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**Consultation Debate Keeps Rolling**

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## Prime Minister assesses M1 extension progress



By Doug CONNOR

**PRIME MINISTER**  
Anthony Albanese traded Canberra for Heatherbrae on Tuesday 16 January, in town to check on the progress of fixing the “missing link” along the M1 Pacific Motorway. The \$2.1 billion M1 extension, which includes upgrades to the surrounding network, such as the Hexham Straight widening, is funded by both levels of government, with the Australian Government committing \$1.68 billion and the NSW Government

committing \$420 million. “It’s so exciting to stand alongside the NSW Government and see shovels in the ground for a project which will be a huge benefit to travellers and truck drivers, but also to Hunter Valley families,” said Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. “All over Australia, my Government is building stronger foundations for a better future. “This upgrade will mean quicker travel times between Sydney and Brisbane, but most importantly – safer travel for families and workers who use this route going up and down the east coast.” The M1 upgrade will feature a fifteen-kilometre

CONTINUED Page 3



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Federal Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson and NSW Regional Transport and Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison at the site of the M1 Extension.

# GLOBAL CONNECTION

Region’s new international terminal moves nearer to completion

By Doug CONNOR

**CONSTRUCTION** is progressing on Newcastle Airport’s new international terminal, a project expected

CONTINUED Page 2

**MERYL SWANSON MP**  
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# Newcastle Airport's international terminal moves nearer to completion

FROM Page 1

to boost the region's economy and unlock tourism opportunities.

The Australian Government has committed \$55 million for the new terminal, including border facilities.

The old terminal has been demolished, a new concrete slab has been poured and columns supporting the new area for border agencies are in.

Work is underway on the underground bagging handling tunnels and electrical substation that will allow solar panels to be connected later in the year.

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King visited the airport on January 17 for an update on the project's progress.

"This upgrade will unlock greater opportunities for local tourism while better connecting residents to the world," Minister King said.

The upgrade and expansion of the airfield and terminal is expected to support the arrival of

850,000 additional visitors and approximately \$12.7 billion in economic activity over the next 20 years.

"Aviation is a catalyst to our local economy's growth and this government is supporting our region through major airport projects," Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson said.

"I look forward to seeing the completed international terminal."

The project is anticipated to create more than 500

construction jobs and deliver over 4,400 permanent jobs.

Newcastle Airport CEO Dr Peter Cock said the project is a critical part of delivering the airport the region deserves.

"Newcastle Airport is committed to growing the airport the region deserves and the airport our region deserves is one that supports industry, enables greater trade, helps create jobs well beyond tourism and is a vibrant part of the Hunter," Mr Cock said.

Having experienced several months of project delays, the international



□ Newcastle Airport CEO Dr Peter Cock addresses the media.



□ Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Infrastructure Minister Catherine King and Newcastle Airport CEO Dr Peter Cock look at a model of the new terminal.

terminal is expected to be completed in 2025

"That's something that's plaguing all infrastructure projects at the moment, so we're not immune to that," Mr Cock said.

"And again, as with budgets, every time you open a tender document you have got to see what comes out.

"And so there is pressure on our budget, but we're actually trying to cut our cloth and make sure that we can deliver what we need within our means."

Mr Cock said discussions with potential carriers were progressing well, claiming airlines "really see the

advantage that our region brings".

"We're not the Sydney market and in fact, airlines like Bonza are drawing people up from Sydney into our airport.

"So, they see that we're a different catchment and they see the economic opportunities we bring, and that's to Singapore.

"But also, some Middle Eastern carriers are interested, as well as some new domestic networks."

For further information visit [www.newcastleairport.com.au/our-future/planning-infrastructure/terminal-upgrade-project](http://www.newcastleairport.com.au/our-future/planning-infrastructure/terminal-upgrade-project).



Sign up to our DA e-newsletter – visit [pscouncil.info/development-applications](http://pscouncil.info/development-applications)

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION UPDATE APPLICATIONS LODGED FROM 07/01/2024 TO 14/01/2024

Information is correct at time of printing. For up-to-date information visit Council's DA Tracker at [datracker.portstephens.nsw.gov.au](http://datracker.portstephens.nsw.gov.au) or contact us on 4988 0255.

ADDRESS	DA NO.	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS	DA NO.	PROPOSAL
<b>ANNA BAY</b>			<b>NELSON BAY</b>		
162 Gan Gan Rd	16-2023-741-1	Secondary dwelling	111A Wallawa Rd	16-2023-671-1	Two storey dwelling
<b>CORLETTE</b>			6 Kurrawa Cl; 2 Kurrawa Cl	16-2023-724-1	Demolition/construction of 5-storey residential flat building (17 units) above 1 level of basement parking, associated site works
5 Corlette Point Rd	16-2023-727-1	Single storey dwelling, demolish existing			
<b>FISHERMANS BAY</b>			<b>RAYMOND TERRACE</b>		
7 Park St	16-2023-225-1	Demolition of dwelling, semi-detached dwellings and 1 into 2 lot subdivision	22 Dairyman Dr	16-2023-705-1	Retaining walls
<b>KARUAH</b>			<b>SOLDIERS POINT</b>		
36 Woodoak Rd	16-2023-712-1	Detached dwellings, 1 into 2 lot subdivision	87 Soldiers Point Rd	16-2023-361-3	S4.55(1A) Modification to approved strata subdivision
<b>MEDOWIE</b>			<b>TAYLORS BEACH</b>		
799 Medowie Rd; 813 Medowie Rd	16-2017-837-5	S4.55(1A) Modification to approved subdivision – modify staging	9 Blewater Cl	16-2023-723-1	Warehouse/distribution industrial units
20 Topaz Ave	16-2023-739-1	Swimming pool	<b>WILLIAMTOWN</b>		
56 Federation Dr	16-2023-467-2	S4.55(1A) Modification new shed and carport to replace existing – amendment to shed	55 Slades Rd	16-2023-732-1	Animal transit facility

## NOTICE OF ADVERTISED DEVELOPMENT

Council has received the following Development Application (DA):

DA NO:	16-2023-724 1
DEVELOPMENT SITE:	LOT: 0 SP: 62329, LOT: 1 DP: 1011119 2 Kurrawa Close NELSON BAY, 6 Kurrawa Close NELSON BAY
PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION:	Demolition works and construction of a 5-storey residential flat building (17 units) above one level of basement parking with associated site works
APPLICANT:	DFP Planning Pty Ltd
CONSENT AUTHORITY:	Port Stephens Council
ASSESSING OFFICER:	Emily Allen   Phone: 4988 0126   Email: <a href="mailto:emily.allen@portstephens.nsw.gov.au">emily.allen@portstephens.nsw.gov.au</a>
NOTIFICATION PERIOD:	14 Days (22 January 2024 – 5 February 2024)
SUBMISSION DUE DATE:	5 February 2024

### Where to view information:

Online [portstephens.nsw.gov.au](http://portstephens.nsw.gov.au) or [datracker.portstephens.nsw.gov.au](http://datracker.portstephens.nsw.gov.au)  
Council's Administration Building **116 Adelaide Street, Raymond Terrace** (between 9am and 5pm weekdays)

### To make a submission:

Anyone can make a submission to Council during the exhibition period. If the submission is an objection, then the grounds of the objection must be clearly specified. Submissions can be made in any format (including video or audio), which can be sent via email and is less than 10mb in size.

Mail **PO BOX 42 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324** Email [council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au)

**Please note:** All written submissions received during the exhibition period will be considered by Council during the assessment of the DA. Submissions are considered to be 'open access information' under Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, (GIPA) and are made publicly available on Council's DA Tracker. Personal identifiable information is redacted from submissions uploaded to DA Tracker. If you have made a reportable political donation or gift donations (including donations of or more than \$1,000) in the last 2 years, your submission will need to be accompanied by a 'Political Donations and Gift Disclosure Declaration' form. Visit Council's website for details and/or a disclosure form.

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TREAT INFESTATIONS OF AQUATIC WEEDS PERIOD – UP UNTIL 14 DAYS FROM THIS ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given that Port Stephens Council intends to treat infestations of aquatic weeds on or in water in the Campvale Drain and portions of the following rivers occurring in the Port Stephens Council Local Government Area: Hunter River and tributaries from Raymond Terrace to the confluence of the Paterson River, Paterson River

and tributaries from the confluence of the Hunter River upstream to the Port Stephens Council boundary, and Williams River and tributaries upstream from Raymond Terrace to the Port Stephens Council boundary.

Herbicides containing active ingredient 600g/kg Metsulfuron methyl and/or active ingredient 360g/l glyphosate will be used. Residents in the treatment area should not use, drink or swim in the water during the period of treatment. Small scale reapplications may occur within 30 days of the date of the original treatment. Any further enquiries may be directed to Council on 4988 0255 or 4988 0392.

## Traffic Management

Long weekend at Birubi Beach

While it's busier at Birubi Beach, we'll be implementing traffic control and parking changes at Birubi Headland from 8am to 3pm on Friday 26 to Sunday 28 January 2024 (times may vary due to conditions on the day).

Parking will be prohibited on the eastern side of James Paterson Street, Anna Bay between 6am and 6pm during the summer holiday period.



# Prime Minister visits Heatherbrae to assess M1 extension progress

FROM Page 1

extension of the motorway, removing five sets of traffic lights and cutting nine minutes from travel times during peak periods.

It will also deliver a 2.6-kilometre viaduct over the Hunter River and floodplain, the Main North Rail Line, and the New England Highway.

There will also be new bridge crossings over local waterways at Tarro and Raymond Terrace, and an overpass for Masonite Road at Heatherbrae.

This is one of two remaining locations on the

east coast corridor where the Pacific Highway route is an urban road with traffic lights, the other being at Coffs Harbour, where work is also well underway on a new bypass which is due to be completed in late 2027.

Federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King said, "This project, together with the Coffs Harbour bypass, will provide the remaining major upgrades to complete a free-flowing dual carriageway route between Sydney and Brisbane.



NSW Regional Transport and Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison, Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson, Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister Catherine King, Member for Port Stephens Kate Washington and NSW Minister for the Hunter Yasmin Catley.



Member for Port Stephens Kate Washington and Minister for the Hunter Yasmin Catley discuss the project's benefits.

"The M1 extension will create more efficient and reliable journeys by bypassing five sets of traffic lights, saving nine minutes in travel time and removing about 25,000 vehicles a day from key congestion and merge points between Newcastle and Maitland."

NSW Regional Transport and Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison

said the project would provide a welcome boost to the economy by supporting up to 2,700 direct and indirect jobs during construction.

"More than \$3 billion of road projects are being funded by the Australian and NSW governments across the Hunter at the moment.

"This not only boosts

the regional, State and Federal economy but will improve safety and efficiency for our local and regional communities and all motorists."

The M1 extension at Raymond Terrace is expected to be open to traffic in 2028.

For further information visit <https://caportal.com.au/tfnsw/m1rt>.



MERYL SWANSON MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PATERSON



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

## SALT ASH AIR WEAPONS RANGE TRAINING PROGRAM

RAAF Base Williamtown Air Combat Group units will resume training into Salt Ash Air Weapons Range (SAAWR) from **Monday 29 January 2024**.

Flying will commence with Number 76 Squadron aircraft operations beginning Monday 29 January through to Friday 16 February. Operations are scheduled on week days only, between 9am to 5pm.

Number 4 Squadron PC-21s and Combat Controllers will utilise the range 29 and 30 January, up to 10.30pm, for essential night time training.

Every effort is made to minimise inconvenience to residents during SAAWR training. Residents are advised the range schedule can change at short notice due to weather or operational considerations.

For further information please call 1800 033 200, or refer to <https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations> or <https://aircraftnoisemap.airforce.gov.au/assets/site.html?806#base/1>

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# Consultation debate keeps

By Doug CONNOR

**DURING** a whirlwind visit to Heatherbrae last week, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese sought to reassure the community that “appropriate community consultation” was continuing to take place on the Hunter offshore wind project.

“We’ll continue to consult constructively,” Mr Albanese said.

“I know that Meryl (Swanson) is very engaged in those issues as the local member, making sure that what is delivered is a win-win.

“A win in terms of reliable energy being supplied, but a win as well in terms of jobs and looking after what is a very important local environment and other local jobs in areas like tourism.”

Mr Albanese told gathered media that the “provision of power is about jobs”.

“It’s about jobs being created in terms of construction, but also jobs in places like Tomago, not far from where we are here.

“We’ll need a reliable supply of power, and that is important for the region.”

