

Christopher Mulvihill, an organic farmer for the past 23 years in the Nambucca Valley, told of the stringent and regular audits he must undergo to maintain his certification as an organic farm.

"I have two audits every year and one random every four years," he said.

"One of my tests is water and one is residue.

"If I fail these tests I will have my organic certification cancelled, ruining my business.

"I have worked hard

to become one of 20 of the biggest organic suppliers to Queensland and New South Wales," he told Council.

Mr Mulvihill detailed his concerns that should a blueberry farmer take up residence near his farm it would jeopardise his business and "finish him", as the run-off from waterways and overspray could prevent him from passing his audits.

Another Valley resident, Melina Murphy, spoke of her concern that the influx of growers to the area will impact poorly on water quality.

"Excessive pesticides and herbicides used by conventional blueberry farms to control pests and weeds can result in these chemicals running off into waterways," Ms Murphy told Council.

She went on to detail worries she has about waterways and bores running dry as has reportedly happened to other farmers who have had a blueberry farm commence operation near them.

The third speaker, Alan

Manuel, asked the audience to consider Council inaction on the issue of blueberry farming in terms of the stated values of the Council.

He asked the question, "Why are we allowing more blueberry farms while we are still getting legal opinions about whether it's legal to allow them?", referring to Council's outstanding actions from November 2024 when members called for legal advice to clarify if development applications are required prior to the erection of netting on blueberry farms in Rural Zones.

This advice has still not been received by the Council.

Once it is received, a report is to be prepared and presented to Council, but residents are angry that in the meantime more land is being sold for blueberry farms and more pasture is converted to black plastic and netting.

Community frustration with Council's inaction on resolving the issue of commercial blueberry farming in the Valley shows no sign of calming down.



Local celebrity Bryan Brown congratulates Alan Manuel on his speech questioning Council's inaction on resolving community frustrations over unregulated blueberry farming.

Council receives grant for new Macksville toilet block

By Ned COWIE

NAMBUCCA Valley Council has received a Stronger Country Communities Fund grant for \$474,060 to replace the toilet block at River Street, Macksville.

Additional works to the road and electrical configurations will require an estimated \$300,000 to be budgeted from the Council reserve.

On Thursday at the general meeting councillors voted to engage an architect for the project and agreed on the new building being located directly adjacent to the existing toilet at this location.

The new structure will not be any larger than the current toilet block, comprising three unisex toilets with one meeting disability access requirements.

It is also expected that a small retaining wall will be required.

The new facility will be in practically the same location but will be offset by 3m from the River Street building line of the existing structure.

Replacing the old

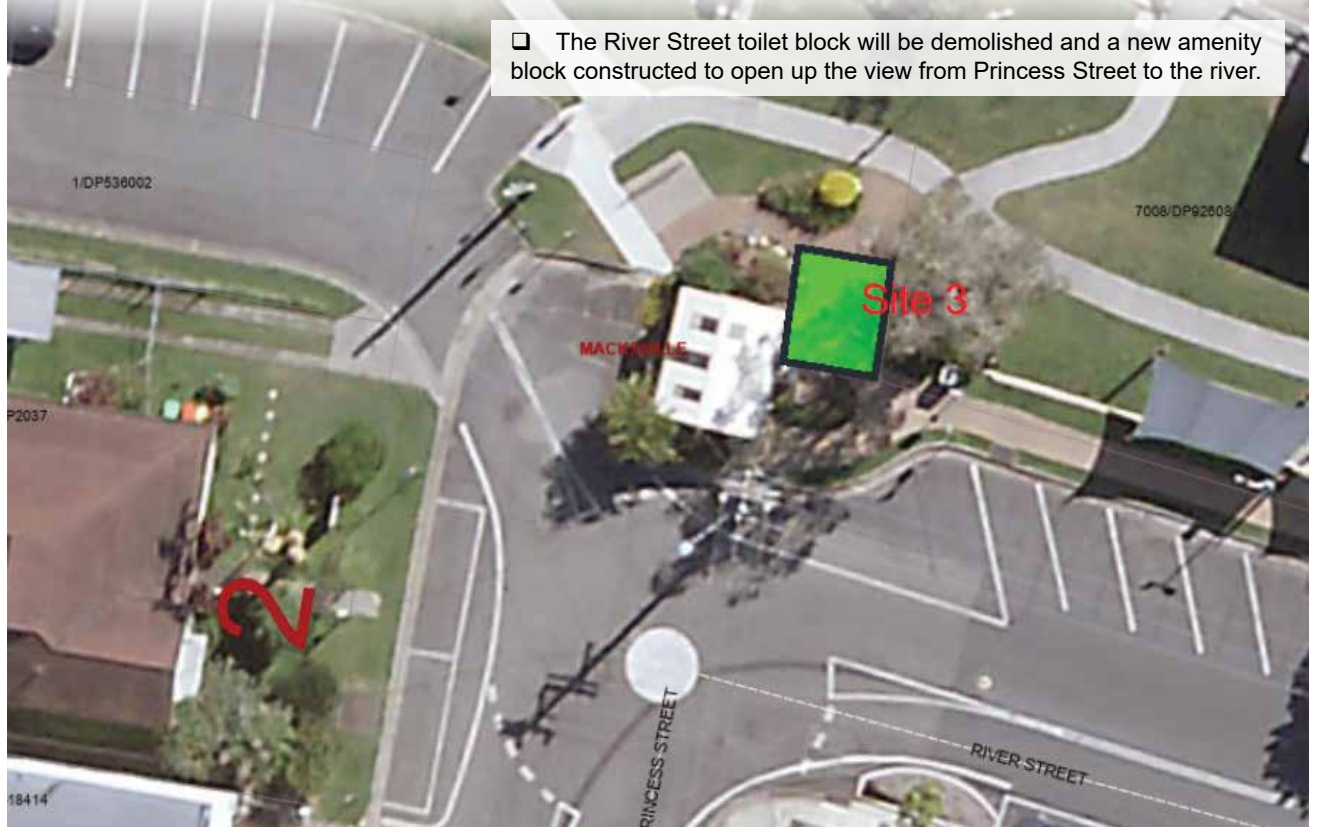
amenities along River Street was first mentioned to Council at the general meeting on 30 September 2021 when Council resolved to receive a report on relocating them as part of the Macksville Foreshore Plan.

The Macksville Foreshore Plan was a proposal to provide a more functional and attractive public reserve through renewal and upgrades and related to the area from the carpark in Princess/River St to the foreshore in front of the Star Hotel.

It was the result of a \$20,000 allocation in the 2020/21 budget period and involved the engagement of Fisher Design and Architecture and Jackie Amos Landscape Architecture.

The report presented to Council in September of 2021 stated, "The key aspect of this part of the plan (the western precinct) is the removal/relocation of the amenities and the replacement with another sitting space.

"Reflected in the town centre masterplan the intent of removing the amenities



The River Street toilet block will be demolished and a new amenity block constructed to open up the view from Princess Street to the river.

from this area is to open up the view to the River from Princess Street.

"Also while the existing amenities are functional it is also dated and would benefit from a contemporary replacement."



The existing toilet block which will be relocated just a few metres back from its current location.

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Red Imported Fire Ant detection has state on high alert

THE state's agriculture industry is on high alert after a Red Imported Fire Ant nest was detected at Wardell, south of Ballina, on Friday 19 January.

Incident response teams from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) teams attended the site to gather further information and destroy the nest with liquid insecticide.

To manage the risks of spread, a biosecurity control order was put in place with immediate effect, restricting movement within the surrounding five kilometre (km) area of the site.

Department of Primary Industry teams will support the local businesses and community who will need to lock down movement of landscaping, gardening, and building materials plus machinery until inspected and checked.

The following types of materials cannot be moved out of the five km zone: mulch, soil, compost and manure, growing media, hay, chaff, silage, potted plants, turf, agricultural and earth moving equipment, grass/vegetation and clippings.

NSW DPI are working on ascertaining where the ants

were transported from and how long the fire ants have been at this site.

The suspected fire ants were called in by a gardener who had disturbed the nest while working, was bitten and suffered blistering and pain.

Fire ants are tiny (two to six millimetres long) and reddish-brown in colour, are aggressive when disturbed and will sting repeatedly.

Nests are mounds or flattish patches of soil with no obvious entrance holes, and up to 40 centimetres high.

Minister for Agriculture Tara Moriarty said, "Our teams were prepared for this discovery of fire ants south of Ballina and immediately implemented our response plan and destroyed the fire ant site."

"Red Imported Fire Ants are an invasive pest and that is why the Minns Government increased the NSW contribution to eradication from \$15 million to \$95 million last year."

"Biosecurity is a shared responsibility and I encourage everyone to continue to check their properties for these pests."

"With the summer cross-border travel in peak times I ask everyone to be careful of what they're moving and

where. "We will continue to keep the community informed of progress and will continue working closely with industry, the local community and our state and federal counterparts."

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Agriculture Minister David Littleproud has claimed that the latest infestation is due to Labor being too slow to act on its Red Imported Fire Ant response program.

He said the latest discovery should trigger an urgent review of fire ant eradication funding.

"The whole country has been put at risk of fire ants because Labor was too slow to act," Mr Littleproud said.

"Ballina is one of the most popular tourism areas in the country - it's no small issue that this slice of paradise risks having its tourism title destroyed by fire ants if Labor doesn't get on top of this."

"The Response Plan in July said \$592 million was required over the next four years to control the pest, including immediate funding for 2023-24."

"The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program strategic review also estimated that at least \$200 to \$300 million per year was required."

"Labor's funding was needed urgently in 2023, which put the time-critical



Red Imported Fire Ants are an invasive pest.

response at risk.

"It has been obvious for some time the funding was not going to be enough."

"The lack of action and the delays in funding undermined previous work that had been done under the Coalition Government to control fire ants."

The Ballina finding comes days after fire ants were spotted floating in floodwaters around the Gold Coast and warnings that fire ants could spread further south after being detected in Murwillumbah.

Member for Page Kevin Kogan warned that the spread of fire ants will "cost our economy \$2 billion every single year and result in more than 140,000 extra medical visits".

"This could also devastate our native wildlife and cut agricultural output by up to 40 percent."

"I urge everyone in the local area to check their premises, yards and paddocks for the red imported fire ants and then report any suspected sighting immediately," Mr Hogan said.

NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin said the Ballina detection was another significant breach of the state's biosecurity controls and called on the government

to immediately ramp up control and eradication efforts.

"This latest outbreak is a stark reminder of the failure to control and eradicate these insidious pests, the entry of Red Imported Fire Ants into NSW last year demonstrated again the urgent need for increased investment by all governments to support biosecurity," Mr Martin said.

"NSW Farmers has called for greater focus on biosecurity for many years, but we've seen a failure at our borders and with the Queensland Government failing to take this problem seriously, we are now facing the spread of an incredibly dangerous pest into our state."

"Red Imported Fire Ants are a threat to agricultural production and to the landscape of NSW - they can damage agricultural equipment, sting livestock, ruin the natural environment, and pose a serious risk to the health and wellbeing of all people in NSW."

The red fire ant is native to South America and is copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen.

They are highly aggressive and can travel up to five kilometres.

They also build rafts to travel along waterways.

They have been known to attack young animals and livestock, stinging around eyes, mouths and noses, leading to blindness and suffocation.

