

MidCoast Council
Updates

Meet Local Legend
Jack Thomas

Star
Pet



The Forster Tuncurry



FREE

Your local independent community newspaper distributed fortnightly to
Hallidays Point, Black Head, Tallwoods Village, Tuncurry, Forster
Pacific Palms, Charlotte Bay, Smiths Lake, Coomba Park, Bungwahl and Seal Rocks.

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Owned and Loved by Locals

Circulation 6000

NO.13

Fire at Seal Rocks January 2021



The Seal Rocks fire was started by a lightning strike and crews from National Parks and the RFS worked for a number of days to contain the fire between Seal Rocks Road and Smiths lake. The Fires Near Me website designated it at Horse Point Road Bungwahl with an area of 1256 hectares on January the 17th 2021.

Ian Peden

Photo by Allan Dunn. See page 3 for more photos.

Support 'the voice' of your local community and an essential service
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Visit greatlakesfm.org.au or come in and see us at 16 Douglas Ave, Tuncurry.



GREAT LAKES FM 101.5
Playing the greatest music ever made

Your local community radio station since 1986

The Forster Tuncurry

We currently distribute 6,000 FREE copies a fortnight from Hallidays Point to Seal Rocks. A FREE digital flipbook is available at: www.theforstertuncurry.com.au

Our commitment is to provide a newspaper that is factual, informative, and full of local stories and community news to share. We are here to promote and support our amazing local volunteers, community groups, sporting groups, schools, events and businesses.

Submissions: www.theforstertuncurry.com.au Golden on 1300 766 713.
Email: info@theforstertuncurry.com.au
Post: PO Box 4228, Forster Shopping Village NSW 2428
Editor: Mary Yule Phone: 0413410492
Business Hours: 9:30 - 5pm (Monday - Friday)
Advertising & Classifieds: Please see our Advertising and Classifieds page on our website.
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We acknowledge the Worimi People, the traditional custodians of the land, waterways and sky of the Worimi Nation where this newspaper is published. With great respect we acknowledge their Elders, past, present and future.

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Welcome to your 13th TFT



By the time this newspaper hits the shelves all school students will be happily back at school ready for the new year.

On the left is one of Coomba Aquatic Centre's sailing boats. See page 13 for more photos from a recent beautiful Sunday morning of sailing.

Out of nowhere we suddenly received 4 letters/poetry responses to the Editor for this edition. Great to see.

Thank you to Vanda Gooley and Roberta Pearce for their fantastic expertise behind the scenes.

Thanks you also to cartoonist Alan Moir who continues to provide this newspaper with his amazing cartoons.

The next edition deadline is 5pm Wednesday the 10th of Feb, prior to distribution Wednesday & Thursday the 17th & 18th of Feb.

We welcome your stories and letters.
 All submissions: www.theforstertuncurry.com.au

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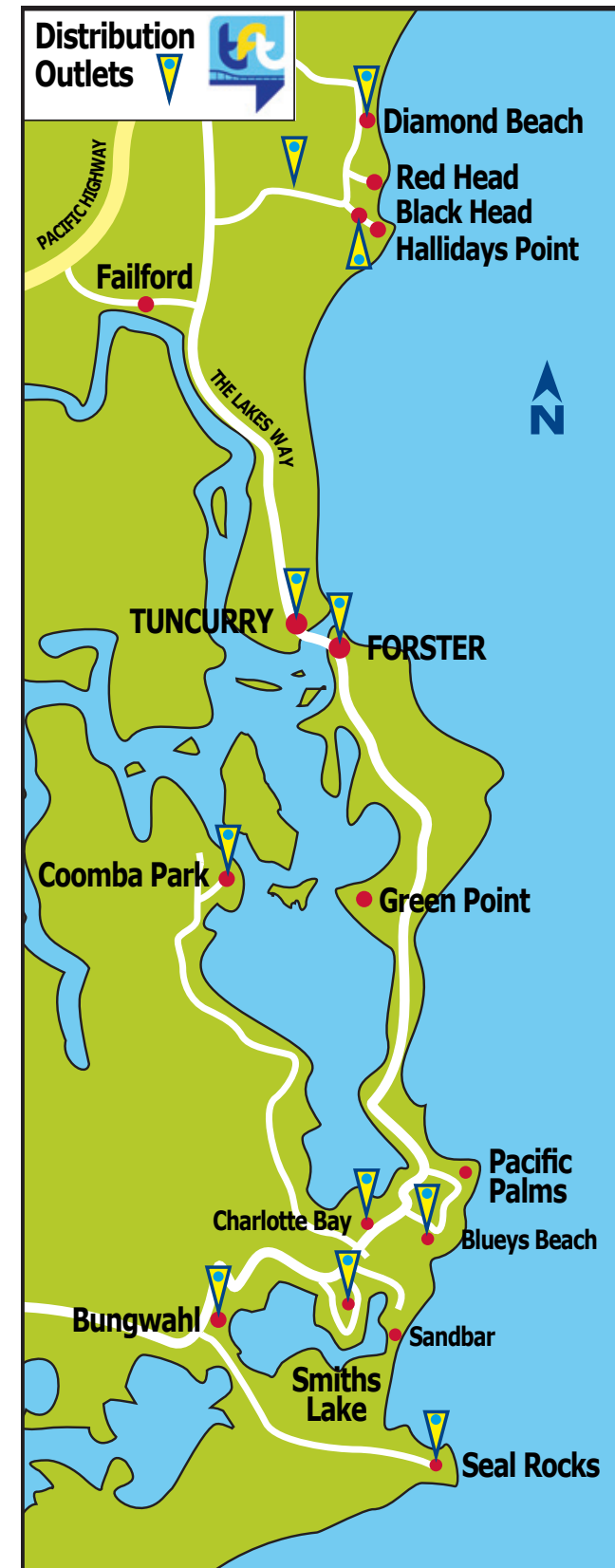
Prices for ongoing ads (min 8 editions)

One 32nd	\$35
One sixteenth	\$60
One eighth	\$120
One quarter	\$235
Half page	\$485
Full page	\$780

Enquiries: 0413410492 or info@theforstertuncurry.com.au



Meet Jack, Dee and Tim from Woolies in Tuncurry. One of the many places where you can pick up your free copy of the TFT newspaper.



The Forster Tuncurry is available from Hallidays Point to Seal Rocks.

We encourage you to leave your car behind and walk to your nearest pick up place for your FREE local community newspaper.

Hallidays Point
 Foodworks Hallidays Point
 Diamond Beach Takeaway
 Tallwoods Country Club

Tuncurry
 Oasis Service Station
 Woolworths
 TSG Stop n Go
 Access Fuels Service Station
 Tully's Tuncurry News
 Thoughtful Things on Manning

Forster
 Beach Bums Café Main Beach
 Tulls News on Wharf St
 Forster Information Centre
 Little Mart on Little St
 Pearl Energy Service Station
 Farmers Patch on Lake St
 Great Lakes YMCA
 Forster Bowling Club
 Plunge Café on Boundary St
 Tradies Takeaway on Kularoo
 Coles Service Station
 MidCoast Library
 Coles
 Woolworths
 Stocklands Customer Care
 Forster Keys Mini Mart

Pacific Palms
 Blueys Supamart
 Kemball Café
Charlotte Bay
 Metro Petroleum
 Foodworks Charlotte Bay

Smiths Lake
 Smiths Lake Friendly Grocer

Coomba Park
 Pollards General store

Bungwahl
 Bungwahl Fuel & Liquor

Seal Rocks
 Seal Rocks General Store

Flags raised on Australia Day

The Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast normally have a flag raising ceremony at Pilot Hill on Australia Day. This year due to Covid, only four members of the Rotary Club raised the Australian, NSW and Aboriginal flags at 7am on Australia Day at Pilot Hill Forster.

Our Book Fair (early in January) was a great success.

Clive Davies
 Community Service Director at Rotary Club of Lower MidCoast.



One to tell the grandkids



the ski's tail as teeth marks could be seen on top and below Dan's ski.

It doesn't take much to tip over these long and very narrow skis, designed to glide at high speeds over the water.

"My main worry was if my boat sank, I would be left floating in the ocean and not knowing where the shark was as it didn't resurface," said Dan.

While paddling back to Lizzy both men were fearful that his ski would sink. If this had happened Dan would have had no alternative but to swim the whole way back into shore at Blueys Beach with Shane watching as no more than one person can fit on a single ski. As it was, they later found 5-10 litres of water in his ski that had seeped through the small holes from the shark bite. Any deeper and the ski would have sunk straight away.

Dan and Shane think it was a juvenile Great White by the size of the teeth arch and the fact that these young sharks can be very aggressive and attack anything when sourcing food. The shock at the time was all the more because they were travelling quite fast and the shark was still able to bite the ski's tail.

Dan has been paddling for about 15 years and sees this encounter a very unusual thing to happen. He said the young shark obviously bit the ski and realized that it wasn't something to eat. He says they never even saw the shark and that it probably just kept going and didn't hang around. Dan said it did take him a day or two to get over the shock, but he feels fine about it now. Four days after this incident these mates were back paddling in the same area.

Mary Yule

Fire at Seal Rocks

Continued from page 1.

Right: Seal Rocks fire with Charlotte Bay shops in the foreground.

Below: Seal Rocks fire from Wallis Lake.

Photos by Allan Dunn.

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fire-near-me



Star Volunteer



Name: Robyn O'Meara
Organisation: Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry
What does this organization do in our community?

Mainly we are available if anyone gets into trouble on the water 24/7. We provide a local 'log on tracing service' so recreational people, going out to fish, can log on with us to record how many are on board and what time they expect to be back. Then, if not back on time, we get an indication to chase up and check that all is okay. We send out rescue if need be. Also, for any yachts, cruisers or vessels going past (transiting the coast) they can report into us or any other local bases.

A large element of what we do is fundraising. Our main support is the Tuncurry Market held every month. We also do raffles.

What is your role?
 I'm a radio operator. It involves six months of training to learn the navigational and communication skills for the radio. I record and enter key data.

What is the best part of the job?
 The people I work with, and the excitement of being a help in the community, also the challenge of handling rescue and assist.

Some people may not know that we are all volunteers and put in a lot of hours. It's a lovely crowd and a lovely place to work. There is always someone there to jump in where needed. Our rescue boat crew are on a 24-hour roster and may need to work in rough water. Some even do the radio shifts and boat rescue.

Boaters can join our Radio Club by ringing the Base number on 65545458. Then it is easy for them to log on and off. By joining the Radio Club people know we can watch them and jump in to help if needed. We also monitor marine radios on VHF channel 16 and 27mhz 88.

Do you know an amazing Local Volunteer? Please send a high resolution photo and answers to www.theforstertuncurry.com.au

Rhyme and Storytime returns to our libraries

MidCoast Council's Libraries team can't wait to get back into regular programming in 2021, with the return of some of their most loved regular events.

Face-to-face early literacy programs will return to Libraries in February after programs were suspended last year due to COVID-19.

Families across the region will once again be able to enjoy songs, rhymes, stories and movement at Baby Rhyme Time for babies aged 0-24months and Storytime for children aged 2-5yrs.

Since COVID restrictions came into force in March 2020, the libraries team was forced to innovate and take all programming online, including offering weekly virtual storytime sessions.

"Being able to bring families back into the library for the regular early literacy programs is very exciting and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back," said Chris Jones, Manager of MidCoast Council Libraries.

"These programs are so important and help

establish a love for the library from an early age, so we're all so pleased to have them running in their original format again."

Families that would like to attend any of the libraries' early literacy programs will need to book for each session through the library website.

For more information on locations, session days and times, visit www.midcoastlibraries.com.au



Early offers of paid work for Taree Uni Students



EARLY OFFERS OF PAID WORK FOR BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, EDUCATION STUDENTS

Taree Universities Campus (TUC) is receiving early offers of paid work for students of Business, Accounting and Education degrees. TUC CEO Donna Ballard said casual and ongoing employment offers were being made by local businesses and sporting clubs, even before students had finished enrolling.

"This is a very exciting development for the Taree Universities Campus and for our enrolling students," Mrs Ballard said.

"We have had approaches from a local accountancy firm seeking potential employees who are studying Accounting and from a sporting club keen to offer casual employment to Education and Business students to undertake administrative and marketing tasks.