Mr Albanese cited prior changes to the proposal as evidence that the Government had taken on board genuine community concerns.

“As a result of that community consultation, changes have already been made to the proposal.”

According to the Federal Government, the declaration of the Hunter offshore wind zone occurred following consultation with local communities, Commonwealth, State and Local Government, First Nations people and existing industries including shipping, defence, fishing, and other marine users.

Changes to initial plans included a significant reduction in the size of the zone



□ Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks in the Hunter last week.

and capping infrastructure heights at 260 metres.

The zone now sits at least 20 kilometres off the coast of Port Stephens, as opposed to the ten kilometres proposed during public consultation.

Feasibility Licence applications have now been submitted by companies seeking to build wind farms in the declared Hunter offshore wind zone, with a range of local community groups standing in staunch opposition to the Federal Government’s renewable energy plan for the region.

Among them are commercial and recreational fishers who fear impacts on marine life and reduced access to fishing grounds.

One such fisherman, Newcastle and Port Stephens Game Fish Club president Troy Radford, took issue with Mr Albanese’s comments on consultation, claiming he has been trying for months, without success, to organise a

meeting with Energy Minister Chris Bowen via Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson.

“To see our elected representatives in our area today and no offer of a further meeting doesn’t seem ‘very engaged’ nor ‘continuing to have appropriate community consultation’ to me to work towards ‘making sure what is delivered is a win-win,’” Mr Radford said.

Federal MP Swanson has faced significant backlash from Port Stephens residents regarding the government’s plan to develop an offshore wind industry off the Hunter coast.

In an op-ed released last week, Ms Swanson said she had engaged with “numerous individuals and interested groups to gather perspectives on the crucial matter of the Hunter offshore renewable energy zone”.

“These discussions reveal a myriad of concerns and opinions from various

stakeholders,” she said.

“As a representative committed to serving my community, I want to emphasise the importance of acknowledging and addressing these concerns.

“The issues raised during these conversations have not fallen on deaf ears; instead, they have become an integral part of an ongoing conversation with the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP.”

Ms Swanson said she was committed to “navigating the complexities of offshore renewable energy with the community’s best interests at heart”.

“I understand the scepticism and criticism and am dedicated to finding a solution that ensures the best possible outcomes.

“The road to sustainable energy may be challenging, but with open dialogue and a shared commitment to our



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# rolling

community and coast we can harness the winds of change for a brighter and more sustainable future."

With a number of high-profile Coalition politicians making their way to Port Stephens in recent months to partake in offshore wind resistance, including Peter Dutton and Barnaby Joyce, as well as senior One Nation members, Ms Swanson believes the issue has become a "a focal point for political manoeuvring".

"It's clear the Opposition are strategically using the offshore renewable energy debate to position themselves politically.

"Peter Dutton knows an opportunity when he sees

one." The Paterson MP, now in her eighth year representing the community on a Federal level, suggests that the offshore wind zone is being used as a "Trojan horse for the promotion of nuclear power in the Port Stephens region".

"This dual agenda raises concerns about transparency and the true priorities of the Opposition.

"Is the focus genuinely on fostering sustainable and clean energy, or is it a political gambit to introduce nuclear power through the back door and onto the Tomaree Headland?"

"In navigating the complexities of energy policy, it is crucial to separate genuine commitment to renewable energy from political opportunism.

"The community deserves a transparent and honest conversation about the future of energy in the Port Stephens region, free from hidden agendas."

Despite the development of offshore wind being the responsibility of the Federal Government, State Member for Port Stephens Kate Washington has also received criticism for her perceived silence on the issue.

Placards emblazoned with the slogan 'Where's Meryl?, Where's Kate?' have appeared at rallies opposing offshore wind, referring to Ms Washington and Ms Swanson.

In a story published by The Australian newspaper on January 10, Ms Washington was quoted as saying, "Since the declaration of the Hunter Offshore Wind Zone by the commonwealth government,

I have spoken with local recreational and commercial fishers, local tourism operators and residents regarding their concerns".

In NSW Parliament in late November Ms Washington said she had participated in "many conversations with people who have genuine concerns about the possible impact a wind farm may have on our local environment and economy".

"I have met with recreational and commercial fishers, environmentalists, tourism operators and many concerned residents," she said.

Mr Radford again contested these comments, suggesting the Game Fish Club had been trying to organise a meeting with Ms Washington for several months.

Last week, Ms Washington took meetings with Game Fish Club members and No Coastal Wind Farm Port Stephens members to discuss the proposal.

"We finally had a meeting with Kate, at her office, which we have been asking for since June 2023," Mr Radford said.

"She did apologise for taking so long to finally meet.

"We had a long discussion about the environmental, tourism and recreational and commercial fishing impacts of the wind farm, and the community's opposition.

"She maintained her position that it is a federal government matter.

"Kate also made it clear she will not support opposing



□ Newcastle and Port Stephens Game Fish Club President Troy Radford.

the wind farm."

Ms Washington told News Of The Area, "I've really appreciated hearing from locals last year, and many more this week, about the Federal Government's Hunter offshore wind farm proposal.

"I have always respected the experience and knowledge of our local fishers and tourism operators when it comes to our stunning waterways.

"Local knowledge is key to ensuring we get the best possible outcome for our community and environment.

"That's why I'll keep sharing our community's genuine concerns with the decision makers in the Federal Government, the Minister for Energy Chris Bowen, and the

Minister for the Environment, Tanya Plibersek.

"I thank everyone who's responded to my requests for meetings and taken the time to share their concerns with me."

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water says its priority is to "manage the offshore marine environment in a way that recognises all users and balances competing interests".

"There are consultation opportunities to consider the views of existing offshore industries and ensure that any new offshore wind development can co-exist alongside other industries, such as fisheries, tourism and shipping."



□ Signs at a recent offshore wind rally called for the State Member for Port Stephens, Kate Washington, to intervene in the Federal Government's renewable energy proposal.

## Hexham and Raymond Terrace rate high for rental stress

THE latest Suburbtrends 'Rental Pain Index' has been released, listing Beresfield - Hexham as among the worst 25 suburb groups nationally for rental stress.

The Beresfield - Hexham area has experienced an average increase of nine percent to rental prices in the past twelve months, with

renters spending an average of 36 percent of their total income on rent.

The rental vacancy rate in the area is just 0.62 percent, with the state average 1.4 percent.

On 17 January, www.realestate.com.au did not have a single available listing in Hexham.

Raymond Terrace, with a rental vacancy rate of 0.97 and renters spending an average of 39 percent of their income on rent, was rated the sixteenth worst suburb in NSW for rental stress.

The new report paints a dire picture of the Australian rental market, indicating a deepening crisis, with a significant percentage of suburbs in extreme rental pain.

Of the 621 suburb groups

in NSW, the report suggests 50 percent are in 'extreme rental pain'.

This data underscores the critical nature of the rental crisis in Australia, with substantial portions of renters in specific suburb groups facing severe hardship.

The extremely low vacancy rates in these areas exacerbate the situation, limiting housing options for renters.

"Our January report shows an unprecedented level of rental stress," said Kent Lardner, founder of Suburbtrends.

The report also notes that rental affordability across some suburb groups often exceeds 35 percent of income, far beyond the threshold typically associated with financial strain.

"This is not an isolated issue; it's a nationwide problem that

requires immediate and comprehensive policy action," Lardner stressed.

"As we begin 2024, the Rental Pain Index serves as a crucial indicator of the hardships faced by renters across Australia.

"The data calls for urgent, multifaceted policy solutions to address the soaring rental costs and limited housing availability.

"It's time to turn these insights into action."

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# Anti-offshore wind protesters make voices heard

By Thomas O'KEEFE

A SMALL contingent of 'Save the Myall Coast' anti-offshore wind farm protesters took the opportunity to be seen by their local State MP, Kate Washington, at the Tea Gardens dredge announcement on Sunday 21 January.

Keeping the hope to be heard alive, many of the locals at the announcement wore demonstration t-shirts, while the rest of the movement set up at the local skate park, hoping to catch Ms Washington's attention on her way down the Myall Way.

Keeping a quiet and respectful distance from the dredge announcement, the presence of the protest was still noticeable, reminding media present of strong local opposition to wind farms being installed within sight of the coast.

The Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress

Association held a public vote of its members in 2023, formally adopting an anti-wind farm stance, and its President, Bruce Murray, attempted to speak to the issue while Ms Washington was in town.

"Kate Washington is our local representative, and a member of the Labor Party, who was voted by her constituents to stand up for us, even against (Federal Labor Minister) Chris Bowen.

"The offshore wind farms will provide no benefit to the Myall Coast, no new roads, services, nor cheaper utilities – nothing."



Renae and Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association President Bruce Murray, after keeping the issue alive with media and Member for Port Stephens Kate Washington at Tea Gardens.

Ms Washington, whose priority in Tea Gardens on the day was the Myall Estuary

dredge announcement, told NOTA, "Last year and this year, I've met with many locals with genuine concerns about the prospect of an offshore wind farm.

"I've shared those concerns with the Federal Ministers responsible for making the decisions on the project, and as our community's representative in the NSW Parliament, I'm very happy to continue to meet with locals to discuss their concerns, despite the fact that decisions regarding the project are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government."



The anti-wind farm protest remained quiet yet visible at the dredge announcement on Sunday.

# Labor exploring option of high-speed rail link to Sydney

By Doug CONNOR

AFTER years of speculation, a high-speed rail network between Sydney and Newcastle may be one step closer to reality, potentially providing Port Stephens residents with much-improved public transport access to the state's capital.

Last week, Mr Tim Parker was named the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA), while the Australian Government has committed \$500 million to facilitate a high speed rail network on Australia's east coast, starting with the Sydney to Newcastle section.

The HSRA is tasked with advising on, planning, developing and overseeing the construction and operation of the network.

Speaking to ABC Newcastle's Paul Culliver on Wednesday 17 January, Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine King said the project was in its very early planning stages.

"We're working our way through all of the things that will need to be done to stack this up to make sure that we can get high-speed rail (from) Sydney to Newcastle.

"It's not just about the rail; it's actually about the economic opportunities it brings to Newcastle and the Hunter once we've got

it here.

"But we've got a lot of work to do.

"This is not something that you can just magically build.

"There's a lot of lessons to be learned from high-speed rail in other countries, as well as the failures of rail projects in our own country, that we're very determined to learn from to make sure we get this done right."

Ms King could not provide any timeline for project delivery, but expects the

HSRA to deliver a business case for the Newcastle to Sydney section by the end of 2024.

"It's well and truly time we had high-speed rail in this country.

"This corridor is the busiest, busiest corridor.

"The fact that you've got a train service that is now slower, I think, than when it first started a long, long, long time ago, is ridiculous."

Not all are impressed with the concept however, with a report by the Grattan Institute in 2020 describing an east-coast bullet train as "an expensive folly".

The report, 'Fast train

fever: Why renovated rail might work but bullet trains won't, recommended that Australia should "abandon the idea of bullet trains".

"Bullet trains are unsuitable for Australia," the report stated.

"Governments should stop using public money to continually study proposals for bullet trains."

Grattan's Transport and Cities Program Director Marion Terrill said at the time, "The global story is stark: good bullet trains are expensive, and bad bullet trains are very expensive.

"It's time we Australians put this idea to bed."



Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine King addressing the media in the Hunter last week.



Artist Impression



# Open Home Event

**Discover Natura Port Stephens and experience luxurious, over 55s lakeside living at our FREE Open Home event.**

- Tour display homes and explore the collection of move-in-ready, two and three-bedroom homes priced from \$675K - \$1.032M\*
- Enjoy a delicious brunch and get to know our friendly residents

**When:** Saturday 3 February  
**Time:** 9am - 12noon  
**Where:** Natura Port Stephens  
 16 Trotter Road, Bobs Farm



\*Price correct as at 8 January 2024.

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 or 0408 295 737  
[srichardson@ingeniacommunities.com.au](mailto:srichardson@ingeniacommunities.com.au)



# 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.

## 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](http://www.grants.gov.au)

## Council funds community-led projects



By Simon EKINS

AT its 28 November meeting, Port Stephens Council agreed to award a total of \$32,492 to nine local organisations to support projects, activities and events that address community needs.

The Community Support Fund aims to build sustainable local communities and enhance the wellbeing and development of the Port Stephens community.

Port Stephens Mayor Ryan Palmer said the Community Funding Program is an important initiative of Council that provides funding assistance for key community projects.

