

MidCoast Council
Updates

Local Legend
Ron Gallagher



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Forster Fortnightly

Your local independent community newspaper distributed to
Rainbow Flat, Hallidays Point, Tallwoods, Tuncurry, Forster,
Pacific Palms, Charlotte Bay, Smiths Lake, Coomba Park, Bungwahl & Seal Rocks.

Wednesday 22nd February

PROUD TO BE A LOCAL FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS

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Preferred site confirmed for Forster Tuncurry Public Hospital

Plans for a public hospital in Forster Tuncurry are a step closer with the NSW Government confirming that the Forster Private Hospital is identified as the preferred site of the new Forster Tuncurry Public Hospital. The announcement was made outside the Manning Base Hospital in Taree on the 10th of February.

Premier Dominic Perrottet said additional funding has been secured for this important project that will deliver a new public hospital for the people of Forster Tuncurry as promised.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said, "Forster Tuncurry is in line for a modern, purpose-built facility that will complement private healthcare options in the region. The new hospital will include a range of enhanced services, including emergency, inpatient and outpatient care to meet the demands of the community now and into the future."

Minister for Regional Health Bronnie Taylor said, "The NSW Government secured initial funding of \$20 million in the 2022-23 NSW

Below: NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet announcing additional funding for the new Forster Public Hospital from outside the Manning Base Hospital in Taree. Photo by Forster Fortnightly.



Above: Aerial view of the existing Forster Private Hospital (extensive reddish tiled building in bottom half of photo) at 21-41 South Street Forster. This is the preferred site for the Forster Public Hospital due in 2024 - 2025.

State Budget, and additional funding has recently been secured that will ensure a Forster Tuncurry Public Hospital will be delivered in late 2024/early 2025."

"Discussions are underway with the landowners Cape Hawke Community Hospital and Health Association and the current operator of Foster Private Hospital, Healthe Care."

Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead said the continuation of some existing private services will be explored, complementing the public services the new hospital will deliver.

"I would like to thank the Cape Hawke Community Hospital and Health Association for advocating for their community and working in partnership with us to expand health services in Forster, and Healthe Care for recognising the importance of a public health facility to complement private health care options in the region," Mr Bromhead said.

"Further detailed work to investigate the potential of this site is now being undertaken, which is essential to ensure this significant investment meets the healthcare needs of the region well into the future."

The NSW Government has confirmed its intention that existing services offered at Forster Private Hospital will be maintained.

Forster Tuncurry Public Hospital will be delivered by Health Infrastructure in partnership with Hunter New England Health. The community will continue to be updated and will have the opportunity to provide their input and feedback as planning for the project progresses.

See page 7 for more local news leading up to the March 25th State Election.

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See page 10 for regional independent community newspapers
bucking the industry trend!



Brommie's Community Update



Great News for Great Lakes Community with the announcement on Friday 10 February by the Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Health that plans for a Public Hospital in Forster Tuncurry are a step closer, confirming Forster Private Hospital is identified as the preferred site of the new Public Hospital.

I have been fighting for a Public Hospital in Forster and made a rock solid promise at the 2019 election that the Hospital would become a reality.

The Hospital will include a range of enhanced services, including emergency, inpatient and outpatient care to meet the demands of the community now and into the future.

Initially funding of \$20 million in the 2022-23 State Budget, and additional funding has recently been secured that will ensure the public hospital will be delivered in late 2024/early 2025.

Discussions are underway with the landowners Cape Hawke Community Hospital and Health Association and the current operator of Forster Private Hospital, Healthe Care. The continuation of some existing private services will be explored, complementing the public services the new hospital will deliver.

A big thank you to the community who, without your support a Public Hospital in Forster just would not have been possible.

Pacific Palms Community Centre upgrade

Federal Member for Lyne Dr David Gillespie has met with representatives of MidCoast Council and the Pacific Palms Community Centre committee to discuss plans for the upgrade.

Around \$500,000 in Federal funding will be allocated towards the upgrade under the latest round of the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program.

"This is an important community facility that caters for so many uses and I'm delighted we have been able to secure funding to help with the upgrade of the centre," Dr Gillespie said.

"MidCoast Council has been working with the various sporting groups who use the Park to undertake this upgrade and develop a long-term plan to improve the facilities."