Their stings feel like being on fire and are toxic enough to kill people and animals.

Their nests look like small mounds of loose, crumbly dirt and are most often in direct sunlight on lawns, near concrete paths, taps and bodies of water, or along fence lines.

To check the identity of a suspected nest, people should gently poke the mound with a long stick and then check the ants "erupting" from the disturbed soil.

Everyone is urged to continue vigilance in keeping an eye out for fire ants, reporting suspected ants to the NSW Biosecurity Hotline at 1800 680 244 or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants.

There are strict restrictions for moving material from control areas.

Breaching the emergency biosecurity order carries penalties of up to \$1.1 million for an individual and up to \$2.2 million for a corporation.

For more information on fire ants and control restrictions visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ant



A female fire ant. Photo: Invasive Species Council.

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Funding for energy upgrades



By Doug CONNOR

A \$200 MILLION dollar package has been announced by the State and Federal Governments to provide energy saving upgrades in social housing properties and access to solar for low-income renters and apartment residents.

It is estimated that 30,000 homes will be able to access the benefits.

\$175 million total will be provided over four years to help reduce energy bills for tenants.

More than 24,000 homes will be eligible for upgrades including heat pump hot water systems, ceiling fans, reverse-cycle air conditioners, solar systems, insulation and draught proofing.

The social housing properties will be a mix of NSW Government-owned and managed homes, along with those overseen by community housing providers.

Priority will be given to the least energy-efficient properties, along with locations that experience extreme heat and cold.

The Commonwealth Government is also investing

\$30 million to fund rooftop solar installations on apartments, or accessing a portion of a 'solar garden' community energy plot.

More than 10,000 households will be able to access the Solar Banks program, which is hoped could save households up to \$600 a year.

"Saving energy means saving money, which is why we're continuing to deliver cost of living relief for families that need it most without adding to inflation," said Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"We want all Australians to have access to cleaner, cheaper energy.

"Renewable energy for social housing helps power bills and is good for the environment."

NSW Premier Chris Minns said easing cost-of-living pressures was the government's major priority, with reducing power bills "a key pillar of that".

"We are investing to save people money while also getting NSW's energy transition back on track," he said.

The NSW Opposition welcomed the announcement, but said the support doesn't go far enough.

Liberal Leader Mark

Speakman called on Premier Minns to adopt the Opposition's NSW Energy Bill Saver program, which in theory would allow all households to receive \$250 off their energy bills and unlock up to \$400 in further savings by switching energy plans to a lower deal.

"Chris Minns is determined to pick winners and losers as families and households struggle under Labor's cost of living crisis," Mr Speakman said.

"Everyone is struggling to make ends meet at the moment, and our NSW Energy Bill Saver program would have provided help for hard working families right across our State.

"Chris Minns decided to scrap this commitment and instead deliver limited energy relief."

Under the Commonwealth-NSW energy bill rebates, up to 1.6 million households are currently eligible for \$500 to help pay their electricity bills.

Dr Jennifer Rayner, Head of Advocacy at the Climate Council said last week's announcement was an example of "practical climate action that makes a difference for Australians".

"By helping people in NSW who are doing it tough

to upgrade their appliances and access cheap renewable energy, this investment will cut power bills and carbon pollution - a fantastic two-for-one deal," Dr Rayner said.

"Making our homes more energy efficient and powering them with cheap renewable electricity is an important part of building a clean energy system that works for people, not multinational fossil fuel corporations.

"Millions of households around Australia are already seeing the benefits so it's essential renters, people on tight incomes and those who live in apartments can share these too."

Sweltering Cities, a campaign and advocacy organisation working on issues related to extreme heat, also welcomed the joint-government move.

"The policy choices we make on housing and energy efficiency now will decide how many people die in the deadly heat waves of our future," Sweltering Cities Executive Director Emma Bacon said.

"This funding is a good step towards helping low-income families manage their health as summers get hotter."

Solar Citizens CEO Heidi Lee Douglas said

electrification and rooftop solar are effective ways to slash energy bills and address the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

"Rolling out rooftop solar on social housing can save low-income households an

average of \$860 per year, while also contributing cheap, clean energy back to the grid and providing cheaper electricity for everyone.

"Adding batteries with storage orchestration offers additional grid security benefits for the energy grid, bringing bills down further," she said.



NSW Premier Chris Minns said reducing cost-of-living pressures was his government's number one priority.



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A list is published towards the back of this newspaper. You can also find the outlets by going to www.newsofthearea.com.au

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Council refuse subdivision consent

By Ned COWIE

NAMBUCCA Valley Council has voted to refuse consent for the subdivision of a road reserve located at 793 Upper Buckrabendinni Road, Upper Buckra Bendinni on the grounds that the lot created by closure of the road did not meet the minimum lot size.

This is the latest development in a matter which has been ongoing since June of 2019 when Council agreed to the closure of the unformed Council Public Road through Lot 232 DP 598397 - 793 Upper Buckrabendinni Road.

The site contains a rural land sharing community which has development consent from Council, however a number of dwellings have been constructed without approval and

are the subject of an ongoing compliance matter.

At least one of these dwellings has been constructed within a 20 metre wide road reserve owned by Council.

The decision in 2019 was made subject to the applicants paying all costs associated with the closure and consolidating the title of the closed road with their existing holding, thereby creating one lot after the road closure had been finalised, but this was later deemed not to meet requirements

under the Roads Act of 1993 to first undertake community or public authority consultation.

"There are no provisions in the LEP which enable Council to approve it (this subdivision)," Daniel Walsh, Manager Development and Environment, explained to Councillors.

"However, there is an amendment in the pipeline which has been resolved to exempt subdivisions that are the result of a road closure which would enable this process to be removed and

Council rely on the road closing provisions under the Roads Act," he further explained.

Mr Walsh's report to Council explains that an earlier breakdown of process means that several road closure applications dealt with by Council in the past were actually not allowed under the Roads Act.

This process has been rectified and now Council needs to ensure due process is followed before proceeding with the creation of this lot.

Community turns out for Garage Sale Trail



By Jen HETHERINGTON

THE inaugural Stuarts Point Garage Sale Trail kicked off under sunny skies on Saturday 20 January with about a dozen households opening their yards and garage doors to the

public.

Super bargains were on offer, and generous deals were snapped up early, with further discounts as the day progressed.

At 10am, two hours after most of the trading commenced, Gail from Bohemia Court, Stuarts Point, told NOTA, "We have had a surprisingly busy morning, we could have sold lots of my hubbies cap collection, but they are his precious display, definitely not for sale."

Goods of all varieties were up for grabs, everything from good quality clothing, books, craft, garden and fishing paraphernalia to a small motorboat complete with fold-up trailer and roof racks.

Organiser Briana Earle was pleased with all the effort both the vendors and shoppers put into the event, and from her own garage sale site said, "It's fun and beneficial for all involved, most registered households

will be open again tomorrow morning as well as next weekend, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28."

Briana and the participating sellers hope to repeat the community-based event within the coming months and maybe seasonally, making it ongoing and predictable as an effective way to disperse unwanted goods and make a little cash.



Organiser Briana Earle (seated) chats with shoppers.



A simple front yard set-up is not difficult to achieve.



Toys, cookware and furnishings were on offer, but none of the unique cap collection was for sale.



Many practical and decorative craft items were on display.

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Manny Wood
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Gumbaynggirr music project launches



By **Andrea FERRARI**

THE Girrwa Daguula (People Together) Choir is a new project by Gumbaynggirr language champion Uncle Micklo Jarrett and passionate music lover Ruth Kennedy.

It's a community choir, meeting weekly, where all are welcome to join in.

The songs will be learned first in English, taught by Ruth, and then in Gumbaynggirr with Micklo.

"We're excited to share our passion for music and language to create a unifying, joyous, educational experience for our community," Ruth told News Of The Area.

"Participants will learn how to sing in harmony and as part of a group.

"They will learn to sing traditional First Nations and popular songs in English and

Gumbaynggirr languages."

Ruth will lead the choir musically, drawing on her eleven years of facilitating community choirs; working with people of all generations, races, cultures, religions, ages and genders to create a safe space for all.

A community development worker of 24 years, she is also a talented group facilitator and musician.

She hosts the Fruits of the Earth Radio Program on 2BBB, featuring a different musical theme each week.

Her energy for music is endless.

Micklo is a qualified early childhood teacher with

a Masters in Indigenous Languages Education.

He teaches the Gumbaynggirr language across the Mid North Coast.

Since 2014, Micklo has been Head Aboriginal Language and Culture Trainer for the Gumbaynggirr Language and Culture Nest, managed by the NSW Department of Education, and is currently Senior Education

□ Uncle Micklo Jarrett, co-founder of Girrwa Daguula Choir, will teach songs in the Gumbaynggirr language.



□ Ruth Kennedy, co-founder of the Girrwa Daguula Choir, leads participants in English.



Officer for Aboriginal Languages. Wednesdays, starting on 7 February.

Ruth and Micklo have collaborated on several projects in the recent past.

Girrwa Daguula Choir meetings will be held at the Talarm Community Hall, Talarm, from 6pm to 8pm on

"No experience is necessary, and all are welcome," said Ruth.

To find out more, contact Ruth by email at cosmorocka@gmail.com or call 0413 288 066.

Hippy histories retold

By **JEN HETHERINGTON**

FEATURE length documentary 'Bellingen - The Promised Land' was independently screened at Stuarts Point Community Hall on the evening of 12 January 2024.

Based on a well-crafted mix of old home movie footage and still shots from the 70s, and more recent interviews and research, the film was produced by retired journalist Peter Geddes and veteran editor Pete Gailey.

With an introductory set of live music performance, delivered by Bellingen

musician Mark Oliver (who is also featured in the film), the ample audience settled in for the film and also enjoying a variety of snacks and beverages, and an information stall operated by the Forestry Ecology Alliance, whose subject matter strongly aligned with themes outlined in the film.

First screened for public viewing in late 2020 at the Bellingen Memorial Hall, the production team were overwhelmed with demand for extra sessions, resulting in a total of eleven screenings.

Since then, the documentary has enjoyed

continued support.

The film's creators, both now long-term inhabitants of the region, captured the tempestuous past of the now lively town, with Peter Geddes and his young family first settling in the main street of the waning Bellingen village in the early 1970s to open 'The Good Food Shop', a grocery store with a wholesome, fresh attitude.

"The film has had a wonderful response from Bellingen audiences and now we are screening it in smaller halls in the surrounding districts," Producer Pete Gailey commented.



□ Producers Peter Geddes and Pete Gailey.

Applications open for Women in Construction Industry Innovation Program

GRANT funding applications for the second round of Women in Construction Industry Innovation Program are now open.

Construction continues to be one of the most male-dominated industries in Australia, with twelve percent representation of women across the sector and only two percent in trade roles.

The Industry Innovation Program supports a range of industry-led initiatives across the state to increase the number of women working in construction, improve workplace culture, create inclusive and safe work environments, and

to empower women in leadership roles.

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Steve Whan said the demand for construction workers continues to be high across the state.

"As we continue to deliver infrastructure projects it is paramount we increase the proportion of women in construction to improve industry diversity and productivity," Mr Whan said.

"Increasing the participation of women in construction is not about meeting quotas; it is about cultivating a skilled, versatile and experienced workforce.