"The Taree Universities Campus is all about matching students and graduates with local workplaces to meet skills shortages.

"So we are strongly encouraging school leavers and mature aged students interested in Business and Accounting to get in touch with us, start some units of study in 2021 and be recommended for paid

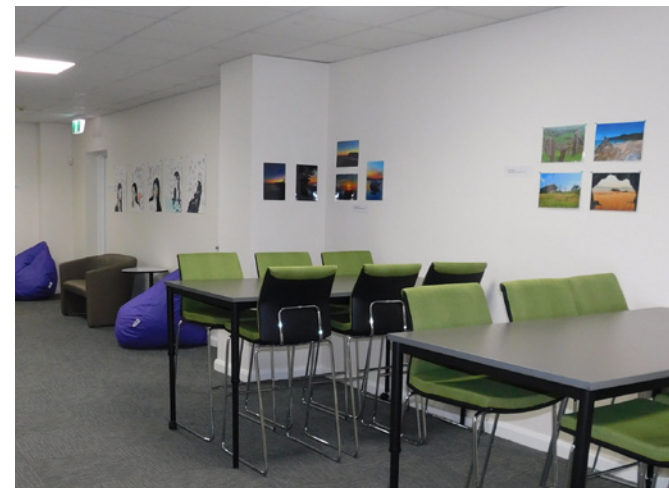
work." As one of the region's largest employers, MidCoast Council resolved at its December 2020 Council Meeting to throw its support behind Taree Universities Campus, announcing a student scholarship program for 2021.

General Manager Adrian Panuccio said Council would keep a close eye on graduates of the Taree Universities Campus as potential applicants for staff vacancies.

"Council is delighted to be supporting Taree Universities Campus in its vision to educate and upskill the community, to help fill local skill gaps and grow our region's economy."

Details of the MidCoast Council scholarship program and how to apply will be outlined in coming weeks.

www.tareeuni.org.au



Ready to study Uni in Taree?

We are offering support for a range of degrees covering:

- Nursing, Arts & Education
- Business, Accounting, Marketing & HR
- Agribusiness, Agricultural Science & Rural Science

Want to go further close to home?

- Check out our supported courses at tareeuni.org.au
- Visit the Campus at 1 Pulteney Street, Taree or
- Book an appointment with our Campus Coordinator on 1300 169 990

Beauty emerges from waste



Above: Stan Beldon with his sculpture Dragonfly at the Tuncurry Resource Centre.

Kinetic sculptures made from waste metal

Stan Beldon's sculptures are eye catching

and are often photographed by surprised visitors who are dropping off their rubbish at the Tuncurry Resource Centre. His large Dragonfly stands tall near the entrance,

blades of an old push mower in its tail and both sculptures sit on car bearings that help them to turn in any wind.

swiveling and flapping its wings with the wind's ever changing direction. Eye'll Be Watching You is a giant metal eyeball that turns around to look at what everyone is doing. It's planted behind the Green Shop amongst other interesting rusty artifacts.

Both Stan's sculptures are created from 100% recycled metal. Up close you can see that the Dragonfly has eyes made from stainless steel woks beaten into shape, its wing membranes are from corrugated kitchen sinks, while an old black pot, a lampshade and a fry pan make up the tail. Not only was it an aesthetically challenge to build but an engineering one too.

"I first made a small prototype of Dragonfly and it worked well. Then I got ambitious," explained Stan. Old bike cranks pivot the wings that sit above big springs, and its body is deliberately exposed to see the mechanics inside that allow its movement. Stan's Eye sculpture contains the blades of an old push mower in its tail and both sculptures sit on car bearings that help them to turn in any wind.

The reasoning behind Stan's sculptures is an awareness that we live in a consumable and often very wasteful society, with huge consequences to the environment. His sculptures are showing us that our old resources are still valuable and that we can buy less by using what we have.

Stan has only started creating sculptures later in life. After 30 odd years of working on computers he couldn't wait for retirement to try sculpting. He dabbled with many materials before deciding that metal was for him. He quickly worked out that to access lots of old metal he needed a good source. Three years ago, he approached the people at the Tuncurry Resource Centre and became a regular volunteer. Problem solved. Stan thinks the Centre is a great place and knows many of the other volunteers and staff who are happily employed here. His two sculptures are a proud Thank You to the Centre.

Mary Yule

Below: Stan with his 'Eye'll be watching you.'



Dr David Gillespie MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE

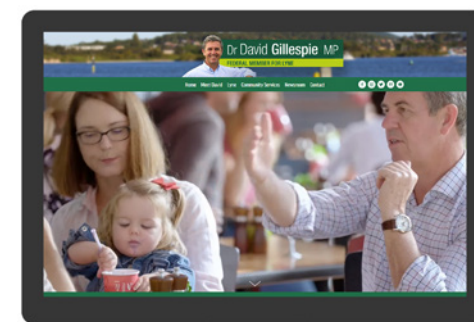


VOLUNTEER GROUPS TO BENEFIT FROM STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUNDING

I am urging Community and Volunteer Groups to apply for their share of \$150,000 in funding under the **Stronger Communities Programme**. 20 local community infrastructure projects across the region will be funded with grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000.

The last round of the programme was hugely popular and saw funding for groups including, Twin Towns Tennis Club, Diamond Beach & Redhead Rural Fire Brigade and Nabiac Neighbourhood Centre. The benefits of these projects go far beyond the here and now, giving a huge boost to rural and regional areas that often rely heavily on community facilities.

Organisations can lodge an expression of interest through my website at: www.davidgillespie.com.au/stronger-communities-program on or before Sunday 14th February 2021. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Josh in my office on 6586 4462.



NEW WEBSITE DELIVERS ADDITIONAL SERVICES

I recently launched a new look website to help keep you updated on local and national issues. The website uses the same address as before – www.davidgillespie.com.au – but has been completely redesigned. The website offers easier navigation while a new section providing a range of community services that were previously not available online, such as Congratulatory Message requests.

One new feature is the 'Gillespie Grant Finder' which provides a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities available to you to all local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals. This free service means you will never miss a grant opportunity again, once you register you will receive email alerts for new grants, you can also save your favourites and manage your funding application process. I am pleased to partner with GrantGuru to provide you with this service.

The website enables residents across the Lyne electorate which spans 16,099sq km to keep in-touch and informed of my activities and speeches in Canberra and also nominate a local project that is of importance. My Newsroom provides the Latest News and Updates as well as speeches from Canberra and across the region.

Dr David Gillespie MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE

He Listens. He Cares. He Delivers.

Authorised by Dr David Gillespie MP, Corner of High and Hastings Streets, Wauchope, NSW 2446.

THE NATIONALS

for Regional Australia

Wauchope Office

☎ 02 6586 4462

📍 Corner of High and Hastings Streets, Wauchope, NSW 2446

📧 david.gillespie.mp@aph.gov.au

Taree Office

☎ 02 6557 8910

📍 144 Victoria Street, Taree, NSW 2430

🌐 [DavidGillespieMP](http://DavidGillespieMP.com)

📷 [david.gillespie.mp](https://www.facebook.com/david.gillespie.mp)

📺 [davegillespiemp](https://www.youtube.com/davegillespiemp)

Young Local



Dancing. It's a classic.

Favourite hobby: I love swimming and prefer the beach because the waves are so fun, and they just take you...

Who inspires you? My mum because she has her own business and gets out there every day. She's in charge and works so hard. She is in a land moving construction business and tells the men what to do. She doesn't look the part and wears a pink high vis jacket, pearls, full make up and nails, but she so belongs there!

Cath (Day Spa owner) also inspires me. She has her own business while raising a family and works full time. She is so good at managing and is on top of it all. She knows the answers for everyone.

What could we do better in our local area? I see a lot of littering. There can be so much rubbish and it seems people don't care. This is such a beautiful place and it's sad to see.

Any ideas on what we could do? We should be in charge of cleaning up our own areas regularly. If everyone thinks someone else will do it, it won't happen. I think young people should pick up too. I see older people doing it and don't see the younger people.

Name: Amy Curtain
Study/Occupation: Second year apprentice at Aaqua Marine Day Spa.
Favourite place to visit here? I love Beach Bums and I'm always there.
Favourite movie: My mum put me onto Dirty

What do you want to get up to in the future?

I want to be more involved in my church and in the community. I see a lady down at the pool teaching aerobics. She does it for free. I want to do things like that. Help people and volunteer in my community.

If you are 21 years or under and would like to feature in Young Local please submit a high resolution photo and answers to www.theforstertuncurry.com.au Submissions are published when space permits.

Not too late to apply for bushfire rate relief

Following an announcement last year that Service NSW Rural Rate Relief for bushfire impacted properties would continue for a further six months, there's more good news for local bushfire affected residents with the State Government announcing an extension on the application period for the rate relief policy.

Property owners now have until 17 February to submit their applications to Council for the additional six months of rate relief.

While MidCoast Council has already received over 100 applications, it's anticipated there will be up to 2000 landholders who are eligible to receive the rates relief.

Council is urging all locals who were impacted by the fires to assess their eligibility using the guidance questions provided by the State Government and should they answer yes to all of the questions, submit their application as soon as possible.

The guidance questions are:

1. Is it a rural property?
2. Did the affected property have a Council approved dwelling on it? (e.g. house, machinery shed, hay shed)
3. Was 75% or more of the property impacted by the fire?
4. Was most of the infrastructure lost? (e.g. most of the fencing, water tanks, irrigation, machinery)

The NSW Government will pay council rates notices for eligible customers for Quarter 1 (July - September) and Quarter 2 (October - November) this financial year (2020/21). This includes the land rates component and fixed service charges such as waste, where the amount is included on the council rates notice only.

This Council rate relief for Q1 and Q2 is in addition to the rate relief previously provided to land owners whose houses were destroyed

or damaged beyond repair.

Council needs to submit their list of identified properties to the State Government by 18th February so all applications must be submitted to MidCoast Council by COB 17 February 2021.

If you or someone you know could be eligible, consider the guidance questions and complete the form on Council's website at <https://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Council/Emergencies-on-the-MidCoast/Recovery-from-bushfire-events>.

You can also apply in person at any of Council's Customer Service points. If applying in person you will need to have a copy of your rates notice and evidence of infrastructure lost.

Evidence can include: Photos, satellite imagery, insurance claims, a letter from a clean-up agency or Building impact assessments, a statutory declaration identifying the damage and signed by a Justice of the Peace,



confirmation of receipt of the Red Cross Re-establishment Grant or the Rural Assistance Authority Special Disaster Grant.

For any further enquiries and support contact Council's Bushfire Recovery Team on 7955 7543 or email recovery@midcoast.nsw.gov.au

A local's guide to Barrington Coast

MidCoast Council has unveiled a brand new tourism website for the Barrington Coast region, aiming to inspire, showcase and facilitate the immersive experiences the region has to offer.

The new website is another tool for Council's Destination Management team to increase visitor length of stay, dispersal of visitors and to drive preferences for the Barrington Coast within source markets.

Growth Economic Development and Tourism Manager Deb Tuckerman said the website is a critical asset to market the destination.

"Destination websites play a crucial role in helping visitors not only plan their holidays, but as a source of information once they're in the region," said Deb.

"The key is delivering information about the Barrington Coast and its experiences, people



and businesses in an exciting and easily digestible format to make Barrington Coast the tourist's destination of choice."

The website was softly launched in mid-October with promotion of the site via social

media and other online avenues now in full swing.

A website Co-Design workshop was held with the tourism business operators to identify what the industry wanted out of a tourism website. Feedback included having an experience-led, visually impressive site that included the voice of locals.

"Operators also supported having local recommendations on the site," explained Deb.

"From our research we know that our visitors increasingly want to get tips and recommendations from the local 'experts' in the region."

"Writing website articles or Explore Guides written by locals provides authenticity to the site content and lets our visitors see what it's like to live like a local. It also allows us to move away from the traditional directory based

website into more of an editorial feel, a format we know resonates with our target audiences."

'Explore Guides' covers everything from what to do in winter in the Barrington Coast, through to the best spots to snorkel, showcasing locals' personal experiences in an inviting way to provide information and informing audiences about all the region has to offer. Locals such as Luke Austin of Great Lakes Tackle and Helen Black of Coastal Brewing Company were some of the first to submit their own Explore Guides on fishing in the region and how to experience the best in local produce.

