

MidCoast Council
Updates

Meet Local Legend
Helen Bryan

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 17th February 2021

Owned and Loved by Locals

Circulation 6000

NO.14

Bright future ahead for our youth



**Great Lakes
Education
Fund helping
students
achieve
their goals**

Here are some of the fortunate local students who applied and were accepted by the Great Lakes Education Fund (GLEF) Partnership Program this year. These students will be receiving financial assistance and support from local businesses and groups to help them achieve their tertiary or vocational study goals. This photo was taken at the GLEF Student and Partnership Breakfast held at the Forster Library on Wednesday the 3rd of February. More photos can be seen in our Out & About feature on page 13. Mary Browne's story of her recent award as a GLEF volunteer can be seen on page 3.

Mary Yule

Photo on left:

Top row - Ethan and Danielle.

Second row - Bronsun, Nettie,
Antonia and Pepper.

Bottom Row - Olivia and Carla.

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The Forster Tuncurry

The next edition deadline is 5pm Wednesday the 24th of Feb, prior to distribution Wednesday & Thursday the 3rd & 4th of March.

We welcome your stories and letters.

All submissions: 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.

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The Forster Tuncurry: Proud to be a locally owned family business.

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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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Enquiries: 0413410492 or info@theforstertuncurry.com.au



Meet Bruno, Mikayla, Ben and Ben at the Forster information Centre. 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

Hallidays Point

Foodworks Hallidays Point
Diamond Beach Takeaway
Tallwoods Country Club

Tuncurry

Tuncurry Resource Centre
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 Kularoa

Coles Service Station

MidCoast Library
Coles
Woolworths
Stocklands Customer Care
Forster Keys Mini Mart

Pacific Palms

Blueys Supamart
Kembali 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

Upgrade underway for Tuncurry rock pool



It's great news for users of the popular rock pool in Tuncurry, with work already started on improvements along the promenade.

The project to upgrade the promenade will be carried out in two distinct stages, beginning with the area directly in front of the café. In this first stage, the shared walkway will be extended and widened, tiered steps (that double as seating) will be constructed. Ramps and handrails will also be installed to provide improved all-ability access.

"The rock pool is a popular drawcard for locals and visitors, and these improvements will mean even more people can enjoy this recreational space," explained Dan Aldridge, MidCoast Council's Manager, Community Spaces, Recreation and Trades. "The outcome will provide better access from the promenade to the beach, and a significant increase in seating."

In stage two, crews will move along to the area in front of the carpark to widen the walkway, and construct two access ramps including one that provides easy truck access to the beach

during sand harvesting.

The upgrade has been planned to take place following the peak summer holiday season and continuing through to the end of April, weather-permitting. To minimise the impact of the works on holiday-makers, crews will break during the Easter long weekend, closing Thursday 1 April and resuming Tuesday 6 April.

While traffic flow and use of the area around the café will be maintained throughout the construction period, parking capacity will be reduced with several car park spaces allocated for storage of materials and equipment. Visitors to the area are asked to be alert to construction activities on the site, to remain outside of fenced-off areas, and to follow all signage and directions from crews as required.

Visitors are also asked to be aware of strong currents that can pose a risk to swimmers, particularly at the southern edge near the safety net, and to exercise caution at all times.

For more information about the Tuncurry rock pool reserve, visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Recreation/Find-a-Facility/Outdoor-Facilities/Rockpool-Reserve-Tuncurry



Painting on left: Fish Cleaning at Tuncurry Co-op 1990.

See page 12 to read about local artist Valerie Wright who started to paint scenes of the fishing industry in our area from the late 1940s. John Wright Park was named after her husband.

Story by Wayne Barry.

Outstanding Service Award for local Mary Browne

Not only is Mary Browne the secretary of the Great Lakes Education Foundation (GLEF) she also continues to give her time and energy into everything this organization does to ensure that regional students in the Great Lakes area get the best chance of success.

"Mary Browne is the backbone of the GLEF. Her fingerprints are on everything we do like the newsletter, Golf Day, Book Club and Partnership Program. The fact that she is involved is why these programs are so successful," said GLEF Chairperson Steve Nicholson.

The Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award is a yearly award given out by the Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF). Katie Walker is the founding Director of CEF which oversees 44 local foundations and 450 volunteers. It is a peer-nominated award and the local GLEF is very proud of

Mary to be recognized for her passionate work. On the award is written 'In appreciation for your dedicated service to your community and the Country Education Foundation of Australia.'

"Volunteering for me has always been the desire to make a difference. Working with CEF through the Great Lakes committee provides an amazing opportunity to affect the lives of the young people," explains Mary Browne. She also acknowledged that this special award was an achievement for their whole team.

Mary officially received her award during the Great Lakes Education Fund (GLEF) Student and Partnership Breakfast on the 3rd of February.

Mary Yule

www.cef.org.au/foundations/great-lakes/



Photo on right: GLEF members Helen Bryan, Mary Browne with daughter Sarah McFadden.

Senior fun every day of the week!



Are you over 50 and would like to make more friends in a comfortable and air-conditioned Centre with parking nearby? The Forster Tuncurry Senior Citizens has something fun for you nearly every day of the week. On Monday and Friday mornings there is the popular carpet bowling, on Monday and Wednesday they play card games, Games day is on a Friday morning, Saturday is the day for the very popular Cash Bingo (starts March 20th and you don't have to be a member for this one), while Sunday afternoons are for dancing (with covid safety measures).

President Margaret Soars wants everyone to know that we are still here and up and running after the covid lockdowns. She thinks that the Foster Tuncurry Senior Citizens is a great place

to meet people and enjoy others company. She says the organization is keen to build up memberships again, after last year's covid, and the way to do this is with the many activities they have on offer. They also have a borrowing library for members.

"We had regular concerts from local entertainers, luncheons and bus trips before covid," Margaret explained. She said that this year they plan to hold a major raffle in May with many fantastic holiday prizes. It will be drawn during a 'Xmas in July' function later in the year. This will help the organization build up their funds again with all proceeds going back into the Centre. This not-for-profit organization is run by seniors for seniors and all committee members are volunteers.



The Forster Tuncurry Senior Citizens started in the old RSL Club in Wharf Street before the RSL moved to its present position in Strand Street. The Forster Tuncurry Senior Citizens moved to the Council Community Centre back in the late 90s. This Council Community Centre is situated between the Forster Library and the Arts & Crafts Centre on Breeze Parade.

If you are interested in joining the FT Senior Citizens, please call 65052686 (you can leave a message) or visit www.ftsc.org.au

Mary Yule

Photo on right: Taken at annual Glef Student and Partnership Breakfast on the 3rd of February, held at the MidCoast Library in Forster. More photos on page 12.



Star Volunteer



out wherever needed.

What is the best part of your job?

There are so many presenters and I'm still learning from each of them what their roles are. I'm even learning what the presenters do in the studio. I haven't met them all yet. There's always more to learn.

Why did you choose to volunteer here?

I wanted to volunteer here because I moved

Name: Nicole Smith

Organisation: GLFM Radio

What does this organisation do in our community?

We broadcast 24 hours a day and provide local, national and international news. We let people know what is happening in our community and of course play the best music!

What is your role?

I'm in an administration role and I also help out with the fundraising. Pretty much I'll help

up from the Central Coast and I wanted to put my foot into the community. I heard their ad on the radio [GLFM] so I just emailed them and then heard back from Andy. That was 16 months ago.

We used to come up to this area as kids and my Mum and Dad have now been up here for about 10 years. I remember the aqua colour of the water and the same building with arches near the bridge that we used to stay in as kids.

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

About a Book is back online



Photo left: Book talk author Jessica Dettmann.

MidCoast Council Libraries' popular monthly online event About a Book is back for 2021 with special guest authors Jessica Dettmann and J.P. Pomare joining the chat this month.

Co-hosted by local author of The One, Kaneana May and MidCoast Libraries Manager Chris Jones, About a Book was so well received last year it's become a permanent offering for MidCoast book lovers and beyond.

Join the Zoom event on Tuesday 23rd February, from 7pm to 8pm and settle in as Chris, Kaneana and their special guests chat all things books, writing, reviews and more and share their favourite book recommendations.

This month's special guests are both accomplished authors.

Jessica Dettmann is the author of This Has Been Absolutely Lovely and How to Be Second Best, and J.P. Pomare is the author of Tell Me Lies, Call Me Evie and In The Clearing.

Jessica is a Sydney-based writer and performer. Her blog, Life With Gusto, turns a sharp but affectionate eye on modern parenthood.

After a decade working as an editor for Random House Australia and HarperCollins publishers she made the transition to writing after having two small children rendered her housebound.

Jessica once appeared as the City of Sydney Christmas Angel and sat on top of the Town Hall in a frock that reached the street.

In late 2018 Dettmann's debut novel How to Be Second Best was published through HarperCollins, drawing comparisons to Liane Moriarty and Marian Keyes. Her latest novel, This Has Been Absolutely Lovely (2021), continues her signature style.

J.P. Pomare is an award-winning writer who has had work published in journals including Meanjin, Kill Your Darlings, Takea and Mascara Literary Review. He has hosted the On Writing podcast since 2015 featuring bestselling authors from around the globe.

J.P. Pomare's first novel, Call Me Evie, was critically acclaimed and won the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best First Novel.

In The Clearing, Pomare's second novel, was also a critically acclaimed bestseller.

His latest novel, Tell Me Lies, was originally published as an Audible Original with over 300,000 downloads worldwide. This is the first time it has been made available in print and eBook.

J.P. Pomare was born in New Zealand and resides in Melbourne with his wife.

The event is free but bookings are essential.

To join in the fun head to the libraries website <https://library.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Events/Zoom-event-About-A-Book-February-2021>

Photo right: Book talk author J.P. Pomare.



Scholarships to build strength and resilience in MidCoast



Photo above: MidCoast Council Mayor David West, Charles Sturt Director External Engagement in Port Macquarie Ms Kate Wood-Foye and MidCoast Council General Manager Adrian Panuccio.

Charles Sturt and MidCoast Council are offering Community Leadership and Resilience Scholarships for locals committed to strengthening the region after the impacts of drought, bushfire, floods and COVID-19.

The Scholarship program aims to provide support, ideas and opportunities to build leadership capacity and develop collaborative strategies for the region's recovery.

The MidCoast Council will fund 25 scholarships worth \$1,200 each for locals to study two micro-subjects with Charles Sturt University.

The first subject they will study is Building Community Resilience, commencing Monday 8 March, and the second is Leading Change, commencing Monday 28 June.

Each subject will run over eight weeks and students who apply to complete the full course will receive credit for the two completed subjects.

Charles Sturt Director of External Engagement in Port Macquarie Ms Kate Wood-Foye said existing programs are already showing positive results in other regions and she is excited to bring this to the MidCoast region.

"This program is focussed on upskilling diverse community members to become leaders in

their workplace, communities or voluntary organisations," she said.

"Similar programs are thriving in the region, such as the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Resilience Network which was formed last year and is made up of people from all walks of life, aged 20 to 70 years old, from Port Macquarie, Bellingen and Kempsey LGAs."