The Pacific Palms Community Centre committee has identified several projects that will be undertaken as part of the upgrade including:

- Driveway to hall car park & tennis court car park
- Interior painting
- Upgrade of the bathroom
- New improved playground
- Water tank & sprinklers for roof
- Barbeque area
- Upgrade to front garden where memorial is
- Better signage for hall & courts.
- New modular club rooms for tennis courts
- New tennis/Pickleball court

Drainage to east and north of tennis court to reduce flooding



Midcoast funding for local events and community & heritage projects

Funding for community projects or heritage listed place

Community donations funding can assist organisations to deliver community development and capacity building projects. Submit your application by Sunday 2 April 2023.

"This funding recognises the valuable social contribution community organisations make to our region," said MidCoast Council's Mayor Claire Pontin.

Funding for heritage buildings is also available and is jointly funded by MidCoast Council and the NSW Government. Submit your application by Sunday 16 April 2023.

You can find the funding criteria and application forms at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/grants.

Funding to bring your event to life

Are you planning to hold an event or festival in the MidCoast? Apply for event sponsorship from MidCoast Council between 1 - 31 March 2023.

"From art shows and music festivals, to sporting events, food, fashion and everything in between, our events celebrate all the MidCoast has to offer," said MidCoast Council's Manager of Growth, Economic Development and Tourism, Deb Tuckerman.

For further information and to apply, head to www.bit.ly/3Rte26c



Left: Midcoast Council supports the NSW Triathlon Club Championships to be held in Forster on the 27th May this year.

Local businesses win Wedding Industry Awards



Above: Event Coordinator Bec Fisher (left) and Venue Manager Kelly McKillop of 'Palms Pavilion at Tiona', site of a Wedding Showcase weekend in February.

Tuesday Night 7 February 2023 was a Celebration of Excellence in the Wedding Industry Awards (WIA) - Mid North Coast & Northern Rivers, with the announcement of winners and recipients by virtual event.

Organiser of the awards, Robert Bushby, stated that "After the past three years it was time for the Australian Wedding Industry to engage and celebrate their successes. The listed businesses can stand proud of their achievements and successes. Congratulations to all and thank you for your support."

Two local businesses won first place in their prospective fields - Nadine the Cake Queen from Smiths Lakes won Best Wedding Cake Designer while Palms Pavilion at Tiona won Best Wedding Venue.

Nadine was interviewed at the Wedding Showcase that was held over the weekend of the 11th and 12th February at the Palms Pavilion Wedding & Events Centre, Tiona.

"The Wedding Industry Awards are voted by bridal couples during 2022. There is a lot of work behind the scenes by Robert Bushby at WIA. He created this and has been running it for years. Our region is a really big area. It starts south from the Mid North Coast and goes up through the Northern Rivers to the Queensland border."

"When I was an apprentice, the owners encouraged me to enter competitions. I use to enter the cake section in the Easter Show. It was hard to break in so I became creative and always came away with a Highly Commended. Once I started in restaurants, including the Sydney Rockpool and overseas, life became very busy with up to 16 hour days. There was no time to enter any competitions."

"To win an award now is gratefully received! My regular customers and industry friends have said that this award is like a lifetime achievement for the hours I've needed to work over the years. I worked really hard during 2022 last year and did 36 weddings. Everybody loved the service provided."

"My goal has always been to deliver quality service with delicious cakes and desserts. I think every cake, not just for weddings, is really special. You are helping to create memories for all the right reasons. A cake can complement everything else that is planned for a special evening with friends and family."

"It's easier to organise a wedding if the suppliers get along. Collaboration is key with customers and other wedding suppliers. Really good networks are amazing for any special

event. Do what you love and do it well, and allow others the same. We are better together - that's what I say."

Kelly McKillop, Venue Manager of Palms Pavilion at Tiona, said, "This is our third consecutive year that we have won Best Wedding Venue and Highly Commended for Wedding Coordinator Venue. In the last 3 months we have won 3 awards, including a top 10 placing for Wedding Venue Function Centre in the 2022 National WIA. If you win a regional award, you automatically become a finalist in the National WIA Awards the following year."

Local businesses that won awards or top 10 for their category

Wedding Venue - Function Centre: Palms Pavilion at Tiona

Wedding Venue - Coordinator: Highly Commended: Palms Pavilion at Tiona

Best Wedding Cake Designer: Nadine the Cake Queen

Chapels, Churches and Ceremony Locations: Highly commended: The Green Cathedral at Tiona.