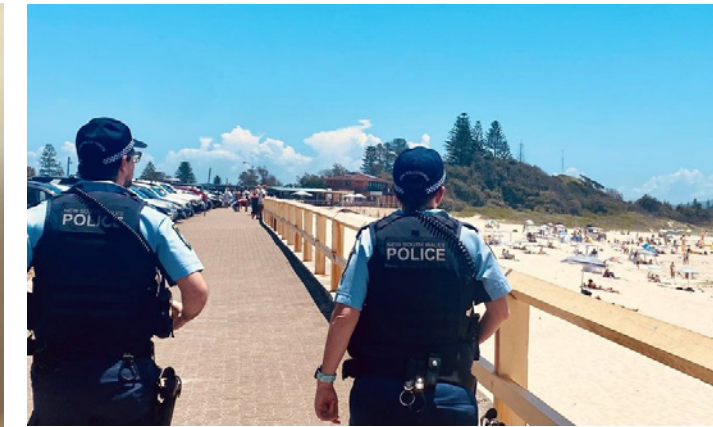
Locals, business owners and regular visitors are encouraged to submit their own Explore Guides for the website.

Visit www.barringtoncoast.com.au/information/submit-an-explore-guide for more information.

Manning - Great Lakes Police District



We've been getting some great feedback about our trail bike patrols. The trail bike patrols are a part of operation Summer Safe Northern where Police are patrolling areas where local people and tourists are spending time, to ensure their safety and compliance with the current health restrictions. Ordinarily, motorcycles cannot be used on our beaches, however NSW



Police are exempted from this legislation so we can continue to access more remote places including beaches, bushland and National Parks around the Manning/Great Lakes area, to keep the community safe.

Manning/Great Lakes Police were out and about in the Sand Bar, Smiths Lake and

Seal Rocks areas [above left], keeping the community up to date about the fire at Bungwhal on the 17th of July.

We received this photograph [above right] of our officers with a young man (and his sister) who hopes to be a police officer when he grows up. If you see us, give us a wave.

Brommy's Community Update



Businesses can now register to participate in the \$100 Dine and Discover vouchers program. I'm encouraging all eligible businesses from cafes to museums, cinemas and more across Myall Lakes to complete registration now so when vouchers are rolled out in March they can hit the ground running.

To qualify for the program businesses must have an active ABN and be registered for GST, be registered as COVID Safe and operate in one of the eligible industries including but not limited to cafes, restaurants, adventure activities, cinemas and performing arts.

Once registered on the NSW Government website, businesses will receive a step by step guide on how to get ready, ensuring they are properly equipped when the vouchers become available.

The voucher program was first announced in the 2020/21 budget and will create a much needed economic boost for local dining, arts and tourism businesses across the state, which have been impacted by COVID-19. Every NSW resident aged 18 and over will be eligible to receive four \$25 dine and discover vouchers through the Service NSW app in a bid to encourage NSW residents to get out and about safely.

Star Business



Above: Bayley, Paul, Vicki and Lucy.

Name: Vicki Johnston - Head Chef

Business: On The Lake Bistro at Coomba Aquatic Club

What is the best part of your job?

Seeing satisfied customers enjoy a happy dining experience. Creating a menu that suits and has something for everyone. Hearing the compliments too. They just enjoy the food and say things like, "The steaks were nice and tender" and that it was a good meal for the family.

It's fantastic to walk into a clean new facility with stunning views. It feels like you are on

the lake. It's got a friendly atmosphere to work in.

What can you tell us about your staff?

We've got staff who are friendly and relaxed when it's a busy time. We have junior staff, senior staff and cooks. We are providing training and experience for the junior hands. There's

a lot of food preparation. They're doing a great job. All our staff are from Coomba Park so it is easy for them to get here.

What would you like your customers to know? That I'm excited to watch the facilities of the Coomba Aquatic Club grow and look forward to continued improvements in the bistro. I'm proud to be part of the team. This bistro only launched about seven weeks ago.

People can enjoy coming over by boat. It's only 10 minutes for some. They can moor on the new jetty and join us.

Any tips for other local businesses?

Use fresh, quality ingredients and provide affordable family prices.

Do you know a great local business to feature here? Please submit their business name and a brief description to: www.theforstertuncurry.com.au

We will contact them and publish when space permits.

Star Business is a free promotion of goodwill for local businesses that either regularly supports our community and/or local environment, or provides a unique service or product to this area.

Your money survival guide for the year ahead

The reset we all desperately hoped for at the stroke of midnight on December 31 - you know, where everything goes back to normal - didn't happen. So far, 2021 has been more of the same - but not when it comes to money. Here's what you need to know to survive and thrive.

Cash and giveaways

There are still economic stimulus payments flowing from the federal government. The coronavirus supplement was cut again from \$250 to \$150 on January 1, payable until the end of March 31. The silver lining is another economic support payment of \$250 in March - if you are receiving an eligible payment or are on a concession card on February 26.

There have been cuts to JobKeeper, too, assuming your employer meets the decline-in-turnover test. From January 4 the now two-tiered rate has become \$650 for part-time employees (down from \$750) and \$1000 for full-timers (down from \$1200). The plan is to end this on March 28.

Borrowing traps

A widespread relaxation of lending rules which the government wants to introduce this year has hit a roadblock in Parliament but may still be on the table. For you, that means 'borrower beware' ... stress test any potential loan amount to make sure no more than one-third of your salary covers loan repayments.

If you are one of the many people refinancing their mortgages, there are a couple of prevalent pricing ploys. Many of the cheap interest rates you see advertised are for fixed rates only and often roll over to an inflated variable rate at the end of the term.

If you are building or renovating a home, the HomeBuilder program for grants up to \$25,000 has been extended to March 31, 2021.

Health insurance breaks

Many health insurers were great at pausing premiums for people in financial hardship. If you are still struggling, just ask. However, while the annual April price increase was delayed until October last year (it was 2.92 per cent), there will be another 2.74 per cent rise this April.

Also, in recognition that COVID-19 has created high youth unemployment and people are living at home longer, adult children can now stay under their parents' policies until age 31 (previously 25).

Help always at hand

If you do not have an emergency fund of cash stockpiled and you run into financial trouble, there is assistance you can access.

First, get an income statement from Centrelink and take it to a community provider, such as St Vincent de Paul or the Salvation Army, which could help you to pay food, fuel or medical expenses.

Second, if you have a concession card, tell your service providers in case they will grant you a discount. These might extend to council rates on your home, bulk-billed doctor trips, subsidised pharmaceuticals or cheaper public transport.

A network of financial counsellors can point you in the right direction. Call the National Debt Helpline on 1800 007 007.

Nicole Pedersen-McKinnon

Sydney Morning Herald



Stephen Bromhead MP

Delivering for Myall Lakes

Upgrading and Maintaining Infrastructure

- \$53,000 to create a car park on the Coomba Park Foreshore Reserve.
- \$24,684 to control weeds on Crown land in the MidCoast Council LGA
- \$15 000 to install exercise equipment at Forster Keys

Supporting Our Local Community

- \$6990 Great Lakes Cricket club for a new pitch mower
- \$5000 for an outdoor fitness track at Holy Name Forster
- \$8709 to replace the scoreboard Forster Tuncurry Rugby League Football Club
- Two Bert Evans scholarships valued at \$15000 each across three years.
- \$2500 grant for Forster Community Kitchen to purchase a commercial refrigerator
- 2 Domestic Violence case managers for Great Lakes Women's Shelter

myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au [02 6555 4099](tel:0265554099) stephenbromhead.com.au

Authorised by Stephen Bromhead MP, 1-9 Manning Street, Tuncurry NSW 2428 Produced using Parliamentary Entitlements January 2020

The Beach Dance along the East Coast

Our beaches are dynamic systems fed by sand issuing from rivers such as the Hawkesbury and Hunter. On the east coast this sand is then moved very slowly northward from beach to beach (called longshore drift). The rate of movement is affected by storms and the amount of sand that is available on the foreshore on each successive beach.

Our development and use of beaches for recreation, housing development, mining and port development have all led to unintended consequences. Each time a dune system is disturbed some of the beach sand can be blown inland and so it is lost from the longshore system that should feed the next beach to the north. Instead, that beach is 'starved'.

Recently, increases in sea level (currently about 3mm / year) are expected to lead to a gradual retreat of exposed beaches and an increase in dune height, matching the rise in sea level. This also leads to the loss of some otherwise mobile sand.

Storms, often called east coast lows in our region, result in short term erosion because of aggressive wave shape and size. Temporary higher sea levels called 'storm surges' can be a metre above normal tide predictions and increase the likelihood of dune erosion and tidal flooding. Storms are predicted to intensify and move more slowly as the effects of

increasing temperatures are felt.

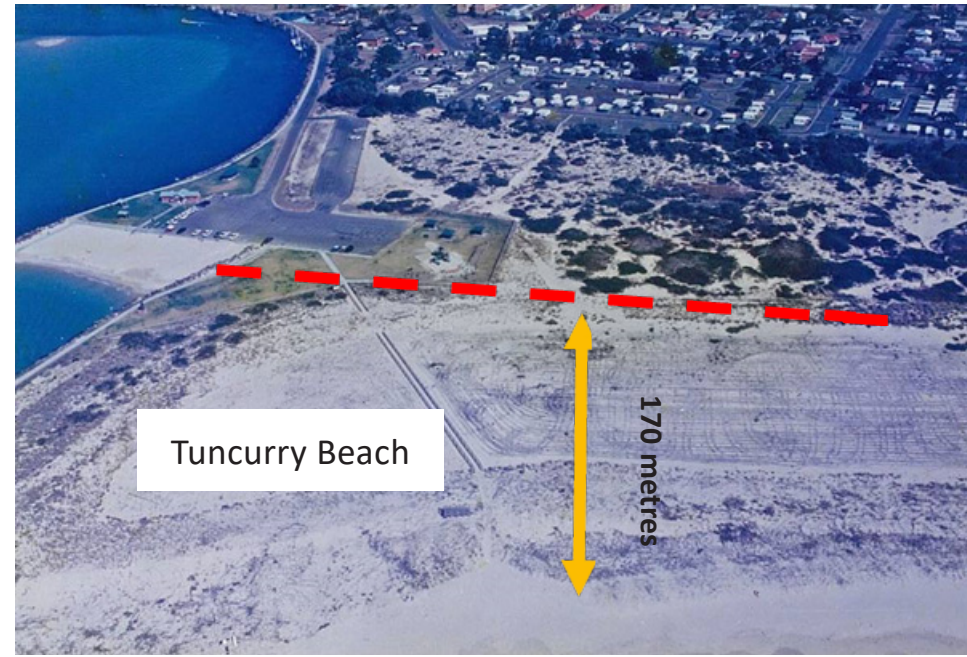
Breakwalls are a major blockage to sand movement. Tuncurry beach is a prime example. Many millions of tonnes of sand have been deposited on the northern side of the breakwall building the beach outwards by at least about 170m. Some has also been trapped on Main beach – Pilot Hill was once beach-front.

The erosion at Old Bar is an expression of the combined effects of the processes outlined above. We can only delay these effects by constructing beach defences at huge expense. Instead, we must learn to 'allow' for them. In some cases, an organised retreat may be the best solution. Certainly, no new development close to beaches and near sea level should be entertained, rather we must try to stabilise dune systems by retaining or replanting vegetation whose root systems offer some protection from storm erosion.

Janusz Haschek - BSc Dip Ed and community member of MidCoast Council's Coastal Management Committee.

For information about sea level change in the local area see the following website.

<https://www.coastalrisk.com.au/home>



Above: Looking eastly - the original coastline of the Tuncurry Rockpool and Tuncurry Beach region from about 1965. The red line indicates the coastline as it is today.

Mid Coast Regional Landcare Awards 2021 - Call for Nominations



On behalf of our local Landcare networks, Mid Coast 2 Tops Landcare Connection would like to invite members of our community to nominate someone they know for our 2021 Regional Landcare Awards. This is your opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution friends, family or colleagues may have made to natural resource management, sustainable agricultural practice or environmental awareness within our greater region.