"Empowering more women to choose a career in construction will lead to greater innovation, diversity, and progress, ultimately building a stronger and more inclusive future for the industry."

An example of an initiative funded in Year 1 of the funding comes from the Infrastructure Sustainability Council, who lead the 'Sustainability: a credible construction career path' program.

This program aims to attract women to the industry and empower inclusive work practices through the development

of a skills framework, creation of educational resources for organisations and the delivery of a mentoring program for NSW construction businesses.

Infrastructure Sustainability Council Chief Executive Officer Ainsley Simpson said, "The NSW Government's commitment of more than \$20 million to increase the number of women working in construction shows the important steps the industry is taking towards a more gender-balanced workplace.

"Thanks to the Industry Innovation Program funding, the Infrastructure Sustainability Council is playing a part in breaking down cultural barriers that may prevent women from considering careers in this

field.

"The implementation of a skills framework and creation of resources will help companies throughout the industry to engage and attract women into construction roles."

The Industry Innovation Program is being delivered as part of the NSW Government's \$20.2 million Women in Construction Program.

Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Jodie Harrison said the future of the trades industry "lies in embracing the diversity and capabilities of all workers".

"The Industry Innovation Program aims to engage the industry in creating a

safe, inclusive and dynamic workforce that welcomes and supports women in all trade roles.

"Closing the gender gap in construction can lead to improved performance, enhanced innovation and ensures sustainable growth.

"By working with industry stakeholders, we can unleash the full potential of women in this industry and build a strong and diverse future."

For information on how to apply for grant funding, please visit the NSW Government Industry Innovation Program Year 2 grants page.

Visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/women-construction-industry-innovation-program-iip-year-2>

Youth Parliament applications close soon

THERE are just three weeks remaining for local young people in Years 10, 11 and 12 (or equivalent age) to apply for this year's Youth Parliament run by the Y NSW.

The Y is seeking applicants who have a passion for creating change in their communities from all 93 NSW state electorates to express interest.

The Y (formerly YMCA) Youth Parliament provides a unique platform for individuals to actively participate in the democratic process and advocate for issues that they are passionate about. Participants will have the chance to draft, debate, and advocate for mock youth-focused legislation, gaining invaluable insights into the workings of government and policy development.

The Y is committed to making Youth Parliament accessible to all young people and welcomes people from diverse backgrounds and interests to apply, with eligible individuals able to apply under a scholarship.

"There is no specific experience required to be involved in Youth Parliament.

"We strive for diversity in the cohort and support individuals facing adversity,

marginalisation or disadvantage where possible.

"This includes representation from rural and remote areas whose unique perspectives play a crucial role in shaping the discussions and policies at the Youth Parliament," explained interim CEO of the Y NSW, Prue Warrilow.

Hamani Tanginoa is a proud Wiradjuri, Dharug, Dungutti, Gooreng Gooreng and Tongan man, and a past Youth Parliament participant who is now part of the Youth Parliament team as Youth Voice Coordinator.

A passionate trailblazer, unafraid to stand up for the rights of marginalised young people, Hamani Tanginoa began his Y journey as a Youth Parliament representative in 2018 at just sixteen.

As a Y NSW and Camden Council Young Leader Hamani made history as the first Aboriginal Youth Premier for NSW.

"I entered Youth Parliament six years ago with a burning desire to effect change.

"As a young, gay, Aboriginal man, I have endured discrimination. I wanted to support others with similar experiences by introducing

legislation that would empower and educate," said Hamani.

There are many benefits of being involved in Youth Parliament. Youth Parliament provides a unique platform for young people to actively learn about the democratic process and how to advocate for issues that they are passionate about.

Each committee is paired with an industry expert and mentored and supported by Y staff and the volunteer taskforce.

Throughout the six-month program, participants develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, build leadership skills, gain confidence, form lifelong friendships and more.

"As an Aboriginal Youth Parliament participant, this program became the catalyst for my journey in leadership.

"Today, as a proud coordinator of the Youth Parliament program, I'm passionate about providing

the same transformative experience for young minds.

"This program not only amplifies voices but also nurtures future leaders who will drive positive change in our communities," he added.

This year the Y NSW established a sponsorship component to Youth Parliament for youth experiencing marginalisation and disadvantage.

The Y has secured funding from the Department of Regional NSW.

This will support 35 participants who may have otherwise been unable to partake in the program by covering or assisting with their entry fees into the 2024 Youth Parliament.

Minister for Youth Rose Jackson said it's a great opportunity for young people to be involved in driving change within their communities.

"We know how important it is for young people to be the leading force behind the changes they want to see in their communities, but also know it can be difficult for some to access these opportunities.

"For that reason, we're thrilled to be able to assist with the entry fees for 35



□ Past Youth Parliament participant Hamani Tanginoa is now part of the Youth Parliament team as Youth Voice Coordinator.

young people to take part in Y's Youth Parliament."

To apply to take part in the 2024 Youth Parliament, young people should visit ymcansw.org.au/community-services/youth/youth-parliament/

and submit their application before 9 February 2024.

School teachers and Members of Parliament can also support a young person's application by writing a letter of recommendation.

Families worried they can't afford back-to-school essentials

AS students head into the new school year, thousands of Australian children are at risk of missing out on essential items for learning, including digital devices, internet access, and uniforms and shoes, according to national children's education charity, The Smith Family.

An annual survey of over 2,200 families supported by the charity found that:

- Nearly nine out of ten respondents (88.3 percent) are worried to some degree about being able to afford all the things their children will need for school in 2024.
- Of these, three in ten (30 percent) are very worried and three in ten (31.7 percent) are somewhat worried.
- Around half of the survey respondents (51.2 percent) think their children are likely to miss out on the digital devices needed for their schoolwork because they won't be able to afford them.
- One in six (16.6 percent) think their children will miss out on internet access for schoolwork.
- Nearly half (45.6 percent) think their children will miss out on uniforms or shoes for school.

- Four in ten (40.6 percent) think their children will miss out on educational activities outside of school.
- One in three (32 percent) think their children will miss out on school excursions.

This is the second consecutive year that the survey has found concerns about affordability of school items (87.1 percent in 2023).

CEO of The Smith Family, Doug Taylor, said it's reflective of the impact of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

"The families we support make impossible decisions every day about how to prioritise the limited resources they have. "Housing, food, and power are top of the list, but the cost of these essentials have all risen rapidly, meaning educational essentials like uniforms, books, a laptop and the internet are increasingly hard to afford."

Doug Taylor said one of the most concerning findings is that half the respondents said their children are likely to miss out on digital devices.

"Laptops and the internet are as essential as pens and paper in the 21st century classroom.

"Without them, students will struggle to do their schoolwork and keep up with

their peers.

"Every Australian would agree that all children should have the same opportunities as their peers at school, so they can achieve their potential."

The cost of living was a major theme in the survey, with respondents saying price increases are putting pressure on their ability to pay for their child's school essentials.

Of the respondents, 45.6 percent said they feared their children were likely to miss out on basics like uniforms and shoes, up from 29.7 percent in 2023.

"Everything has gone up with the cost of living," one respondent said.

"It has been difficult trying to juggle transport to and from school and other commitments he (my son) has.

"As an aspiring athlete, his schedule has been a lot to manage both physically and financially as a single parent."

Another said their hope for the new school year was for their child to have "all the material they would require, and to not have to worry about money".

To help meet this growing need, The Smith Family is launching its Back to School Appeal, calling on Australians to sponsor a child to help them thrive at school and beyond.

The charity wants to find 6,700 new sponsors for its Learning for Life education support program, which provides financial, emotional and practical support for students experiencing disadvantage.

This support lasts for a child's entire educational journey.

The Smith Family has also committed to growing the program, and ensuring every student has all their school essentials, including a device and internet access by 2027.

"We are aiming to grow the reach of our sponsorship

program from 62,000 to 100,000 by 2027, so even more of the one in six young Australians living below the poverty line today can receive this support and be empowered to engage in their education – however we can only do this with help from the Australian community."

Doug Taylor said sponsorship isn't just about financial and practical support, but about helping children feel like they are important and belong.

"Learning for Life, which is enabled by generous Australians, is a game changer; it means that every child we help can access what they need to make the most of their education.

"Things like a new school uniform and laptop can make children feel like they are a part of a school, so does the ability to take part in school excursions, sporting teams, or take music lessons – all of which increases a child's confidence and self-belief."

"Our research shows that 85 percent of students on our support program who were in Year 12 in 2020 were in education, employment, or training two and a half years after leaving school, so we know our program has a long-term positive impact."

Students on the Learning for Life program also have access to a range of proven numeracy, reading, digital literacy and mentoring programs, so they can build essential skills while also helping to increase their aspirations and reach their potential.

"The long-term support we provide is so important.

"Research shows that children who start school behind are, on average, four years behind in maths and more than five years behind in reading by the time they reach Year 9.

"Our support starts early and lasts until that child has finished their education.

"This gives them the tools and resources they need to keep up with their peers, complete their education and go on to further study or work," Mr Taylor said.

Have Your Say

News Of The Area would love to hear your **OPINION and VIEWS**

on issues and topics affecting our area. Keep Letters to the Editor under 250 words for its best chance of publication. Please be aware that there is no guarantee of publication from your submission to us. Publication will be determined by the Editor around available space, relevance and appropriateness.

Email to media@newssofthearea.com.au

Applications for Veteran Wellbeing Grant program end soon

NSW Shadow Minister for Youth Justice Aileen MacDonald OAM MLC is seeking to remind the veteran community that applications for the Australian Government's Veteran Wellbeing Grant

Program are now open. "This is an issue above party politics. "Our veterans have served the nation with distinction and sacrifice, and they deserve all the funding and assistance we

can provide through the Wellbeing Program," Ms MacDonald said. The aim of the program is to provide funding for ex-service organisations to undertake projects and activities

that sustain or enhance health and social wellbeing, build community capacity, potentially expand on existing projects and raise awareness of the important issues faced by the veteran community.

"Regional and rural NSW has a significant veteran community, and this is an important resource to help with their wellbeing," she said. "We all know that transitioning out of the

Defence Force and adjusting to civilian life can be a challenge." More details on the program and how to apply can be found at www.grants.gov.au

Mental health first aid training on offer

By Andrea FERRARI

'IF I'd known then what I know now' is a driving mantra behind the new work of Coffs Harbour's Andrew Simons in the mental health space.

"I am on a mission to change the way members of the Coffs Harbour community view mental health and mental illness," Andrew, a former rugby league star, told News Of The Area.

While mental illness has affected families, communities and workplaces for generations, its insidious spread is growing, according to recent studies.

A study from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare suggests that, in any one year, one in five persons over the age of sixteen are experiencing a diagnosable mental illness, and at least half of those persons are not receiving any form of support and assistance.

Andrew believes we can do better and has stepped up to the plate with a training program.

"Mental Health First Aid Officer (MHFA) training is an important step in the process

of supporting someone," he said.

"Mental illness not only affects families and communities but also costs Australian businesses billions of dollars in any financial year due to absenteeism, presenteeism and compensation costs.

"As I reflect over my career, I recognise that as a player with North Sydney and Penrith in the ARL in the eighties and nineties I was completely unaware and oblivious to the struggles my teammates and good friends were experiencing through mental illness in their day-

to-day and sporting lives," he said.

"If I had known then what I now know, I could have changed lives entirely and made a real difference.