Event Hire: Martin & Ko Wedding Event Hire & Styling

Caravans, Trucks, Carts & Bars: Kombi Keg Mid North Coast

Wedding Photographer: Something Visual
Wedding Photographer Finalist: Kirk Owers Photography

Wedding Florist Top 10: Rosita Floral Service, Flowers By Fillery & Wild Cosmo Flowers

Bridal Hair Stylist Finalist: Elvy Hair

Wedding Caterer: Highly Commended: Wild Feast Grazing

Bridal Makeup Artist: Highly Commended: Kayla Russell Makeup

Suits and Formal Wear: Yarads menswear Taree

DJ: Tops Entertainment and Event Services

Wedding Transport: Exoctic Holden Hire

Boutique Wedding Accommodation Top 5: Kings Creek Retreat

Wedding Venue Coordinator Top 5: Longview Farm

Two local businesses who won awards with 'Restaurant Guru'

Best Cafe: Country Palings Cafe

Best Gift Shop: Cathy Oldfield

For more information about WIA please visit: www.facebook.com/MidNorthCoastNorthernRiversWeddings
Story and photos by Mary Yule.

Left: Cake Designer 'Nadine The Cake Queen' at the Wedding Showcase.

BROOKE McCLYMONT & ADAM ECKERSLEY
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Kindies at Holy Name Primary Tell Me a Story competition opens!



On Thursday the 2nd of February we welcomed our new Kindergarten students for their first day of school.



There are many reasons why the 'Tell Me a Story' competition is popular among local primary school students from years 3 to 6. Some of these are the awards they receive, the fun gained in creating and relating fiction or non-fiction stories and the recognition of their writing and illustrating, published in a book to keep. A copy is also retained in their school library for all students to read.

A group of Bungwahl school students whose stories and illustrations are in last year's 'Tell Me a Story' book, told of their reasons for participating in the competition.

"You get to imagine a story, to write it and draw a picture." (Gypsy); "I like to draw and write. This was my second time and my parents were proud." (Joquin); "I liked making up my own story and will definitely be in it again." (Lily); "I liked being published. I'll think of a new story this year." (Jeremy); "I liked it because I was looking up dictionaries and finding new words. I'll be in it again." (Cruz); "My parents were proud of me. I'll write a sci-fi story next." (Charlotte)

The competition, now in its 6th year, is split in two sections - one for years 3-4 and the other for years 5-6 and invites teachers to use it



Above: Back row (L to R) - Gypsy and Joquin, Front - Charlotte, Lily, Cruz and Jeremy. Photo supplied.

as a writing tool. Writing tips, links to online resources and a checklist for the story entries, have been created by the team of judges and reviewers, who have experience in teaching, writing and art. The competition has two parts: part one - the stories to be completed by March 30 and part two- the illustrations, to begin on May 22. Awards events are to be held in August.

Students may enter both the writing and illustration competitions and are encouraged to read all the "Conditions of Entry", found on the website at -www.telmeastory.org.au

By Lorraine Rogers.

Joint effort to beautify Smiths Lakes Park



A community planting day was held at the Smiths Lakes Recreation Area on February 7 with local students and staff from Pacific Palms Primary School and the public joining in. Recent Council works involved the installation of a

gravel footpath, a feature tree and understory planting, building of mounded landforms and installation of sandstone bollards.

The project is being supported with \$68,293 in Federal funding which was made available under Round 2 of the former Federal Coalition Government's Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program.

"I was pleased to meet with Council and community representatives involved in the project. The local community has done a magnificent job in developing a vision for the area and funded a masterplan for the beautification works," MP Dr Gillespie said.

The Recreation area on Paradise Drive will be open for use during these initial works. This stage of the project is expected to be completed by 28 February.

Council's Manager Strategy and Projects Amanda Hatton said the Smiths Lake community has really got behind the project and Council valued their input.

"The upgrade to the Recreation Reserve will be a welcome addition to the popular skate park and netball courts currently on this site."

The year 6 Green Team, from Pacific Palms Primary were happy to lend a hand at the planting day at Smiths Lake Recreation Park.

Students and parents worked with Mid Coast Council and other volunteer community members planting a beautiful native feature garden.

The school's Green Team coordinator, Ms Shoesmith, believed this was a great opportunity for the students to be active, positive contributors to the school and society in which they live.