These awards are open to all members of the community, regardless of engagement within Landcare networks, and we would like to encourage general community members to nominate someone they believe deserves recognition for their commitment to environmental stewardship. Categories include Junior Landcare, Youth Leadership, Farming, Individual, Group and Indigenous Australians.

A full list of these categories and their criteria can be found on the Mid Coast 2 Tops website, along with our nomination form.

Nominations will open February 1st until the 14th of March, with judging being undertaken throughout April. All successful nominators and nominees will be invited to share their work at our Awards ceremony in May before our champions are announced. Successful nominations will be assisted to refine their nominations, and supported throughout the Landcare NSW State Awards nominations process for the 2022 state conference.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to get in touch with your Regional Landcare Coordinator, Jessica Leck at mc2t.regionacoord@gmail.com.

www.midcoast2tops.org.au/regional-landcare-awards-2021

Fast-charging network along Australia's East Coast

Australia's National Roads and Motorists' Association (NRMA) has built 24 out of a total of 40 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations planned along the spectacular South-East Coast of Australia. The network runs from Sydney, all the way through New South Wales and the Capital territory up to the Victorian border.

The charging stations most recently added to the fast-charging network are the sites in Bega and Tenterfield. These fast-charging stations along the network allow electric vehicles to recharge in around 30 minutes (for those that can take it) or else still in under three hours.

The EV rollout has come about from a \$3 million co-funded partnership between the NSW Government and the NRMA. In June last year, the NRMA pledged a total of 10 million dollars to the network that uses Tritium's fast-charging technology. This Australian company is based just a little further up the East Coast in Brisbane but has a European base in Amsterdam as well as a US base in Torrance, California.

While Tritium technology has been installed across the globe, the company's home country of Australia has been slow on the uptake of electric vehicles. "We know one of the key reasons electric vehicle uptake has been relatively slow in Australia so far is because of 'range anxiety', so we're building this extensive network of chargers to safeguard against that happening," says Nell Payne, executive general manager of NRMA. Stations have already been installed at Sydney

Olympic Park, Jindabyne, Orange, Byron Bay, Bathurst and Narrandera.

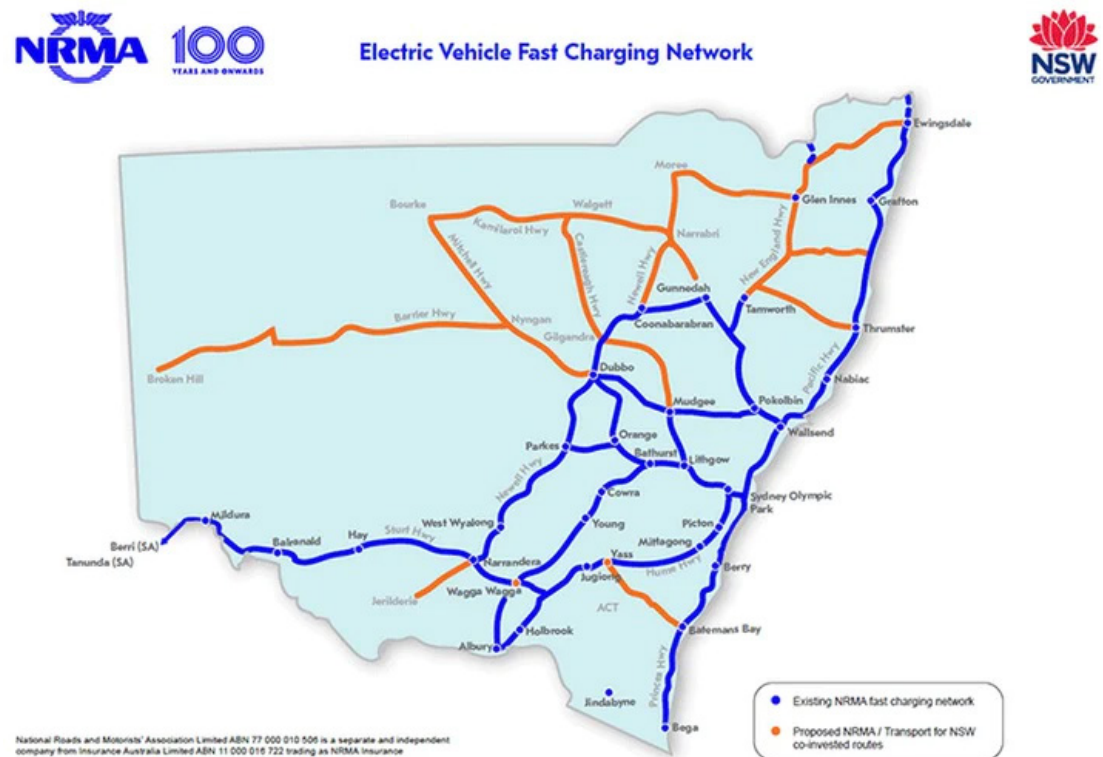
One of the most recent additions, the Bega station, should connect drivers all the way to the Victorian border. The new Tenterfield station is a major connection along the New England Highway. Other places with planned fast-charging stations are Holbrook, Lithgow, Gunnedah and Jugiong which will be rolled out over the next 2 years.

Initially, the public charging network is free of charge, but the organisation says that they will be implementing a fee for non-members in the future.

The network's stations will be using renewable energy, either generated on-site or in agreement with the NRMA energy supplier.

Carrie Hampel
carsguide.com.au
mynrma.com.au

Editor's note: In our area there are 5 charging stations - Diamond Beach Ramada Resort, Diamond Beach Seafarers, Diamond Beach Sea Horse, Forster Stockland Mall, Seal Rocks Treachery Camp



The Great Divide

The world is a better place when we stop judging and start empathising, says Jane Caro.

A friend of mine has spent a painful COVID year listening to the house next door being extensively renovated. A few weeks ago, the building was finished, and the new neighbours moved in. They are an American family. My friend was hanging washing on the line when she spotted someone in the new neighbours' backyard and decided to introduce herself. She approached the ubiquitous fence and said a friendly hello. His response was unexpected. "Are you a Trump supporter?" he asked. Taken aback, she responded "No!" "Good," he said. "I can talk to you then."

My friend is much more politically conservative than me – though Trump proved a bridge too far for her. She is religious, I am not. She sent her children to private schools, I did not. Yet we have been friends for decades and often share a glass of wine or a meal. Sure, sometimes I get irritated by a comment she makes and, no doubt, so does she about me.

But, so what? We also have a lot in common. I am glad that Australia has not yet descended to the level of division we have witnessed in the US. In fact, I am writing this on the day the US presidential election was declared for Joe Biden and there is a sense that the wind may have changed, and the new president is clearly trying to be conciliatory. Fingers crossed the détente holds.

Nevertheless, the polarisation that is dividing so much of the world is not confined to the US. It has been variously described as authoritarians v liberals, religious values v secular values, equality v freedom, conservative v progressive, even black v white or men v women. Thanks to COVID-19, we've recently seen the rise of health v economy and science v faith. They are all playing their part in our increasing tribalism.

But the contest I want to talk about is that between empathy and judgment. When I was young, one side of that equation was dominant.

Lots of things accepted without qualm in 2020 were either shocking, vigorously debated or downright illegal in the 1960s and '70s. Just think of working mothers, the rights of Indigenous Australians, safe, legal abortion, publicly subsidised contraception, same-sex marriage, surrogacy or even what was then called "living in sin".

As the balance between empathy and judgment has shifted, a willingness to imagine what it might be like to be a woman facing an unwanted pregnancy or someone attracted to the same sex has increased.

Because that's what empathy is: the difference between "You made your bed, now lie on it" and "There but for the grace of God go I".

Judging others is easier than empathising with them because it helps maintain our own illusion of safety. A smoker gets cancer? All their own fault. A woman gets raped when drunk? Well, what did she expect? A refugee gets locked up on Manus indefinitely? They should not have jumped the (mythical) queue.

But many of us have had our illusions challenged recently. A record-breaking drought, followed by apocalyptic fires, rounded off by a pandemic, to be followed by a shaky economy, the first for almost three decades, have made us wake up. Our comfortable illusion of safety has been shaken - and then some.

But anyone who has lived as long as I have knows that bad times are sometimes useful times. Can this recognition of our own fundamental vulnerability help to jolt us out of judgment into empathy? Will our experience of prolonged lockdown, especially in Victoria, for example, make us less keen to want to lock other people up either on islands or in jails?

Will the spectre of millions of Australians losing their jobs due to the COVID recession create empathy for all those on the dole? Will that make it much harder for our government to take the Newstart rate back to a punitive and judgmental \$40 a day?

Will our horror at images of burnt wildlife, particularly national emblems such as koalas and kangaroos, awaken our sense of alarm, urgency and compassion for the planet we occupy and the creatures we are meant to share it with?

Researchers have discovered that poor people tend to be more generous than wealthy ones. Nevertheless, I hope we don't all have to be brought low before we can empathise. One thing I do know for sure is that the more empathy we have in our society, the less division. And my judgment is that would be better for everyone.

Jane Caro

Photo by Hugh Stewart
Sydney Morning Herald

Plant trees in your community!



PLANETARK TOYOTA

You can apply when registering your National Tree Day event or you can donate to help us expand the program!

The National Tree Day program has seen Australian communities plant almost 26 million trees, since 1996. These

Applications for the next round of The Seeding Bank close soon on 19 February 2021. Successful applicants will receive funding to plant seedlings in their local community, like the Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation in Darwin.

trees have been supplied through fundraising and campaigns at a local level.

Financial grants are awarded directly to successful applicants to get seedlings in the ground and help restore our unique Australian landscape.

To apply, just log in and add your application to your registered National Tree Day event.

At Planet Ark, every day is Tree Day, so applications for planting events all year round are welcomed. Funding is given to projects of all sizes, so we encourage applications for both small scale planting events, and those contributing to larger environmental projects. www.treeday.planetark.org

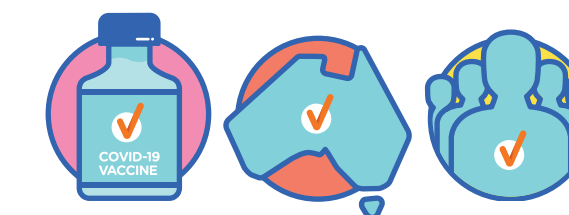
Australia's COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES.

Visit health.gov.au for the latest information.

We are working to make sure everyone in Australia has access to safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines will give us the protection to go about our everyday lives.

To keep up to date with the latest progress, and to ensure your information is reliable, visit health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Safe. Effective. Free.



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

Letters and Feedback

The 'Letters & Feedback' are best limited to 250 words. The writer's name and town will be included unless specifically requested otherwise. This newspaper intends to provide an opportunity of reply for any person/organisation involved before publishing.

Delivering the news with (Aussie) humour

The 20th January story in your paper warrants an Aussie perspective.

'Infotainment' has often been our comedians' style when reflective.

Humour mixed with biting satire on news, sport, culture and politics

Was popular when Aussie oldies went to Saturday arvos at the flicks.

Bob Dyer and Jack Davey had audiences in the palm of their hand.

They massaged humour into language everyone would understand.

Graham Kennedy and Bert Newton spruiked products and reviews

And took the mickey out of politicians to humanise the daily news.

Creyton, Chater and Fraser spearheaded The Mavis Bramston Show

Talented Bobby limb, Dawn Lake and Buster Fiddess would follow.

Paul Hogan invited USA tourists to enjoy an Aussie barbecued shrimp.

Steady Eddie lamented about a girl...."Now if only she had a limp."

Norman Gunston knocked weird media interviews out of the park.

While Wogs Out Of Work broke down cultural barriers with a lark.

Con the Fruiterer and wife Marika used humour to relate to us all.

Effie was turned on by Wayne Lovett's lusty "Chicky Babe" gall.

Jeannie Little's "Hello darlings!" was precious; we always smiled.

Akmal, Magna, Marg, Jimeoin and Ahn Do often have us beguiled.

Australian print media has now taken the cue from television stars.

Headlines increasingly use humour to soften any 'fake news' scars.

The Uni of Pennsylvania piece is for tensed-up Americans in a hurry.