"This group has come together to learn, share ideas and support each other and will take these skills back into their communities."

MidCoast Council Mayor David West said the community will benefit from the leaders that emerge from this program.

"To be able to help our community become more resilient, and support leadership capacity within our communities, is something I am really proud the MidCoast Council can be involved with."

"These scholarships will build current and emerging leaders in our community and the benefits will flow on to all who call the MidCoast home."

Applications are now open and will close Wednesday the 24th of February.

Applications can be made online at www.study.csu.edu.au/get-support/scholarships/find-scholarship/foundation/1st-year/midcoast-council-community-leadership-and-resilience-scholarship

MidCoast Council's first youth taskforce

MidCoast Council is establishing its inaugural youth taskforce for progressive, community minded, active young people from across the region.

This taskforce is the first of its kind for the MidCoast, providing an opportunity for young people aged 16-24 to be involved in a formal and ongoing youth participation setting.

Elected taskforce members will be able to actively have a say on decisions affecting them and work together to deliver initiatives for other young people across the MidCoast.

Once established, the taskforce will plan and run a variety of youth activities and events and support the delivery of localised youth action teams in the Manning, Great Lakes and Gloucester regions.

There are 12 positions available on the taskforce. Applicants must be aged between 16 and 24 on 16th April 2021 and live in the MidCoast region.

"We hope to see a wide range of applicants from right across the MidCoast, from diverse backgrounds and covering the age group of 16 to 24 year olds," explained Russell Ingram, MidCoast Council's Community Strengthening Officer - Youth.

"This is a really important opportunity for our young people

who have a lot to offer and our aim is for the taskforce to have a positive impact on young people across the MidCoast."

Successful applicants will need to be available for monthly meetings, either in person or online depending on the meeting location.

Applications are open and close on Friday 19 March, with an induction planned for Friday 16th April at Yalawany Ganya (Council Chambers Taree).

"I'm looking forward to hearing from young people who are passionate about our region to develop unique leadership skills, connect with other like-minded young people and further develop their connection to the local area," added Russell.

To find out more and apply to join the taskforce, visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/youth



Great Lakes College Students excel in challenging year



Completing Year 12 and the Higher School Certificate can be a stressful and difficult time for students. Added to the stress for the Class of 2020, however, was the arrival of COVID-19 which resulted in students participating in remote learning and enduring various disruptions to their studies. Despite these set backs, the students of Great Lakes College Year 12 2020 have excelled.

Of the 170 students who sat for the Higher School Certificate Examination (HSC), 33 students were on the distinguished

achievers list, 1 all-rounder, whilst 58 students achieved at least 2 band 5s and 6s.

The Dux for 2020 was Jim Brown who achieved an ATAR of 98.9. Jim will be leaving soon for the University of New South Wales where he will be studying Engineering. Also achieving outstanding ATARs were, Bronsun Walters 97.35, Ashley Thompson 95.9, Melissa Winter 94.1, Jesse Blake, 93.4, Kate Johnson 93.2, Bianca Young 92.75, Pepper Bannerman 92.15, Antonia Amato 91.65, Eva Morris

91.6, Jay Jones 91.45, Olivia Hayes 91.35 and Isabella Erasmus 90.35.

All of these students have indicated they are heading off to university with none electing to take a gap year. Five will be going to UNSW, six will be going to the University of Newcastle, one to Monash University in Melbourne and one to Wollongong University. The students have chosen various study programs including medicine, criminology, physiotherapy, engineering and science pursuits.

We are proud of the Class of 2020 for their resilience in a challenging year, for their outstanding results and for the way they have represented our school. These results are the culmination of 13 years of schooling and we would like to acknowledge the excellent work of the teaching staff of the College as well as teachers across the Great Lakes Learning Community. We are fortunate to belong to a strong community of schools.

Davina Bowen Senior Campus Principal.

Dr David Gillespie MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE

TRAINING BEGINS FOR OUR VACCINATION WORKFORCE

The first Australian Government funded training modules for the COVID-19 vaccination workforce, including for immunisation providers and non-clinical and administration staff, is now available.

The Australian Government has partnered with the [Australian College of Nursing](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/australian-college-of-nursing/) to develop and deliver the free and accredited training modules for all COVID-19 vaccination providers.

The training modules cover multi-dose vials, handling and storage of vaccines, safety and surveillance monitoring, and reporting for adverse events following immunisation.

These first modules are targeting health professionals in hospitals who will be administering the Pfizer vaccine, with the modules for the AstraZeneca vaccine to come online shortly.

COMMUNITY PHARMACY TO JOIN COVID-19 VACCINE WORKFORCE

Community pharmacies around Australia are being invited to join the nation-wide effort to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to millions of Australians over the coming months, as work continues to protect more people from the deadly pandemic.

An expression of interest process commenced on 1 February 2021 for community pharmacies around Australia to participate in the Australian COVID-19 Vaccination rollout strategy.

This will ensure that Australians have the broadest possible access to COVID-19 vaccines including those living in rural and regional Australia.

All health professionals involved in the vaccination program will have undertaken specialised training, which is currently in development. This training is expected to be rolled out from early February.

INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER ARRIVAL CAPS

Many residents have contacted my office concerned for friends and family who are still overseas and wish to return to Australia.

I am happy to report on Friday that National Cabinet reaffirmed a shared priority to supporting Australians to return home through increased international passenger arrival caps.

National Cabinet agreed from 15 February to the following arrivals caps:

- New South Wales - 430 per day
- Queensland - 1000 per week
- Western Australia - 512 per week
- Victoria - 1310 arrivals per week
- South Australia - 530 per week

Young Local

Name: Clare Sephton

Study: Third year Speech Pathology student at the University of Newcastle.

Favourite Hobby: I love dancing around the house with my headphones on, just losing myself in the music.

Favourite local place to hang out: Hanging around Pebbly Beach and the Tanks, its absolutely beautiful.

Favourite Music: I like a lot of different genres, but I especially love songs by musicians like Hozier and Mitski.

What do you think is going well now in our local area? I really admire the way that our community has come together these past twelve months in the face of the pandemic, and have actively supported each other. I think this is especially clear in the way we as a community have worked to support local businesses and keep our local economy alive.

What do you think we need to do? I think it is really important that we (as a community) continue to support each other and our local businesses long after the pandemic ends. We need to hold on to that community spirit and continue to strengthen our relationships with each other.

Who inspires you? My mum has always inspired me to do my best and to be the best I can be, and to never give up.

What do you want to get up to in the future? I am working hard in my degree to become a qualified speech pathologist, to achieve my dream of working in my local area and providing support to the people who need it most.

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

Dr David Gillespie MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE
He Listens. He Cares. He Delivers.

THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

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New Kindies starting in 2021

Tears and Tissue Cup offered to new families at Forster Primary



Two weeks ago Forster Public School welcomed new Kindergarten students and their families to the school.

Over the past few years our school has run a Tears and Tissues café as a part of our Starting School Program.



Due to Covid restrictions, beverages and morning tea could not be offered, but the school were still able to present the parents with a 'Tears and Tissues' cup which included a little poem to help them as they entrusted their children to the school.

The parents also received a note from the teacher to help make the transition for the parents easier.

Relieving School Principal, Mrs Lorelle O'Brien said that the kindergarten students had handled their first day very well but there were a few tears and wet eyes from parents in the morning as they said goodbye.

Tracey Horne

Two Kindy classes welcomed at Holy Name Primary



It's been a beautiful start to the year at Holy Name School, happy smiles everywhere. We were especially excited to

welcome two Kindergarten classes into our school community.
Simone Maloney

Lake Street community consultation extended

MidCoast Council is seeking community feedback for a proposal to rezone land at Lake Street, Forster. Submissions now close on the 5th of March (previously the 19th of February) to allow the community more time to learn about the draft plan and make submissions.

MidCoast Council will be holding another information day to allow members of the community to chat to staff and consultants about the proposal on Friday the 26th February at the former Forster Office, Breese Parade.

The subject site is in close proximity to the Forster CBD, the waterfront and the adjoining Civic Precinct and is located next to two significant transport corridors. The total combined site area of the proposed rezoning is approximately 9,015m2 and currently includes the Gallipoli Court self-contained holiday apartments, the Sunseeker Motor Inn, the Caltex Service Station on the intersection of Lake Street and Macintosh Street, and the Council owned 10m wide (unformed) Lake Lane (at the rear of Gallipoli Court and the Sunseeker Motor Inn).

"The objective of the Planning Proposal is to change the planning controls over the site to allow for future high density residential development," explained Council's Director of Liveable Communities, Paul De Szell.

"The proposed rezoning would amend the Great Lakes Local Environmental Plan 2014

to rezone the land from R3 Medium Density Residential to R4 High Density Residential, increasing the permitted building height from 12m to 30m and remove the Floor Space Ratio controls over the subject site."

Gerard Tuckerman, Acting Manager of Land Use Planning explained, "We previously held an information session about the proposal in December last year and it was clear that it was important for the community to be given another opportunity to voice any concerns and chat to our planners and the consultants about the proposal."

"This next information day will be run in 30 minute sessions throughout the day starting at 10.30am and finishing at 6.30pm, with a limit of 10 people per session to allow everyone to have their say on the matter and ensure we abide by COVID-19 regulations."

To book a session head to www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lake-street-forster-rezoning-proposal-community-information-session-tickets-141230914467

If you can't make one of the sessions on the day, head to Council's website to find out more information and submit your feedback www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/HYS.



The rezoning proposal will be on public exhibition until Friday the 5th of March 2021.



Above: Architectural artist impression - Urban Design Analysis.

Investigating Hallidays Point's sewer lines

Sewer lines in Hallidays Point will be the focus of MidCoast Council's closed circuit television investigation program from Monday 15 February.

This program is expected to run in the area until Friday 28 May with work being undertaken between 7am and 5pm weekdays as well as some Saturdays from 7am to 1pm.

The sewer line investigation program aims to correctly map the sewer network, identify potential problems so they can be addressed, and undertake periodic cleaning of the mains.

"This investigation program is an important part of our preventative maintenance schedule," said Robert Scott, Council's Director of Infrastructure and Engineering Services.

"Using closed circuit television cameras we can identify potential problems so they can be resolved before they cause any disruption to services, as well as mapping and cleaning."

The investigation work does not impact on services to homes, however to conduct the tests contractors working for council may need to gain access to some properties within the testing area. These property owners will be contacted directly by MidCoast Council staff.

It is possible the cleaning process may cause a backflow of air into the toilet. Customers are encouraged to leave the toilet lid down and the toilet door closed. In the event that the cleaning process empties the toilet bowl simply flushing the toilet will refill it.

Any customers who experience any issues as a result of the investigation program are urged to contact Council on 7955 7777 and report the incident.

Tell Me a Story competition is on again for 2021

The Tell Me a Story writing competition is on again for primary school children in years 3 to 4 and 5 to 6 in the MidCoast region.

This is the fourth year of the competition, which last year saw many interesting stories entered, together with illustrations, which were published in a book by author

and publisher Michael Davies.