"I want to help our Coffs Harbour community to be able to recognise, support and assist persons experiencing a mental illness or undergoing a mental health crisis.

"It will make our community stronger and safer.

"We need to treat a mental illness as we would treat any other illness."

To achieve these aims Andrew is working with Novaskill (a Registered Training Organisation) and Mental Health First Aid Australia in delivering the MHFA Officer training.

In 2023 more than 50 people in Coffs Harbour received accreditation through Mental Health First Aid Australia, with that number increasing to approximately 300 participants across the Novaskill footprint.

"I want to make it 100 people accredited in our region in 2024," he said.

"(With) one trained



Andrew Simons will deliver Mental Health First Aid Officer training provided through NovaSkill in Coffs Harbour.



Former rugby league player Andrew Simons says he was completely oblivious to the mental health struggles his teammates and good friends were experiencing in their day-to-day and sporting lives.

person helping ten, and each of them helping one more, the benefits ripple out over time, saving and changing lives."

MHFA has recognised the outstanding feedback received from the first cohort of participants in 2023, and in 2024 Andrew is now able to offer a variety of learning models, making the course more accessible to more people.

The course delivery models include fully online, mixed mode (online and

face-to-face classroom) and a highly successful two-day, face-to-face model.

"We are now able to tailor the course delivery to suit every participant's individual study needs without compromising the quality of the course content."

Any person interested in undertaking the MHFA course or discussing how it can assist your community group or business is invited to contact Andrew directly on 0488 576 567 or andrews@novaskill.edu.au.

Macksville Country Club Golf

SPORT

By Max TURNER



John Poole getting ready to putt on the new 6th green with playing partners Don Forrester and Tony Adams.

THE great weather saw a good roll-up for the Bernard Laverty Memorial Stableford sponsored by David and Melissa Walker Funerals.

Incorporated in this event was a mystery pairs competition where players did not know who their partner was until the finish when cards were shuffled, then matched.

Mick O'Brien was lucky enough to be paired with Jordan Welsh, both having scores good enough to put them on the leaderboard.

Dane Luffman had a net 4 under par to win the single Stableford on a count back from Jake Clarke with second runner up Mick O'Brien also winning on a count back from John Doward.

Straight shooters with nearest the pins were Clint Lavender (A), Jim Wilkes (B) and the "Silver Fox" Brian King in C grade.

The 155th Mid Week Competition was a win for Jack Ireland with Mick O'Brien runner up for the second time in the week.

Another count back was required at the finish of the Chook Run

This time "Big Bob" Lindsay won on a count back from Dave Poole.

Grumpy's Grumble: Nambucca Heads Bowls

By GRUMPY

THIS is my first report for the year and so far it has been very busy at your club.

Xmas Pairs was won by Danny Curran and Mark Blackford.

Well done, there were some pretty hot teams playing that day.

The Mixed Pairs started on 6 Jan with 25 teams entered and again some hot combinations playing.

First round winners were Grump and Deb Mann, Pam James and Magic Mike, Marg Duffus and

Brendon Ruane, Janis and Doug Cedelland, Pat Fletcher and Andrew Power, Nerida and Mark Blackford, Manor Smith and Owen Smith (no relation), and Teresa and Pete Meehan.

Winners by beating the Bye were Margaret Flagg and Drum, Elaine Fleming and Mitch McGill, Red Dog and Gloria Richardson, Stuart and Jenny Thorne and Eliza Brown and Oxy Cedelland.

Second round winners were Magic James, Brendon Ruane, Doug Cedelland, Mark Blackford,

Pete Meehan, Mitch McGill, Gloria Richardson and Oxy Cedelland.

I must add they had plenty of help from their leads.

Winners into the Semi-Finals were Brendon Ruane, Mark Blackford, Pete Meehan and Oxy Cedelland.

A good crowd was on hand to watch the final last Sunday with Nerida and Mark winning 22-7 against Eliza and Oxy.

Congrats to both teams, it was an entertaining game.

The Mixed Fours starts in early

February.

Check the board for playing dates.

We played Macksville for The Battle Of The Bridge and came away with the trophy.

Thursday Twilight Night Bowls has been going gangbusters, with members and visitors enjoying bowls and a feed.

The Royal Tar has started and 2 rounds have been completed with the third washed out but was played last Tuesday.

The final round will be played

next Tuesday.

Pennants start on 10 Feb, good luck to all 4 sides.

And finally well done to Jaydan, Cassie and the Kitchen staff for a great day on New Year's Eve, organising a Kids Day, with games and a Kids Disco.

The place was packed and it rained that day.

Imagine what would have been achieved if the weather had been fine.

The Club now has a courtesy car, ring the club book in and get to and from the club for a gold coin donation.

Sails up at Urunga

THE Urunga Sail Training Club (USTC) now has five new Assistant Instructors after running instructor training with Australia Sailing in late 2023.

Club member Alice Schreenan also completed her Senior Instructor Accreditation.

This was possible through a grant with the NSW Office of Sport's Women on Water program.

Starting on February 10 the Club will offer five weeks (Saturdays) of on the water fun and hands-on learning, with participants completing the Australian Sailing National Small Boat Start 1 and 2 courses on the beautiful waters of the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers.

"Our last course had fourteen girls complete the Start 1 and 2 course and our new mostly female instructors assisted with their new Instructor skills training," said Derek Ridgley, the Principal of the Discover Sailing Centre.

"We also held a Wednesday 'Women on the Water' course, sailing from Urunga to Mylestom as

part of the training.

"The 'Mums' are the ones that mostly take their kids to sport, and this has offered them a way to be involved as a family, with themselves learning new skills - and they were in great hands with our experienced, nationally accredited Sailing Instructors.

"The courses are for beginners and anyone wanting to brush up on their sailing skills, so no experience

is necessary."

The course teaches how to confidently skipper and crew a sailing dinghy, basic sailing manoeuvres, boat parts and rigging, safe boat launching and retrieval, capsize recovery drills, reading the tides and weather conditions, sailing etiquette and more.

The skills learnt can be transferred to crewing and sailing on larger boats.

The Urunga Sail Training Club is a volunteer organisation which runs programs for people of all ages



The Urunga Sail Training Club offers a range of sailing opportunities on the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers.



The Urunga Sail Training Club is a volunteer organisation which runs programs for people of all ages and most abilities.

and most abilities and has been teaching sailing on the Mid North Coast for thirteen years.

Courses are run three times per year in February, May, and October.

Weekday and holiday courses for schools, other groups and individuals are also offered by appointment.

Sailing is a wonderful sport for people aged from seven to 85 years, as it encourages both mental and physical ability in addition to promoting a healthy, active outdoors lifestyle.

"The sailing lessons have taught juniors and teenagers many valuable life lessons like decision-making, resilience, leadership, teamwork and communication in a fun, healthy environment and a wonderful way to explore and enjoy our wonderful waterways," said Derek.

For more information visit www.sailurunga.org.au, email urungasailtraining@gmail.com or phone Derek on 0427115892 or the Secretary on 0490349378.

Top Charlestown results for Nambucca Valley/Coast Coast swimmers

THE Swimming New South Wales Country Regionals were held in three venues - Charlestown, Orange and Wagga Wagga - from 20 and 21 January.

Charlestown was the most popular and entries closed early due to the massive amount of keen swimmers.

Swimming North Coast swimmers favoured that venue, being the closest to our area.

106 North Coast swimmers entered this venue with sixteen at Orange and one at Wagga Wagga.

At Charlestown, North Coast swimmers won 111 medals, with 20

won at Orange.

Top Charlestown results for Nambucca Valley/Coast Coast swimmers

Matilda Buchholz 9 Macksville 1st 50 free, 50 fly, 50 breast, 100 free, 100 fly, 100 breast, 200 medley and 2nd in 50 back and 100 back.

Keeley Smith 15 Macksville 1st 200 breast, 50 breast, 100 breast and 2nd 100 fly and 200 medley and 3rd 50 fly and 100 free.

Leah Pickvance 16 Macksville 1st 50 and 100 free and 50 fly.

Bailey Whitton 17 Macksville 1st 50 and 100 free, 2nd 50 and 100 fly and 3rd 200 free.

Courtney Clark 17 Coffs Harbour 1st 1500 free and 800 free and 2nd 400 free.

Bridie Gordon 13 Coffs Harbour 1st 50 back, 3rd 100 back and 100 fly.

Cleo Schubert 15 Macksville 1st 50 fly, 2nd 200 back and 3rd 100 back

Brielle Woodger 17 Macksville 1st 200 fly.

Milla Field 10 Macksville 2nd 50 fly and 3rd 100 fly.

Amelia Moore 16 Coffs Harbour MC 2nd 50 fly and 50 breast and 3rd 50 free.

Sara Bergen 16 Coffs Harbour MC 3rd 50 fly

Brayden Clark 14 Coffs Harbour 3rd 400 free.

Kimberley Graham 12 Macksville 3rd 200 free.

General results for Macksville swimmers

Further placings for Tessa 7th 50 free, 5th 100 back, 6th 100 free, 4th 100 fly, 5th 50 back.

Further placing for Keeley 4th 50 free.

Further placings Milla 9th 50 free, 6th 100 back, 12th 100 free, 17th 50 breast and 5th 50 back. Further placings for Kimberley 11th 50 free, 5th 50 fly, 7th 100 free, 9th 50 breast, 9th 50 back and 8th 100 breast.

Further placings for Leah 4th 50 breast and 6th 100 fly.

Further placings for Cleo 5th 200 breast, 9th 50 free, 7th 50 fly, 5th 100 free, 10th 100 fly, 6th 50 back and 4th 100 breast.

Further placings for Bailey 4th 50 Breast.

Further placings for Brielle 5th 200 free, 5th 50 free, 4th 50 fly and 6th 100 free.

Halle Deans 10 31st 50 free, 25th 100 free, 22nd 50 breast, 27th 50 back and 11th 100 breast.

Ella Faulds 12 8th 50 free, 8th 100 back, 12th 50 fly, 17th 100 free, 16th 50 breast and 8th 50 back. Hazel Gadsen 10 18th 50 free, 9th 50 fly, 7th 100 free, 18th 50 breast, 4th 100 fly and 7th 100 breast. Isaac Lines 11 16th 50 free, 12th 100 back, 13th 0 fly, 10th 50 breast and 16th 50 back. Chelsea Stringer 15 10th 50 free and 10th 50 fly.

Mason Stringer 27th 50 free, 15th 100 back, 11th 50 fly, 19th 50 breast and 17th 50 back.

Well done to all swimmers.

Nambucca Heads Island Golf Club

By Geoffrey McCANN

THE rain on Tuesday was welcomed for the golf course, but not so for the players, causing cancellation of that day's event This week's featured sponsor was "A Pizza This A Pizza That" - thank you Steve, who is currently enjoying a holiday in NZ.

The Ladies played their 9 Hole Summer Competition on 10 -18 on Wednesday, with water affected bunkers out of play. Heather Gray (26) and Thea Kimber (27) both scored 20 points, Heather winning on c/b. The Ball rundown to Helen Ferrero 19, Dianne O'Leary 18 and

Lyn Parkes & Lyn Vidler both 16 points.