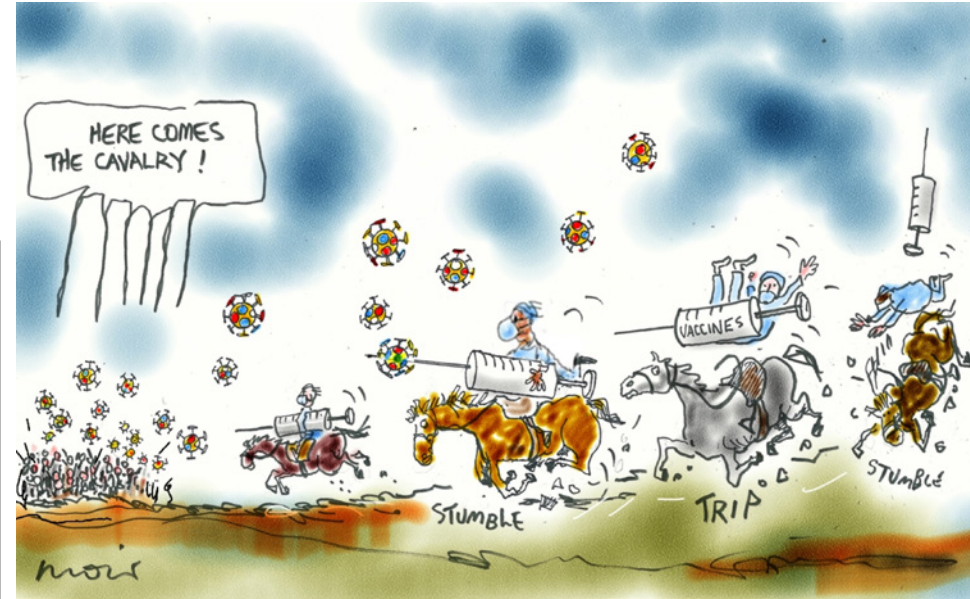
Locals are more laidback and relaxed reading The Forster Tuncurry.

John Buttling
Forster

The Postie

A recent news article on TV highlighted a situation where a postal contractor maimed a family pet as a result of delivering mail direct to the home (in lieu of a prescribed mailbox on the street) whilst negotiating the private driveway by van.

Australia Post does have a policy on delivering mail that applies to postal contractors and residents. Such an event as noted above should not have eventuated had the contractor stuck with the rules. Some residents fail to install their mailbox according to the rules and if it were not for cooperative mail contractors, I dare say the mail would not get through. Shown here [see link below] is the Australian Post policy on mailbox locations and it surprises



Moir.com.au

me that the issue of this document is not coincidental with the establishment of new premises in Australia.

The mail contractor is officially not to get out of the vehicle and should the mail not be deliverable due to size or location of the mail box the contractor is required to leave a note to that effect and deposit the mail at the nearest licensed post office for collection by the recipient at a later time.

Having seen the growth in parcel sizes and the difficulty some mail contractors have in effecting a drop we are so lucky that most contractors do oblige in attempting to ensure a safe landing. Maybe Australian Post needs to issue the details to new homeowners to ensure the mail gets through safely, and on time, and new mailboxes are correctly located.

G. Reid

Smiths Lake

www.auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost/corp/media/documents/Appendix-02.pdf

Wishing Tree Appeal

On behalf of the entire Kmart team, and alongside our founding partner The Salvation Army, we would like to extend our gratitude and sincere thanks to all who contributed to the 33rd Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

The 2020 Appeal has collected an amazing 274,000 gifts across both Australia and New Zealand and just under \$300,000 in cash contributions! This result is an increase from our last few years which highlights the incredible kindness and generosity shown by our community. In 2020 the Appeal was launched earlier than ever before as it was expected to be needed more than any other year in its 33-year history, with many in the community still coping with the Australian bushfires and the impacts of the global pandemic.

With big hearts, together we strive to assist those in need.

Yours sincerely, John Gualtieri Director of Retail, Kmart Australia and New Zealand.

Out and About

Sailing for all ages at the Coomba Aquatic Centre - 2nd Sunday of the month. Please check www.coombaaquatic.club



Improved access to McBrides Beach in Booti Booti National Park



Visitors can now enjoy a short stroll to the remote and beautiful McBrides Beach in Booti Booti National Park with the completion of a new walking track.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Hunter Central Coast A/Director Anthony Signor said the ever-popular McBrides Beach now has safe pedestrian access from the carpark on Cape Hawke Drive down to the beach.

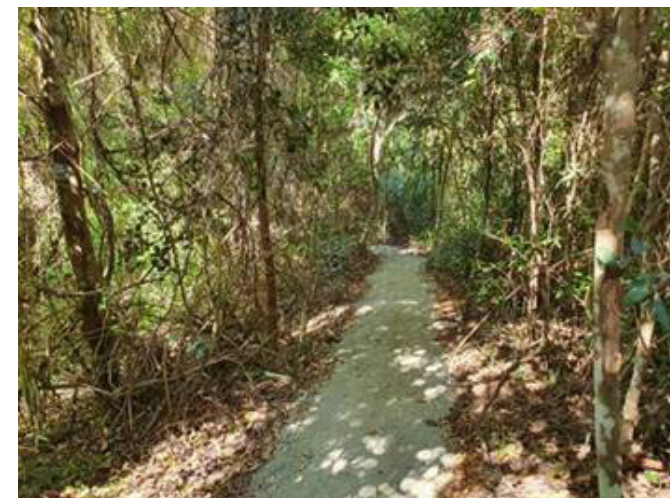
"The new 600-metre track to the beach, which includes a small number of steps and a watercourse crossing, is suitable for a range of ages and fitness levels," said Mr

Signor.

"Since the track opened in late December, it has been hugely popular with an average of 50 to 100 people using the new track to access the beach each day."

"Following the extreme wet weather over the past few weeks, we have re-surfaced the last 260 metres of the track with gravel, meaning McBrides Beach now has safe, all-weather pedestrian access.

"An added benefit of the walking track is better protection for areas of Littoral Rainforest on Cape Hawke, nationally listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological



Community, as well as Aboriginal cultural sites occurring in the area around McBrides Beach.

"This work is part of the NSW Government's record \$257 million infrastructure program across NSW national parks, the single biggest investment in community infrastructure in the history of national parks," said Mr Signor.

People are reminded to be COVID-19 safe and abide by public health requirements

when visiting national parks and not to leave valuables in their cars.

For more information on national park access visit: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

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More Than You Ever Expected - Come & See It For Yourself

18-30 Bruce Street, Forster (150m from Wallis Lake Cafes)

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www.evermoreliving.com.au



The Prison Camp

As one drives to Tuncurry from the north on the eastern side south of Darawank, you can see a scattering of pine trees, Pinus Radiata, all that remains of the Tuncurry Pine Forest Camp. This Californian pine was known for its phenomenal growth when planted in favourable conditions.



Above: Overseer's children amongst the young pines.

In 1913 a plantation of 3,000 acres was established north of Tuncurry. This was in conjunction with the Department of Correctional Services, who established a prison camp on 1st November, 1913. This was a new innovative approach to corrective services, beginning experimental work in forestry. White collar crimes provided the prisoners, 30 of which were there at the beginning. A total of 1,452 prisoners went through the camp and only one ever escaped. It closed 1st April, 1938. These men provided the manpower to conduct the plantation. The pines proved disappointing. Slash pine was tried with better results but finally after several disastrous fires, the plantation was closed down.

If anyone would like to learn more about the Camp, we have a very interesting booklet which has been put together by retired volunteer/treasurer, Alan Wright. An interesting read.

Ruth Stoke Volunteer/Research Officer
www.facebook.com/GreatlakesMuseum



Local Classifieds

NEED A HANDYMAN? CALL ME

For Sale

Painting Handyman Gardening Maintenance, Gutters cleaned, Rubbish removed and more

No job too big or small Excellent Pensioner discounts

All Maintenance **0477 916 167**

About 30 year old 14ft fibreglass Cruise-craft. Needs attention. 75 Mercury outboard, in good condition. 132 original hours on the motor. \$1,800 ONO. Phone David on 0412 654060.

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*Terms & Conditions Apply

Local Church Services

Forster Tuncurry Uniting Church

Each Sunday 9am we are gathering, physically distanced and without singing. Pacific Palms service has recommenced.

Printed and emailed copies of the service are available. Our buildings continue to be open for the use by many self-help groups. Links to live streamed services by other UCA congregations are available also.

Please check out our web pages: forster.uca.org.au tuncurry.uca.org.au; our facebook page: Uniting Church In Australia Pacific Palms / Forster Tuncurry or give Pastor Geoff a call on 65558573.

Forster-Tuncurry Catholic Parish

The current Mass times at the Holy Name Church are: Saturday - 5:00pm Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am, 12 noon

Due to COVID regulations attendance is by registration only. To register, phone 6554 6401 or email forster-tuncurry.pariah@mn.catholic.org.au. To watch the 8 am Sunday Mass live stream please send us your email address to receive the link.

The Holy Name Church is open from 9 am - 3pm Mon- Fri for private prayer.
www.forstertuncurrycatholic.org.au

COAST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Coast Evangelical Church

We currently meet on Sundays at 4pm (with Kids Church) and 6pm at Forster Public School Hall. We also run SALT (years 3-6) on Friday afternoons and RIPTIDE (years 7-12) on Friday nights.

More information plus videos of services can be found on our website: www.coastec.net.au

Due to COVID regulations please register via the website.

Anglican Church

Forster /Tuncurry Anglican Church

We meet at 6 St Alban's Place Forster on Sundays at 8am (Traditional Communion), 10 am (Families plus Creche) 5.30 pm (Informal Communion) and on Thursdays at 9.30 am (Traditional Communion). Services can also be viewed on-line at forsteranglican.com

We also operate the Op Shop off the car park in Head St Forster Mon to Fri 9am - 4pm. Our bookshop is now open.

You can find us on Facebook and at: Forster.adventist.org.au. Pr Graham Stewart phone is 0447 444 424.

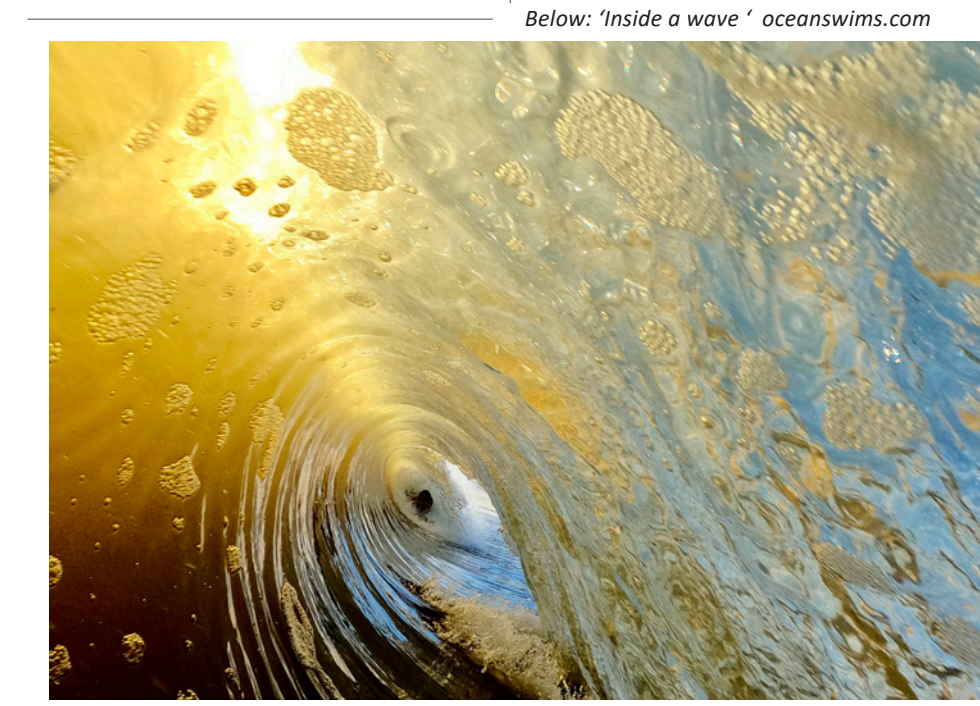
Church of Christ

Forster/Tuncurry

We come together 10:00am Sunday mornings at 14 Douglas Ave, Tuncurry. COVID restrictions are being observed, but everyone is welcome. We have live stream options to tune in from home too! For more information or to contact us please visit our website: www.fchurchofchrist.com.au Find us on Facebook: forstertuncurrycoc

We also offer a mid-week playgroup. Facebook: communityplaygroupforstertuncurry

Pastor Bret Clarke



Below: 'Inside a wave' oceanswims.com

Weekly Diary

Mondays

Green Bikes Community Workshop
Open 9 - 12pm. Supplying parts & free help with bike problems. Budding mechanics welcome. Tuncurry transfer station. 0458809975

Pacific Palms Probuc Club
Meets second Monday each month at Pacific Palms Bowling Club, Smiths Lake. Starting at 10.30am, all are welcome. Please call Jim Peters on 0418 201 167.