This year's judging team of writers and teachers is being headed up by Michael Davies, whose book 'Dreamkill' was published in the US. Michael, who retired from the IT and business community, moved to live in Wingham to concentrate on writing and publishing, and now has 29 more published books, including 11 novels written together with school children during his popular writing workshops. Some of these books are found in local libraries. He believes that "writing develops imagination and creativity - both invaluable in later life. This is essential for problem solving, regardless of what profession they may enter. Those who develop writing skills early have a great advantage for later."

The Tell Me a Story competition allows children to have fun writing, to feel good about their stories and to enjoy seeing them published in a book.

Local schools have received posters with information about how to enter the competition, which closes on March 25.

Following the story writing competition, from May 17, is the Illustration competition, where primary children can enter with an illustration of one of the awarded stories. Heading the illustration judging team of artists is Christine Collins, a working watercolour artist and previously, a primary school art teacher. Christine and her team will be looking for illustrations that best portray the chosen story.

All information about the Tell Me a Story and Illustration competitions can be found on the website at: www.tellmeastory.org.au

Lorraine Rogers



Leaders of the judging teams for the Tell Me a Story writing and illustration competitions, Michael Davies and Christine Collins with the book of entries from last year.



COMMUNITY NEWS

MIDCOAST FOCUS

Bulky waste 2021



The annual bulky waste and scrap metal kerbside collection is back this year, kicking off in the Manning region on 22 February. The message is loud and clear – don't put your waste out any earlier than specified for your zone or you may be fined. Manning residents can find full details, including when and how to place your waste on the kerb on our website www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bulkywaste

And don't panic if you're in Gloucester or Great Lakes, you won't miss out – the dates for when you should place waste on the kerb will be provided well in advance. Check our website in the meantime for information on what items will be accepted and what will not.

Our first youth taskforce

We are establishing a youth taskforce for progressive, community minded, active young people from across the region. This taskforce provides an opportunity for young people aged 16-24 to be involved in a formal and ongoing youth participation setting. Elected taskforce members will be able to actively have a say on decisions affecting them and work together to deliver initiatives for other young people across the MidCoast. Once established, the taskforce will plan and run a variety of youth activities and events and support the delivery of localised youth action teams in the Manning, Great Lakes and Gloucester regions. There are 12 positions available. Applicants must be aged between 16 and 24 and live in the MidCoast region. To find out more and apply to join the taskforce visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/youth. Applications close on Friday 19 March.

Have your say



We are seeking community feedback on:

- Development Proposal DA-262/2021 - Extension to caravan park - 10 Tea Tree Road, Forster
- Development Proposal 39/2021/GDA - Additions to Recreation Centre Grandstand - Boundary Street Gloucester
- Rezoning Proposal - Lake Street Forster
- Ageing Strategy
- Flying Fox community consultation
- Proposed intersection modifications, Nabiac
- Draft Asset Management Policy
- Draft Climate Change Policy and Strategy

Visit the Have Your Say page on our website for further info.

Draft Climate Change policy & strategy








We are currently seeking community feedback on the draft Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Strategy. The draft Climate Change Policy provides a framework and a set of guiding principles for climate action, setting ambitious targets for climate mitigation, committing to reducing the risks of climate change to Council's assets and operations and supporting the community's efforts to do the same. The Strategy outlines an approach to renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate adaptation and is the first phase in a two-part program of work that is focussed on assets and operations. These documents are now on public exhibition and will be open for feedback until 12 March. Head to the Have Your Say page on our website to find out more.

Intended pesticide application

We have instructed Local Pest Experts to undertake pesticide applications in the Forster region, which are scheduled to be carried out during April and May 2021. Pesticides are being used for spiders, rodents and cockroaches. Pesticide products will be applied to Council structures including public buildings. Pesticides used will be selected from: Biflex Aquamax insecticide, Synergy Pro ant bait, Starrdust Pro, Maxforce Gold Gel, Enviromax Deltamethrin, Temprid 75, Termidor. Residents (including pets) are advised not to enter the premises through any treated areas until the pesticides used have dried, or any special instructions advised on the notice erected on the day(s) of treatment. For any further information please contact Council's Facilities and Halls Supervisor on 7955 7777.

Careers at Council






WE'RE HIRING






We are seeking suitably qualified people to fill the roles of:

- Business and Administration Manager
- Domestic Assistants - Tea Gardens
- Library Assistant
- Expressions of Interest - Chair - Internal Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Visit our website for further information and to apply.

For more information contact us: ph 7955 7777 council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au [midcoastcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/midcoastcouncil) www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au

Classical performance from Coffs comes to town

Formed in 2020, the Coffs Harbour String Quartet (CHSQ) is made up of four passionate musicians who share the same love of education and performance.

CHSQ made their debut performance in 2020 during peak COVID-19 restrictions via a live-stream concert, and have quickly gained a reputation for giving exciting and inspiring performances featuring some of the great string quartet repertoire. They have also performed in numerous prestigious venues on the MNC, including "private functions for interesting people".

The quartet is made up with the following members who, after careers in symphony

Below: *Sinfonia MNC - our community orchestra.*



orchestras and chamber ensembles across Australia and New Zealand, decided to move to the regions to encourage and inspire audiences, local communities and the next generation of music makers through education and performance.

Jennen Ngiau-Keng – Violin 1

Annabelle Swainston – Violin 2

Patrick Brearley – Viola, Founder

Caleb Murray – Cello

February 21st sees CHSQ make their debut performance in Tuncurry through the generous invitation of the Tuncurry WW1 Memorial Hall Management Committee.

"We are absolutely thrilled that the Coffs Quartet has agreed to be our opening concert for 2021" said President of the Committee Leigh Vaughan. "Our historic hall is now Covid-safe and friendly and is wheelchair accessible. We are hoping that our community will support live music-making as we continue to work at bringing our Hall back to its former glory as a performance venue."

The Quartet's program will feature works by Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Mozart and Nordic folk tunes arranged for strings by the Danish String Quartet.

Tickets available at the door \$20. Children under 12 free. Students, school and University \$10. All proceeds are going towards the hiring of the hall and assistance with travelling costs for the Quartet.

The Coffs Harbour String Quartet, led by Director of the CH Regional Conservatorium, viola player Pat Brearley, will give a workshop for string members of our community orchestra - Sinfonia MNC

(Music in Communities Network).

This will focus on our current repertoire (even in Covid Times we plan for the future!) to develop our instrumental skills and ensemble playing.

"We hope this is only the beginning of a musical collaboration!" Leigh Vaughan.

Further information see www.tuncurrymemorialhall.com.au/ or phone Leigh Vaughan on 0417 289 077.

Have your say on Council's draft asset management policy

MidCoast Council's draft asset management policy is currently on public exhibition with community feedback invited until Friday 12 March.

The policy is a guide for the strategic management of Council's infrastructure assets and defines its vision and service delivery objectives for asset management, in accordance with legislative requirements,

community needs and affordability.

The draft policy is the first in a suite of documents required under the integrated planning and reporting (IP & R) framework and incorporates all council assets.

"This asset management policy provides the framework for the establishment of consistent asset management processes throughout our region," said MidCoast Council's Director of Infrastructure and Engineering Rob Scott.

"Our infrastructure assets represent a vast

investment, over many generations, that supports modern living in the community, and this plan is imperative to ensure these assets can continue to be utilised for future generations".

"We're always looking to improve our services and this policy facilitates continuous improvement processes related to infrastructure asset management."

To find out more information, view the draft policy and provide feedback, head to www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/HYS

NSW Government to boost Senior Public Sector Jobs in the regions

More senior NSW Government roles will soon be based in regional communities like Myall Lakes, increasing the number of high skilled jobs in the bush



and supporting local economies, thanks to the NSW Government's new Regional Workforce Principles.

Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead said the new Regional Workforce Principles will allow the public sector to grow in regional areas as the NSW.

Government commits to increasing the proportion of senior regional staff by 2023 and advertising roles that can be performed from any location as 'regional location encouraged'.

"This is exciting news for regional communities, it will increase the NSW Government presence across the state, creating more job opportunities and greater career progression," Mr Bromhead said.

"We will all benefit from a more significant NSW Government workforce presence in the bush where local communities have the local knowledge and experience to make decisions about their own wants and needs.

"While details about where people will be based are yet to be determined, I will be

promoting the vibrant lifestyle, friendly community, spectacular scenery and quality of life waiting to be enjoyed here in Myall Lakes Electorate."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the Regional Workforce Principles demonstrate the NSW Government's commitment to delivering its recently released 20 Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW - Refresh.

"After the impacts of natural disasters and a pandemic, it's clear our communities want a stronger, safer regional NSW, which is not only surviving, but thriving, and the refreshed '20 year Vision' sets out a clear pathway forward," Mr Barilaro said.

"These principles will build on the NSW Government's investment in regional NSW, enabling people to pursue their public sector careers in the bush, rather than having to relocate to Sydney."

The Department of Regional NSW has established working hubs in Armidale, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo and Queanbeyan in the past six months, and will soon begin to assist NSW Government agencies to grow their workforces in regional communities.

Brommy's Community Update



I want to remind all eligible seniors that applications are once again open for the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card until the 30th November 2021.

The travel card has been an overwhelming success, last year easing the burden of 19,223 local seniors. That's a \$4.8million investment by the NSW Nationals in Government in the Mid Coast Council area alone.

Since applications re-opened we've received more than 7,700 applications from the Mid Coast Council region.

This card is great news for regional seniors and another way we are injecting money into the bush with the benefits flowing for fuel stations, taxi drivers and local economies.

To be eligible for the card seniors must be an age pensioner with a valid Pensioner Concession Card or hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card issued by either the Department of Human Services or Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Applications for the card can be made online at www.service.nsw.gov.au, or by calling 13 77 88 or by visiting a Service NSW Service Centre.

Star Business



Names: Owners Phil and Ros. (Above is John, Phil and Aaron.)

Business: No Bull Gourmet Meats at Forster Keys

What is the best part of your job?

I love my job. This allows me to prepare new things that I want to share with my customers. We do a lot of stuff that is not traditional. I love to cook and invent new products for busy mums and dads.

What can you tell us about your staff?

I feel that staff are the most important part of the business. I have been friends with John for 45 years and with the other John for 20 years. We just work together well and share the same

goals. Aaron is new to the team. He's like a diamond in the rough. We'll polish him up and he'll be perfect.

What would you like your customers to know?

Everything in the store is manufactured here so we have 100% control of what we have. We try to deliver the best products we can and on top of that include family value on things like our

schnitzels which we haven't raised the price on for many years.

Any tips for other local businesses?

With a small business you've got to do it 100% every time. You have to know who your competition is and work harder to offer as good or a better service.

I know most of my customers by name. I came here 15 years ago and was welcomed by the community from the first day. I try to help them as much as possible.

Editor's note: This was nominated by a customer who has bought their schnitzels for years.

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.

MidCoast Council quarterly budget update

MidCoast Council is projecting a net budget result surplus of more than \$4 million, tabling the most recent review of the 2020-21 budget at yesterday's Council meeting.