"Council is dedicated to improving the wellbeing and liveability of our community by supporting initiatives that make a real difference.

"With two funding rounds

offering a total of \$70,000 to the community every year, the Community Support Fund continues to be a huge success," Mayor Palmer said.

"Applicants can apply for a maximum of \$6,000,

allowing us to award funds to as many local organisations as possible – with nine awarded funds in this most recent round.

"I look forward to seeing the vision of these

organisations unfold within the community as the projects get underway," he added.

Port Stephens FM Radio was one recipient of the latest funding round, awarded

\$3000.

Phil Rosenberg, who serves as President of the Salamander Bay-based radio station, said the funds will enable the upgrade of two of

the station's computers.

"The new computers will contain the specially designed computer software that is necessary to provide better services.

"We're a non-profit organisation, so 95 percent of our funding comes from advertising, with the remainder from small local donations.

"In addition to playing a variety of music from all genres, we regularly broadcast over 70 community service announcements such as the Westpac Helicopter Service or Men's Shed organisations."

Port Stephens FM and their 40 volunteers celebrated their 30th anniversary in April 2023.

Harvey Norman donated several items as raffle prizes on the day, helping to raise funds for the essential community service.

For more information about Council's Community Funding Program, visit [pscouncil.info/community-funding](http://pscouncil.info/community-funding).



Port Stephens FM President and Presenter Phil Rosenberg.



Port Stephens FM is 'On Air'.



# State Government commits to dredging work on Myall River

By Thomas O'KEEFE

**FUNDING** to dredge the Myall River-Estuary was announced by Member for Port Stephens Kate Washington during a visit to Tea Gardens on Sunday 21 January.

"The NSW State Government is committed to dredging the (Corrie) channel and getting it done ASAP," Ms Washington said.

"The NSW Government will work with MidCoast Council to expedite a dredging campaign following substantial sand inundation in the Myall River navigation channel which connects Tea Gardens to the magical Port Stephens estuary."

Ms Washington has met with members of the Myall River Action Group, the Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association, ferry operators and local oyster farmers to hear their concerns about the impacts of the increasing sand shoaling in the area – most of whom were at the announcement.

Despite months of vocal local citizen advocacy, the announcement appears to be the result of last September's Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) hydrographic survey of the river, which confirmed the community's claims of significant sand build-up in the navigation channel, from



the estuary's entrance right up to the Singing Bridge in Tea Gardens.

Minister for Transport Jo Haylen confirmed that the NSW Government will fund the

urgent dredging of the Myall River navigation channel, working in partnership with MidCoast Council on necessary approvals and licences.

This announcement was not, however, for a specific date for the 'urgent' solution, with the dredging works "targeted to begin before the middle of the year – subject to obtaining all relevant approvals".

The intended area to be dredged runs from the Singing Bridge to the Marine Park, with the navigation channel (Corrie Island Channel) being the main priority.

There was no news regarding the Natural Eastern Channel (nee 'Shortcut'),

as that is not the officially recognised navigational channel, and will not see dredging earlier than 2025.

MidCoast Councillor Paul Sandilands, also in attendance, told NOTA, "It's fabulous that the State Government is providing the opportunity to dredge in this area, before the cessation of water traffic and impact of livelihoods like we saw recently in Wallis Lake, for the same sanding-up reasons."

"It would also be lovely to see the State Government implement an ongoing/regular monitoring of conditions of waterways in order to provide funding relief more rapidly to prevent regular impacts on the Myall and Wallis."



# Records broken as Marine Rescue reflects on huge 2023

**MARINE** Rescue units across the Hunter and Central Coast returned 3079 people safely to shore in 2023, with Port Stephens one of the locations of highest demand.

The combined units completed 1,511 search and rescue missions last year, including 341 emergency responses.

Statewide, 4786 search and rescue missions were completed in 2023.

All six regions with Marine Rescue NSW units undertook a record number of rescues in 2023, including the Hunter/Central Coast.

Surpassing last year's record figure, the volunteer water rescue organisation safely returned 10,645 people to shore in an eighteen percent increase in rescue missions across the state's coastal and inland waterways.

Lake Macquarie was

the busiest area for rescue missions across NSW.

More than 80,000 trips were logged with Marine Rescue NSW in 2023, almost 16,500 more than the previous year.

Marine Rescue NSW radio operators had a busy 2023, managing 258,742 radio calls – or a call every two minutes.

Marine Rescue say more than half the incidents in 2023 could potentially have been avoided with better boat maintenance, with 57 percent of calls for mechanical,

battery or fuel issues.

"Almost a third of incidents last year were emergencies such as capsized boats, missing people, groundings and fires on vessels," Marine Rescue NSW Deputy Commissioner Darren Schott said.

"Response times for these incidents is reduced dramatically if a boater is logged on with Marine Rescue NSW.

"We ask all boaters to ensure that they check their vessel's engine and battery

every time they plan to head out on the water.

"Mechanical and fuel issues can quickly become life-threatening emergencies on the water, so make sure you have enough fuel and some in reserve."

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib praised the dedicated Marine Rescue volunteers for their work throughout 2023.

"The dedicated volunteers across the 46 Marine Rescue units answer calls night and day to keep boaters safe on our

waterways, and I commend them on everything they have done over the busiest year for Marine Rescue yet.

"After boating seasons have been impacted by wet weather brought on by La Nina, as well as Covid lockdowns, more people are now taking the opportunity to get out on our beautiful waterways and enjoy the warmer weather.

"I encourage people to enjoy our coastline and inland waterways safely, and by logging on and off with Marine Rescue our volunteers will be in a position to respond if things don't go to plan."



# Dance & Performing Arts Enrolments 2024

## Dance 'n Dazzle – dance friends are forever!

DANCE n Dazzle Studio is the longest established family-owned dance business in Medowie, having taught thousands of students over the past 29 years.

In 2023 students performed at local events such as McHappy Day, the Medowie Christmas Carnival, Port Stephens Council's It's On! Festival, and many eisteddfods and concerts.

"It was so wonderful for the students to be able to show how much they love to perform in front of the local community," said Dance 'n Dazzle Principal Corynne Darcy.

Dance 'n Dazzle is the only studio in Port Stephens that offers examinations in Tap, Jazz, Classical Ballet and National Character.

"This means we are the only studio that offers students a chance to become accredited in all four genres, which can lead to dance qualifications and employment opportunities.

"The studio is also

accredited to accept the new scheme Active and Creative Kids Vouchers to spend towards their dance tuition.

"The studio caters for both children and adults from twelve months old and next term we are planning on offering our new Dance with Me Class for toddlers aged one to three years where students can dance, experience music

and singing with the comfort and support of their trusted adult beside them.

"Students have had a wonderful time displaying their talents in the fields of jazz, hip hop, tap, ballet, national character, acrobatics, Progressing Ballet Technique and contemporary."

New for 2024 is Dance 'n Dazzle's Musical Theatre



□ Dance 'n Dazzle is the only studio in Port Stephens that offers examinations in Tap, Jazz, Classical Ballet and National Character, teaching students of all ages and abilities.



Class.

Musical theatre is a form of theatrical performance that combines songs, spoken dialogue, acting and dance. "Students will build skills to become a triple threat and have exposure to many musicals.

"We also try to cater to all families' busy lifestyles, offering both weekday and weekend classes."

Dance 'n Dazzle also offers a Tiny Dazzlers class for children aged two to four which develops coordination

and gross motor skills as well as fostering the love and enjoyment of dance.

"We also offer an Acrobatics Class led by highly qualified teachers with mats and safety equipment.

"For adults who wish to keep fit and have fun, we offer energetic Adult Classes in Jazz, Tap and Classical Ballet for all ages and abilities.

"Our students gain confidence, discipline, grooming, grace, teamwork skills, sportsmanship and a healthy lifestyle.

"We are a big extended family where lifelong friendships are made."

Dance 'n Dazzle offers the first week of lessons free for all new enrolments.

Further information can be found on [www.dancendazzle.com.au](http://www.dancendazzle.com.au) and Facebook and Instagram pages.

Enrolments are being held at Wirreanda PS Hall on Thursday 1 February between 4.00pm and 6.30pm and enquiries may be made by ringing 0418 963221 or at [info@dancendazzle.com.au](mailto:info@dancendazzle.com.au).

## DANCE & PERFORMING ARTS REGISTRATION 2024

Are you wanting to promote registrations for your dance & performing arts business?

Be sure to be included in our Dance & Performing Arts Registration Pages Publishing January and February 2024

Phone Tracey 0484 263 558

Of The Area News



**Dance 'n Dazzle Studio** Celebrating 29 Years in Medowie

**Professional Tuition In:**

Jazz (ATOD) ★ Tap (LGTDA) ★ Classical Ballet (ATOD)  
 ★ National Character (ATOD) ★ Hip Hop ★ Musical Theatre  
 ★ Modern/Contemporary ★ Acrobatic Arts ★ PBT

**We also Offer:**

Adult Jazz, Tap and Ballet Classes  
 Tiny Dazzler Classes (2yrs+)  
 Annual Concert | Examinations  
 Eisteddfods | Scholarships  
 Public Performances | Dance with Me classes (coming soon)

**Enrolment Day**  
 Thursday  
 1st February  
 4.00pm-6.30pm.

**FREE** First Week of Lessons for all new enrolments

Studios At: Wirreanda School MPC, Medowie  
 M: 0418 963221 | Email: [info@dancendazzle.com.au](mailto:info@dancendazzle.com.au)  
[www.dancendazzle.com.au](http://www.dancendazzle.com.au)

## Pearler of a service improving Hunter lives

WITH high-quality services tailored to meet the needs and expectations of clients and their families, Pearl Home Care Newcastle and Hunter is improving lives across the region.

Pearl Home Care is an approved home care package provider in Newcastle and the Hunter, providing professional and affordable in-home aged and disability care.

The business is jointly owned and operated by registered nurses Therese and Saj Kuriakose and Sani

and Faizal Ismail.

“We are all registered nurses and have lived in the area for several years, working across many of the Newcastle and Hunter health care sectors,” said Saj Kuriakose.

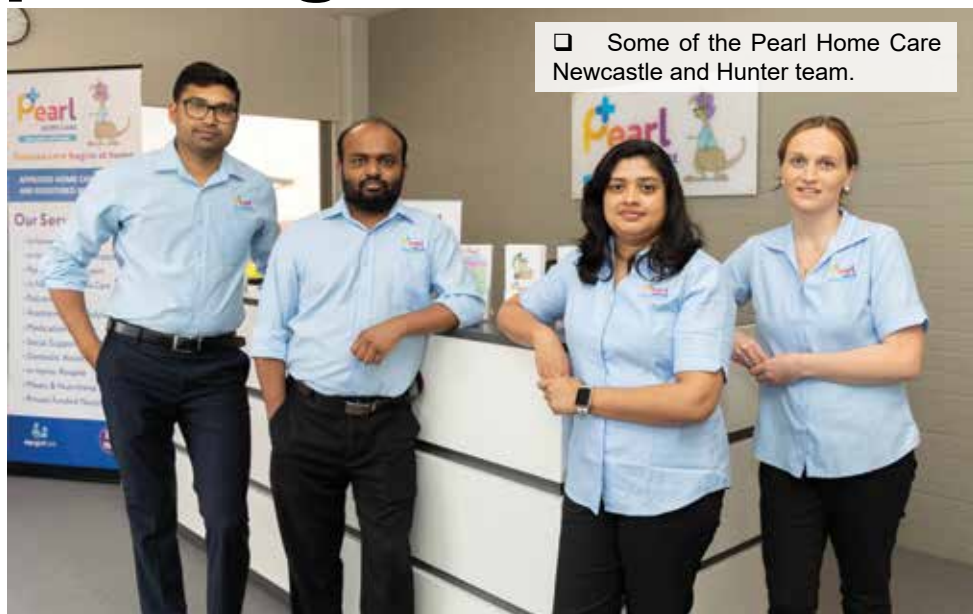
“We are committed to providing a high-quality standard of care for all our clients in a friendly and supportive environment.

“As registered nurses, we have a passion for providing optimal nursing care and believe that we can provide clients with the services

they need to be able to live a fulfilling and happy life in the comfort of their own home.

“We work collectively with clients and their family members to ensure their needs are met, relieving the stress and providing reassurance that they are being well cared for in their own home environment.”

The Pearl Home Care philosophy is to provide world-class senior care so that elderly Australians can remain in their own homes and age with independence, dignity and ease.



Some of the Pearl Home Care Newcastle and Hunter team.