Wednesdays

The Forster Tuncurry Community Kitchen
12 -1pm, 33 Lake Street Forster. Provides a meal in a social & safe place. Volunteers and donations welcome. 6539 5900 or sabdoo@catholiccare.org.au

Green Bikes Community Workshop
Open 12 - 3pm. Supplying parts & free help with bike problems. Budding mechanics welcome. Tuncurry transfer station. 0458809975

Great Lakes Breast Cancer Support Group
First Wednesday of every month. 4pm Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club/membership Email: facilitator@breastfriends.org.au

Thursdays

The Forster Tuncurry Community Kitchen
12-1pm, 33 Lake Street Forster. Provides a meal in a social & safe place. Volunteers and donations welcome. 6539 5900 or sabdoo@catholiccare.org.au

Coomba Mens Shed
Open every Thursday 8.30am- 12pm. 86 Moorrooba Rd Coomba Park. All men welcome to come along & participate.

Codependents Anonymous
Difficulty maintaining relationships? 5.30 - 7pm Uniting Church, Tuncurry. Phone: 0412 386179

Saturdays

Codependents Anonymous
Difficulty maintaining relationships? 5 - 6.30pm Uniting Church, Tuncurry. www.codependentsanonymous.org.au

Forster parkrun
Pebble Beach Playground off Head St 7:45am for 8am start Register with parkrun Aust & bring barcode facebook.com/Forsterparkrun/

Forster Farmers Market

Forster Farmers Market

Local Calendar

February

Sat 6th Feb - Try Out Croquet
9:30 -11:30am Forster Croquet Club Beside the YMCA on Lake St Forster Bring hat and flat shoes/joggers.

Sun 7th Feb - Blackhead Bazaar Market
8am 1pm Wylie Breckenridge Park www.halldayspointinfo.com

Sun 7th Feb - Lions Club Car Boot Sale
8am - 12pm Halldays Point Shopping Village 1st Sunday of the month Bookings: Alan Stewart 0488160126

Sun 14th Feb - Forster Tri Club Triathlon
Arrive 7.30am for 8am start, different distances Elizabeth Reserve Forster Keys www.forstertriclub.com.au

Sun 14th Feb - Forster Town Market
8 -2pm Forster Town Park Enquiries: 0437634056

Tues 16th - Fri 19th Feb WSL Great Lakes Pro
Surf Comp Boomerang Beach www.surflinesnsw.com.au

Thurs to Mon 18 to 22nd Feb - Manning/ Great Lakes Birdwatches
Camp-out at Yamba. 7.30 am start. Harrington area. Enquiries: 0431878395

Sat 20th Feb - Super Garage Sale
GL Palliative Care 8-2pm 32 Manning St Tuncurry Opposite John Wright Park (Incorreccted printed as the 27th in last edition)

Sat 20th Feb - Forster Farmers Market
8am - 12pm Forster Info Centre Little St 3rd Saturday of the month Enquiries: Linda 0421347273

Frid 26th Feb - Forster Tri Club Aquathon
Arrive at 5.45pm for 6pm start Forster Main Beach Ocean Bath (Bullring) www.forstertriclub.com.au

Sun 27th Feb - Tuncurry Market
8 -1pm John Wright Park Bookings essential Enquiries: Anne 0417400994

Sat 27th - Sun 28th Feb Battle of the Boats
7am Sat until 3pm Sunday (finals) Pacific Palms surf Club Elizabeth Beach

Sun 28th Feb - Pacific Palms Market
9am - 1pm Pacific Palms Community Centre Last Sunday of the month Enquiries: Jennifer Doyle 0401968516

Sun 28th Feb - Pacific Palms Self Drive Arts Trail Start
Pacific Palms Markets from 9am near The Recky. Check times at pacificpalmsartsinc.org.au

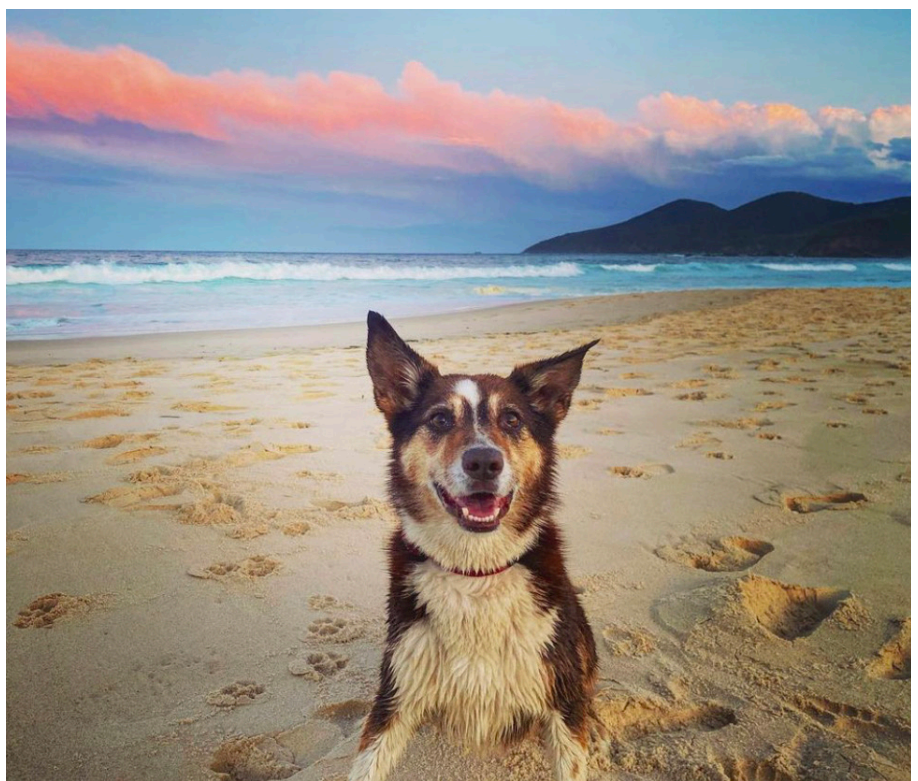
Star Photo



Wompoo Fruit Dove - Taken at Nabitac by Brian McCauly.

Do you have a great celebration, wedding, new baby or amazing photo to share? Please send your high resolution photo to www.theforstertuncurry.com.au Submissions are published when space permits.

Star Pet



Name: Dusty
Nickname: Dust Muffin Express or Duster.
Breed: Kelpie cross.
Likes: Sticks, balls, frisbees or anything that can be used to play fetch with. Using puppy dog eyes to con her owners into giving her human food.
Dislikes: Other dogs trying to steal her ball, and her cousin Scout the blue heeler.
Claim to fame: Fastest dog on One Mile Beach.

If you would like to see your beloved pet featured in Star Pet please submit a high resolution photo and answers to www.theforstertuncurry.com.au Submissions are published when space permits.

My Country, My Inspiration

A joint exhibition by

Fred Bullen
Paintings
Sculptures
Prints

Roger Speaight
Watercolours

28 Jan - 21 Feb 2021. Gloucester Gallery
Thu, Fri, Sat, 10am to 4pm. Sun, 10am to 1pm. 25 Denison St, Gloucester 2422

Local Legend - Jack Thomas

Extract from Colin G. King's book 'War Gave Us Wings.'

'During WW2, the sky over Germany was an immense domain of conflict, in which were fought the most devastating battles in the history of air warfare. The weapon of outstanding prominence in this immense struggle was called Bomber Command, the most powerful segment of the Royal Air Force of Britain...' *'many thousands of Australian airmen were at the forefront of this monumental military undertaking..'* One of those men was our Local Legend, Jack Thomas.



When I went to interview Jack Thomas, I was greeted at his home by his lovely daughter Julie then spotted Jack, such a proper gentleman smartly and formally suited up. I was taken aback and felt honoured that he may have dressed accordingly to meet me (in my daggy shorts and T shirt). At the young age of 97, Jack is an eloquent sprightly man with a sharp wit and incredible memory. He keeps himself physically and mentally fit by working out at the gym three times a week and completing daily cryptic crosswords. Up until recently, when he was his late wife's carer, Jack was also a very keen fisherman and hopes to return to that passion.

Jack was born in a Waverley Private Hospital on 14th September 1923 (he says he was the result of Christmas fun!). His mother, Pearl, came from farming stock in Bega and his father, Fredrick, came from England to Australia in 1910 foreseeing the possible outbreak of a war in Europe (WW1).



Above: Elizabeth on their Wedding Day 27th November 1970

Jack is the youngest of three children. His sister Joan died in 2009 at the age of 94 and his brother, Kevin died in 2013, aged 97. Jack is the oldest member of the Thomas clan. Jack's advice to anyone wishing to live a long healthy life is: a good diet, exercise, plenty of sleep and to always trust your own judgement.

Jack's family lived in Woollahra but when he was eight years of age, they moved to Bondi where he later became a junior in the Bondi Surf Club and discovered his love for the ocean, swimming, surfing and fishing.



Above: Jack and Elizabeth.

Jack was only a young lad when Australia suffered badly during the period of the Great Depression of the 30's. Hunger was commonplace and Jack clearly remembers primary school mates at St Charles Waverley, asking him for his apple core. Australia suffered high unemployment, poverty, low profits, plunging incomes and lost opportunities. Jack was lucky that his father, a motor mechanic, never became fully unemployed. Other fathers were assigned to compulsory government relief

work, digging trenches for sewerage lines. Paling fences disappeared during cold winter months as people used them for firewood.

Jack eventually progressed to tertiary education post war and studied quantity surveying for five years at Sydney Technical Collage.

When WW2 broke out in 1939, Jack was 16 years old and in his final year of schooling. On his 18th birthday in September 1941, his parents refused to sign enlisting papers, pleading he was too young. When Japan entered the war on December 7th 1941- the whole situation had changed. Jack applied for air crew training. He enlisted and passed the requirements for the air force reserve in Sydney. Jack was ready for his air force call up but in the meantime, he was unfortunately called up by the army and was posted to Hume Camp, Albury. Consequently, he missed out on two air force call ups. An air force officer on a recruitment drive, visited the Hume camp. Jack was granted a discharge from the army and went to Sydney to commence his training in the air force.

This next part of Jack's story blew me away. His recall of details, dates and places from memory, was incredible. He laughed at my amazement and told me his earliest memory was 94 and a half years ago (2 half years olds). He clearly remembers scooping biscuit crumbs from the bottom of a tin and his father said, "Look at Cocky on the biscuit tin!"

Back to the story.....

12th September 1942 Jack was posted to an Initial Training Unit for a 12-week course at Bradfield Park. He then went to Narrandera (8 EFTS - Elementary Flying Training School) for 8 weeks where he completed 73 hours of flying. Jack then went to Point Cook and was presented with his wings on 25th June 1943. He was granted 7 days leave before being posted back to Bradfield. He was then posted overseas leaving from Brisbane and sailed for San Francisco (18 days voyage) on the troop ship The Noordam. He had 4 days leave at Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. The ferry stopped at Alcatraz - a civil prison. Despite harsh warnings not to leave the ferry, Jack and a friend couldn't resist the temptation and stepped onto the wharf at Alcatraz. They were spotted by a guard who was armed with a tommy gun. The guard bellowed through his loud hailer, "You men get back on that ferry." They instantly returned.



Five days by train across America to New York then sailed to Greenwich on a troopship - the Titanic's sister ship 'The Aquatania.' Then by train from Greenwich to Brighton and later posted to RAF station at Church Lawford near Rugby. Jack then completed 80 hours of flying time to familiarise himself with the terrain and climate.