94 Players for Thursday's Medley Stableford - very warm & humid early, the last groups had to contend with that afternoons thunderstorm. Division 1 (0 to 16) was won by Daryl Wall (10) with 41 points from Graham Watson (8) 39. Keith Elphick won Division 2 (17 to 22) with 38 points from John Buganey (22) 36 points. Paul McElhinney (24) scored 39 points to win Division 3 (23 to 45) from Alan Lamacraft (33) from Forster-Tuncurry with 38 points. Other good scores from Steve Frost 38,

Michael Summerill, Glen Crow, Dianne O'Leary & Max Neal all 37 points, the Ball Rundown to 34 points on c/b. Drew Glasson won Ecomist's Loaded Stubby Holder for the longest putt on 2, other NTP's to Daryl Wall on 5, Donald Lavery on 7, Philip Mander on 8, John Buganey got the "Pizza This" voucher on 13, Troy Herbert won Stu's ball on 15 and Andrew Mackinnon pocketed the Pro Pin Jackpot on 18.

Our forward Tee Markers have not gone un-noticed by members, but have been compensated for by some challenging pin positions - Greg's Course Team are already

preening the course in preparation for the GolfNSW MNC Men's Championships on 25th February. Ben Honeybrook (12) scored 40 points to win Division 1 (0 to 16) in Saturday's Medley Stableford, runner up was Jeff Bailey (15) from Carbrook with 37. Peter Bush's win in Division 2 (17 to 22) received much acclaim in the Clubhouse when his score of 38 points was announced, runner up was Jacob Newbury (18) 37 points on c/b from David Wilson. In Division 3 (23 to 45), the winner was Phillip Smith (32) with 41 points from Edward Beaton (24) 38 points on c/b from Colin Dunne and Paul Schellenberger. The Ball Rundown to 33 points on c/b. The longest putt on 2 was won

by Clyde Johnson, other NTP's by Graham Long on 5 (119cms), Greg McCoy on 7 (131cms), Glen Crow on 8, Peter Thompson won the "Pizza This" voucher on 13, Greg McCoy got Stu's ball on 15 and Ken Whan (Bargara) won the Pro Pin Jackpot on 18 with 227 cms.

The full year's golf fixtures are now available on Club Website and Member's Portal.

Bookings are now open for the Women's Opening Day on Friday 16th February, and the Men's Golf NSW Mid North Coast Men's Golf Championship on Sunday 25th February. Visitor enquires & bookings through Pro Shop 6569 4111.

See you on the Island.

HYPOTHETICAL



Taking a Legal Look
By Manny WOOD

What are the odds?

DAVE, a creature of habit, purchased a lotto ticket every week.

He was a pillar of the community who unfortunately lost his wife, in tragic circumstances, several years ago.

Dave maintained a relationship with his mum and his supportive sister.

Dave loved his two children, Wayne and Sharon very much and worked hard to provide for them.

Tragically, Dave was unexpectedly killed by a lightning strike.

However, in a turn of events that can only be described as extraordinary, his lotto ticket that week was a winner, netting a windfall of \$50 million.

Dave, known for his generosity, always stated he would share his lottery winnings with his family, especially his mum, Mary and a few close friends.

Unfortunately, this wish was never legally documented.

His will made no mention of this intention.

Instead, the will left his entire estate, which now included the lottery windfall, to Wayne and Sharon.

Wayne proposed to honour his father's wishes.

However, Sharon disagreed and was unwilling to part with any of her newfound wealth.

This disagreement escalated to the point where it ended up in Court.

The Court held, wills cannot be rewritten "posthumously", barring exceptional circumstances.

This left the Court with a difficult decision, balancing the legal rigidity of a will against Dave's generous intentions.

The law, as stated in the Succession Act 2006 (NSW), limits the right to contest a will to spouses, children, and financially dependent individuals.

This meant Dave's mother, sister, and friends could not contest the will.

It is worth noting that whilst the Court would consider moral obligations owed towards certain family members, this is limited to persons eligible to make a claim.

This column is a sobering reminder that while generosity may be a virtue, without legally documenting your wishes, your estate may be the subject of a dispute.

Thank you to Anthony Fogarty for his assistance with this column. Email Manny Wood, principal solicitor at TB Law at manny@tblaw.net.au or call him on (02) 66 487 487.

This column is only accurate at today's date and cannot be relied upon as legal advice.

Dorin's Draws By Paul DORIN



The 'lock up and leave' approach is killing our towns and environment

DEAR News Of The Area,

IN recent years, there has been a concerning trend observed in Labor-led state governments in Australia - the locking up of productive state forests.

These forests, which could be utilised for sustainable timber harvesting - alongside healthy and productive pastimes such as hunting, fishing, prospecting and horse-riding etc - are increasingly being placed off-limits to everyday Australians.

This policy shift raises questions about the relationships between bureaucrats, inner-city Labor MPs and the activist class - and the poor understanding they have of rural communities.

One of the key issues at hand is the impact on local economies that heavily rely on the sustainable native forestry and timber processing sectors.

These industries have long played a vital role in supporting employment and local businesses.

However, the tendencies for state Labor governments to convert productive state forests into National Parks has been disastrous.

Whether it is the attempt to lock-up many of the most productive parts of the New South Wales public land estate with the Great Koala National Park or the signalled move of Victorian Labor to lock up a further 335,000 hectares in poorly managed National Park - the potential immense harm to regional, rural and remote communities is deeply concerning.

These poorly managed parks also contribute significantly to out-of-control wildfires across the landscape and terrible outcomes for biodiversity - as well as posing significant threats to small at-risk

rural and remote communities that often are surrounded or nearby parks with almost unmanaged fuel loads.

The argument here is not against real environmental conservation.

It's about finding a sustainable middle-ground that does not include the biased voices of a few elitist activist academics that currently pervade the national public land management conversation - alongside the willingness to actively manage the public land estate.

Sustainable forest management practices have been developed to ensure the long-term health of ecosystems while supporting the economic needs of communities.

By locking up productive state forests, we risk neglecting the potential for a harmonious coexistence between conservation and industry.

Moreover, it is disheartening to observe that some environmental "charities", through public donations, are supporting actions not necessarily focused on saving endangered species or rehabilitating environments.

Instead, these actions are engaging in green lawfare cases against honest, hardworking Australians - with the end aim to destroy their sustainable industries, families and communities.

While environmental protection is crucial, it's essential to distinguish between legitimate concerns and cases that are driven more by extremist ideological agendas rather than actual ecological preservation.

A call for transparency and accountability is necessary, urging governments to ensure that public funds and donations directed towards environmental causes genuinely contribute to the

Bowraville Book Fair a huge success

DEAR News Of The Area,

WOW!

What a weekend we had in Bowraville.

The annual Bowraville Book Fair was a huge success.

I would like to thank NOTA (Rochelle and Nerida in particular) for their contribution to making this event so successful.

A very big thank you to the team of volunteers who helped to make the event what it was (Alison, Anne, Brenda, Debbie, Georgette, Jenny, Julee, Julie, Kathleen, Keith, Ken, Lizzie, Margrit, Mary, Michael, Phillida, Ros, Soozie, and Todd).

Another big thank you to all the people of the Nambucca Valley who donated books and other



Happy customers at the 2024 Bowra Book Fair: Danielle (Missabotti), Diana (Missabotti), Paul (Missabotti), Glen (Bowraville) and Roby (Nambucca Heads).



DEAR Jasminda,

WHAT do you reckon about boycotting major retailers who won't sell Australia Day merchandise?
Asking for a friend.

Mr Daryl Hutton

Dear Daryl,

Australia Day paraphernalia has never made a lot of sense to me.

Without entering the argument of whether the date should be changed, I'm not sure how Australian it is to buy mass-produced plastic made in China with all the associated shipping and processing costs.

I mean, if you consider what you're waving around - a bit of polyester that will end up buried in our 'golden soil' before finding its way into the ocean (we are, after all, 'girt by sea') - it might take the shine off your cheap purchase.

If our esteemed polities want to boycott the major supermarkets, there seems to be a few more pressing reasons to do so.

Off the top of my head, let's say, selling imported

farmed prawns instead of supporting our local prawn fishermen, thereby putting Australia's ocean biosecurity at risk.

Not paying Australian farmers adequately and simultaneously making huge profits while raising prices.

Looping music so that you find yourself singing along to the lyrics of Total Eclipse of the Heart, hence forgetting the Vegemite and lamb chops.

Getting rid of most of the cashiers who always asked how your day was and replacing them with self-checkout cameras that make you look like Shrek on Benzos.

Insisting on persevering with plastic produce bags and veggies wrapped in plastic when there are simple alternatives.

Now those and many other things may be worth boycotting our major supermarkets for, but let's not take a cheap political shot when supermarkets are simply responding to a decrease in consumer interest for schlocky imported crap.

Thanks for asking, Daryl.

I hope it provides some clarity for your friend.

Carpe diem,
Jasminda.

betterment of our ecosystems - this includes supporting initiatives that focus on real practical environmental outcomes and community education rather than solely fueling legal battles whose aims do not align with reality.

As we navigate the complexities of environmental conservation and economic sustainability, it's important to foster open dialogue and inclusive decision-making processes.

Stakeholders from all sides - scientists, industry representatives, and community leaders - should be invited to participate in constructive discussions that lead to policies reflecting the diverse needs of our society.

Unfortunately this is often not the case - with the NSW Labor Government refusing to allow Forest and Wood Communities Australia a seat at the table on the Great Koala National Park Industry Advisory Panel.

While striking a balance between environmental outcomes and economic prosperity is a delicate task - locking up productive state forests without considering sustainable management practices will harm both local economies and the environment.

By promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusive dialogue, we can work towards policies that address the concerns of all stakeholders, ensuring a more sustainable and harmonious existence for all Australians - alongside a future that does not rely on foreign imports from countries with much poorer environmental records than our own.

Regards, Michael HARRINGTON,
Executive Officer, Forest and Wood Communities Australia.

best to use these much needed funds at the next general meeting of BCDAI (Bowraville Community Development Association Inc) who manage the Bowraville Pioneer Community Centre.

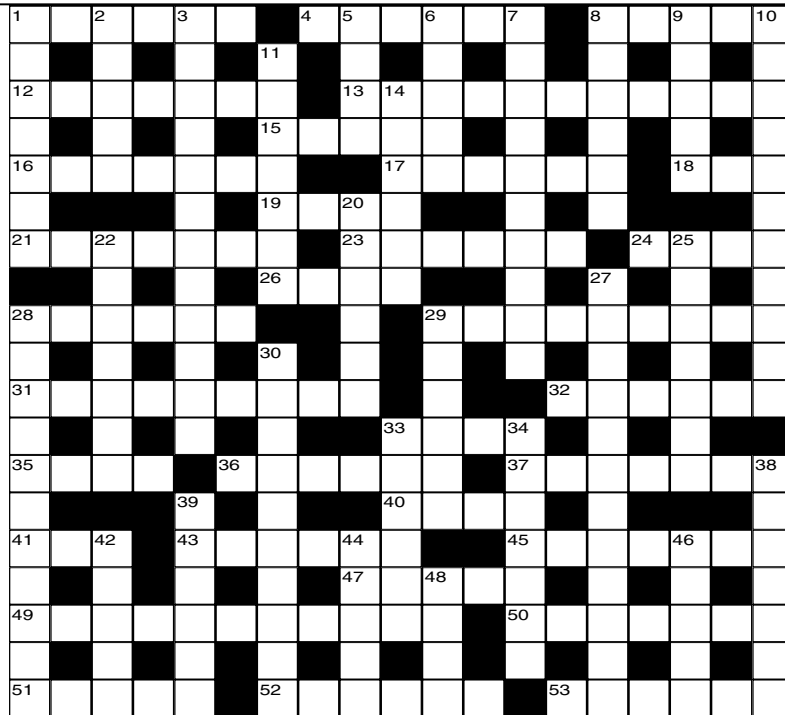
This meeting will be held at the community centre (70 High Street, Bowraville) on Saturday 10 February at 1pm, after the Bowra Country Markets.