Pearl Home Care Newcastle and Hunter are committed to providing a high-quality standard of care for clients in a friendly and supportive environment.

“The services we provide include in-home nursing care, in-home disability support, post-hospital support, in-home dementia care, palliative care, assistance with daily activities, social support, domestic assistance, home and garden maintenance, meals and nutritional support and private funded nursing care,” Saj said.

Pearl Home Care offer services in Newcastle, Belmont, Stockton, Wallsend, Maitland, Rutherford, Kurri Kurri, Cessnock, Singleton, Raymond Terrace, Medowie,

Nelson Bay, Salamander Bay, Dungog, Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest, Forster-Tuncurry and beyond.

“We are customer centric and confident that our clients will be delighted in the services they receive from our fully trained and experienced registered nurses and support workers,” Saj said.

“Pearl Home Care packages are simple, flexible and affordable.

“We do not charge entry or exit fees.

“We care about our customers and we ensure

their money is spent on the services they need.

“We look forward to making a positive difference to the lives of many in our local community, enabling consumers to be able to live a happy and fulfilling life in the comfort of their own home.”

Please visit [https://www.pearlhomecare.com.au/locations/newcastle\\_hunter](https://www.pearlhomecare.com.au/locations/newcastle_hunter) to learn more about Pearl Home Care Newcastle and Hunter.

To book a free consultation and discuss your home care needs, contact 02 8528 8183.



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- Meals and Nutritional Support
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- Allied Health Support
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### Why our Customers Choose Us:

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Mobile: 0424 102 030 | Email: [newcastle@pearlhomecare.com.au](mailto:newcastle@pearlhomecare.com.au)  
Office Address: 3/15 North Mall, Rutherford, NSW, 2320

## Exhibition features Port's oysters

By Marian SAMPSON

PORT Stephens is a functional port servicing a fishing industry that provides fifteen percent of the catch sold at the Sydney Fish Markets.

The port is larger than Sydney Harbour and was once home to the proposed site for the nation's capital at North Arm Cove.

Port Stephens once had an abundance of oyster reefs, which played a vital role in the health of the marine ecosystem.

However, more than 99 percent of our oyster reefs are considered 'functionally extinct' because of a combination of overfishing, habitat destruction, catchment clearing and water-quality degradation, land reclamation and disease.

The good news is that thanks to a landmark project by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, restoration of the reefs is underway.

The Tomaree Museum Association (TMA), in conjunction with the Australian Maritime Museum, has announced that the inaugural Bidhiinja Exhibition will showcase the groundbreaking initiative at the

Nelson Bay Visitor Centre commencing 7 February.

"Oyster reefs are a complex ecosystem and home to over 300 marine animals such as shrimp, crabs, clams, snails and worms, as well as many fish species," said TMA president Doug Cross.

"Without established wild oyster reefs, the water is dirtier, fish and crustaceans suffer, and shorelines are less stable.

"Reef restoration, which commenced in 2019, has resulted in the creation of a Sydney Rock Oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*) reef equivalent in size to eleven

soccer pitches, on which 34 million oysters have been established.

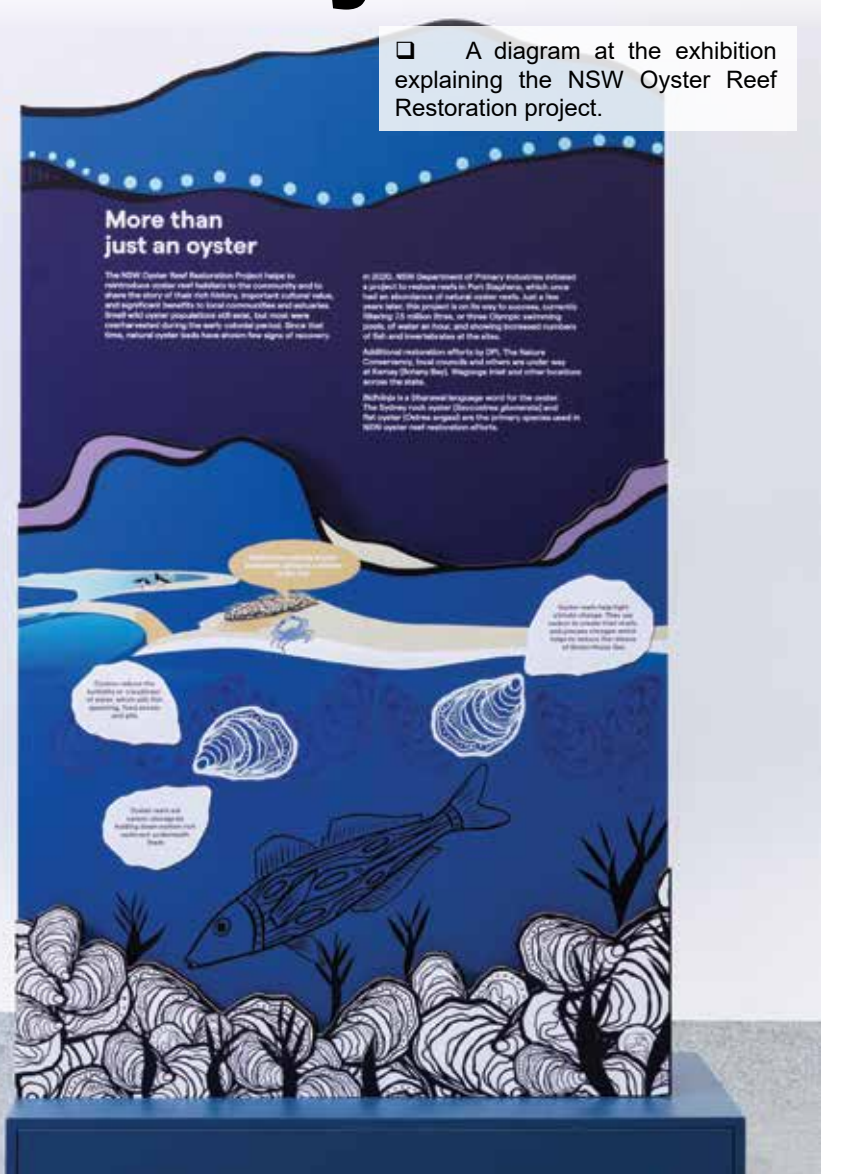
"The project is showing signs of success, filtering nine million litres, or three and a half Olympic-sized swimming pools of water an hour, and supporting increased numbers of fish and invertebrates."

The Bidhiinja Exhibition, designed by the Australian Maritime Museum, shares the story of the oyster reefs' rich history, important cultural value and significant benefits to local communities and estuaries.

It will open 7 February and run throughout the month.



☐ Sydney Rock Oysters ready to eat. Photo: NSW DPI.



☐ A diagram at the exhibition explaining the NSW Oyster Reef Restoration project.

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4 PRIZE DRAWS WEEKLY AFTER THE RAFFLE  
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**KILLER QUEEN EXPERIENCE**  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24  
DOORS OPEN 7.30PM  
**FREE ENTRY**  
Gold Coin donations to support Tilligery Rural Fire Service And Lemon Tree Passage Marine Rescue

**FEBRUARY Entertainment**

**FULL THROTTLE**  
ROCK BAND HITS  
FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEB

**SASS & THE BOSS**  
70S 80S 90S MODERN POP ROCK  
FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEB

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90S & 2000S CLASSIC ROCK  
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60S TO 90S DANCE HITS VIDEO DJ  
FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEB

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**FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2024**

**Raffles on sale from 5pm, drawn at 7:30pm**

**Meat raffles by Karuah Meats**

**Seafood raffles by Tea Gardens Fish Coop**

**Codi Kaye playing from 7pm - 10pm**

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**NEW LISTING**



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\$775,000



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- Caters to young families, couples, retirees, and investors.
- Freestanding residence boasting 2 living areas, 3 bedrooms with built-in robes, ensuite, double garage.
- Covered entertaining, landscaped, level fenced yard for comfort.
- Stylish kitchen with contemporary fittings and quality appliances.
- Reverse cycle air-conditioning, remote garage entry for convenience.
- Minutes from schools, shops, and waterfront - an advantageous position.
- Detailed care means no additional investments are needed.
- Pristine beaches, easy shopping access, and proximity to Horizons Golf Course add to the amazing benefits of the property.

## RENOVATORS DREAM WITH A VIEW

**LEMON TREE PASSAGE**  
16 Boyd Avenue

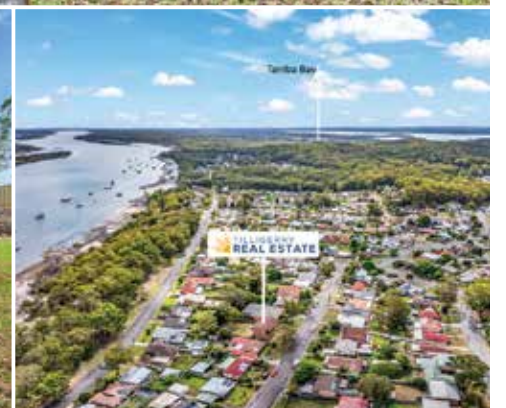
**Expressions of Interest**



- Spacious home at 16 Boyd Avenue, just 150m from the water.
- Amazing potential for renovation
- 4 bedrooms, 3 with built-ins
- Multiple living areas, one on each level
- Double drive-through garage leading to a generously sized, slightly sloping backyard.
- Ideal canvas for creating your dream outdoor space.
- Breathtaking water views from upstairs rooms add to the property's allure.
- Two bathrooms, one on each floor, ensuring convenience.
- Unique opportunity to make the property distinctly yours.
- Embrace the potential and transform this house into your perfect sanctuary.



**NEW LISTING**



HEATH JONES



STEPHEN COSTELLO



HUGH MCINNES



STEVEN BOOTH



JACK JONES



DEBORAH DORAN



nelsonbayrealestate.com.au  
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4981 2655  
4039 9800

# Renovator's dream with a view

16 Boyd Avenue, Lemon Tree Passage  
 New Listing  
 Expressions of Interest

garage opens up to a generously sized, slightly sloping backyard, creating the perfect canvas for your ideal outdoor space.

**TRANSFORM** this spacious four-bedroom home into your dream haven with a view at 16 Boyd Avenue, Lemon Tree Passage.

Marvel at breathtaking water views from the upstairs rooms, a front and back balcony and two bathrooms, one on each floor, convenience is key.

Located just 150m from the water, this property offers immense potential for a renovator.

Don't miss the chance to make this property uniquely yours - a renovator's dream with a view! Embrace the potential and turn this house into your own perfect sanctuary.

Featuring four bedrooms, three equipped with built-ins, and multiple living areas, the possibilities are endless.

Contact Tilligerry Real Estate on 02 4039 9800.



**TEA GARDENS  
 HAWKS NEST  
 BULAHDELAH**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIQUE CHARACTER RESIDENCE</b>                  109 Marine Drive, TEA GARDENS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4  2  3 </p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUALITY FAMILY HOME</b>                  47 Witt Street, TEA GARDENS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3  2  2 </p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMPRESSIVE HOME IN THE MYALL QUAYS</b>                  54 Windward Circuit, TEA GARDENS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4  2  3 </p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRICED TO SELL \$825,000</b>                  28 Settlers Way, TEA GARDENS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4  2  2 </p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> </div>

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# Selling with River

# River



## 1 Marine Drive, Tea Gardens



2 2 3 582m<sup>2</sup>  
 \$1,585,000 – \$1,685,000

## 8 Rose Street, Lemon Tree Passage



5 3 4 645m<sup>2</sup>  
 \$2,100,000 – \$2,300,000

# Sold by River



20 Portside Crescent, Corlette  
 Sold for \$1,180,000

30 Nelson Street, Nelson Bay

32 Church Street, Carrington



**Property Values** in Port Stephens are constantly changing.

To assist local residents, I am offering an opinion on price for every home in your area.

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# Marina extension drama to continue in court

By Marian SAMPSON

**A DEVELOPMENT** Application (DA) to extend the Soldiers Point Marina will be heard by the NSW Land and Environment Court in February.

The original DA, lodged by Soldiers Point Marina owners Clippers Anchorage, sought to construct a two storey addition to the site, with a members lounge, gymnasium, pool, spa, pool lounge, patio, decking, amenities, storage and plant rooms, landscaping, and to conduct site preparation works including partial demolition of existing slipway and earthworks.

Port Stephens Council refused the DA on a number of grounds,

before an appeal was lodged with the Land and Environment Court.