In March 1944, Jack was posted to an Operational Training Unit in Moreton in the Marsh.

Extract from The Imperial War Museum 'The Dangers of Flying.'
'Operational flying was perilous. Chances of survival varied, depending on factors such as inexperience, fatigue, type of aircraft flown and target. The most dangerous were the



Above: Jack (second from the right) at Anzac Day ceremonies.

'first and last five trips.' *'More than 8000men were killed in training accidents or other non-operational flying during WW2.'*



At Moreton in the Marsh, Jack crewed up and trained on Wellington bombers. The Wellington had been used earlier in the war as a principal bomber of the Bomber Command. Jack was then posted to the Heavy Conversion Unit in Riccall, Yorkshire. These units were formed to qualify crews to transition from medium bombers to the heavy bombers before final posting to operational squadrons. Jack flew the mk2 Halifax at Riccall. He was assigned to fly with the 102 Ceylon (Sri Lanka) Squadron based at Pocklington (near York). He was then operating mk3 Halifax Bombers.

From 29th June to 26th January - Jack completed 34 bombing operations - 13 of which were night bombings. One of Jack's most memorable and fearful operations was on Christmas Eve 1944. The plan was to attack Mulheim Airfield in Germany. This was a combined operation with the U.S. to bomb eight major German airfields. Jack was halfway down the runway and at not at 'take off' speed of 120mph, when his air speed indicator collapsed. All his navigational aids had failed. He managed to get his craft airborne and reached operational height and the intended target. He formatted closely with another Halifax and when that Halifax (that he was shadowing) dropped his bombs - so did Jack. Jack returned to aerodrome of Carnaby FIDO (Fog Intensive and Dispersal Of) - known as the 'Watchdog' of Distressed Aircraft. It was an emergency landing strip that offered crippled bombers a safe place to land. Thankfully Jack landed his craft safely.

Below: Jack, Elizabeth and Bruce.



Another terrifying moment was when a German Focke-Wolf 190 flew across Jack's path totally ignorant of Jack's presence. Jack said the German pilot had his cock pit canopy open and was so close, Jack could see the

German's shiny leather jacket with folds across his shoulder. Jack believes they were travelling at a closing speed of 380mph and a collision was avoided by a mere .2 seconds - a very close shave!

Jack completed four more operations before becoming a flying instructor and was posted to Brighton before eventually returning to Australia and was discharged.

Extract from The Imperial War Museum 'Life and Death in Command Bomber'

'Bomber operations were extremely stressful and frequently perilous, with a random chance of death or horrific injury. Flying was physically and mentally demanding and constant concentration was needed for many hours at a time. Airmen had to not only fight the enemy, but also a hostile environment in which they might encounter many kinds of adverse weather. Occupational hazards such as lack of oxygen, frostbite and lower pressures at high altitude meant they needed equipment to keep them warm and breathing. These problems were increased by operating at night.'



Above: Presented with the Legion of Honour.

According to the Imperial War Museum 'During the WW2, 51% of aircrew were killed on operations, 12% were killed or wounded in non-operational accidents and 13% became prisoners of war or evaders. Only 24% survived the war unscathed.' Jack Thomas is thankfully

Continued on next page.

Continued from page 12.

one of the latter. Amazingly eight of Jack's peers attending St Mary's Cathedral College joined the Bomber Command and all nine returned! In 1958, Jack was initially drawn to Forster

because he'd heard how good the fishing was. He loves the area because "It's away from Sydney and outside the Sydney influence." He loves the laid-back way of life and loved surfing at One Mile before the homes crept onto the beach.

Jack met his late wife, Elizabeth in August 1968 and married two years later. Jack has two daughters, Julie and Christine, living in the area, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

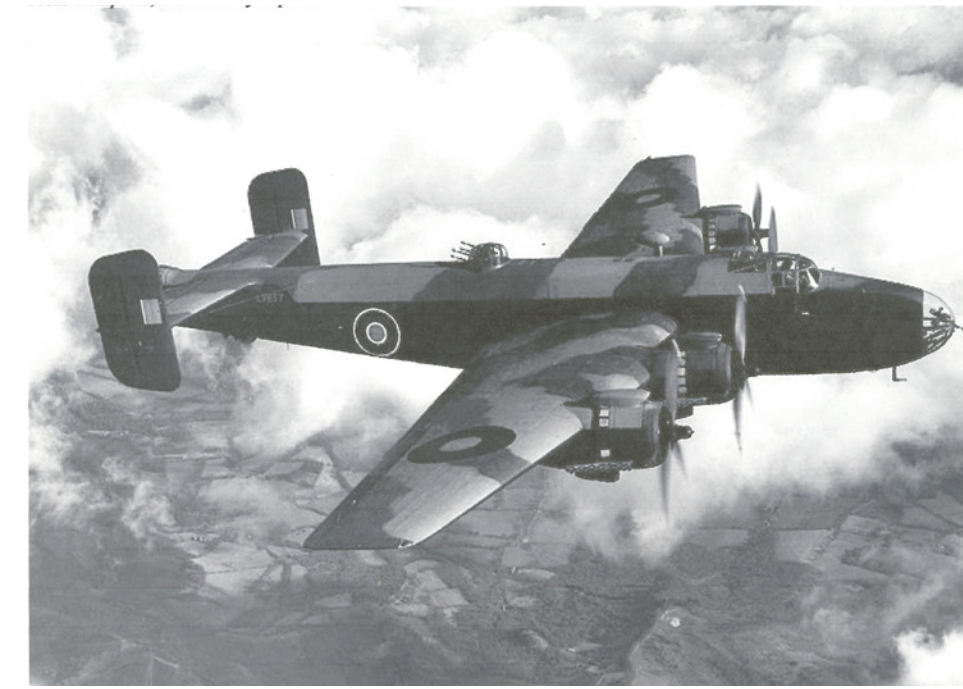
Jack believes the best decision he and Elizabeth made was taking an early retirement at 57 years and buying a farm at Bonville. He said, "It was the best eight years of our married life." They had mainly orchards of avocados, low chill peaches, nectarines, and panama passion fruits.

Alongside his war medals, in 2016, Jack was proudly presented The Legion of Honour from the French Consul General, the highest French order of merit.

For an amazing man who has seen devastation, heartbreak, misadventure, danger, death and fear, his favourite saying is, "It is what it is!" He also says the biggest influence on his life has been Jesus Christ. "I try to live up to his teachings."

Vanda Gooley Photos supplied.

Left: Halifax Bomber.
Right: Jack appears in the very middle of this front cover.



A Good Day Out

Start your mornings with Tartt For a coffee and a muffin, sunrise with a Beach Bum for a fancy Acai Bowl, Kellie's got a lake view with egg and bacon rolls.

Next take a walk another coffee and a talk, Beach Brew that's new, or go back in time to Nineteen Fifty Nine.

Swimming Snorkeling Paddleboarding, time for lunch, At Anatolia try the Pizza Pied, climb the stairs in King's Valley fancy an Indian in Tuncurry.

Shopping, eating, sleeping a new dress to wear tonight, Wharf Street, Main Beach an afternoon delight.

Onto evenings with a Sicilian Senorita for every woman, Fish and chips NSW best that's just to name a few, you can go to the Lakes and Ocean for a perfect sunset view.

That's a good day out on the Barrington Coast, Worimi and Plenty of Fish one each end of the 62 year old bridge. Seahawks and pelicans are native to our coast, and past mistakes have taught us to respect our indigenous hosts.

Joy Higgins, Forster

Your Travels - Bingara in NSW

Names: Margaret and Graham Gardner.

Where did you go? Margaret and I attended the Bingara Roxy Theatre and Greek Museum on the 20th of September 2020.

We were doing a regional road trip through Tamworth, Moree, Uralla, Bellingen and home. We stopped at Bingara to visit this amazing building.

It was founded by Peter Feros, George Psaltis and Emmanuel Aroney and was opened on 28 March 1936.

The Roxey theatre was built with three shops, a cafe and the theatre. It is a beautiful building, though it failed financially for the original developers.

The theatre closed in 1958 and stayed closed for 40 years. This 'sleeping beauty' was acquired by the local council in 1999, restored and reopened in 2004, and operates now has a multifunction theatre/hall/venue for the community. It houses the local Tourist Information Centre and a Greek Museum.

We learned that cafes and picture theatres were built extensively throughout regional New South Wales by young Greek migrants. The theatre crowd supported the operations of the cafes.

We were given a comprehensive and enthusiastic tour of the whole premises by one of the volunteers. The building is quite spectacular and whilst we knew about Greek cafes throughout regional NSW, we did not know about the significant commitment to

building movie theatres.

Marg and I have particular interest in this history because my best friend's family ran the Ritz Cafe in Tamworth, and my parents courted

there. Whilst the Ritz is no longer there the memories remain.

This theatre and the Bingara locality is a lovely regional town to visit.



If you would like to feature in Your Travels please submit your answers and high resolution photos to www.theforstertuncurry.com.au Submissions are published when space permits.

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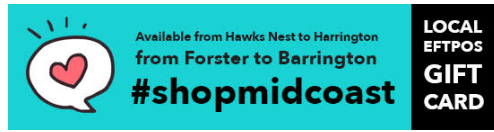
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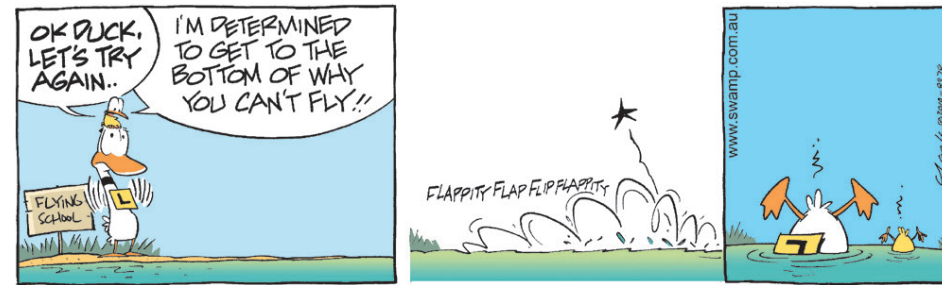


Tully's Tuncurry News: 02 6554 6407
Tulls News Forster: 02 6555 7207
Come in for your Valentine cards.

The Grin Bin



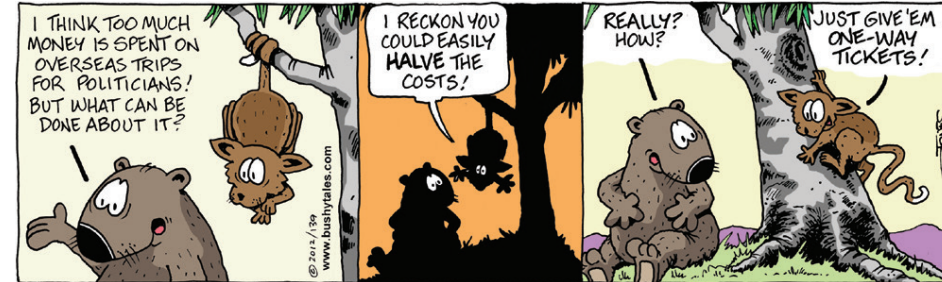
Swamp



Doodley Squat



Bushy Tales



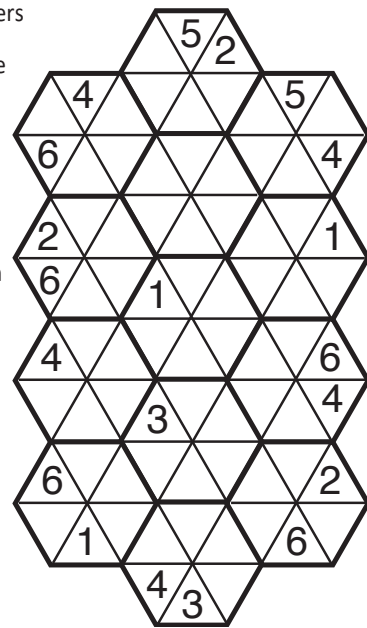
Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block.