In presenting the budget, Council's Director of Corporate Services, Steve Embry explained that Council considers its financial and budget perspective from two perspectives – a net budget result and a net operating result.

"The net budget result for the current financial year is projected to be a surplus of more than \$4 million. The net operating result for the year is projected to be a deficit of \$10 million."

"The net operating result includes non-cash items such as depreciation. Accounting for the depreciation of Council assets, which is a requirement of accounting standards, has an impact on our projected bottom line."

Mr Embry said the accounting of depreciation is an issue for the long-term sustainability of all councils and is something that significantly impacted on the former councils.

"We are developing a medium-term financial plan to address the funding of asset depreciation over multiple budget years. If depreciation is not funded this can lead to an infrastructure renewal backlog. Importantly we have invested heavily in road infrastructure since the merger through the initial \$30 million road program and the current \$100 million road program, which reduces the backlog of infrastructure works."

Mr Embry said the other impact on the net operating result projection at this time of the year was the way incomplete projects from the previous financial year are treated.

"While the funds to match this expenditure

are placed into cash reserves, until the projects are completed they are required under the accounting standards to be treated as expenditure without matching income in one of the quarterly financial reporting statements. This results in a projected net operating result deficit for the financial year 2020-21."

However, Mr Embry explained, when the impact of this, and non-cash items (such as depreciation) are excluded the net budget result projects a \$4 million surplus.

Delay in issuing rates notices and water accounts

Council has also advised ratepayers that while the February rates instalment notice has yet to be issued, this is expected to occur in the coming weeks. Ratepayers paying by instalment will be given the usual 28 days to pay from the date of issue of the instalment notice.

"Shortly before Christmas we consolidated our four former rating systems into a single system. We are currently going through a process of ensuring all the data has transferred correctly before issuing rates instalment notices.

"While we appreciate this is not ideal, we do want to ensure the notices are correct to save undue inconvenience for the community."

Water customers are also being impacted by the system's consolidation and those residents who are normally billed in January are also expected to start receiving their delayed accounts over the coming weeks and will also receive the usual 28 days to pay their account.

For a full explanation of the budget and financial position, view the Quarterly Budget Review item for yesterday's Council meeting agenda on the website: www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/meetings.

Stephen Bromhead MP

Delivering for Myall Lakes

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

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

myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au 02 6555 4099 stephenbromhead.com.au

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

Our Local Wildlife by Kym Kilpatrick



Tawny Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) are common night-time visitors to our gardens and can sometimes be spotted during the daytime doing their best to look like tree branches! They particularly love stringy barked tress and other rough barked trees for that reason. They are

often mistaken for owls but differ in that they don't have strong talons and actually belong to the nightjar family. They fly silently because of their soft edges to their feathers.

In our area we also get the Marbled Frogmouth (*Podargus ocellatus*), which have chestnut and russet colourings rather than the deep grey of the Tawny. Marbled Frogmouths are rainforest dependent whilst Tawnies like open eucalyptus woodlands territories. Just to add to the confusion though some female Tawnies in our area are more chestnut in colour. Tawnies' calls are a soft Oom Oom.

They mate for life and in zoos have been known to live for 30 years. They breed in Spring and Summer and will often use the same nesting tree year after year, raising one to three, or in a good year, four young on fairly flimsy platform nests.

They need to gorge up in Summer because in Winter when there is less food they may go into a state called 'torpor' or hibernation where their heart rate and metabolism slows.

They eat all kinds of insects, snails and slugs, and will also take small mammals such as mice and rats. Sadly, some will get hit by cars as they chase moths across roads. They are also vulnerable from secondary poisoning, either from rat baited dead mice or rats, or from insecticides and snail poisons, so if you want these wonderful birds in your backyard, please avoid using these chemicals.

In the last year local Fawna (For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid) has successfully rescued 20 Tawny Frogmouths.

Article and photo by Kym Kilpatrick.



How to join the solar boom and avoid all the pitfalls

The sun is shining and we are basking in a new solar boom. About 2.6 million homes now have solar panels installed on their rooftops and Australians installed 39 per cent more in 2020 than in 2019, according to consultancy SunWiz.

The installation record has been broken each year since 2016 but then the coronavirus pandemic struck and Australians started spending up big on home improvements. Working from home also makes solar more viable.

Clean Energy Regulator general manager Mark Williamson says: "In most capital cities, the payback for a 6.5kW system is about four years, but with working from home it's about three years."

Still, installing solar on your rooftop can be a hard decision, with so many options to choose from.

The technology is confusing and the industry's reputation has been somewhat tarnished by backyard operators, prompting energy minister Angus Taylor to order a Clean Energy Council review, with its report due to be released soon.

So, I turned to two industry experts - Alex Georgiou from solar marketplace Shinehub and

Finn Peacock, author of *The Good Solar Guide* - to learn how you can climb aboard the solar bandwagon while avoiding some of the pitfalls. Here is what I learned.

1. PANELS

These should be "Tier 1", or those manufactured by big brands who have a good reputation in the industry. Georgiou says they should be 300 watts (the older ones were 250W) and be "mono PERC half-cut"

- the most popular type sold. Demand a 25-year warranty.

2. INVERTER

This is even more important than the panels, says Peacock, because it is the most likely element to fail during the first 10 years.

"If you're on a limited budget, I recommend prioritising a premium inverter over premium panels," he says. European models are proven performers.

Look for a five-year warranty - or even better, 10 years - on a reputable brand.

3. BATTERIES

They are not for everyone but they are coming down in price, with the newest models now listed at less than \$10,000.

Georgiou says batteries are more likely to suit if you use most of your energy at night, or if

you connect up to a Virtual Power Plant - a network of decentralised, medium-scale power generating units such as wind farms or solar parks.

"If your main motivation is optimal payback or helping the environment, then don't buy batteries (yet)," Peacock says.

4. RETAILER AND INSTALLER

Look for the 1175 retailers that are "Clean Energy Council approved", which means they have agreed to higher standards than the bare minimum required by government.

For installers, ask if they are "Clean Energy Council accredited" - not just a CEC member.

Look for a warranty on installation of "at least five years", Peacock says. The longer a company has been established, the better.

5. ENERGY MONITORING

Does the package include energy monitoring? This is important because it is the only way you would know if your solar system is working properly. It is also a sign, Georgiou says, that the retailer is committing to making your system work long term.

6. IS IT TOO CHEAP?

This is a tricky one. Everyone wants to save but cheap solar deals can be a sign of a provider cutting corners. Some hardware is better than others, as are some installers.



Rainforest rehabilitation for 4WD trail at Cape Hawke



The new McBrides Beach walking track at Cape Hawke was opened to the public on Wednesday 23rd of December 2020, providing safe pedestrian access to the beach for day-use visitors. It has been well-used, with 50 to 100 people walking the track every day and positive visitor feedback.

Since notifying the public about the temporary closure of the McBrides 4WD vehicle trail, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has consulted with key stakeholders about the future of the trail. Consultation involved listening to a range of perspectives and consideration of site issues, cost analysis and environmental assessment. Following the review, NPWS has decided that the severely eroded 4WD vehicle trail to the beach will be closed permanently from the 9th of February for rehabilitation. These rehabilitation works are expected to be completed by the end of February, weather permitting and will use existing soil, rocks and vegetation on and adjacent to the former vehicle trail to divert and disperse surface water runoff. Without significant change along the length of the trail soil will continue to be eroded and inhibit vegetation regrowth.

The vehicle trail closure and rehabilitation will better protect the natural and cultural values of McBrides Beach. It will address the damage to Aboriginal cultural sites, soil erosion, damage to vegetation, manage

surface water and promote regrowth of littoral rainforest in the Booti Booti National Park. Conservation works to protect cultural sites from further damage will also be completed during this period. NPWS will continue to work with traditional owners to improve visitor information and appreciation of cultural values.

NPWS has received requests to consider additional walking experiences to link Cape Hawke with nearby locations and will investigate these opportunities in 2021. Extending the walking track network on Cape Hawke is subject to available funding.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



Photos of local wildlife by Brian McCauley



Left: Eastern Rosella taken at Forster.



Right: Eastern Osprey taken at Old Bar.



Left: Jumping Spider taken at Forster.

MidCoast climate change policy & strategy on exhibition



MidCoast Council is seeking feedback from the community on its Draft Climate Change Policy and Strategy.

Both documents are the next stage in a process that began in 2019 when Council made a commitment to taking action on climate change.

The purpose of the Climate Change Policy is to demonstrate leadership by providing a framework and a set of guiding principles for climate action. This involves setting ambitious targets for climate mitigation, committing to reducing the risks of climate change to Council's assets and operations and supporting the community's efforts to do the same.

The Climate Change Strategy outlines an approach to renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate adaptation for Council that directly responds to its 2019 resolution. It sets out the case for a range of cost-effective actions that can be implemented progressively over several years to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Council's operations.

The strategy is the first phase in a two-part program of work and is focused on Council's assets and operations, with the second phase of the project focusing on working with the MidCoast community.

"We're engaging with the community to ensure climate change risks and impacts are understood and managed collaboratively," explained Paul De Szell, MidCoast Council's Director of Liveable Communities.

"The reality is, this is something we can't afford to ignore, we need to plan for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Our aim is to manage and reduce our greenhouse emissions and adapt our practices to reduce our impact on the environment and our communities."

The policy and strategy are open for feedback until Friday 12 March and Council is hopeful the community will get on board, share ideas and support the implementation into the future.

"It's really important that we all come together on this, it needs to be a joint effort," added Paul.

To view the documents and provide feedback, head to www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/HYS

To find out more about Council's response to Climate Change, head to <https://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Climate-Change-and-the-MidCoast>

Bushfire prediction technology to bolster emergency response efforts

Australia will develop a nationally consistent bushfire modelling and prediction capability under an agreement announced 4th of February 2021 between CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, and AFAC, the National Council for Fire and Emergency Services.

The partnership involves the development of Spark Operational, a cutting-edge bushfire simulation tool based on CSIRO's 'Spark' fire prediction platform.

Fire and emergency services agencies across Australia will be able to use Spark Operational, opening bushfire prediction opportunities across borders and over different landscapes.

CSIRO's Spark platform combines current fire behaviour knowledge with state-of-the-art simulation science to produce predictions, statistics and visualisations of bushfire spread, as well as simulating hours of fire spread across a landscape in a matter of seconds.

AFAC's Fire Prediction Services Group will work with CSIRO to improve existing technology and build a national system that allows for consistent bushfire predictions to support emergency service and response teams across borders.

Phase one of the technology's implementation commenced in January 2021, with further



developments ensuring it will become fully operational over the next three years.

With each phase of its implementation, Spark Operational will be grown and adapted into a tool that all agencies nationwide can tailor to specific landscapes and bushfire behaviour, enabling them to better predict - and thereby protect - local environments.

CSIRO Chief Executive Dr Larry Marshall said the innovation built on decades of expertise. "Our solutions from science have protected Australians from the threat of bushfires for over 70 years, from roadside fire danger signs to advanced burnover protection materials," Dr Marshall said.