The matter will now be heard by the Land and Environment Court on February 6, 2024.

Interested parties are able to attend.

Jean Armstrong has been battling to stop further development of the site for many years with the Soldiers Point Community Group and now the Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association (TRRA) after the two organisations merged.

"A large majority of Soldiers Point residents are actively opposed to further development on the riparian shores of the Soldiers Point Aboriginal Place," she said.

"These people place environmental concerns first on the list when it can be shown that proposed development has the potential to increase run-off, and possible contamination, into the pristine waters of the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park.

"We have proved our case before in the Land and Environment Court, and we will do it again, thereby promoting environmental concerns over corporate business interests," she said.

For further information, please contact the Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association.



Irene Jones, Roz Armstrong, Jean Armstrong and Richard Davis of the Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association.

# The courageous 'Coweambah'

By John 'Stinker' CLARKE

**THE 'Coweambah'**, referred to by all who knew her as the Cowie, provided a source of transport and supplies so necessary for the welfare of the lighthouse keepers, and the maintenance and ongoing workings of the Fingal Outer Light.

The Cowie was built by G.A. Engle and sons at Tea Gardens and launched in 1919, from where she commenced a twice weekly service to Newcastle carrying sawn timber, shell grit and passengers before returning with various produce.

The Coweambah was 82 feet and 7 inches long, with a 22 feet and 4 inch beam.

She was known to pass around the Point Stephens lighthouse into south-easterly seas, which larger ships were not prepared to do.

The slowest voyage, when running into a gale, was ten hours



On occasions George Davies skippered the 'Cowie'.

from Point Stephens to Newcastle, a distance of twenty sea miles.

The Cowie earned a reputation of being reliable and brave.

As the war situation deteriorated in the Pacific the Cowie was requisitioned in 1943 by the Commonwealth Government.

The courageous craft - "the old tub of the Myall" - served with great distinction in New Guinea with Bill Ripley at the helm.

Sadly, on the way home after completing her war duties she ran aground during a cyclone in 1945 in Trial Bay, South West Rocks and became another shipwreck statistic.

Despite her diminutive size and weather-beaten state the Coweambah had a special place in the heart of all those who had contact with her.



The Coweambah being loaded with shell grit for transport to Newcastle. This photo was taken by lightkeeper V.R.Gordon (1936-1939).

# Snapper and whiting going crackers



By John 'Stinker' CLARKE

**OFFSHORE** Port Stephens provides the most spectacular snapper habitat, with jagged reefs stretching from Birubi to Broughton Island.

For those targeting the southern reefs from Fingal to Fishermans Bay it is easiest to launch off the beach at Boat Harbour, which can cause a few problems if you are unfamiliar with launching over the sand.

From Fingal north to Broughton it is necessary to launch inside the harbour at Shoal Bay, Little Beach or Soldiers Point.

Remember that the beach

launching site off Fingal Beach is closed until after the school holidays.

The closure has been put in place by Port Stephens Council to protect the beach goers and kids that visit over the holiday period.

I support the Council move as it is far too dangerous to drive through the gathering of excited holiday makers.

The Fingal closure does not concern kayakers who simply push their craft down the beach and do not require a vehicle.

One such kayaker is Fingal champion Keith Collin who paddles across Fingal Bay and drifts over the reef in around ten metres of water.

Using fresh cut bait of mullet or yellowtail Keith floats his bait into the strike zone - whammo!

Those who prefer to fish the beaches are in for a bonanza with cracker whiting swimming just behind the shore break.

Maitland visitors, the Nancarrow boys, have been having a ball on both Stockton and Fingal Beaches.

Worms are by far the best bait however they are becoming increasingly expensive.

My advice is to learn how to catch them.

It's easy once you get the knack.

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Of The Area News

Kayak champ Keith Collin with a Fingal reddie.



# First flight anniversary

By Thomas O'KEEFE

**THE** hundredth anniversary of a historic round-the-country flight is being planned to touch the Myall Estuary in early April this year

Back in April 1924, the two-man military aviator team of Squadron Leader 'Jimmy' Goble and Flight Lieutenant Ivor McIntyre took off from Point Cook, Victoria, on an ambitious first-ever attempt to fly around Australia.

Author Tom Lockley, who has written the book on the grand endeavour and its impending centennial reenactment planned for this year, is asking Myall locals for more historical information.

"After the first scheduled stop at Sydney, a nasty storm and an

exploded compass forced the aviators to land in the Myall River's estuary, most likely near the main bend from Hawks Nest riverfront out towards Winda Woppa.

"While the flight's journal has absolutely no mention of any human contact at that time with the plane, it doesn't mean there wasn't any, it's more about the way they wrote logs," Mr Lockley explained.

"The aviators did mention having to dodge oyster lease markers, so there must have been someone there.

"It was a military flight, to open up the north and investigate the use of seaplanes for defence of northern Australia, as there were precious few military camps right round to Darwin.

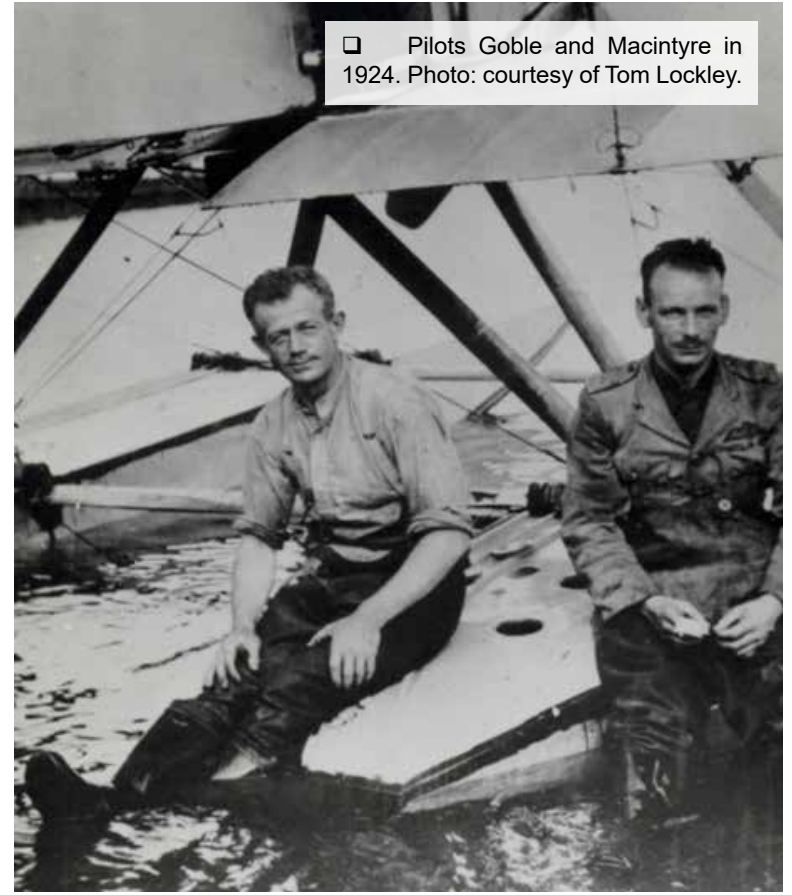
"I am asking for any local information, even about the

settlement in the area at that time – local Port Stephens history books do not seem to deal with it at all."

Presently, two groups are planned for the centenary reenactment, each flying opposite directions around the country, although, aviation being a science prone to setbacks, the exact times and dates of the visit locally are yet to be confirmed.

April will be even busier along the Myall this year with the 50th Anniversary of the Singing Bridge celebrations already deep in planning for 6 April, and, of course, ANZAC Day on 25 April.

Anyone with any historical information on the 1924 landing can contact Tom Lockley at [gobleflight@gmail.com](mailto:gobleflight@gmail.com).



☐ Pilots Goble and Macintyre in 1924. Photo: courtesy of Tom Lockley.

# Hoons target North Arm Cove

By Thomas O'KEEFE

**ILLEGAL** burnout crowds at the only turnoff into North Arm Cove have been intimidating local residents as they enter their homes from Gooreengi Road, just off the Pacific Highway.

According to several residents, groups of up to 100 have been gathering, including children and babies, to watch and compete in illegal and dangerous car burnouts at the turnoff.

"We have reported it to the police many times since August

2023, residents have to get through the gangs of people and are quite intimidated as they do so, just trying to get home," one North Arm Cove resident explained.

Ugly skid marks are left all over the road, as are large, dangerous debris fields including chunks of chassis, tyre wires and other fire hazards that break off during the dangerous, reckless antics.

The geography of the area is inescapably appealing to burnout hoons – wide, flat and open, like

an airport tarmac, and there appears to be an entire subculture that arranges via private social media sites to find and invade such sites, with another identified at Tomago, too.

Speaking for the affected community, North Arm Cove Community Association Inc. President Bob Reid told NOTA, "Many North Arm Cove residents have contacted MidCoast Council about this, and we've requested Council to investigate and look into some traffic engineering to make it less attractive, and ideally

get some video surveillance."

MidCoast Council has been contacted for an update on the matter.

"This is a constant issue, and the burnouts seem to be sporadic, there were arrests made late last year, and we are appealing for information from the public," a NSW Police spokesperson told NOTA.

North Arm Cove locals, however, insist that the burnouts

are quite regular, occurring every second Saturday night.

'Hooning' offences are very real and illegal, described by NSW laws as "when you engage in dangerous and reckless driving behaviour... the penalties for hoon offences are severe in most cases".

'Hoon' offences include: speed/street racing, doing burnouts or doughnuts, drag racing, driving at dangerous speeds, and being involved in a police pursuit.



☐ Ugly skid marks cover the Gooreengi Road turnoff.



☐ A poignant reminder of road mortality is ignored by the hoons, as is the fire danger sign.

# International Women's Day scholarships now open

**PORT** Stephens Council's International Women's Day scholarship program is now open, with four \$1,000 scholarships up for grabs to help local women achieve their goals.

For the last six years, the scholarship program has supported local women in the valuable contributions they make to the Port Stephens community across a range of fields, including arts, culture, environment, business, community, health and sport.

Deputy Mayor Leah Anderson said Council proudly supports International Women's Day and invites women sixteen and over to apply for a 2024

scholarship and make their dreams a reality.

"The theme for the 2024

International Women's Day is, 'Count her in: Invest in Woman', putting a spotlight on greater

economic inclusion for women and girls everywhere to reach their full potential," Cr Anderson said.

"We're very lucky to live in a place and time where women and girls are given equal opportunity to learn, earn, and lead.

"It's fantastic that Council continues to acknowledge some of the amazing women in our community, helping them to achieve their goals through this scholarship program.

"In addition to the three scholarships that Council offers, the Rotary Club of Salamander Bay is also contributing a \$1,000 scholarship to support International Women's Day in 2024.

"The scholarships are a great way for women in Port Stephens to invest further in their knowledge, skills or experience in a field of their interest – to achieve a personal goal, or one that contributes to the wider community.

"If you've got a great idea but need a little financial boost to get it off the ground, I encourage you to apply for one of these scholarships and take the first step towards success," she added.

Nominations close Friday 12 February 2024, with the awardees to be announced at the Rotary Club of Salamander Bay International Women's Day dinner at 5pm on Sunday 3 March at Soldiers Point Bowling Club.

For more information and to apply, visit [pscouncil.info/iwd-scholarship](http://pscouncil.info/iwd-scholarship)



☐ Deputy Mayor Leah Anderson (left) and Mayor Ryan Palmer (right) with 2023 International Women's Day Scholarship recipients Tara Kirby-Campbell and Simone Jolly.

# Dorin's Draws By Paul DORIN



**READING by Lynne Miles:** Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 7 & 8 "There is an appointed time for everything. And a season for every event under heaven. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace."

## Australia Day - what about 1 January?

DEAR News Of The Area,

WITH all the discussion, and controversy, about celebrating Australia Day on 26 January each year it is interesting to note that the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed on January 1, 1901, not 26 January 1788.

The proclamation, declaring the establishment of the

Commonwealth, was issued by Queen Victoria on September 17, 1900, and it federated the six separate British colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia under the name of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The proclamation was issued under the authority granted by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900, an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Before 1 January 1901, the land

that is now known as Australia was referred to by different names.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have lived on these lands for at least 60,000 years called it by different names in their respective languages

The Dutch, who visited the western coast of Australia in the 1600s, named the western half of the continent New Holland.

The British, who established colonies in the late 1700s, referred to the land as New South Wales.

The name Australia was officially adopted on 1 January 1901 when the British colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania united to form the Commonwealth of Australia.