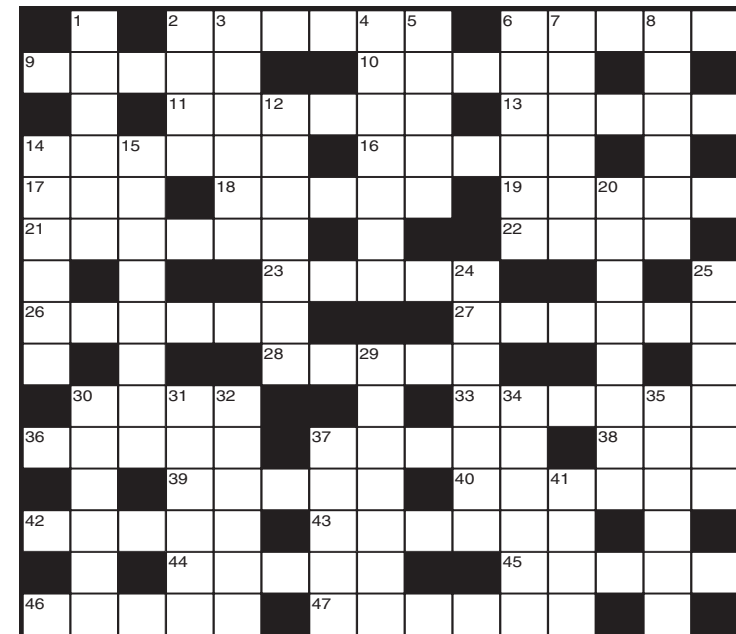
		4			6			
		5	8			3	1	9
	4		7	8				
			5					
3		1	6	9		8		
6			9					5
					2			8
	3	9		5				

Quick Workout

Fit the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 into the hexagons so that where the hexagons touch, the numbers will be the same. No number is repeated in any hexagon.



Crossword



Cape Hawke Nippers well attended and assistance welcome



This week has seen some lovely weather with the powerful king tides at One Mile Beach and recently some strong winds. As of writing this a few blue bottles have been washing onto the sand. Last Sunday's patrol assisted a small boy who stung his finger trying to pick up a blue bottle that washed onto his sandcastle. The recommended treatment is still to bathe the affected area with water as warm as can be tolerated by the victim.

This Australia Day weekend Surf Life Saving NSW performed 346 rescues and took approximately 1,200 preventative actions on what was one of the busiest periods on record.

The Club Nippers has been well attended with 142 nipper members and the fantastic support from families to keep the morning running smoothly has been enormously appreciated. The children are learning from a young age just how much the beach can change and how to assess different conditions. Children are encouraged to navigate the conditions in a thoroughly supportive environment preparing them to make safe choices on their own.

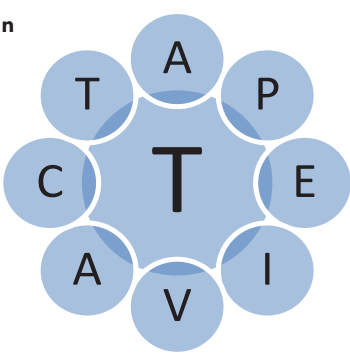
Parents and families of Club Nippers are involved with water safety, beach officials, gear stewards, cooks and cooks' assistants! If anyone is looking to be involved, Mark Dorfling (who is the director of youth) can be found at the beach on Sunday mornings and he would be very appreciative of your assistance as there is always something to do. You are never too old to join in; we currently have a 71-year-old man training for his Bronze.

Emma Barton
Photo supplied.

Left: Some of the smiling faces at the beach to be seen. Left to Right: Jeff Horn, Director of Competition; Brendan Guiney who recently stepped down as Director of Youth and was Awarded Life Membership in 2020; Club President, Gary Curtis and Marc Dorfling the Club's current Director of Youth.

Focus An All Australian Word Game

- * Each word must contain the centre 'Focus' letter and each letter may be used only once
- * Each word must be four letters or more
- * Find at least one nine letter word
- * No swear words
- * No verb forms or plurals ending in 's'
- * No proper nouns and no hyphenated words



TODAY'S Good: 9 words
FOCUS Very good: 14 words
Excellent: 26 words

Reference: Macquarie Concise Dictionary
Focus No. 3848

- ACROSS**
- 2 Temporary stops
 - 6 Corroded
 - 9 Mechanical mover
 - 10 Acting parts
 - 11 Pay attention
 - 13 Wall painting
 - 14 Rest
 - 16 Person under age
 - 17 Greek letter
 - 18 Relating to morals
 - 19 Direct attention to
 - 21 Agreement
 - 22 Dry
 - 23 Vegetables
 - 26 Narcotic
 - 27 Time of holding
 - 28 Play
 - 30 Nothing more
 - 33 Pig-like animals with flexible snouts
- DOWN**
- 1 Heavenly bodies
 - 2 Sport
 - 3 Got up
 - 4 Recluse
 - 5 Of sound waves
 - 6 Sucking fish
 - 7 One demanding exorbitant rate of interest
 - 8 Bartered
 - 12 Established
 - 14 Sanity
 - 15 Amusements
 - 20 Statuette
 - 24 Written law
 - 25 Banquets
 - 29 Salt of acetic acid
 - 30 Entangled in thick mass
 - 31 Of race
 - 32 Pass away
 - 34 Fields of conflict
 - 35 Laboratory vessel
 - 37 Light beer
 - 41 Back of the neck

Solutions

Puzzles and pagination supplied by Auspac Media

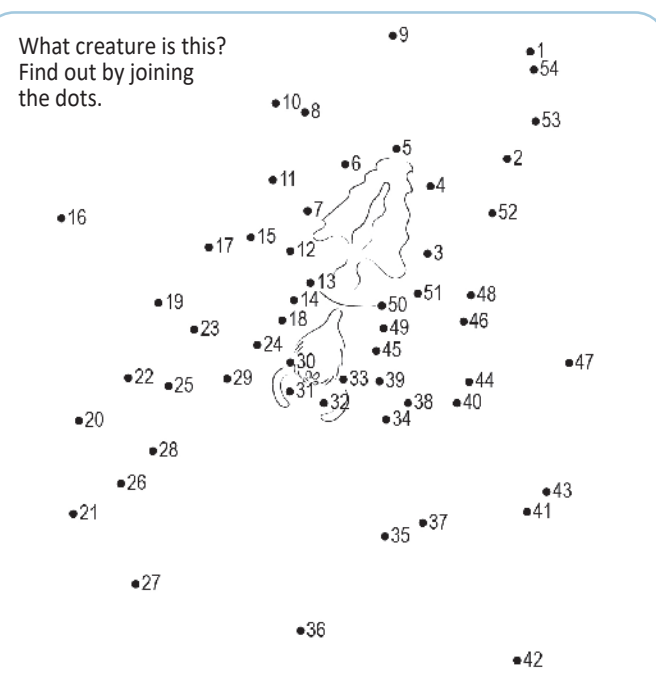
Word Find

W	N	D	R	O	W
O	A	R	C	H	E
L	T	R	E	L	C
F	I	N	D	A	E
N	O	I	S	Y	L
T	N	T	E	S	T

Find the following words in the grid. They may read in any direction, even diagonally. Some letters are used more than once.

- | | | | |
|------|------|--------|------|
| Arch | Find | Nation | When |
| Cast | Flow | Noisy | Word |
| Celt | Idle | Real | |
| Draw | Lad | Test | |
| Eye | Lays | Tone | |

Join the Dots



Manning Ratz training soon and hope Dolphins will be back strong

It took the Manning River Ratz almost two decades to win their maiden Lower Mid North Coast rugby union premiership and all the signs are that it will take a mighty effort by another club to deprive them of the Kennards Hire Shield this winter.

"We will probably lose a few of the leaguies who played with us last season, but not many, and I think we will field a very strong team again," an optimistic coach, Jacob Maurirere, said yesterday.

"We're starting training next month and we'll miss the Crescent Head Sevens carnival because of the heat factor, but I'm very optimistic about the approaching season that we will do well again."

The concern after last year's disrupted season (in which the Forster Tuncurry Dolphins failed to participate in the competition) is that the Gloucester Cockies club will not field a men's team again, citing the town's lack of numbers although the women are expected to be a force again in the Lower M.N.C. premiership.

Two rugby league players expected back with the Ratz are the Wheeler brothers, Jake and Corey, two important backs as the Ratz charged

into the grand final against the Wallamba Bulls. Likewise, the talented No 8, Sam Hartnett, will be back after his ill-starred winter last year when troubled by a knee injury.

Another player expected to return to the back line is their outside-centre, Dean Mills, a player Maurirere says has "so much energy, and a player who never misses a tackle."

"Sam's return is massively important to us. On the field or off it, he is a force for our club," Maurirere said.

"I just hope the Forster Dolphins field a strong team again. I remember when the Old Bar Clams stood down for a season after winning a couple of premierships. They have never been the same club since."

Manning River have a new club president in their premiership-winning lock, Steven Rees, who has succeeded Jim Boyce, the much loved "Welshman-Aussie". At least Jim bowed out with a premiership and a proud circuit of their home ground with the premiership shield.

Phil Wilkins
Below: Forster Tuncurry Dolphins in 2018.



Forster Croquet Club

Invites you to Morning Tea and try out Croquet

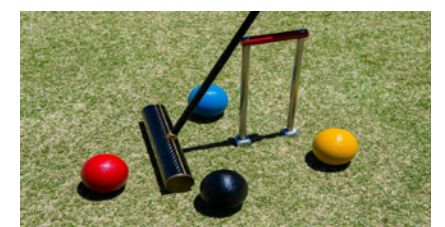
Let us introduce you to the great game of Croquet

This game has everything: It gives you exercise, makes you think, tactics, fun, friendships, social or competitive but most of all its addictive!!

Where and When

Forster Croquet Club
Lake Street Forster
Beside the Aquatic Centre

Saturday 6th February 2021, 9.30 - 11.30am



Bring a hat and wear flat sole shoes please
Joggers are fine
We have the equipment

Newcomers compete in 'Try A Tri' at Forster Keys

Bluewater Fishing Club's report for January



Our club held its monthly outing on weekend of 16/17th January 2021, unfortunately we were only able to fish on the Sunday due to sea conditions. All members found it very difficult to find and catch many fish. We had 6 boats with 11 members fish on the day with only 54 fish caught with a combined weight of 36.1 kilos. Most points for the day was won by Martyn Barry with only 156.6 points. Runner up prizes were awarded to Frank Harshman, (Flathead), Julian Korol (Snapper), with no takers for Teraglin. Winners on the day were Garry Smith, (Flathead), Martyn Barry, (Snapper 6.820 kilos) and new member Julian Korol (Teraglin).

The Club Forster Bluewater Fishing Club conducts fishing competitions on the weekend of the third Sunday of each month if conditions are favourable. Fishing competitions are offshore from Forster, from midnight Friday to 3pm Sunday. The weigh-in is adjacent to the Forster Harbour Boat Ramp from 2.30pm Sunday.

Not only is our club a fishing club it is also a social club and members are welcome to come and join us whether they have fished or not. A luncheon and monthly prize presentation are held at Club Forster at 1.00pm on the 4th Sunday of each month.

If anyone is interested in joining our club, please come to Club Forster to enquire or come down to our weigh-in on the third Sunday of each month at 2.30pm.

All of the fish that are caught that are of DPI regulations and or club BY LAWS, are either eaten by our members that catch them, or given away to their friends or family. Also, there is a bag limit as to how many fish of each species can be caught.

Franklin Harshman

Below: Photo supplied of Martyn Barry with a 6.820 kilo snapper.



Above: Forster Triathlon President Margaret Gordon and Leighton Hooper cross the finish line together.

On the 17th of January many newcomers enjoyed their first ever go at a triathlon when Forster Triathlon Club hosted their 'Try A Tri' at Forster Keys. This was a sprint distance event with a 300m swim, 12km ride and a 3km run. A shorter but still challenging distance.

President of the Forster Tri Club Margaret Gordan said, "It was a fantastic morning with beautiful weather, sunny skies, no wind and a great water temperature. A whole host of newcomers came down. We were excited to introduce all these new people to our favourite sport and do so in such a friendly and supportive environment."

Visitor Jo from Nelson Bay said, "I did enjoy the 'All Girls Tri' last year here and found it to be amazing. Really well organised and lots of support. I just wanted to personally beat my own time [today] and have the persistence to finish it. I achieved that today. So, if anyone wants to have a go -try a tri. It's great."

Mary Yule

Photos supplied.

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