All welcome.

Sincere thanks,
Marion SYRATT,
Book Fair Co-ordinator
Bowraville Community Development Association Incorporated.

BIG CROSSWORD

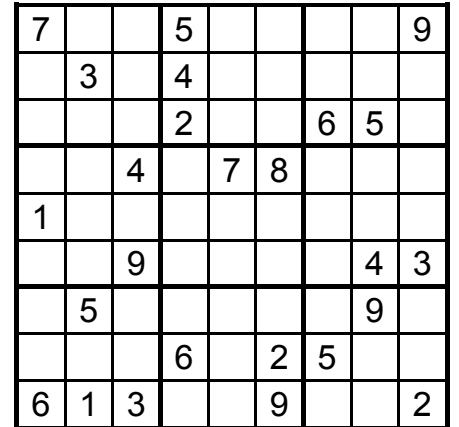
- Across**
- 1 Enormously
 - 4 Counteract
 - 8 Two-masted vessel
 - 12 Maize whisky
 - 13 Fizzed
 - 15 Confuse
 - 16 Facial hair
 - 17 Secret
 - 18 Health resort
 - 19 Affirm
 - 21 Milk drinker
 - 23 Get back
 - 24 Run before a gale
 - 26 Australian birds
 - 28 US president of 1980s
 - 29 Compound
 - 31 Quotations
 - 32 Get on a ship
 - 33 Desire
 - 35 Extra
 - 36 Squirm, as in pain
 - 37 Disease
- Down**
- 1 Jews
 - 2 Bandage material
 - 3 Political group (7,5)
 - 5 Nourish
 - 6 Less risky
 - 7 Solid ground (5,5)
 - 8 Custodian
 - 9 Bloodsuckers
- 10** Child's game (4-3-4)
- 11** Oblivious
- 14** Bell-bottoms
- 20** Bursts forth
- 22** Hire (a boat, etc)
- 25** Prevailing conditions
- 27** Astronomers
- 28** Suggested
- 29** More snug
- 30** Contest
- 33** Breathe with difficulty
- 34** Blocks
- 38** Overindulgence
- 39** Young dogs or wolves
- 42** Percussion instruments
- 44** Waterlogged
- 46** Yours (archaic)
- 48** Norse god



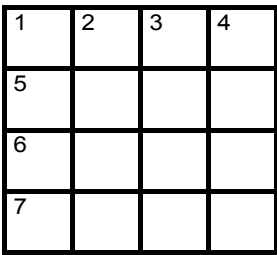
SUDOKU

Sudoku is an 81 square number grid with nine blocks each containing nine cells. To solve the puzzle, all the blank cells must be filled in using numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and in the nine 3x3 blocks.

MEDIUM



TINY CROSS



- ACROSS**
- 1 Water bird
 - 5 Ocean movement
 - 6 Concludes
 - 7 Toward sunset
- DOWN**
- 1 Brood
 - 2 Chardonnay
 - 3 Contributes
 - 4 Cosy retreat

O S U C C E S S F U L L Y
S D R G W G T P O Y O Y G
A O E A G G Q O W K U X N
W K V R L L A R I P B P I
D E L T U L D T E N I T Y
S P E W C O I S P M U J T
D G X K B T L P O O L W N
R E N T U H O O R V E U U
Y M H M R B S A C E W N D
L E A U S M G K D D T Y T
I V Y B T U O S U I T A W
A E W A S J R W L T O A C
D N A T I M O L E C U L E

WORD FIND

All the words listed below can be found in the grid.

- All
- Mrs
- And
- Oaks
- Bursts
- Omit
- Caterpillars
- Owe
- Coat
- Pool
- Coloured
- Rent
- Crow
- Solid
- Daily
- Sports
- Eat
- Successfully
- Egg
- Sugar
- Even
- Until
- Get
- Untying
- Jump
- Waves
- Molecule
- Weeds
- Moved
- Yoyo

SOLUTIONS

Answers for Tiny Cross and Word Find.

TINY CROSS
ACROSS: 1 Sewn, 2 Wine, 3 Adds, 4 Nest.
DOWN: 1 Brood, 2 Chardonnay, 3 Contributes, 4 Cosy retreat.

WORD FIND
All the words listed below can be found in the grid.

Kids Boot Camp 003

Burping Bubbles

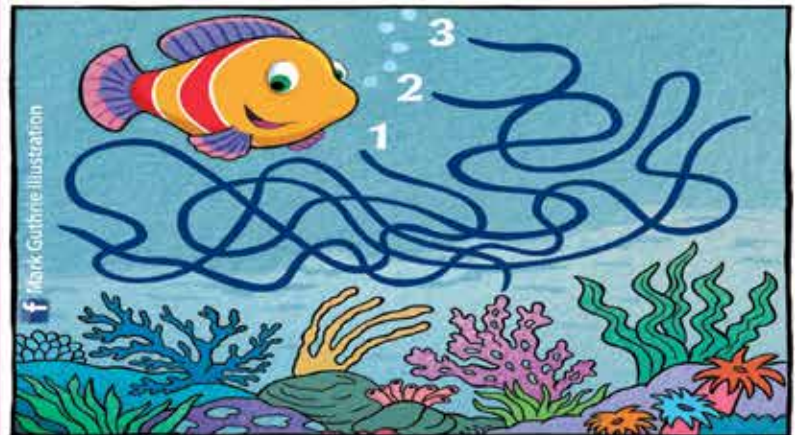


Can you spot 5 differences between picture A and picture B?



Fishing Expedition

Which path leads to the coral?



ANSWERS: Spot the difference Picture B - Rock missing, eye missing on green fish, extra bubble, orange fish's eye has moved and spot missing on purple fish. Fishing Expedition - Path 1.

NEWS OF THE AREA TIDES

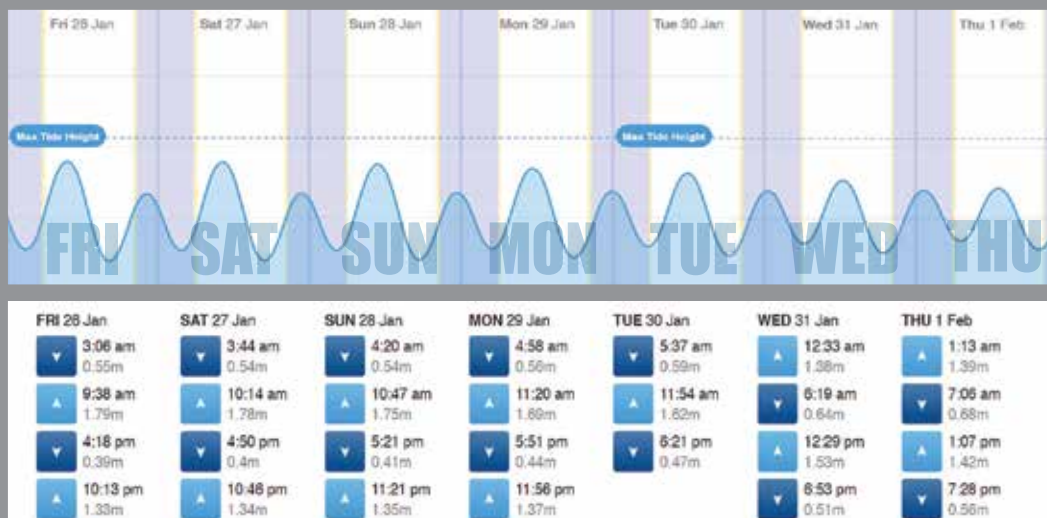
Of The Area News

THE RIGHT TABLE SHOW TIDAL VARIATIONS AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS

The time variation should be added to the corresponding Fort Denison time.

In view of the variations caused by local conditions and meteorological effects, these times are approximate and must be considered as a guide only.

They are not to be relied on for critical depth calculations for safe navigation. Actual times of High and Low Water may occur before or after the times indicated.



Graph and Times are for Sydney Fort Denison

TIDE CHART - 7 DAYS

Location	(high)	(low)
NAMBUCCA RIVER		
Watts Creek	1hr	
Macksville	1hr 30m	2hrs 10m
KALANG RIVER		
Uranga Bridge	1hr 20m	1hr 40m
BELLENGER RIVER		
Mylestom	30m	1hr
Raleigh	1hr	1hr 30m
Bellingen	1hr 40m	2hr 10m
COFFS HARBOUR	0 to 15m	0 to 15m

Sydney Swans to visit Coffs next week

□ A three-day AFL Community Camp starts on Monday in Coffs Harbour.

By Aiden BURGESS

AFL FANS on the Coffs Coast will have the chance to see the Sydney Swans in person next week.

The Swans will be conducting an AFL Community Camp from Monday January 29 to Wednesday January 31 at the C.ex Coffs International Stadium.

Next week's visit is the first time since 2019 that the Swans men's team has visited Coffs Harbour.

The first day will see the Swans run a Super Clinic for kids aged between five and sixteen.

The clinic gets underway at 3.30pm, with the Swans then having

a signing session for those at the clinic.

A Coaching Development Session will be held from 5.30pm to 7pm on Monday, which will see Swans coaching staff and Coach Developer for the AFL North Coast region, Tim Davis, sharing their knowledge with coaches while Northern Heat and Swans Academy players demonstrate the training drills discussed.

A Club Volunteer Session will be held at the same time, in which the Swans will show their appreciation for the wonderful volunteers of the region with a chance for them to meet Swans players.

The AFL Community Camp

concludes with the Swans players going head to head in an intra-club practice match on Wednesday, 31 January, at the C.ex Coffs International Stadium, which is open to the public free of charge.

Sydney Swans Executive GM Football - AFL, Leon Cameron said the club is looking forward to returning to Coffs Harbour, a place which has become a home away from home for the red and whites.

"Pre-season camps are a great chance for our team to bond and learn in a different environment, and I couldn't think of a better place for us to be heading than Coffs Harbour," Cameron said.



Nambucca Valley Bridge Club News

By John SLADE

RESULTS for week ending: Saturday 20th January 2024.

Monday: 15TH. Eight pairs contested a Howell event won by Daphne Priestley & Carol McKee with 66.6 percent. Runners-up Libby Knight & Leonie Harrison.

Tuesday: 16TH. Five pairs tonight, winners Carol McKee & Amber Fox. Runners-up, Maureen Cowan & Scott Parker.

Wednesday: 17th. 19 players attended Richard's Improve your Bridge session. The main topic of discussion centred around the common mistakes players make. A lively discussion followed and the group identified many areas for

improving their game. Some of the issues - but not all - ranged from taking tricks rather than establishing suits, not telling partner about their 4-card major holding, not leading partner's bid suit and getting stuck in the wrong hand. This was followed by playing 24 boards under Richard's watchful eye!