"But 2020 changed the game forever. So, we have changed our game too, by unleashing new science and technology to protect

our firefighters and Australian communities.

"We believe this advanced system will help firefighters outthink fire, to anticipate its actions, and to get ahead of it, so they can beat it.

"Spark is a great example of combining environmental, digital and materials science and listening to Australia's front-line responders to deliver a real-world solution that works for them.

"Spark is a cutting-edge platform, based on today's breakthrough technology but built on a strong foundation of research into understanding and predicting the behaviour and spread of bushfires."

AFAC CEO Stuart Ellis said the new technology will support fire agencies to keep communities safe.

"Spark Operational will play a significant role in allowing our emergency response teams to effectively plan for and respond to fire emergencies in a variety of landscapes and climates," Mr Ellis said.

"It was identified as the best solution to use to help achieve a nationally consistent system that will take the nation to the next generation of firefighting intelligence, and ensure we are protecting as many lives and assets as possible across multiple scenarios, mitigating the dangers of bushfire."

Through a partnership with AFAC, Minderero Foundation is supporting the development of Spark Operational as part of its Fire Shield Mission, which aims to detect and extinguish dangerous fires within an hour by 2025.

The creation of a nationally consistent bushfire modelling and prediction capability was recommended by CSIRO in a report to the Commonwealth Government last year www.csiro.au/en/Research/Environment/Extreme-Events/Bushfire/frontline-support/report-climate-disaste-resilience

Background

The Phoenix RapidFire bushfire simulator, developed by the University of Melbourne, the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre [together with CSIRO who supported the CRC] and the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, has been successfully applied by fire and emergency service agencies for a number of years to help understand and predict bushfire behaviour, particularly in grass and eucalypt-fuelled fires. Spark Operational plans to build on its success and will be initially used alongside Phoenix RapidFire.

For longer term hazard planning, fire services will be able to use Spark Operational to support decisions about where to conduct fuel reduction burning in order to gain the most protection for communities. It can also be combined with climate and vegetation models to estimate fire-based risks in future as a result of climate change.

CSIRO - Australia's national science agency.

Bungwahl, Duntroon, Wright & Co and fine art

Historical note

John Wright arrived in Bungwahl around 1865. In 1867 he, along with Alexander Croll, built the schooner, Caledonia, at Bungwahl. This commenced an 87 year ship building and sawmilling dynasty which ended in 1954 with the launching of the Santa Cruz at Tuncurry, NSW by John Wright's grandson, John Wright (Jnr).

After construction of numerous boats at Bungwahl, John Wright Snr started his own settlement on the north bank of what is actually the Coolongolook River, adopting the local Worimi Aboriginal place name "Tuncurry" (which is said to mean "plenty fish") for the area north of Forster. His son, Ernest Wright was born at Tuncurry, and was the first white child to be born there. Upon the death of Ernest's father (John Wright), Ernest continued working the shipyards at Tuncurry and in 1937



Photo above: Valerie Wright with John Wright in 1942.

he had the satisfaction of launching the largest wooden steamer to be built in Australia; The Glenreagh. In Ernest's career he worked in close association with Sir Allan Taylor in the development of the ship building and timber industries on the eastern seaboard. WWII meant quite a deal of disruption to the local industry and in 1942 Ernest's son, John Wright (Jnr) went off to the Duntroon Military College in Canberra as an officer cadet. During his time there he had the good fortune to meet Valerie Lewis, an art teacher whom he married and brought to Tuncurry where John continued in the family tradition after serving in New Guinea.

Here Valerie became enthralled and inspired by the local area and fishing industry and henceforth began a lifelong association between her art and local industry. John was managing the family Timber mill and Shipyard; John Wright & Co., however when it closed down a few years later, in 1954, she and John moved to Sydney where Valerie taught art with the Department of Education, East Sydney Technical College and then Abbotsleigh Girls' High School, until her retirement, when she returned to Tuncurry. She

was then able to start painting in earnest (no pun intended). In 1966, with the shipyards and sawmills wound up, the Tuncurry foreshore, the scene of much of the Wright commercial industry, became a public park, today known as John Wright Park.

Valerie Wright 1920 - 2008

Born Valerie Lewis, in Sydney 1920 she attended the Elam Art School in Auckland whilst her father worked there during her teenage years. At age 17, Auckland Art Gallery bought two of her works.

Returning to Australia at 18 years, she attended East Sydney School of Arts, then taught at Canberra Girls' Grammar School, where she met her future husband John Wright of Tuncurry. After the war she returned with John to Tuncurry, and fell in love with the area.

Of her art thereafter, one observation; "Vibrant colour, skilful composition, strong sense of rhythm and movement, sound draughtsmanship, a keen sense of observation, a delight in the beauty of nature, and a fascination with man's interaction with the natural world, and you have the elements that contribute to her distinctive style....."

It is style strongly influenced by her New Zealand training and by her later years in Tuncurry." SUE GOGARTY (Daughter)

"Despite World II preventing Valerie from taking up a scholarship to the L'Academie Lhote

in Paris, she somehow assimilated all that was going on in Modernist Europe, where art was strongly influenced by late cubism... So many of Valerie's works were created in cultural isolation, and now reside in private collections, that I think it is marvellous to at last have a book (The Turquoise Tide) that makes her work accessible to art lovers. It will also enable her work to be reassessed and given its rightful accolade." ROBIN NORLING, 2008, Manning Regional Gallery.

Valerie became very closely involved with Great Lakes Art Society from its inception until her passing in 2008. The Lake Street Gallery of the Great Lakes Art Society is pleased to feature an exhibition of Valerie's remaining works and prints from 1st February, 2021 until the end of February. The Gallery hours are 10 - 4pm Fri, Sat and Sun. A few of her exquisite works are shown.

Wayne Barry



Star Photo

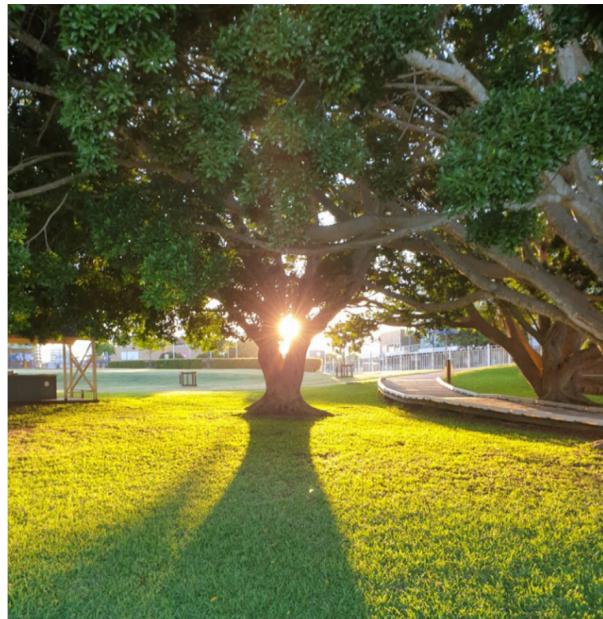


Photo by Patricia Macvean.

Do you have a great celebration, wedding, new baby or amazing photo to share? Please send your high resolution photos to: www.theforstertuncurry.com.au

'Fact or Fiction?'

Have you heard of the Bucca Wauka Lion? In July 1933, there were sightings of a lion roaming in the Bucca Wauka Area. Was it a fact or was it fiction?

Mr. C. Wisemantel reported that he saw a lion sunning itself in a clear space on top of a ridge. A vealer was killed on Mr. T. Murray's property and three more calves had been killed and partially eaten. Mr. Allan Murray of Bunyah stated that in 1898, a circus and menagerie passed through the area and owing to an accident, some lions got loose and all but two were recaptured. In October, 1933, Jim Bourke and Hugh McPherson asked the question "Has the Bucca Wauka lion bobbed up at Belbora?"

These gentlemen placed a mob of young cattle on Belbora stock reserve to camp for the night. Upon mustering next morning, four head of cattle were found killed and a couple were partly eaten. One had three deep scratches, as might be caused by large sharp claws, along its stomach and the inside of the calf was partly torn out. Jim Bourke said that he could not possibly think that the calves were killed by dingoes. If dogs did it, they would be larger than Alsatians in size, strength and ferocity. (Dungog Chronicle 24/10/1933)

animals common to the bush. But the beast was none of them - whatever it was, it was not an Australian animal. (Kyogle Examiner 25/7/1933)

If you would like to read more stories about our area or about our pioneers, please visit the Museum in Capel Street, Tuncurry.

If you would like to research your family history and need some guidance, please phone the Museum on 6554 6275 for an appointment.

Volunteers are always welcome at the Museum.

Ruth Stocker Volunteer/Research Officer



Above: Newspaper map of Bucca Wauka.

Out and About

Great Lakes Education Fund (GLEF) Student - Partnership Breakfast www.facebook.com/Great-Lakes-Education-Fund



Tuncurry inventor Bodo still has much to do

Bodo Mordek always meant to go back to Germany after arriving in Melbourne in 1960 but, "When I got here, I found many things of interest. I haven't had time to go back... literally. There is still so much I want to do."

One of Bodo's interests is wood carving. Back in 1986 Bodo wanted to make some chess pieces and was not able to find a lathe needed to make the identical chess shapes. Out of necessity he created his own lathe system using templates made from brass. He developed a stylus that could follow his template designs then he directs the stylus along the wood by turning its handle. The cutter on the end of the stylus then cuts the spinning wood into any shape from his choice of templates. The advantage of this is that the wood is easily carved into identical shapes that only has to be measured once.

Photo left: Bodo holding one of his templates in front of his lathe.

"I choose what template to screw on and the lathe follows it easily. I like to do it by hand [turning the stylus handle] so I can feel it," explains Bodo.

Since designing this lathe it has served Bodo well. Most of the beautiful wooden furniture, picture frames and ornaments around his house has been hand made with his trusty lathe. Bodo's other interests include many other things such as wildlife photography, butterfly collections and what we know as Grandfather Clocks.

Mary Yule

Photo below: Chess pieces and table made by Bodo.



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.



Moir.com.au

Good reading

Every second Thursday whilst my wife conducts the Woollies shopping, I sit quietly on a plastic chair and thoroughly enjoy reading the Forster Tuncurry community newspaper. It is brilliantly compiled. Thank you, Terry Groves. Forster

Incorrect news

On Page 8 of issue 13 you printed a long article about "The Barrington Coast". There is no such place. The name of our area is "Mid-North Coast." Michael White Forster

General Disclaimer: By contributing to this publication, you agree that the material is to the best of your knowledge accurate, and is neither deceptive or misleading, in breach of copyright, or in breach of any other laws and regulations. The information provided within the contents of this publication is the view of the individuals who submit the details. These views are not necessarily those of the Editor. Whilst every care is taken, The Forster Tuncurry takes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

We encourage you to support our local advertisers who help make this paper FREE to pick up and read each fortnight.

Star Pet



Name: Mia is a 7 yr old cat/lion. and parcour on cat towers.
Claim to fame: His mane and tail. **Dislikes:** Being told what to do.
Likes: Playing with a tennis ball, lures

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

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Seeking Volunteer

The Forster Tuncurry Senior Citizens are seeking a volunteer treasurer. Please call Margaret on 65540231.