So isn't it logical that Australia

Day should be celebrated on 1 January each year?

New Year's Day and Australia Day in one!

Just sayin'!

Regards,  
Grant KENNETT,  
Corlette.

## Discussion getting lost on power generation

DEAR News Of The Area,

I'VE recently retired to Tea Gardens after a 45-year career in power generation and wholesale distribution.

With an engineering background, I understand the technical challenges to decarbonise our electricity system with far

more, and vastly distributed inputs, than we currently have (i.e. renewables).

The basic problem is that achieving Net Zero by 2050, which has bipartisan political support, can't be achieved 20 years earlier than agreed.

It's just become a debate in ideology for the sake of expediency

where proper planning has gone out the window.

And we'll all pay a price for accepting such a risk.

Just by way of example, to replace the recently retired 2GW Liddell Power Plant near Muswellbrook with small modular nuclear technology would mean no additional transmission

infrastructure costs and no change to the current land area already zoned for power generation.

However, to replace Liddell's capacity with wind turbines would require over 300km<sup>2</sup> of physical area whether it's on land or offshore.

And this is where the discussion gets lost.

The sheer numbers involved to decarbonise the entire energy market are staggering.

And it will be well beyond 2050 just to physically achieve it, costing an estimated \$1.5 trillion of taxpayer money along the way.

Regards  
Derek MUSGROVE,  
Tea Gardens.

## Signage not up to scratch

DEAR News Of The Area,

AS a resident of Port Stephens, I am writing to express my dismay at the lack of adequate signage for visitors to our facilities and natural wonders, especially on the road approaches and at the location of entrances to the Tomaree Summit Walk and the Tomaree Coastal Walk which draw over 200,000 visitors per year.

Having grown up in Lake Macquarie, I am immensely proud of the Hunter region and all that it

has to offer.

This pride has been heightened by my overseas studies in ecology and extensive travels covering some 30 amazing national parks.

However, when it comes to the insignificant signage (or total lack of it) here on the approaches to Tomaree Headland and at its base, I am sorry to say that Tomaree Headland does not make visitors feel especially welcome!

The signage is well below international standards.

Why is there not signage

in keeping with this incredible Headland area, its trails, and road access to its 6.7-million-dollar Tomaree Coastal Walk?

Even the entrance to the popular five-minute walk over a sandhill to Zenith Beach is hidden by parked cars; all these matters have led to many complaints by frustrated tourists.

One morning recently I witnessed huge numbers of visitors starting their visit to Tomaree Headland - a high proportion could not see where the walks start!

Let alone: 'Where is a toilet?', 'Where do we pay to park?', and 'How long will we need for the hike to the Summit and back?'

We need large and informative signs, above head-height, parked vehicles and turning traffic, well placed for all to see, as numerous frustrated visitors have pointed out.

There are excellent large head-high signs in a Soldiers Point park regarding wading birds, including one that flies non-stop from Alaska to be here: there is no such signage at Tomaree Headland to equal it in helping our valuable national and international visitors feel welcome

and fully supported for a great experience.

That surely is a basic tourism oversight that needs to be speedily corrected by all relevant authorities in view of the volume of traffic and the great potential economic benefit to our region.

I look forward to your positive responses in acting to correct this situation to make our visitors welcome and ensure they have a rewarding experience.

Regards,  
Reginald ROBERTS PhD,  
Retired insect ecologist.

## Bowling Club leads town growth

By Marian SAMPSON

RAYMOND Terrace is about to see a boom in growth, with the Raymond Terrace Bowling Club announcing plans to build a \$39 million, six-storey hotel boasting a restaurant, bar, pool, gym, and function and office spaces.

If the development application is successful, the club will become a construction site for an eighteen month period.

Port Stephens West Ward Councillor Giacomo Arnott told News Of The Area, "I'm thrilled to see Raymond Terrace Bowling Club making such a huge investment in

Raymond Terrace.

"Our town is bursting with potential and I've spent my adult life telling this to anyone who will listen, and I'm glad that it's a community-based business that's getting the ball rolling.

"The construction and ongoing jobs that this will create will be

critical for employment locally, and the events, tourists, and visitors that it will bring here will be welcomed by every business in town."

Mr Arnott said investors should "look no further than Raymond Terrace".

"This town is perfectly located between Maitland and Newcastle

and the M1, and really is the perfect place to invest," he said.

The investment is set to provide an increase of jobs in Raymond Terrace and see the town well positioned to cater to increased inbound flights into the region as well as accommodating competitors for bowling tournaments.



Email: Jasminda: media@newssofthearea.com.au

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.

# Top bodyboarders gear up for Box Fest 2024

By Chris KARAS

AUSTRALIA's best bodyboarders are preparing to test their skills in the surf at the upcoming prestigious Box Fest carnival in Port Stephens.

The cream of the nation's bodyboarding talent will gather at the secluded Box Beach - located within Tomaree National Park - from Friday March 22 to Sunday March 24 in what shapes as a fascinating tournament.

Box Fest is touted as the country's biggest bodyboarding event for prize money and participation, with \$3000 prize pools for both the Elite and Elite Drop Knee divisions plus various prizes in other categories.

Port Stephens District Bodyboarders (PSBC) will again organise this year's event with major sponsors Port Stephens Toyota and District Five Bodyboard Shop.

Champion Shoal Bay bodyboarders Kane Brewer and Dallas Singer are former winners of the Open Elite division.

Categories for the 2024 Box Fest include Elite, Elite Drop Knee, Open, Women, Groms, Cadets, Juniors, Masters (over 35) and Grand Masters (over 45).

PSBC president Chad Pisani told News Of The Area that Box Fest is always a keenly-anticipated event that "brings together a diverse range of riders from all walks of life".

"Entries are filling fast for all categories with Box Beach the perfect location for bodyboarding waves," said Pisani, who was crowned PSBC's Masters Over 35s champion in 2023.

"We still have spots available in the Elite, Elite Drop Knee, Womens and Groms divisions and expect to have 152 competitors participating

at this year's Festival," quipped Chad.

"Whether you're a seasoned professional or a beginner just starting out, the club welcomes all enthusiasts who share a passion for bodyboarding," he added.

PSBC is a thriving sports club that attracts both experienced riders and newcomers looking to improve their skills and connect with the local bodyboarding community.

The club prides itself on fostering a sense of camaraderie among members and providing an encouraging environment for all skill levels and offers members an off-the-beaten track vibe,

PSBC's dedication to promoting and advancing the sport has earned it a reputation as one of the best bodyboarding clubs in the nation.

For further details check the Port Stephens District Bodyboarders Facebook page.



□ The nation's best bodyboarders will participate at the annual Port Stephens Box Fest event at Box Beach from March 22-24.

# Hunter legends Mark Hughes and Richard Jones to headline Port Stephens Family of League luncheon

By Chris KARAS

NEWCASTLE Knights legend and brain cancer survivor Mark Hughes and Westpac Helicopter Service identity Richard Jones are guest speakers at the Port Stephens Family of League Foundation Charity Sports Luncheon on Friday February 16 at Soldiers Point Bowling Club.

This Legends of League and Charity Gurus event will kick off Club Day from 11.30am and promises to be an entertaining experience.

Master of ceremonies and

auctioneer for the day is former Manly and Port Stephens rugby league stalwart Charlie Haggett.

The courageous Hughes and his wife Kirralee established the Mark Hughes Foundation in 2014 after Mark was diagnosed with brain cancer.

The Foundation has since raised \$30 million for brain cancer and sold over one million beanies.

Last October the popular Hughes ascended to one of the most treacherous treks in the world - Everest Base Camp - with former

Knights team mates Danny Buderus, Billy Peden and twenty other climbers.

Mark enjoyed an illustrious career that featured 161 games for the Knights, 26 matches for Catalan Dragons and three State of Origin appearances with NSW.

He figured in Newcastle's premiership-winning teams in 1997 and 2001 plus a Grand Final with Kurri Bulldogs in 1995.

Richard Jones, a tough rugby league hooker with St George in his heyday, retired from his role

as Chief Executive Officer of the Westpac Helicopter service after 27 years but will lead the community engagement section.

Jones' passion and dedication has shown him to be an incredibly genuine community leader and during his tenure saw the expansion of the service to rural NSW.

Richard's leadership qualities were also evident in his playing days with the Dragons from 1982-85 and later as a coaching mentor.

He coached the Singleton Greyhounds to a premiership and

Clayton Cup trophy for best country rugby league team and was captain-coach of Souths Newcastle - winning a premiership in 1988.

Jones also coached a NSW Country representative team on a tour of New Zealand and in retirement worked with Mike Rabbitt on the rugby league TV broadcast on NBN.

Tickets are \$45 per head, which includes a chicken schnitzel lunch, two schooners and \$10 worth of raffle tickets.

Bookings are essential with payment required.

Phone (02) 498 27173.

# Moxey and Davies show features superb 144 and seven wicket haul

By Chris KARAS

PORT Stephens Pythons trump cards Jarrod Moxey and Shawn Davies have produced one of the finest ever performances with bat and ball in a single day's cricket.

The Pythons duo are the toast of the region after spearheading their all-conquering team to an emphatic victory over Merewether's Mary Ellen Mudrats in the Newcastle District Suburban Cricket Division One competition at King Park last Saturday.

In a limited-overs batting



□ Port Stephens super bat Jarrod Moxey cracked a magnificent 144 not out in the Pythons resounding win over the Merewether Mudrats last weekend at King Park, Medowie.

masterclass, the prolific Moxey smashed an unbeaten 144 off only 103 balls to steer the Pythons to a massive tally of 7-272 from 40 overs.

Jarrold chalked up yet another milestone as he thumped seven sixes and eleven boundaries to all parts of the ground and combined with sibling Josh Moxey (30) and all rounder Tyran Eveleigh (25) in an entertaining run spree.

Swing merchant Davies then grabbed the remarkable figures of 7-11 in a superb five over spell to skittle the Mudrats for a meagre 39 in the eleventh over.

It followed his 5-23 haul in the Pythons' victory over Wests Journeymen the previous weekend.

Experienced Port Stephens skipper Josh Moxey paid tribute to his brother Jarrod and the in-form Davies after their amazing individual feats.

"Both were in irresistible touch and put on a cricket clinic in front of our loyal supporters at our home base," the Pythons stalwart told News Of The Area.

"Jarrod and Shawn were unstoppable on the day and simply demonstrated their match-winning skills," Josh stated.

It was the tenth win of the season for the undefeated Pythons (38 points) who have opened up a four point lead over second placed Waterboard Wests (34).

# Nelson Bay Bowling Club

By Bernie CARROLE

NELSON Bay Marlins Bowling Club held their 2023 Presentation night on Saturday 29th January with a fantastic attendance from members and guests.

Congratulations go to Bernie Carroll and Jono Davis who were presented with the Ladies and Men's Bowler of the Year award respectively.

Well done and congratulations to Bruce Patchet who was deservedly awarded the Most Improved Player of the Year.

Congratulations to Bernie and Richard Girvan who received the Major Singles award and to Sue Clark and David Hall who picked up the

Minor Singles title.

Congratulations also go to all the members who received the many awards on the night, outstanding achievements!

The evening ran smoothly with the excellence of Kane Coulls Master of Ceremonies role and was also complemented by the amazing band and delicious meal provided by Fin and Scales restaurant. Thank you to Kerry Fraser who generously volunteered to take on the role of photographer for the evening.

NBBC wishes to thank the Bowls Committee members for their hard work and dedication throughout the past year and look forward to another successful year of good bowling and friendship.



□ Bowler of the Year winners Bernie Carroll and Jono Davis.



□ Winner of Most Improved Player, Bruce Patchet with Deputy Chairman John Carroll.