Thursday: 18TH. Eighteen players in a Howell event won by Colin Tolley & Mike Siford with 75 percent! Runners-up Janet Dyson & Maureen Cowan.

Saturday: 20TH. Twenty-two players competed in a Bye-Relay. Won at North/South by Rob Marshall & Phil Booth with 59 percent. Runners-up Maureen Cowan & Barbara Maranik. East/West winners Mike & Linda Siford with 58.7 percent. Runners-up, Amber Fox & Carol McKee.

Urunga: 17th. A seven-table Mitchell won at North/South by Janet Dyson & Rob Marshall with 59 percent. Runners-up Judie Bartley & Bev Oldfield. East/West winners Nerellyn Mitchell & Peter Jonutz with 65 percent. Runners-up Peter Plunkett-Cole & Scott Parker.

Nambucca Valley Bridge Club News/Results.

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Group 2 clubs return to training for 2024

FROM Page 20

to build on a finals appearance from last season.

The Sawtell Panthers resumed training last week at Rex Hardaker Oval, while last season's finalists the Grafton Ghosts resumed training this week, with training on Tuesday

and Thursday nights at Frank McGuren Field.

Player registrations have opened on MySideline, with players urged to register online as soon as possible in preparation for the 2024 season.

Group 2 Rugby League teams will get the chance to prepare for the 2024 season by taking part in the Hoey Moey 9s Tournament, to be held on Saturday, 2 March in Coffs Harbour.



□ Macksville Sea Eagles in defence in 2022.

Bowraville Rec Club Golf

By Julee TOWNSEND

20-1-24

SINGLE Stableford Winner: Wendy Welch 37, R/Up: Eliza McNally F/9:

D Banks B/9; Maz McNally N/P: 1/10 B Brabant 9/18 K Wilson L/Putt: T Noble

Ball Comp: 1. T Noble 2. D Wren 3. Leanne Porter Next Week: 27-1-24 4BBB. To book a Cart call on 6564 7349.

SPORT REGISTRATION 2024

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Of The Area News

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NAMBUCCA HEADS LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

MEETING 1: NOTICE OF ORDINARY MEETING
Notice is hereby given of an Ordinary Meeting of the NHLALC:

DATE: 9 February 2024
TIME: 10am
VENUE: **Nambucca Community and Arts Centre Ridge Street Nambucca Heads**

AGENDA:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Approval of NHLALC 2022 – 2027 CLBP
- Meeting Closed

MEETING 2: NOTICE OF 2022/2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Notice is hereby given of the 2022/2023 Annual General Meeting of the NHLALC:

DATE: 9 Feb 2024
TIME: 11am
VENUE: **Nambucca Community and Arts Centre Ridge Street Nambucca Heads**

AGENDA:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting;
- Receipt of 2022/2023 NHLALC Annual Report including CLBP implementation report;
- Receipt of 2022/2023 NHLALC Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter;
- Election of the NHLALC Board for 2023-2027
- Meeting closed.

PLEASE NOTE: In relation to the election for Board members
A voting member of the NHLALC is not entitled to vote, nominate, accept a nomination, or be elected to office in elections for Board members if the member has not attended at least 2 meetings of the NHLALC in the preceding 12 months as a voting member.

For any enquiries, please contact the NHLALC CEO, Cal Davis during business hours.

PLEASE NOTE: A copy of the CLBP or a summary is available for viewing on request at the NHLALC office during business hours.

AUTHORISED BY: Francine Edwards Chairperson, Nambucca Heads LALC.



Billy doesn't have what he needs for school.

SPONSOR A DISADVANTAGED AUSTRALIAN CHILD TODAY.

The Smith Family 1800 318 238

Public Notices

Nambucca Community and Arts Centre will hold their AGM on Friday, February 23 2024 at 3pm in the Main Hall of the Nambucca Community and Arts Centre.

Public Notice of Praecipe, Tacit Acceptance and Reconveyance
Winand Krawinkel© and Christine Barnaby©, of Tewinga, New South Wales state, are not voluntarily transactors in commerce and are irrefutable Holders in Due Course of our property and all associated Copyright Protected Trade Names since unrebuted lawful reconveyance to the Land and Soil jurisdiction of Terra Australis commonly known as The Commonwealth of Australia, Public Record Numbers RPP44 63900 05100 14666 09606 and RPP44 69300 05100 14666 06605, Proclamation date 11th of December, 2023, severing Usufruct Subjugation ties with the Australia Corporation in entirety. The occupying corporate government of Australia and its affiliates are instructed to immediately cease and desist any further infringement upon these copyright- protected Financial Instruments and cease and desist misaddressing Winand Krawinkel© and Christine Barnaby© in fraudulent debased Dog-Latin; Glossa.

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Personals

GENTLEMAN, seeking lady for friendship and travel great ocean road the end of February 0423 041 423

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Free

1910 Antique Rattan Lounge **SOLD** Classic piece needs restoration 0499682008

Items for Sale

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6 year old bangalow palms from \$25, also cycads. 6564 2114

CARGO Barrier to suit early Nissan X-Trail Milford brand. \$50. Ph 0421 750 592

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Of The Area
News

PET OF THE MONTH



Proudly brought to you by News Of The Area and Nambucca Valley Council



Vero:

Vero is a male black cat who was impounded from Giinagay Way, Nambucca Heads. Vero is not currently microchipped, vaccinated, desexed or lifetime registered.

Adoption fee for 2023/2024 is \$200 and this includes microchipping, vaccination, desexing & lifetime registration.

Please visit Councils website to view the full list of animals available for adoption or lost. For any adoption enquiries please contact Council on 6568 2555.

tv listings

BEST ON THE BOX



SATURDAY

COTSWOLDS AND BEYOND WITH PAM AYRES

SBS, 7.30pm

British poet Pam Ayres has hit the jackpot with this charming travelogue – not only does she get to tour the picturesque Cotswolds, writing verses about her rich discoveries and the region's bountiful gardens, but she gets paid to do it. No doubt she leapt at the chance to film this second outing, this time venturing further afield to capture the beauty of neighbouring counties and their residents (including Tetbury's most famous resident, King Charles) as well. In tonight's premiere, Ayres visits one of Britain's most iconic landmarks, Stonehenge, for a magical sunrise, tastes the water at Cheltenham's spa, and searches for a furry friend in Oxfordshire.

SUNDAY

TOTAL CONTROL

ABC, 8.30pm

The third and final season of this successful political drama series showcases brilliant performances from Deborah Mailman and Rachel Griffiths, benefitting from incorporating real-world events (the pandemic, floods, cost of living crisis) into the narrative. But this episode is more about personal stakes and shady behind-the-scenes dealings in Canberra as Rachel (Griffiths) finds herself under the influence of a powerful billionaire, while Alex (Mailman) continues to deal privately with a shocking health diagnosis, and decides to confide in her advisor (Steph Tisdell). With only three episodes remaining after this instalment, *Total Control* is building to an explosive climax.



MONDAY

AUSTRALIAN IDOL

SEVEN, 7.30pm

After a successful revival in 2023, this talent show returns with a change-up in the judging panel. Aussie popstar Amy Shark and shock jock Kyle Sandilands are back again, with the legendary Marcia Hines joining them this year as the third industry figure casting an eye over a whole new group of singing hopefuls. This season also sees the return of the "golden ticket", which guarantees aspiring singers a spot in the top 30. It is incredible to see the talent *Idol* has uncovered over the years – including co-host Ricki-Lee – and this season is sure to be no different. In tonight's premiere, star-on-the-rise Dylan Wright auditions with a moving rendition of "Better Be Home Soon" that's not to be missed.