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ABC Regional Storyteller Scholarship

Job no: 501337
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Applications Close: 28th February 2021

About the Role
 ABC Regional is seeking to champion emerging voices in the disability community in rural and regional Australia. This is an early career opportunity for two people with a lived experience of disability and an interest in telling

factual stories that connect with Australians. You will spend three months working in an ABC regional station, developing your ability to create high quality, compelling content for a variety of ABC platforms, based on your own content idea.
How to Enter
 Please attach a cover letter (2 pages max) that introduces yourself, explain the factual content idea you would like to work on with the ABC. Please also attach two examples of your work. If they are published online, you're welcome to include links.
 Applicants can email their applications to storytellerscholarship@abc.net.au or contribute offline by posting their applications to Regional Storyteller Scholarship applications, ABC Ultimo PO Box 9994 Sydney NSW 2001. For more information visit abc.net.au/careers
 For further information contact Bronwyn Purvis, Content Partnerships Lead on (02) 8333 2682

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 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.parish@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

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.



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 Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. Our bookshop at 6 St Alban's Place is open 9am to Noon weekdays, except Thursdays.



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.ftchurchofchrist.com.au Find us on Facebook: [forstertuncurrycoc](https://www.facebook.com/forstertuncurrycoc)

We also offer a mid-week playgroup. Facebook: [communityplaygroupforstertuncurry](https://www.facebook.com/communityplaygroupforstertuncurry)
 Pastor Bret Clarke



Forster Tuncurry Seventh Day Adventist

We have a bible discussion group at 10 am that continues into the service at 11am on a Saturday. We usually have a lunch afterwards - but due to COVID19 we have had to suspend these. We are at 29 North St Tuncurry.

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



Forster Christian Life Centre

We meet at 3 Kenrose Street Forster on Sundays at 10.00am, observing current Covid restrictions.

We have a Ladies' Bible Study at 10.00am Wednesdays and a Men's Bible Study at 6.00pm Thursdays (men's group includes dinner).

For more information call Eric Hall (Pastor) on 0415 794 291.

Weekly Diary

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

Forster Shores Combined Probus Meeting
 3rd Tuesday of the month, 2pm Club Forster. To attend contact Peter Dreise on 0407842905

Great Lakes Prostate Cancer Support Group.
 Fourth Tuesday of every month 7pm Club Forster
 Email: jjpatchwood@gmail.com

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 sabdooc@catholiccare.org.au

Green Bikes Community Workshop
 Open 12 - 3pm. Supplying parts & free help with bike problems. Tuncurry transfer station. Budding mechanics welcome. 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 sabdooc@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
 Pebbly Beach Playground off Head St 7:45am for 8am start Register with parkrun Aust & bring barcode [facebook.com/Forsterparkrun/](https://www.facebook.com/Forsterparkrun/)

Local Calendar

February

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

All of February - Valerie Wright Exhibition
 Great Lakes Art Gallery, Lake St Forster 10-4pm Friday, Saturday & Sunday www.glas.org.au

Sat 20th Feb - Super Garage Sale
 GL Palliative Care 8-2pm 32 Manning St Tuncurry Opposite John Wright Park

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

Sun 21st Feb - Coffs Harbour String Quartet
 2pm, Tuncurry Memorial Hall Tickets available at the door www.tuncurrymemorialhall.com.au

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
 (This event has been cancelled.)

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 Rocky. Check times at pacificpalmsartsinc.org.au

March

1st to 26th March - Birds Eye View Art Exhibition
 Halliday's Point Library www.creativeshell.com.au

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

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

Sun 14th March - Forster Tri Club Triathlon
 Arrive 7:30am for 8am start Elizabeth Reserve Forster Keys www.forstertriclub.com.au

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Local Legend - Helen Bryan by Vanda Gooley

Volunteer: a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task!

Helen Bryan has been an incredibly active lady all her life and certainly a 'mover and shaker' in the Forster Tuncurry community. She has been described as a 'Dynamic Volunteer'. She has dedicated a large part of her life initiating, assisting, establishing, organising and volunteering her skills, time and efforts to numerous local organisations. We are fortunate to have such a person in our community who has impacted on our lives either directly or indirectly. Retirement has not slowed Helen down. She has since founded a mah-jong group and has continued exploring her family ancestry which has taken her to Fiji where her Great-Great Grandparents were missionaries. Helen has also organised a reunion of descendants of her grandfather, visiting Dundullimal, now a National Trust property at Dubbo.



Above: Helen (far left) with siblings at Uncle's farm in Temora NSW

her parents by ringing them from Circular Quay and her mother asked, "what country are you in?"

Helen came to Forster in 1983, when she was employed by Great Lakes Shire Council under a grant for a 12 month contract from Hunter Social Development Plan, to conduct a community profile. Her employment continued as the first Community Development Officer.

Margaret Gardner, a friend of Helen's, sums up the type of giving, community person that Helen is.

"Helen is a woman who enjoys just getting things done. She is very generous with her time, knowledge and ideas to help people and connect people in community. Not only is she actively involved in many local organisations, she also sees opportunities for others to participate fully in community activities. One need which was clear to her in 1988 was the revitalisation of Adult Education, which she tirelessly worked on to set up a new management committee and relaunch a successful program which continues today as WEA (Workers' Educational Association)."

Helen Bryan, born 1954, was one of five children (one sister died at 11 months) and grew up in Drummoyne. Her father, Allan Bryan owned a private physiotherapy practice and was the first blind person to go through physiotherapy at Sydney University. During WW2, Allan was a training officer when a hand grenade accidentally detonated and blinded him. Her parents met at Concord Hospital where her mother, Joan, was working as a social worker. Helen followed in her mother's footsteps by becoming a social worker and an active volunteer in her community. As a family, they enjoyed annual beachside holidays and also visited with friends and family in Oberon and Dubbo.



Above: Helen as Mrs Pearce in the production of Pygmalion.

Whilst at university Helen did an Outward Bound course which inspired a lifelong love of bushwalking & other outdoor pursuits. Her first social work job was at Karonga School, an SSP (Schools for Specific Purposes) at Epping. After two years of work she headed off overseas as many young Australians do. Her travels started by meeting up with a friend who was sailing around the world. She joined the boat in Miami & sailed through the Bahamas to Panama. After this she travelled through Central & North America, worked in UK, travelled by Eurail pass in Europe, worked on a kibbutz in Israel, travelled in Greece & then returned home after what had been an amazing 2.5 years in the era before mobile phones or emails. She surprised

This involved pursuing the issues raised in the Community Profile & whatever arose, including the establishment of the Forster Tuncurry Adult Education under the umbrella of Taree Adult Education, and the establishment of Kindilian (an early childhood learning century).

Arising from arranging for FT Adult Education to conduct some weekend white water canoeing on Barrington, Helen, along with Peter Craig and Peter Nicholas established a small business taking people on trips down the Barrington River. Adventure Outdoors grew to also running camping safari trips (9-30 days). She recalls many fun (and hair raising) weekends on

Below: Forster Community Health Centre staff reunion 1994.



Above: Helen and husband Bob Warren with newborn Bryan.

the Barrington River as well as camping trips around Australia. They conducted 3 x 30 day trips exploring Cairns, Darwin, Kakadu and Alice Springs, The Barossa Valley, Kimberley and WA.

On returning to the area, Helen worked for Forster Community Health as a generalist Social Worker and her social life revolved very much around GLADS (Great Lakes Amateur Dramatic Society).

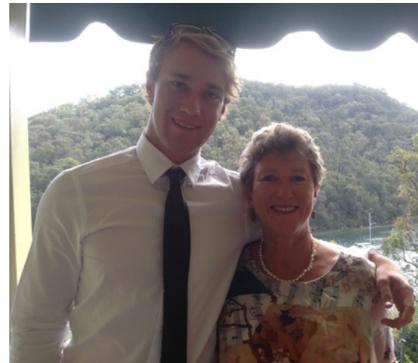
Helen worked on the Central Coast for a while and whilst there was involved with Brisbane Waters Outdoors Club and a community arts festival, Homage to the Sea.

On returning to Forster Helen was employed with Forster Community Health as a Child & Family Counsellor & then Manning Hospital. From 2010 - 2014 she did Social work at the newly established rehab unit at Cape Hawke Hospital (now Forster Private Hospital). Helen started an art group for people who had a stroke or other neurological conditions. This group has changed focus a little but is still operating under the auspice of GLAS.

For many years, Helen has been very involved with Friends of Great Lakes Library Service (FOGLLS). FOGLLS was established with the aim of supporting library services for our local area. The Friends support library events and initiate events which offer literary stimulation, entertainment and education to the community. Chris Jones (Chief Librarian) says "The Friends morning teas are legendary, the group often caters for various events at the library and their delicious spreads are famous." Helen also co-ordinates the Bookstart Programme, which is designed to improve literacy in the community by providing babies, through their parents or carers, with a library bag containing a board book, a DVD of rhymes and information on the critical importance of reading to babies. Through FOGLLS, Helen established a book club that is open to new members. She has also been involved in a bookgroup of local friends that has been going for twenty years.

Helen has been involved with Great Lakes Education Fund (GLEF) since its inception. She has held the role of Student Liaison Officer. This fund has provided much needed financial assistance, and support to local young people (age 16 - 26) to help them achieve their post high school education, training and vocation aspirations. Below is a testimonial from a GLEF participant - Brooke McCarthy - UON (University of Newcastle) - Bachelor of Social Work - 2nd Year GLEF

participant. "It is my absolute pleasure to formulate a few words to describe the amazing work Helen Bryan does with the GLEF team. The Great Lakes Education Fund is an outstanding organisation who's sole purpose is to assist students with various aspects of their tertiary study. Before joining the GLEF community, I thought those aspects would just be monetary, that was until I met Helen Bryan. Helen has always gone out of her way to check up on me and my personal and professional progress.



Above: Son Bryan and Helen.

Helen has used her expertise in Social Work to assist me in any way possible whilst doing my degree in a Bachelor of Social Work. When I think of Helen, I think of my first GLEF interview in 2019, where I was stuck in Taree due to the fires, and in the days following my interview Helen reached out and offered me tickets to a concert in Taree she had and could no longer use as she was stuck elsewhere. I was virtually a stranger to Helen. This is Helen all over, generous and thoughtful. Helen has also provided me invaluable resources, such as

Continued on next page.

Below: Adventure Outdoors at The Steps, Barrington River. Peter Craig in rear of canoe and Helen in the water at back.



Continued from page 16.



Above: Helen with her American 'sister' in the USA.

textbooks, in order to assist my learning. I am amazed and so incredibly appreciative of Helen and the GLEF team for all they do for the Great Lakes youth, and I am extremely proud and humbled to be a part of their organisation."

There was a range of school and sport activities Helen was a part of, while her son, Bryan Warren, was growing up including Cape Hawke Surf Club. Bryan was an excellent fast bowler, hence many games and trips with local and regional NSW CHS teams.