State Election 25th March 2023

Manning Base Hospital redevelopment if re-elected

If re-elected the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government are promising to deliver an additional \$114 million for the final stage of Manning Base Hospital at Taree.

On the 10th of February Premier Dominic Perrotte visited the hospital and said, "The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government has heard loud and clear from the community and local clinicians that the final stage of the Manning Base Hospital needs to be delivered now, not down the track. The redeveloped hospital would meet the growing health needs of this region."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the \$114 million was to bolster the intensive and emergency care services at the hospital bringing the full cost of the project to \$254 million, with \$100 million already allocated to Stage 2 and \$40 million spent on Stage 1 of the project.

The additional funding would see an investment into intensive care, emergency medicine, theatres and ambulatory care with further consultation with clinicians and community. As well as this, the Stage 2 redevelopment includes:

- a new hospital building incorporating inpatient units, clinical support departments and access to telehealth spaces
- new 2-storey clinical spine section to separate public and patient clinical areas, improve flow and connectivity of services
- relocation and expansion of inpatient resources, including pharmacy and pathology
- improved drop-off and front of house areas to provide a clear entry to the hospital
- an integrated back of house and upgrade of essential hospital infrastructure
- reconfiguration & refurbishment of key areas.

Independent candidate for Myall Lakes, Dr Jason Bendall (who works as an anaesthetist at Manning Base Hospital) attended the recent announcement and said, "The Government and NSW Nationals promised this \$100 million stage 2 redevelopment in 2018 and it's not built,



Above: Myall Lakes Independent candidate Dr Jason Bendall.

despite it now being 2023. More money has been budgeted to upgrade Grafton district hospital (\$263 million) with a population of only 17,155 people. The Myall Lakes region has a much larger, older and more diverse population that needs a fully upgraded base hospital right now."

"The community needs certainty that our needs will be met no matter which government is elected. Rural health funding allocation must be allocated on needs and on objective criteria rather than politics and election cycles."

All members of the public are invited to attend a Public Health Forum being conducted by Manning Great Lakes Community Health Action Group at Black Head Surf Club on Wednesday February 22nd at 7pm (tonight).

Shadow Minister visits Forster Neighbourhood Centre

On Thursday the 9th of February Kate Washington, Shadow Minister for Family & Community Services and Disability Inclusion, visited the Forster Neighbourhood Centre (FNC) at Coral Avenue in Tuncurry to meet with staff and Myall Lakes Labor candidate Mark Vanstone.

The staff explained to the Minister and Labor candidate what services they provide and what is needed in our community.

Corinne Stephenson, Management Team at FNC, said, "We are an essential emergency centre and community hub for this region. We are open 5 days a week with our reliable and dedicated small team of staff and volunteers. As well as offering crisis support, we offer many other services and have grown over the years in response to our community's needs."

The FNC provides Information, Advice and Referral; Child and Family Support and Counselling; Community programs such as 'Better Learning Better Communities' (targeted early education support), ASHOW (supportive after school care in Coomba), Mens Group and Ninja Nannies; and Community Events like the Forster Farmers Market, to name a few.

"We have funding to deliver these services but not enough for our growing operational costs," added Corinne.

Felicity Carter, President of FNC said, "We service a big area and continue to see more homeless residents in need of food and shelter with the high rents and low supply of housing."

"We average around 50 to 90 enquiries a week and it keeps growing. The needs of our community have grown greatly with the rising living costs."

Karen Burton, Management Team said, "We are seeing people seeking support who have never sought it before. It is also a different demographic group. We are finding that more older people are now coming to see us."



Above: Front (L to R) Minister Kate Washington, Management Team Corinne Stephenson & Karen Burton and Labor supporter Cathy Arena. Back: President Felicity Carter and Myall Lake Labor candidate Mark Vanstone.

Corrine also explained, "Early targeted intervention is vital and we provide education support when needed."

"We basically help people get back on their feet. The social return value with investment is huge. For each person who accesses holistic support, at the right time, the FNC saves the community around 1.5 million per year."

After listening to the staff at the FNC Kate Washington said, "It is common sense for

governments to support these community initiatives that have been going for years. The disadvantaged gap had grown. How do you close the gap for disadvantaged families and children if we don't support the initiatives that are going to work on the ground? Early targeted intervention programs are vital and a much better plan than reacting later."

"The Labor government will provide longer-term State funding of 5 years to help these types of services and programs to continue."