2601

FRIDAY, January 26

ABCTV (2)	SBS (3)	SEVEN (6)	NBN (8)	TEN (5)
<p>6.00 News. 8.05 Private Welcome Ceremony. 8.20 News. 9.00 Australia Day: National Citizenship Ceremony. 10.15 News. 11.00 Fake Or Fortune? (R) 12.00 News. 1.00 Silent Witness. (Manv, R) 2.00 Total Control. (R) 2.55 Australian Of The Year Awards. (PG, R) 4.10 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 5.05 Love Your Garden. (PG) 5.55 Back Roads. (R)</p> <p>6.25 Hard Quiz. (PG, R) 6.55 Governor-General's Australia Day Message. An address to the nation. 7.00 ABC News. 7.30 Australia Day Live. (PG) A concert from the Sydney Opera House forecourt. 9.30 MOVIE: Miss Fisher And The Crypt Of Tears. (2020, Mv, R) Phryne Fisher embarks on an adventure involving an ancient curse and priceless emeralds. Essie Davis, Nathan Page. 11.10 ABC Late News. 11.25 Love Your Garden. (PG, R) 12.15 Tenable. (R) 1.00 Wakefield. (Final, Mal, R) 2.00 Rage. (MA15+adhlsv)</p>	<p>6.00 Morning Programs. 11.55 Dance Ceremony. (R) 12.00 Living Black. (R) 12.40 WorldWatch. 2.00 Mastermind Aust. (R) 2.30 The Cook Up. (PG, R) 2.59 News. 3.01 Who Do You Think You Are? (PG, R) 4.04 News. 4.06 Jeopardy! (R) 4.29 Letters And Numbers. (R) 4.58 News. 5.00 Mastermind Aust. (R) 5.30 NITV News Special: Day 26.</p> <p>6.30 SBS World News. 7.30 MOVIE: Top End Wedding. (2019, Mdl, R) 9.25 Sex: A Bonkers History. (MA15+as) 10.25 SBS World News Late. 10.55 L'Opera. (Mls) 11.50 La Fortuna. (Mls, R) 2.50 Nine Perfect Strangers. (Malv, R) 3.50 Going Places With Ernie Dingo. (PG, R) 4.50 Destination Flavour Down Under Bitesize. (R) 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.</p>	<p>6.00 Sunrise. 10.00 The Morning Show. (PG) 11.30 News. 12.00 MOVIE: The BBQ. (2018, PGal, R) 2.00 Pre-Game Show. 3.00 Cricket. Second Test. Australia v West Indies. Day 2. Afternoon session. 5.00 Test Cricket: Tea Break. 5.40 Cricket. Second Test. Australia v West Indies. Day 2. Late afternoon session.</p> <p>6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Cricket. Second Test. Australia v West Indies. Day 2. Late afternoon session. 7.40 Test Cricket: Dinner Break. Takes a look at the day of play so far in the Second Test between Australia and the West Indies. 8.00 Cricket. Second Test. Australia v West Indies. Day 2. Evening session. From the Gabba, Brisbane. 10.30 MOVIE: The Mountain Between Us. (2017, Mals, R) Two strangers survive a plane crash. Kate Winslet, Idris Elba. 12.45 12 Monkeys. (MA15+av, R) 2.00 Home Shopping. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. (R) 5.00 NBC Today.</p>	<p>6.00 Today. The latest in news and current affairs. 9.00 Today Extra. (PG) A mix of topical issues. 11.00 Australian Open Tennis Pre-Show. Hosted by Tony Jones. 12.00 Tennis. Australian Open. Day 13. 4.00 Tennis. Australian Open. Afternoon 13.</p> <p>6.00 NBN News. 7.00 Australian Open Tennis Pre-Show. Hosted by James Bracey. 7.30 Tennis. Australian Open. Night 13. Men's semi-final. 11.00 MOVIE: The Impossible. (2012, Malnv, R) A family is caught up in the 2004 tsunami. Naomi Watts. 1.00 New Amsterdam. (MA15+am, R) 2.00 Law & Order: Organized Crime. (Mv, R) 3.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 GolfBarons. (PG, R) 4.30 Global Shop. (R) 5.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R) 5.30 Skippy The Bush Kangaroo. (R)</p>	<p>6.00 Morning Programs. 9.30 Neighbours. (PGa, R) 10.00 Taste Of Aust. (R) 10.30 GCBC. (R) 11.00 Food Trail: South Africa. (R) 11.30 My Market Kitchen. (R) 12.00 10 News First: Midday. 1.00 Dr Phil. (PGals, R) 2.00 Gladiators. (PGv, R) 3.15 Ent. Tonight. 3.30 Judge Judy. (PG, R) 4.00 Farm To Fork. 4.30 Bold. (PGa) 5.00 News.</p> <p>6.30 The Project. A look at the day's news. 7.30 Gladiators. (PGv) Hosted by Liz Ellis and Beau Ryan. 8.45 The Graham Norton Show. (Mdl) Celebrity guests include Paul Mescal, Andrew Scott, Kingsley Ben-Adir and Da'Vine Joy Randolph. 9.45 Fire Country. (Mdv, R) The crew comes under fire from an outlaw protecting his illegal marijuana plantation. 10.40 So Help Me Todd. (PGa, R) Todd reunites with a childhood friend. 11.40 The Project. (R) 12.40 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. (PG) 1.30 Home Shopping. (R)</p>
<p>ABCTV PLUS (22) 6am Children's Programs. 7.05pm Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 7.20 Spicks And Specks. 8.00 Would I Lie To You? 8.30 MOVIE: Breath. (2017, M) 10.25 The Story Of Film: A New Generation. 11.45 Would I Lie To You? 12.15am QI. 12.45 Killing Eve. 1.30 Back. 1.55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces Northern Lights Adventure. 2.45 ABC News Update. 2.50 Close. 5.00 Late Programs.</p>	<p>VICELAND (31) 6am WorldWatch. 10.00 Front Up. 12.15pm Sing About This Country. 2.20 Wellington Paranormal. 3.15 WorldWatch. 5.15 The Ice Cream Show. 5.45 Joy Of Painting. 6.15 The Fast History Of. 6.40 Jeopardy! 7.30 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. 8.30 Hoarders. 9.20 Love And Sex In An Age Of Pornography. 10.20 Mums Make Porn Germany. 12.10am Radio Hate. 1.05 Sex Before The Internet. 2.00 Late Programs.</p>	<p>7TWO (62) 6am Morning Programs. 9.00 Harry's Practice. 9.30 NBC Today. Noon Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country. 2.00 Harry's Practice. 2.30 Weekender. 3.00 Cities Of The Underworld. 4.00 Better Homes. 5.00 Escape To The Country. 6.00 Bargain Hunt. 7.00 Better Homes And Gardens Summer. 8.30 Escape To The Country. 10.30 Escape To The Perfect Town. 11.30 Late Programs.</p>	<p>9GEM (82) 6am Morning Programs. 11.30 My Favorite Martian. Noon Edgar Wallace Mysteries. 1.20 Explore. 1.25 Dr Quinn. 2.25 Keeping Up Appearances. 3.25 MOVIE: The Getting Of Wisdom. (1977, PG) 5.30 The Travelling Auctioneers. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 David Attenborough's A Perfect Planet. 8.40 MOVIE: Red Dog. (2011, PG) 10.35 MOVIE: Red Dog: True Blue. (2016, PG) 12.20am Late Programs.</p>	<p>BOLD (51) 6am Home Shopping. 8.00 Soccer: A-League Men. Round 13. Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne City. Highlights. 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. 10.30 Jake And The Fatman. 11.30 JAG. 1.30pm Star Trek: Voyager. 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. 5.30 JAG. 7.30 Bull. 8.30 NCIS. 9.25 NCIS: Hawai'i. 10.20 NCIS: Los Angeles. 11.15 JAG. 12.15am Home Shopping. 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. 4.05 JAG.</p>
<p>SKY NEWS (53) 6am Morning Programs. 10.00 AM Agenda. 11.00 NewsDay. Noon News. 12.30 News. 1.00 The Kenny Report. 2.00 Afternoon Agenda. 3.00 Paul Murray Live. 4.00 Afternoon Agenda. 4.30 Business Now With Ross Greenwood. 5.00 Erin. 6.00 Steve Price. 7.00 The Rita Panahi Show. 8.00 The US Report. 9.00 The Media Show. 9.30 NewsNight. 10.00 NewsNight. 11.00 Late Programs.</p>	<p>SBS MOVIES (32) 6am Stolen Kisses. Continued. (1968, PG, French) 6.20 Dr Strangelove. (1964, PG) 8.10 Heart Beats Loud. (2018, PG) 10.00 Parallel Mothers. (2021, M, Spanish) 12.15pm Man Of The Year. (2006, M) 2.20 The Cup. (2011, PG) 4.20 Alone In Space. (2018, PG, Swedish) 5.50 Rabbit-Proof Fence. (2002, PG) 7.30 Charlie And Boots. (2009, M) 9.25 High Ground. (2020, MA15+) 11.25 Late Programs.</p>	<p>7MATE (64) 6am Morning Programs. 11.30 American Pickers. 12.30pm Pawn Stars. 1.00 Counting Cars. 2.00 Aussie Lobster Men. 3.00 Timbersports. 3.30 Desert Collectors. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Pickers. 6.00 Cricket. Second Test. Australia v West Indies. Day 2. Late afternoon session. 7.00 Pawn Stars. 7.30 MOVIE: The Amazing Spider-Man. (2012, M) 10.15 MOVIE: Priest. (2011, M) 12.15am Late Programs.</p>	<p>9GO! (83) 6am Children's Programs. 11.30 MOVIE: Pokémon The Movie: Diancie And The Cocoon Of Destruction. (2014) 1pm Winter Youth Olympics: Highlights. 2.00 Bewitched. 2.30 Full House. 3.00 Seinfeld. 4.00 Family Ties. 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 6.00 MOVIE: Cats & Dogs. (2001, PG) 7.45 MOVIE: Divergent. (2014, M) 10.30 MOVIE: Species. (1995, MA15+) 12.40am Late Programs.</p>	<p>NITV (34) 6am Morning Programs. 8.30 Gamma Bunnul 2023. 9.30 Dance Rites 2023. 11.00 Elder In Residence Oratorion 2023. Noon Living Black. 12.40 Ganbu Gulin: One Mob. 1.10 Ningla A-Na. 2.30 Sounds Of Solidarity. 5.30 NITV News Special: Day 26. 6.30 The Big Wet. 7.30 MOVIE: Rabbit-Proof Fence. (2002, PG) 9.10 NITV News Special: Day 26. 10.10 You Are Here: We Don't Need A Map. 11.45 Late Programs.</p>

CONSUMER ADVICE (P) Pre-school (C) Children (PG) Parental Guidance Recommended (M) Mature Audiences (MA15+) Mature Audiences Only (AV15+) Extreme Adult Violence (R) Repeat. Please Note: Programs are correct at the time of print and are subject to change by the Networks.

Comets to host Hoey Moey 9s Tournament

By Aiden BURGESS

THE Coffs Coast's rugby league players will have the perfect opportunity to prepare for this year's Tooheys New Group 2 Rugby League season, when the Coffs Harbour Comets host their annual Hoey Moey 9s Tournament.

The pre-season nine-a-side competition will be held on Saturday, 2 March at Geoff King Motors Oval and surrounding fields.

The Coffs Coast's biggest annual rugby league tournament will feature Opens, Under 18s, Ladies Tackle and Ladies League Tag Divisions.

The tournament traditionally signals the beginning of another year of local rugby league, with this year marking its 10th anniversary after the first event was held in 2014.

The Port Macquarie Breakers were the big winners at last year's event, taking out both the Men's Open and Ladies League Tag

competitions, with the Comets winning the Under 18s title on home turf.

Last year's tournament also featured teams from Woolgoolga, Macksville, Lismore, Wauchope, and Kootingal.

Expressions are now open for this year's event, by emailing events.coffsharbourcomets@gmail.com.

gmail.com.

The Coffs Harbour Comets returned to training this week as they prepare for the 2024 season.

The Comets are coming off a successful 2023, in which they won both the Group 2 reserve grade and Ladies League Tag premierships.

SATURDAY, January 27

Grid of TV schedules for Saturday, January 27, featuring channels ABCTV, SBS, SEVEN, NBN, and TEN. Includes program titles, times, and ratings.

SUNDAY, January 28

Grid of TV schedules for Sunday, January 28, featuring channels ABCTV, SBS, SEVEN, NBN, and TEN. Includes program titles, times, and ratings.

CONSUMER ADVICE (P) Pre-school (C) Children (PG) Parental Guidance Recommended (M) Mature Audiences (MA15+) Mature Audiences Only (AV15+) Extreme Adult Violence (R) Repeat

Bowraville Bowls Report

CLUB championships began last Saturday at the Den with a game of fours on a balmy afternoon. The big green looked a treat but was typically slow after a wet week so short bowls were plentiful. Still, a healthy crowd were entertained for most of the game as last year's

singles, pairs and triples champ Neil Pollard started his campaign along side Pat Clough, Tracey Armes and Dean Roe. They took on Ron Gleeson, Janine Fletcher, Trevor Ryan and Paul O'Neill who were well in the contest through eleven ends where they picked up a double to

be down only 7-9. Then the wheels fell off as O'Neill dropped fourteen shots over the next three ends to make the score 23-7 and that was the end of the section as the game was called after nineteen ends with Pollard and co. advancing with a 26-10 victory. They now take on Steve

Johnson, Luke Lavery, Chris Wills and Graham Keys in the semi finals. Big thank you to Leanne for helping out whilst both bar attendants played up.

Tomorrow (Sat 27th) there are two great games set down for a 3pm start. Steve Wellington, Bob Mackay, Glen Lavery, Graham Hines take on Mary DalSanto, Dallas Walker, Daniel Wren and Lloyd Laird. Sharyn Hay, John Cowie, John Cochrane, Greg

Lamberth come up against Trish Walker, Beau McKay, Andy DalSanto and Adam Laird in the other fixture. Come on down and cheer on the Tigers from the verandah with a cold drink or two.

Reminder that pennants starts Sat Feb 10th and we need all hands on deck to compete in grades 5 and 7. The 5s have a bye first up and Park Beach come to town in the 7s.

Training Resumes



❑ Nambucca Rooster Brody Simon playing against the Coffs Harbour Comets last year.

By Aiden BURGESS

WITH a return to the field fast approaching, Tooheys New Group 2 Rugby League clubs have resumed training for 2024 as they prepare for the upcoming season.

Last season's preliminary finalists the Nambucca Heads Roosters resumed training last Thursday night at Coronation Park, as did the Macksville Sea Eagles, as both clubs look to improve on 2023.

The Woolgoolga Seahorses have also returned to training as they prepare for their premiership defence.

The Seahorses resumed training this week on Tuesday night at Centennial Oval.

The Coffs Harbour Comets also resumed training this week on Tuesday night at Geoff King Motors Oval, as they look

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