As well as being an active volunteer with FOGLLS and GLEF, Helen is a volunteer at Manning Regional Art Gallery & involved with GLRAR (Great Lakes Rural Australian's for Refugees) & Home Amongst the Gum Trees (a small organisation that gives a few days holidays to people seeking asylum and their families in rural and coastal towns in NSW).

Helen's love of travel started as a Rotary Exchange Student in Vermont USA for one year in 1973 after her HSC. There she saw snow for the first time and learnt to ski. As well as her previously mentioned travel, she also saw parts of Europe on a Euro pass, then travelled home to Australia to be reunited with her family. Helen's travels lasted two and a half years.

Over the years, Helen has had the joy of other travel including walking the Milford Track with her husband and 10-year-old son, walking several tracks in Tasmania, the Larapinta Trail in Central Australia and 2 cycling tours in New Zealand. Helen hopes to return to her love of walking when she's fully recovered from recently undergoing a double knee replacement. Helen has enjoyed other travel to Iceland, Qatar, Western Front, Burma Railway and within Australia.

In 1998, Helen's husband, Bob Warren who was a Social Science teacher at Forster High had a teaching exchange in Cobourg, Ontario, Canada. Their son, Bryan was only 13 months old at the start of their trip to Canada and they had a fantastic year exploring this wonderful country.

Helen is a host with Servas, an international hosting organisation founded in 1949 in the aftermath of WW2. It is a nonprofit organisation providing a hospitality

exchange service. It was set up as an international network for people to meet and where suitable, to be offered a short stay accommodation as part of the peace movement. Members can be both hosts and travellers and hosts do not charge for lodgings.

Helens philosophy is "Follow the serendipitous paths of life - you never know where it will take you." Helen loves finding connections with people and in her life's journey, she has had numerous encounters with people who are connected with her in some way - she believes this is more than coincidence. Helen loves living in Forster Tuncurry - she loves the beauty of the place, the connections she has made over the years and the lifestyle. If she had the chance to improve the area she would introduce more cycle ways - perhaps from Green Point to Forster.

A testimonial from one of Helen's closest and oldest friends - Helen Duggan.

"I first met Helen many years ago when we were both members of GLADS and have been lucky enough to have her as a friend ever since. Helen is one of the most generous caring and

kindhearted people I have known. For example, it is not unusual for her to offer someone she has recently met a place to stay until suitable accommodation can be found. She has an incredible network of friends and acquaintances in both Australia and overseas who she constantly keeps in touch with and through them knows just the right person to help someone in need. Helen has a wide range of interests and her involvement in the community reflects this range."

Vanda Gooley
Photos supplied.

Below: Cape Hawke Surf Patrol (Helen back row second from the right).



Your Travels - A trip down memory lane!

Way back, when some might now suggest was during the 'good old days', [anything pre Covid could probably fall into that category] and state borders only ever meant another photo opportunity for the family album, my husband Allan and I shared an amazing road trip. It commenced on the concourse at the Sydney Opera House in August 2009.

We joined another 350 adventurous people drawn from all walks of life but who shared equally the same passions as us! More than 100 road registered, non-modified cars, all at least 30 years old headed away from Sydney Harbour for 11 gruelling days. We were to travel on as many dirt roads as possible before we completed our journey in Broken Hill. It was not a race, or a rally, or a speed trial. Our well-planned road trip was in fact a celebration of a year's fund-raising efforts for Variety, the Children's Charity, and we were off on yet another NSW Variety Bash!

As is usually the case with many charity events, fancy dress was always the order of the day and most evenings too, when everyone gathered to unwind and share their stories. Our own theme, Minnie [being honest looking more like a Maxie mouse really] and Mickey Mouse, Mice on a Mission, most certainly suited the 'Mouse House', Allan's pride and joy, his 1966 HR Holden ute, bright red of course! Such a vehicle to drive, a dream on wheels... we still miss it!

Not many people have enjoyed such a privilege at the Opera House, which for us was enhanced only by the crowd of family, friends and well-wishers who gathered to cheer us on our way. The day was balmy, and the excitement was high. Cameras flashed incessantly to capture the vivid scenes. Last minute instructions were being issued by the event starter and soon we were flagged on our way!

Variety, the Children's Charity, is all about caring and supporting disadvantaged, isolated or special needs children. For Allan this was his 17th Bash and for me my 5th. The Bash to this day remains simply a drive in the bush, well away from the tarred highways and city bustle, with other like-minded people. Much of the funds we had all tirelessly worked to individually raise, supported generously by family, friends and work colleagues would be presented in the form of much needed equipment via schools, hospitals and other community organisations along the way. It was always a privilege and humbling experience to share those special presentations.

We travelled through so many wonderful country towns; such as Parkes, Ouyen, Woomera, Coober Pedy, Marla, Alice Springs, Kulgera, Maree, Hawker and Yunta. We were always warmly welcomed, cheered on and well fed by the locals who seemed to come out of the bush from miles around, laden with home-made goodies and the ever reliable pumpkin soups.

Evening entertainment in the towns hosting our stops, generally restricted early nights. Strange beds hamper a sound sleep, even when you are dog tired. Our days of constant driving included mandatory lunch stops and short breaks to reinforce absolute safety measures. We all contended with minor mechanical breakdowns, smothering red dust, unfamiliar deep rutted sinking tracks, stock seeking food on the verges, kangaroos and emus taking fright, creek and rail crossings, and massive road trains.

Historic local attractions often saw us leave the set routes to take photos and enjoy the spectacular scenery, places we would return to visit we said, one day...when we had more time. Covid restrictions may just allow us to finally do so. The daily route maps had us covering on average about 350kms but every day was always filled with lots of laughter, and occasionally even tears along the way. Sometimes situations were confronting but certainly provided an education firsthand. We witnessed how amazing and resilient Australians living away from major towns truly are!



On a lighter note, there were opportunities

given to Allan and me to do live radio interviews for community radio and local television. But the best personally was our time visiting School of the Air in Broken Hill during a teaching session. There, as we neared the end of our incredible road trip exhaustion had really crept in. Emotions were high!

Of course, we were dressed in our Minnie and Mickey outfits so the isolated children who were tuned in to the session could see us. They laughed, as did their teachers! Here were two usually sensible grandparents dressed up in mouse finery, who had been happily driving around the Australian bush in an old ute, with a lot of other mature age people.

That special occasion remains with me, and even now as I recount the story of our visit, I am crying. Seeing those children, some living on stations hundreds of kilometres away from Broken Hill, touched me deeply. Here they were, tuned in, diligently doing their schoolwork via satellite connections, trying to fit a formal education around their many farm chores until they were old enough to leave home for boarding school.

I thought of our own grandchildren in the city living comfortably, and who supposedly had every advantage at their fingertips. I, Minnie Mouse began to cry, thinking about how very different their lives were from our own families, and wondering who was in fact the more fortunate. One of the little girls was quicker than Mickey Mouse seeing my tears. She quickly asked if one of the teachers could give

me a big cuddle to cheer me up! I cried even more at such thoughtfulness from someone so young. That school visit was such a wonderful experience for Allan and me and will always be treasured.

Whilst we had done numerous Bashes before, and some since [now sadly Bash retired] there are certain things we still adhere to when travelling, especially on long, slightly off the beaten track road trips.

Never leave home without the basics, common sense being paramount. Make certain your vehicle has been fully serviced. Carry drinking water and some non-perishable foods, a torch, spare batteries, matches, spare tyre and spare rim if possible, back up fuel carefully stored, satellite phone if necessary and a UHF handheld is always useful.

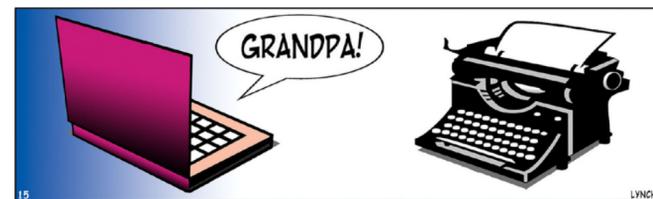
But the most important message is NEVER assume there will be NO oncoming traffic, no matter how far away from civilisation you think you may be. Stay as close to your side of the road as possible especially on hills and corners. People in the bush can seemingly appear from nowhere! Safe travels!

Allan Edworthy and Jill Woods Edworthy
Hallidays Point

If you would like to feature in Your Travels please submit your answers and high resolution photos to www.theforstertuncurry.com.au



The Grin Bin



Swamp



Doodley Squat

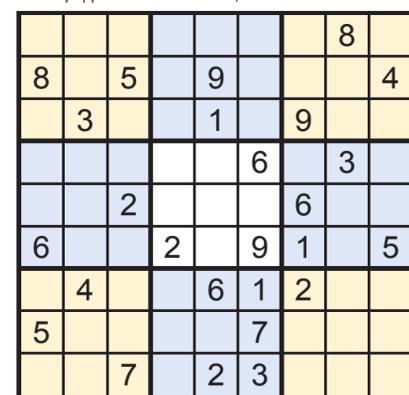


Bushy Tales



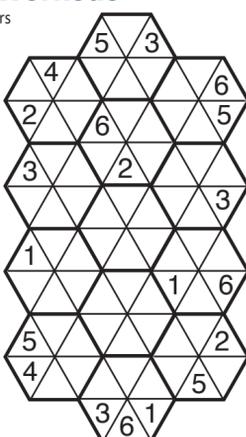
Sudoku

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

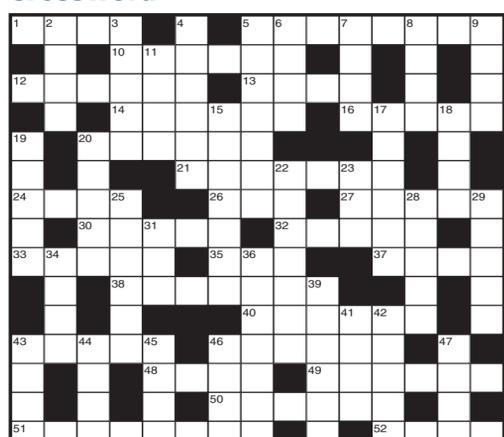


Quick Workout

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.