# Nelson Bay Golf Club

**14 JANUARY** - 20 January 2024  
 Sunday 14 January 2023  
 Men's Stableford:  
 Xmas Bush Course  
 A1 Phil Elliott (12) 40  
 A2 Sean Gardner (14) 38  
 B1 Peter a Elliott (16) 39  
 B2 Martyn Jeggo (16) 37  
 C1 Peter Collins (37) 38  
 C2 David Birss (31) 37 c/b  
 Women's Stableford:  
 Xmas Bush Course  
 A1 Robyn Kennett (14) 40 c/a  
 A2 Maree Cousins (24) 40  
 B1 Norma Armitage (45) 41  
 B2 Margaret Staglis (33) 40  
 Monday 15 January 2024  
 Vets Stableford  
 1 Kerry Grice 21  
 2 Alan Stewart 20  
 Tuesday 16 January 2024  
 Women's Stableford:

Brushbox Course  
 A1 Carmel Walsh (23) 40  
 A2 Jenny Hazer (23) 38 c/b  
 A3 Lynn Robertson (19) 38 c/b  
 B1 Alana McGee (26) 39  
 B2 Beth Macduff (25) 37 c/b  
 B3 Donna Hall (32) 37 c/b  
 C1 Judy Fisher (40) 48  
 C2 Shirley Anicich (49) 35 c/b  
 C3 Rhona Birss (35) 35 c/b  
 Ladies 9-hole Stableford:  
 Brushbox Course  
 1 Lorraine Parker (54) 21  
 2 Christine McDonald (48) 20  
 3 Deborah Hall (43) 19  
 Wednesday 17 January 2024  
 Men's Stableford:  
 Xmas Bush Course  
 A1 Peter Power (15) 41  
 A2 Peter Sutton (12) 39  
 A3 Shaun O'Mally (1) 38  
 B1 Phillip Muddle (16) 41

B2 Stephen Beeton (16) 41  
 B3 Craig Hickey (18) 39 c/b  
 C1 Rex Harris (26) 37  
 C2 Ross Pethybridge (27) 36  
 C3 Les Williams (26) 35 c/b  
 Wednesday Stableford Gynea  
 A1 John Wade (14) 38 c/b  
 A2 Brett Woolfe (13) 38  
 A3 Paul woodruff (14) 37 c/b  
 B1 Chad Redman (23) 39 c/b  
 B2 Phil Murray (19) 39 c/b  
 B3 Bill Rarity (19) 39  
 C1 Michael Wojko (27) 38  
 C2 Alan Fisher (24) 37 c/b  
 C3 John Ambrose (39) 37  
 Thursday 18 January 2024  
 Vets Competition, Stableford  
 1 Bob Jackson 24  
 2 John Ducrou 22  
 Women's Stableford:  
 Xmas Bush Course  
 A1 Carmel Walsh (22) 40  
 A2 Janelle Tolhurst (25) 39  
 A3 Wendy Heapy (24) 36  
 B1 Doreen Sutcliffe (39) 39

B2 Helen Durie (36) 36 C/B  
 B3 Anne Milne (31) 36  
 C1 Lesley Palagy (43) 42  
 C2 Vicki Melrose (40) 40  
 C3 Deirdre Haxton (44) 37  
 Men's Stableford:  
 Xmas Bush Course  
 1 Steven Brown (9) 37  
 2 Bill Shepard (20) 35  
 Friday 19 January 2024  
 Men's Stableford: Xmas Bush Course  
 Overall, winners  
 A1 Liam Walsh (16) 43c/b  
 A2 Don Jones (36) 43  
 A3 Steve Mitchell (34) 42  
 A4 Maol Upton (19) 41  
 B1 Don Jones (36) 43  
 B2 Steve Mitchell (34) 42  
 B3 Alan Stewart (33) 38  
 B4 Nick Dyce-McGowan (34) 36  
 Women's Stableford:  
 Brush Bush Course  
 1 Diane McLean (29) 40  
 2 Kim Quigley (35) 39  
 3 Nicola Bethwaite (21) 38 c/b

Saturday 20 January 2024  
 Men's Stableford: Bay Brush Course  
 A1 Zach Semmens (13) 42  
 A2 Scott Quinn (6) 36 c/b  
 A3 Ivan Skoda (13) 36  
 B1 Tim Chaplin (17) 41 c/b  
 B2 Dan Unthank (21) 41  
 B3 Cooper Jones (22) 40  
 C1 John Maslen (25) 38 c/b  
 C2 Greg flux (24) 38 c/b  
 C3 Norman Cousins (28) 38  
 Nelson Bay Golf Club Stableford  
 A1 Ray Wright (10) 39  
 A2 Peter Kent (10) 38 c/b  
 A3 Stephen Lantry (14) 38  
 B1 Glen Egan (18) 41  
 B2 Michael Day (19) 37  
 B3 Greg Bezuidenhout (17) 36 c/b  
 C1 Nicholas Delfendahl (31) 41  
 C2 Guy Bonfante (32) 38  
 C3 Rodney Worthington (26) 37 c/b  
 WOMENS STABLEFORD  
 OVERALL, WINNERS  
 1 Belinda Ostini (19) 38  
 2 Sharon Dunn (16) 31

# Port Stephens Veteran Golfers Association

By Gary WATT

**RESULTS** from a Stableford competition played at Tanilba Bay Golf Club on Monday, 15th January 2024 with 31 players.  
 Nett Winner : Bill McMaster 38pts.  
 Nett Runner Up : Graham Woolley 35pts on c/b  
 Bonus Point Winner : Peter Martyn 37pts on c/b  
 Bonus Pt. Runner Up : Michael Best 37pts.  
 Nearest the Pin, 4th Hole :  
 Div 1 : Graham Woolley.  
 Div 2 : No Winner.  
 Nearest the Pin, 11th Hole, :  
 Div 1 : Graham Woolley.  
 Div 2 : John McDonald.  
 Drive & Chip, 7th Hole, :  
 Div 1 : Bill Osborne.  
 Div 2 : Michael Best.  
 Drive & Chip, 18th Hole,

Div 1 : Fred Rimoni.  
 Div 2 : John Howlett.  
 Ball Winners : Gary Watt 36pts, John Evans 35pts, Fred Rimoni 35pts, Frank Vandruuten 34pts, Ray Stubbs 33pts, Greg Garvin 33pts, Roger Groves 33pts, Brian Neale 33pts, John Clayton 33pts, Robert Paul 33pts, and Ron McKay 33pts.  
 Lucky Draw Prize Winner : Peter Martyn.  
 Next weeks game is at Tanilba Bay Golf Club with a 7:30am start. Visitors are welcome any Monday, please ring Gary Watt on 49814536 for starting times.

# Tilligerry Social Golf Club

19/1/24

**OUTRIGHT** winners.  
 John McDonald & Ron McKay. 68 3/4  
 Runners up.  
 John Clayton & Jack Johnstone. 71  
 Ball winners.  
 Brian Riddell & Adam Cowie. 73

John Clayton & Bob West. 74  
 Bradman Award.  
 Peter Couvaras & Wendy Couvaras D&C4th.  
 Colin Marsden & Bill McMaster D&C7th.  
 Jack Johnstone &

John Clayton NTP18th. Bill McMaster Money hole. A. Jack Johnstone Lucky number 13. Jack Johnstone There were 13 players. Congratulations to all the winners. Next game 2/2/24. Single Stableford Eclectic.

# Muree Golf Results

By Lee RANKIN

SATURDAY 13th Jan. Stableford.  
 A Grade  
 1. Luke Tranter 40  
 2. Aaron Marsh 39C/B  
 3. Harry G. Marshall 39  
 B Grade  
 1. Nigel Delfs 40

2. David Rowe 38  
 3. Robert Jones 37  
 C Grade  
 1. Ray Stewart 41  
 2. Jay Sinclair 37C/B  
 3. Michael Doyle 37  
 Pro Pin David Rowe  
 Wednesday 17th Jan.  
 Medley Stableford.  
 A Grade

1. Harry G Marshall 40  
 2. Christopher Maguire 37C/B  
 3. Tim Messenger 37  
 B Grade  
 1. Rodger Lyle 40  
 2. Jeff Schofield 38  
 3. Terry Ritchie 36  
 C Grade  
 1. Robert Sellick 44  
 2. Eric Rogers 43  
 3. Jonathon Martin 36  
 Pro Pin Ian Lovell

# Tanilba Veteran Golfers 50+

By Ian WILLIAMS

Day/Date: Tuesday 16th January '24  
 Time, 7.00 Registration, 8.00 Tee Time.  
 Event: Individual Stableford  
 Player No. 28  
 Front Nine:  
 Nett Winners:  
 Mike Lacey 19pts  
 Runner ups:  
 John Street 16 pts. C/b  
 Ball Competition:  
 Steve Enderby and Peter Beesley.  
 N.T.P.

A Grade Winners: Kim Miller  
 B Grade Winners: John Street  
 C Grade Winners: Mike Lacey Drive & Chip.  
 A Grade Winners: Kim Miller  
 B Grade Winners: B. Skinner  
 C Grade Winners: Steve Enderby  
 Lucky Score Winners:  
 7 on the 8th hole.  
 Mike Lacey, John Street and Barry Sampson.  
 Back Nine:  
 Nett Winners:  
 Barry Disch 18pts c/b  
 Runners up:  
 Len Hardes 18pts.

Ball Competition:  
 David Enderby, Fred Drury and Ian Williams.  
 N.T.P.  
 A Grade Winners: Len Hardes  
 B Grade Winners: B Skinner  
 C Grade Winners:  
 Barry Gaherety Drive & Chip.  
 A Grade Winners: Ron Dews  
 B Grade Winners: Les Deane  
 C Grade Winners: David Enderby  
 Lucky Score Winners:  
 7 on the 8th hole.  
 Steve Robards, David Enderby,

Ian Williams, Grahame Glover and Rob McKinney.  
 Next Week: Our summer comp continues throughout January and does not contribute to annual tournament calculations.  
 Next week, 23rd Jan, will be Individual Stableford  
 Members are reminded and encouraged to sign up for our interclub competition with B resfield Vets, 1st round to be played on the 27th Feb.  
 Come along and enjoy a relaxing 9 hole competition. All members and visitors are very welcome and invited to join or renew TVGA Membership during January and February.

The Tanilba Vets recognise and acknowledge the service of current and ex members of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) and as such, do not charge joining or membership fees for these veterans.  
 A golfer was having a terrible round — 20-over par for the front nine with scores of balls lost in water or rough. When his caddie then coughed as he steadied himself over a 12-inch putt on the 10th, he lost it. "You've got to be the worst caddie in the world!" he yelled. "I doubt it," replied the caddie, dead-pan. "That would be too much of a coincidence."

# All conquering Karuah Pearls gearing up for more success in Port Stephens Netball competition

FROM Page 28

Dickson (12yrs) - were selected in Port Stephens Association representative teams, where they performed strongly.

All players contributed to the team's stunning success with the gifted McLennan, who was recently selected in the Australian

Indigenous Under 13 Schoolgirls team, a real driving force.

Maalaa caught the eye of selectors with her goal scoring prowess for NSW at the National Indigenous Under 13s Schoolgirls Championships on the Gold Coast.

Along with Mia and Matilda, the trio showed their high understanding of the game

and versatility during the Port Stephens competition and have made an impact at either end of the court.

Other Pearls players to impress were determined newcomers Grace Charbel and Isabella Sellick and the agile Dickson, Emma Anderson and Micah Aro.

"Maalaa is only eleven but lifts her teammates on court with her skills and tenacity and will-to-win," Pearl stated.

"The girls are quick on their feet, able to jump high and feed the ball into open spaces, when and where it's needed," she quipped.

"Both Micah and Isla have netball knowledge and know how to read the play before it's even happened.

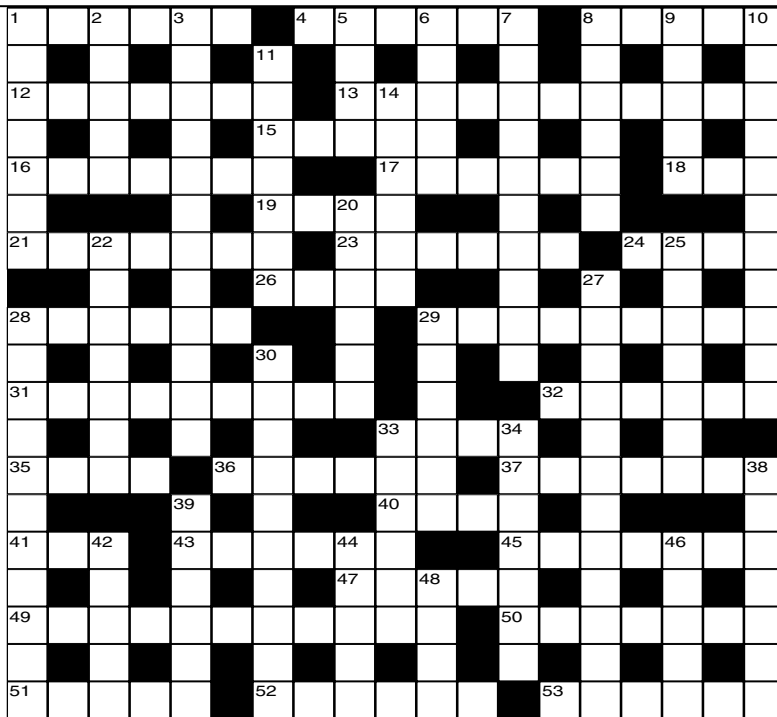
"I've loved seeing the girls grow as players and as individuals," she added.