"Public health, housing and social services are key to rebuilding foundations in communities and these issues won't be solved quickly. The system we have now is not accountable and is not working. If there is a disability too it just makes it even more difficult to access housing."

"We will have a whole raft of policies for renters too as it is so hard for them. Renters feel it equally with homeowners, if not harder, when dealing with the higher interest rates."

Mark Vanstone said that the work of the Forster Neighbourhood Centre is humbling when you see the amazing positive outcomes that these good people achieve for the less fortunate and marginalized members of our community. They need more funding and support to enable an expansion of their programmes and more staff to meet the needs of an evergrowing caseload.

The Forster Neighbourhood Centre is moving

"We will hopefully move into our new premises by mid-March," said Corinne. "It will be a Central Community Hub opposite the Police Station and Court House at 3 Lake Street Forster. It has double the space that we have now. We will have a soft opening first and be operational straight away. We plan to organise a big public community opening in May."

Felicity explained that the Forster Neighbourhood Centre are a locally integrated organisation and have a unique presence in this community. They have a personal connection and work well with other supportive organisations in town such as the Tobwabba Medical Centre, the Great Lakes Womens Shelter and local Churches. When there is a surplus of food donated, they all share between the groups to help provide meals and pantry goods within the community.

Story and photos by Mary Yule.

Below: Refitting a shop on Lake Street ready for The Forster Neighbourhood Centre to move in mid March.



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Community News

Our Local wildlife



The Cane Toad

This fortnight's edition is featuring an animal that I truly hope is endangered and indeed extinct in our local area but given they have been found further south in Sydney and on the South Coast, it is only a period of time before one or more is found locally. [One was confirmed in Oxley Island in March 2021.] Cane toads (*Bufo marinus* now known as *Rhinella marina*) were introduced into Australia in the 1930s as a direct result of lobbying from sugar cane farmers who were battling native beetle grubs impacting on their crops. Originally 102 toads were imported by a government employee of the Queensland BSES (Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations), Reginald Mungomery, with 101 surviving and subsequently being released. Another Australian entomologist, Walter Froggatt, tried to stop it warning "this great toad, immune from enemies, omnivorous in its habits and breeding all year round, may become as great a pest as the rabbit or cactus". (Froggatt WW, 1936, The introduction of the great Mexican toad *Bufo marinus* into Australia. The Australian Naturalist 9:163-164). However, pressure from the cane farmers community meant that his warning was disregarded.



It was not until some 50 years later in the 1980s that the true impact of the cane toad was recognised for the environmental disaster it is and the Commonwealth Government finally began to take some steps in an attempt to control it. With a female cane toad able to lay between 8,000 - 30,000 eggs at a time though, it is perhaps no wonder that it is the cane toads that are winning. Further it seems their lifespan is very long with a recently found female cane toad, "Toadzilla" that weighed in at 2.7 kg believed to be possibly up to 15 years old. Cane toads are heavily built and have dry warty skin. A particularly distinguishing feature is the bony ridges over their eyes that meet above their noses. Their hind feet are webbed but the

front feet are not. They sit upright and move in short rapid hops. Adult cane toads have large swellings, the parotoid glands, on each shoulder behind the eardrum.

Colouring may be grey, yellowish, olive-brown or reddish-brown, and their bellies are pale with dark mottling. Females are larger than males and males are warty than females. During the breeding season males develop dark lumps (nuptial pads) on their first two fingers; these help them cling to a female while mating. Their mating call is a long loud purring trill.

Young cane toads have a smooth dark skin with darker blotches and bars and lack conspicuous parotoid glands. They can easily be mistaken for other native frog species such as poggiebonk frogs, giant burrowing frogs or marsh frogs. It is important not to accidentally kill a native frog thinking it may be a cane toad and if in doubt, catch (preferably without handling with your bare hands), photograph and send for identification.

Cane toad tadpoles are shiny black on top and have a plain dark belly and a short thin tail. They are smaller (less than 3.5 cm long) than most native tadpoles and often gather in huge numbers in shallow water. Cane toad spawn is laid in long strings of transparent jelly enclosing double rows of black eggs. The spawn tangles in dense dark masses around water plants and hangs in ropy strands if picked up.

Cane toads are able to eat anything that fits within their mouths including carrion, pet food

and living insects and small mammals. Beetles, honey bees, crickets and other insects are favourite foods.