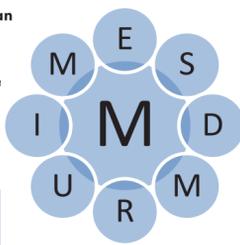
Crossword



- ACROSS: 1 Gem, 5 Office with little work, 10 Dwelling places, 12 Long-bodied short-legged hound, 13 Passport endorsement, 14 Gazes fixedly, 16 Family member, 20 Duty list, 21 Act of dodging, 24 Head cook, 26 Large deer, 27 Flowers, 30 Aptitude, 32 Inactive, 33 Comforted, 35 Salamander, 37 Deserve, 38 Pampers, 40 In high spirits, 43 Make ashamed, 46 Smart, 48 Malarial fever, 49 Type of computer, 50 Tendencies, 51 Acute suffering, 52 Level, DOWN: 2 Fruit, 3 Mustering rope, 4 Revolve, 5 Sundry, 6 Egyptian goddess, 7 Dash, 8 Encourage, 9 Border, 11 Wagers, 15 Venerates, 17 Wilfully disregard, 18 Third power of a quantity, 19 Family member, 20 Shoals, 22 Ninepin, 23 Metal-bearing rock, 25 Dapples, 28 Not flighty, 29 Tendon, 31 Fuss, 34 Desert dweller, 36 Tentacles, 39 Person of learning, 41 Look after, 42 Efface, 43 Dry, 44 Relief for the needy, 45 Filament, 46 Incisions, 47 Fashion

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: 11 words
FOCUS Very good: 16 words
Excellent: 31 words

Reference: Macquarie Concise Dictionary
Focus No. 3849

Word Find

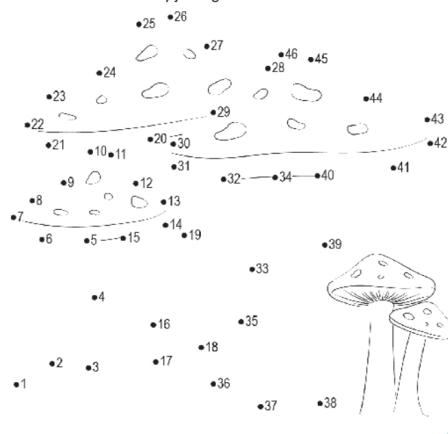


Find the following words in the grid. They may read in any direction, even diagonally. Some letters are used more than once.

- Abet Deck Park Snap
Baby Deem Rapid Some
Balm Male Sag Span
Bug Mane Sank
Crab Name Slip

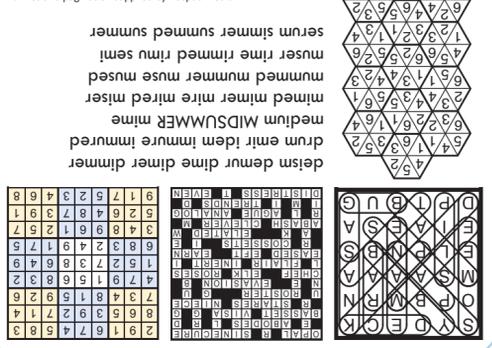
Join the Dots

What is this? Find out by joining the dots.



Solutions

Puzzles and pagination supplied by Auspac Media



Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club wins two titles in Championship

Below: Open winners Tuncurry Beach.



Wilson, Marty Gosper and Shannon White (Forster) and Les Willmott, Erin Smith, Jason Aurisch and Steve Harris representing Tuncurry Beach.

The Forster team got an early jump to score a 3 and a 1 to have a 4-0 lead, but this was short lived, as Tuncurry came back to lead 6-5 after 5 ends. Forster then attempted to establish some dominance, scoring 7 shots in the next 4 ends to grab a 12-6 lead. This was danger time for Tuncurry, they had to score, or the lead could blow out and become a bridge too far. They did respond, and in a big way. They won 7 ends straight, scoring 11 shots, and turned what was becoming a dangerous situation into a 17-12 lead, with just five ends to play. The boot was now on the other foot, and Forster was now the team under pressure to score. They did score a 1 on the next end to at least stop the rot, but Tuncurry came back with two singles of their own. With a 6-shot lead, and just the 2 ends to play, they would be hard to beat from here, and so it proved. Tuncurry finished as champions with a 20-15 win.

ZONE 11

After the difficult year of 2020, that we all would like to forget, we get to start afresh in 2021, with the hope that it will be far less tumultuous.

The first championship to be decided was the Zone Fours, in the Open, Senior and Presidents Reserve categories, and was hosted by Forster Bowling Club.

OPEN

This final was between Graham Coleman, Brian

SENIOR

In this final we had Steve Swan, Wayne Wright, Noel James and Rex Johnston (Tuncurry Beach), playing Bob O'Mahony, Mal Drury, Tony Hinton and Errol Ruprecht (Club West).

Tuncurry had an early 5-1 lead after 4 ends, which then became 8-5 after 9 ends. This was mainly due to the terrific play by the Tuncurry skip, Rex Johnston. The front trio from West were playing very well, and end after end were holding shots when the skips went to mat. Rex responded as only he can, and if he didn't get the shot, he was cutting them down. Inspired by their skip, the front three from Tuncurry finally came to the party, and the pressure was really applied to the team from West, especially their skip, who now found that he was the one that had to convert. Tuncurry won 5 ends straight, scoring 11 shots, to open up a match winning 17-5 lead after 14 ends. In theory, there was still time for the West team to stage a comeback, but the Tuncurry team were now rolling, and kept the foot on the throat, and after 19 ends, with a 22-8 lead, they were declared the

winner.

PRESIDENTS RESERVE

This was the final that really went down to the wire. The teams were Club West up against Taree Railway. In a nail-biting finish, Railway managed to grab a single on the last, to come away with a 16-14 win.

Congratulations to all the winners and good luck representing Zone 11 in the State Finals at Tamworth in November.

Noel James



Above: Senior winners Tuncurry Beach.

Forster Womens Bowling Club

Happy New Year to all readers. Although Xmas seems so long ago, and I was reminded recently only 45 weeks to Xmas 2021.

Our social bowlers are all back and enjoying themselves while some of our bowlers are competing in District events. Gina Pain, Robyn Condello, Sue Davis and Julie Scott were runners up in the Open Fours and Laraine Mazurek, Denise Huender and Clare Kelly were runners up in the triples. Congratulations girls, great effort. The district singles are being played. Our club fours are underway. Good luck to all players.



Above: Laraine Mazurek, Denise Huender and Clare Kelly.



Friday night twilight bowls start at 5pm. Plenty of raffle prizes to be won. Also, lucky door prize.

It is a fun night of bowls with friends. The teams are filling up quickly, so be early to get your name down. Due to the Championship on Feb 19th the twilight bowls will be played at 5pm on Sat 20th.

To all of our friends on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery.

Fay Hannah

Left: Gina Pain, Robyn Condello, Sue Davis and Julie Scott.

Social bowling in the Palms



Ladies social morning of bowls at Pacific Palms Bowling Club on the first Thursday of every month.

First training night for Forster Dolphins

It was one of those glorious twilights for which Forster-Tuncurry and the Great Lakes are renowned and all we heard was the coach's voice and the dull, unbroken roar of the surf from half a kilometre away, from Nine Mile Beach.

"All right, nothing too heavy tonight. We'll do some sprints and start on stamina work. Don't overdo it. We don't want strained hamstrings. Let's get into it, and no talk about premierships," he said.

First training night for the Forster Tuncurry Dolphins at Peter Barclay Oval, Tuncurry, 6 p.m., and the stalwarts were there, club president Damian Daczko, the former Hawkesbury Valley lock forward, club coach Ron McCarthy and club secretary, Sue Hobbs, worrying about Covid-19 entry into the clubhouse.

And men and women players, enough men for the seven-a-side carnival at the end of February at Crescent Head, perhaps, and too few women.

The Dolphins missed last winter's competition due to Covid-19 concerns and missed possibly the best Lower Mid North Coast premiership since rugby union recommenced here in 2004, the Kennards Hire title claimed for the first time by the Manning River Ratz in the grand final against the Wallamba Bulls.

Mention of the season's launch at Crescent Head made the big men's blood run cold, the thought of three or four frantic games of furious running in the heat at the beach and they stayed away, dreading the thought of a game designed to entertain spectators and exhaust players, especially players of 100kgs and over.

Big men like front-rowers Ben Manning and Gavin Maberly-Smith, and the Tongans, of course, all were missing. Rumour has it "Hau" Honema'u will be back, one of the finest attacking forwards of the 2019 competition, but seeing is believing.

But the centre pairing of Mark Hagarty and Mark Quillan were running well, good mates enough to go into Quillan's plumbing business, Sean Hasset looking fit enough to wear the number six jersey immediately, always hungry and hard.

Former Mid North Coast Zone representative winger, Jesse Logan, was there, convincing himself he was young enough and fit enough to wear the green and gold again. You're a long time retired, Jesse.

Big, jovial Blake Polson looked hard and trim, a versatile forward, damaging enough to represent the Mid North Coast Axemen in the annual Country carnival; Liam Brady was back

from the coal fields, employed in Forster. The troops are gathering.

The Dolphinettes' leading try-scorer of 2019, Daniella Crowther, was there with Gabrielle Hunter, more a swimmer than a land-lubber, who claims grey nurse sharks are surfers' friends, and teenager Emily Davis, who battled on despite stomach pains, suspecting an appendicitis attack.

After last year's bale-out, it was a reunion of sorts, and a good one. It is still too early to predict how the Dolphins will fare, but more players are needed, particularly

for the women's 10-a-side team. Training is each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 6 p.m.

As for premierships, who is even thinking of them?

Phil Wilkins



2020 Peter Janson Speed Event Championship Shield won by Ron Gallagher of Forster



The Peter Janson Speed Event is named after Privateer Racer Peter Janson. Janson was a driver who accumulated 13 Bathurst podiums throughout his racing career. The shield itself was donated by "Captain" Peter Janson who was a guest speaker at the Bathurst Light Car Club (BLCC) annual dinner way back in 1983. The Shield is decided by a number of class set racing events (outside of the BLCC events) throughout the year, in which valuable points are accumulated by club members. Members submit their registered results from these speed events which are held across NSW. The points are graded depending on the level of difficulty for each event.

Local race car enthusiast Ron Gallagher who, at the tender age of 81 still burns with that need for speed, and excelled throughout the past 12 months in his Toyota 86 with a collection

Left: Ron Gallagher holding the Peter Janson



Above: Ron Gallagher on track in his number 170 Toyota 86.

of cumulated fast times in the 2 Litre Class, placing him well ahead of his competitors. Gallagher has shown that it's not all about youthful exuberance, but rather a well-planned race supported by adaptable strategy and veteran guile throughout this series of races. Ron has also won the last three NSW Hill Climbing Championships for 2018, 2019 and

2020.

Results from the Peter Janson Event Championship Shield: 1st OUTRIGHT Ron Gallagher - 260 Points, 2nd OUTRIGHT Andrew Walker - 199 Points and 3rd OUTRIGHT - Theo Poteris 96 Points.

Warren Blissett Photos supplied.

Trail Blazers on the loose

Over 12 months ago Trail Blazers was created for like-minded runners with the aim of enjoying our local bushland. It is an informal group that had humble beginnings with three members (Robyn Geelan, Alex Jiminez and David Hughes). Since then, the group has grown rapidly and now there are over 20 walkers and trail runners that attend regular trail runs on a Sunday morning. In the past, the Trail Blazers have enjoyed the serenity and quietness of Possum Brush, Old Bar, Whoota and Blackhead just to name a few.

The group enjoys the flexibility of zero rules (apart from Leave No Trace) and the ability to carpool to the start line. Distances vary from 10km to 20km and not everyone will cover the entire distance on the day. Lately Trail Blazers have been meeting fortnightly at 6 am. All newcomers are welcome. The Trail Blazers use Messenger as their form of communication. Contact 1956huggy@gmail.com if you wish to be added to this group.

Dave Hughes Photo by Tracy Becroft.



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