Auntie Pearl doubles as Club President and hopes the Pearls can field four teams in this year's Port Stephens Netball Association series.

Her goal in 2024 is "to have a whole court that has lighting and is safe for our growing club".

## BIG CROSSWORD

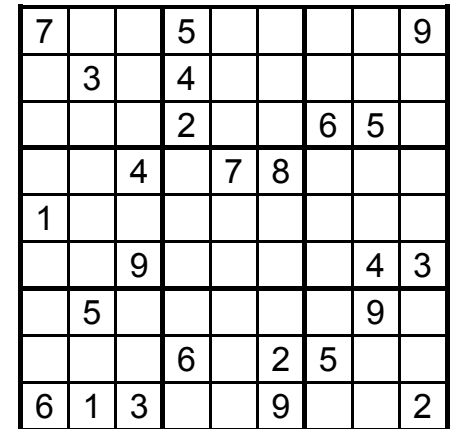
- Across**
- 1 Enormously
  - 4 Counteract
  - 8 Two-masted vessel
  - 12 Maize whisky
  - 13 Fizzed
  - 15 Confuse
  - 16 Facial hair
  - 17 Secret
  - 18 Health resort
  - 19 Affirm
  - 21 Milk drinker
  - 23 Get back
  - 24 Run before a gale
  - 26 Australian birds
  - 28 US president of 1980s
  - 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 Poetic name for Ireland**
- 41 Terminus**
- 43 Undertaker's vehicle**
- 45 Sirius (3,4)**
- 47 Colourless gas**
- 49 Cutting both ways (6-5)**
- 50 Edgy**
- 51 Cleans**
- 52 Attempting**
- 53 Facet**
- 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**



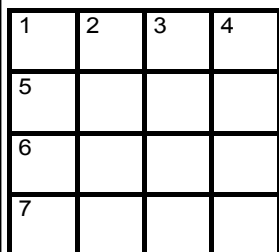
## SUDOKU

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

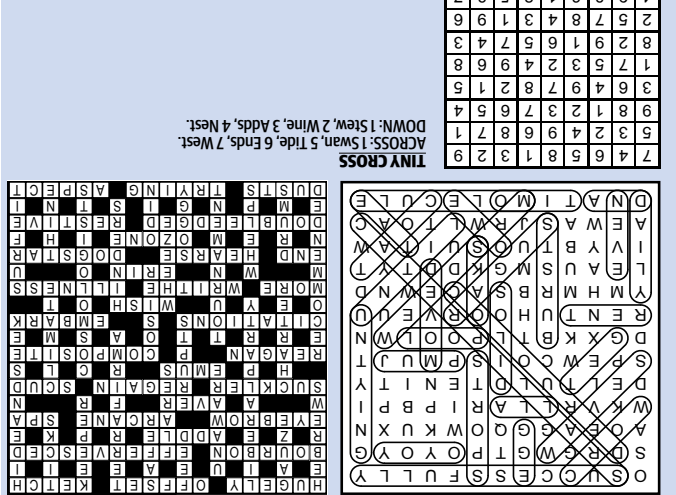
O S U C C E S S F U L L Y  
 S D R G W G T P O Y O Y G  
 A O E A G G Q O W K U X N  
 W K V R L L A R I P B P I  
 D E L T U L D T E N I T Y  
 S P E W C O I S P M U J T  
 D G X K B T L P O O L W N  
 R E N T U H O O R V E U U  
 Y M H M R B S A C E W N D  
 L E A U S M G K D D T Y T  
 I V Y B T U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



## Kids Boot Camp 003

### Burping Bubbles

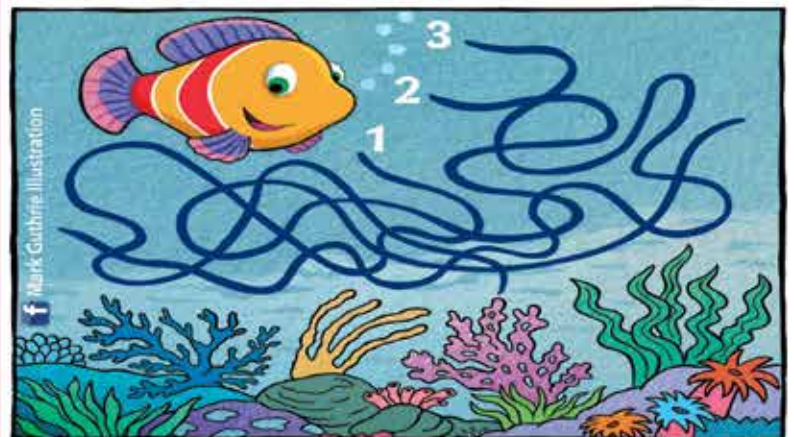


Can you spot 5 differences between picture A and picture B?



### 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

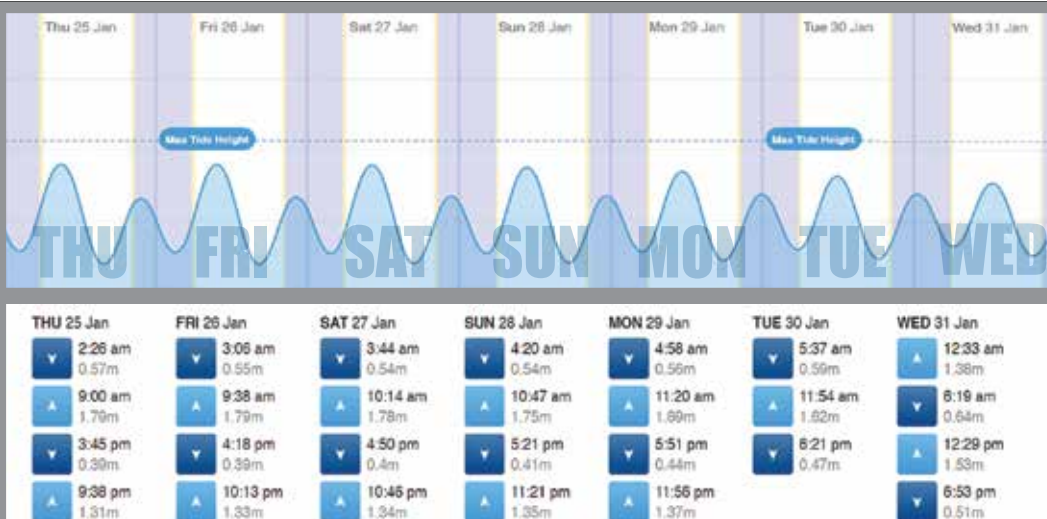
## Of The Area News

### 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

PORT STEPHENS	(high)	(low)
Nelson Bay	30min	15min
Salamander Bay	45min	30min
Soldiers Point	1hr	45min
Karuah (Karuah River)	1hr 15min	45min
Pindimar	45min	45min
Tea Gardens	1hr	45min
BROUGHTON IS.	nil	nil
CAPE HAWKE		
Forster	0 to 15min	NIL
Wollomba River (mouth)	1hr 50min	2hrs 10min
MANNING RIVER		
Based on bar at Harrington		
Harrington	NIL	15 to 30min
Taree	2hrs	2hrs 45min
Wingham	3hrs 5min	3hrs 45min
HUNTER RIVER		
Newcastle	NIL	NIL
Hexham	1hr 10min	1hr
Raymond Terrace	1hr 50min	1hr 55min
Morpeth	3hrs 10min	3hrs 30min



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# 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)**

**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)

**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+adhlhsv)

**ABC TV PLUS (22)** **6am** Children's Programs. **7.05pm** Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. **7.20** Bluey. **7.30** 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.

**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.

**SBS (3)**

**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.

**6.30** SBS World News. **7.30** **MOVIE: Top End Wedding.** (2019, Mds, 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.

**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.

**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.

**SEVEN (6)**

**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.

**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.  
**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.

**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.

**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.

**NBN (8)**

**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.

**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)

**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.

**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.

**TEN (5)**

**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.

**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)

**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.

**NITV (34)** **6am** Morning Programs. **8.30** Garma Bunggul 2023. **9.30** Dance Rites 2023. **11.00** Elder In Residence Oration 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.

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.



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MONDAY, January 29

Table with 5 columns: ABCTV (2), SBS (3), SEVEN (6), NBN (8), TEN (5). Contains program listings for Monday, January 29, including categories like 6.00 News, 7.00 ABC News, etc.

TUESDAY, January 30

Table with 5 columns: ABCTV (2), SBS (3), SEVEN (6), NBN (8), TEN (5). Contains program listings for Tuesday, January 30, including categories like 6.00 News, 7.00 ABC News, etc.

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

Locations where you can find Port S

- Anna Bay Tavern, Nelson Bay Bowling Club, Dolphin Watch Cafe, Friendly Grocer, Foodworks Salamander Bay, etc.

WEDNESDAY, January 31

Table with 5 columns: ABCTV (2), SBS (3), SEVEN (6), NBN (8), TEN (5). Each column contains a list of TV programs and their start times for Wednesday, January 31.

THURSDAY, February 1

Table with 5 columns: ABCTV (2), SBS (3), SEVEN (6), NBN (8), TEN (5). Each column contains a list of TV programs and their start times for Thursday, February 1.

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

Port Stephens News Of The Area

Taylor's Beach Industrial Cafe
Seaham General Store
Opal Aged Care
Red Eye Café Raymond Terrace
Angeez Takeaway Raymond Terrace
Pet Parlour Raymond Terrace
Terrace Central Plaza Post Office
Newsagent Terrace Central Plaza

Woolworths Terrace Central Plaza
MarketPlace Woolworths
Raymond Terrace Shell
Twin Rivers Workwear & Uniforms
Raymond Terrace Library
Lakeside Newsagent
R&R Property
Foodworks Lakeside

Lakeside Leisure Centre
Muree Golf Club
Saxby's Bakery Salt Ash
Tanilba Bay Nursing Home
Tanilba Bay Retirement Units
Coles Tanilba Bay
Edeavour Servo Tanilba Bay
Tanilba Newsagent

Post Office Tanilba Bay
Blue Marine Services
Chemist Lemon Tree
Club Lemon Tree
Tilligerry RSL
Tilligerry Real Estate
Colley Medowie
7-Eleven Medowie

Medowie Newsagent
Medowie Pharmacy
Woolworths Medowie
Medowie Social
BP Servo Medowie
Pacific Dunes Golf Club
Metro Servo (Airport Side)
Metro Servo (Lavis Lane)

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# Priceless Pearls



□ Karuah Pearls coach Aunty Pearl Manton with her all conquering Under 12s premiership-winning netballers. (L-R) Mia Johnson, Isabella Sellick, Bella Dickson, Matilda Blundell, Isla Johnson, (front) Grace Charbel, Micah Aro and Maalaa McLennan. Absent was Emma Anderson



By Chris KARAS

**WHEN** netball educator Pearl Manton formed the Karuah Pearls Netball Club three years ago, she identified genuine potential in her band of fresh-faced rookies.

Participating in the Net Set Go program, the energetic ten-year-olds demonstrated their natural skills on the netball court in a sign of things to come.

So impressed was 'Aunty Pearl' that she fielded an Under 11s team in the Port Stephens Netball Association competition the following season, with encouraging results.

The side developed into a competitive combination and reached the Grand Final where they were pipped by three goals in an entertaining

duel with Medowie.

A delighted Pearl reaped the rewards last year when she guided the girls to an undefeated premiership in the Under 12s division, unearthing a host of top prospects.

The well-drilled Karuah juniors blitzed the Dungog Dazzlers 48-9 in the title decider to cap a memorable campaign, with Aunty Pearl saluting the team's rapid progress.

"As coach it was about building self-esteem and team work as a base before focusing on the netball skills," Pearl, a Karuah Public School Aboriginal Education Officer, told News Of The Area.

"They have grown in confidence with each game and play so well as a unit," Pearl revealed.

Five of the girls - outstanding goal attack Maalaa McLennan and goal keeper/shooters Matilda Blundell and Mia Johnson (11yrs Development), along with talented defender Isla Johnson and classy centre/wing attack Bella

CONTINUED Page 20

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