As most people know, cane toads themselves are poisonous at all life stages, and it is this, as well as their preying on important food sources for other native animals, that make them so deadly. Goannas, quolls, blue-tongue lizards, domestic pets have all been poisoned by cane toads with fatal consequences for most. Even people can be poisoned and picking them up in bare hands is not advised. They may also carry diseases that could be transmitted to native frogs and fishes.

Cane toads are identified as a serious biosecurity threat and any suspected toad should be immediately reported to the NSW DPI Biosecurity through its helpline on 1800 680 244 or by completing a form with a photo, preferably of the face, at invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au

It is also critically important if travelling from cane toad infested areas to check your vehicle, trailer and any luggage to ensure that you are not accidentally importing a cane toad to our area.

For more information about Cane Toads, including a recording of their distinctive trilling call, go to Australian Museum Frog ID website: www.frogid.net.au

By Kym Kilpatrick - FAWNA, Hallidays Point. Photo credit: The ABC.

The Newman family arrived in 1866 and took up land just past Yarric and his sons spread around the lake. The eldest son, John, married Harriet Cape Godwin, the first settler child born in Forster.

Below: Godwin's bullock Team circa 1900.



In 1883, the Gogerlys arrived and took up land at Booti Booti and at Whoota. Members of all of these families still live in the area.

Article from 'Wallis Lake, Its Rivers & Villages' by Dawn McMaster, 1993.

The Great Lakes Museum in Tuncurry is open Tuesday & Wednesday (10am - 2pm) and Sunday (1 - 4pm).



Above: Harriet Newman, the first settler child born in Forster.

Did you know?

Charlotte Bay

Charlotte Bay is at the southern end of Wallis Lake and is now part of Pacific Palms. Four Pioneering families had the greatest impact on the settlement: the Godwins, Brambles, Newmans and the Gogerlys. After the John Robertson Act in 1861, settlers were able to secure small areas of land on which to live and those settlers were quick to do so. William Bramble and his family played a big part in populating Bungwahl and the Charlotte Bay Area. They worked as fishermen, timber

workers, bullockies and farmers. Fourteen of the twenty five children at the Charlotte Bay school when it opened, were Brambles. George Godwin left Forster and settled at Smiths Lake. In 1876, his daughter, Elizabeth, married Murdoch McIntosh and they became the first landowners in Charlotte Bay. James Godwin made his name as a coachman and boating house proprietor on The Lakes Way and Luke John Godwin settled at Sugar Creek. Most Godwins were involved in the Timber businesses.

Community News

Local Artists give their time to Workshops at Forster Gallery



living in a rainforest. She has become passionate about animal conservancy and is a signature member of the international group Artists for Conservation. Her work focuses on the associations of animals and nature with humanity. It is in galleries in London, Santa Fe, New York, Shanghai, and various public and private collections around the

Local artists have banded together to run a series of free workshops at the Forster Gallery on Lake Street to reconnect people after separating through COVID lockdowns. The workshops have been made possible through a grant from the local Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network. The first workshop was held on the 1st of February. There was a fantastic response and all classes are full.

"We had such a wonderful time. We all learned new art skills and met new people. The tutors gave their time and were so enthusiastic about making it a great experience for everyone," said one participant.

Sandi Lear, an international water colourist showed participants how pigment behaves in water so that participants could learn how to use the pigments to create beautiful art.

Sandi has lived her life around the globe including seven years on a yacht and practices

globe. It is also sold from the galleries, Facebook and private showings by request.

Sandi's work is currently being shown at a special exhibition at her hometown library at Hallidays Point throughout February. This is a rare opportunity for the community to see this calibre of work.

Local artist, Susie Oldfield demonstrated how to weave sculptures using natural materials. She shared the random weave technique to make a very simple basket but also gave ideas on surface design as well as using the technique to create sculptural three-dimensional art objects.

Susie has won art awards with Bangalow sculptural pieces and exhibited at Gallery 76 in Sydney. Her current work is mainly by commission.

Continued on page 20.

National Servicemen's Day



Above: (L to R) Ron Wallingford, Padre Daryll Moran and Keith McNeil.

With the crackling sounds of thunder and dark clouds closing in a small service was held at the War Memorial on Little Street Forster to commemorate National Servicemen's Day on the 14th of February.

"The turn out was better than expected," said Keith McNeil, past President of Great Lakes National Servicemen Association (GLNSA), "I told everyone not to come if it was raining and we just managed to hold the service before the rain came."

Keith thanked the NWA (known as Nashos), RSL sub-branch, veterans, family and friends for coming together and "commemorating the young fellas who were forced into war at age 20 and helped the volunteer soldiers greatly."

Ron Wallingford (NSA) read the NSA ode before Padre Daryll Moran (RSL sub-branch) gave a prayer. Daryll also spoke about today's

numbers falling away and the importance of encouraging the next generations to hear what servicemen did for their country so we can live peacefully now.

"Tell them the stories of your service and your mates so they are never forgotten." Eric Janes (NSA) and Vietnam Vets President, Graham Kelly, each laid a wreath. Eric then raised the flag while Lane Phegan, from the Town Band, played the Last Tribute.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh said more than 280,000 Australians served in National Service schemes between 1951 and 1972. "Today is National Servicemen's Day, honouring the hundreds of thousands of young Australian men who served our nation through compulsory military service after the Second World War."

Nashos served within Australia and some were also deployed to locations including Borneo, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam and the waters off the Korean peninsula.

The GLNSA closed earlier this year due to an aging population after being in operation for 24 years.

Story and photos by Mary Yule. www.minister.dva.gov.au & www.abc.net.au



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THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia

Authorised by D. Gillespie, National Party of Australia, Shops 2&3, 43 High Street, Wauchope NSW 2446.

Regional community newspapers grow - bucking industry trends of closures and job loss

Rumours of the death of regional news have been greatly exaggerated, according to Lucie Peart.

As managing director of Gilgandra Newspapers, Ms Peart is set to launch the group's fifth masthead in western NSW next month and is not the only one on the hunt for staff.

"We're trying to hire three positions ... I think when I put my job [ads] up there might have been 200 other jobs with the title 'journalist,'" she said.

"There are lots of jobs for journalists out there at the moment, which is great for our industry, but it just means that our resources are so stretched."

The media industry has been in a state of flux for much of the last decade.

From mass redundancies across legacy newsrooms to the announcement just last week that News Corp would be axing one in 20 staff at its Australian newspapers, the general feeling has been that news, especially in print, would go the way of the dodo.

But the headlines have been masking a parallel trend. While bigger companies closed up regional newsrooms or shifted to digital-only editions, local, community-owned news outlets have seen a small revival.

"Where print editions disappeared, towns have reached out to us as local publishers and said: 'We want you to come to our town,'" Ms Peart said.

Rivalling the 'big boys'

Federal and state government grants provided millions of dollars to help shore up regional media following the financial fallout of COVID-19 lockdowns.

It wasn't enough to save many non-daily mastheads, but it opened a door for some smaller publishers to scale up.

[This Forster Fortnightly newspaper came onto the scene after any Covid funding was allocated - but we managed to keep going with good family back up and good local advertising support! See our story on the front page of Edition 26, published 04.08.2021 at www.forsterfortnightly.com.au]



Above: Lucie Peart says there's been a "revival" of independent community news. (Photo credit: Jen McCutcheon)

probably rivalling some of the big boys for the sheer number of mastheads."

The difficulty now is finding reporters to keep up with this growth spurt. The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) estimated 3,000 journalism jobs were lost between 2011 and 2017. In addition to the huge disruption this caused for the industry, it painted an unappealing picture for many considering a career in media.

Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University Jack Cheetham has noticed a perception among some parents and students that journalism doesn't have much of a future as a career.

He disagrees. "In 2022, I had quite urgent requests from people who just couldn't find staff from all kinds of regional areas," he said. "The demand for junior to mid-level staff last year was really high, but the supply was not there."

Another factor that seems to be impacting the supply of available journalists is competition from the corporate world. The New Beats Project, a study looking at the five-year aftermath of redundancies across media, found many left journalism for public relations-type roles and were unlikely to come back.

By Olivia Ralph. (Edited) 13.02.2023 www.abc.net.au

Lucie Peart is President of CPA NSW. Mary Yule (Forster Fortnightly) is on the CPA NSW Council.

Local Career

Name, role and career:

My name is Diane Brookes, I qualified with a Bachelor of Science, honours degree in Podiatric medicine in the UK in 2007. I have worked in Private practice and public health for the past 16 years. My experience is extensive in all aspects of podiatry. However, I have a special interest in Diabetes and the high-risk foot. I have worked predominantly in diabetes and high-risk foot settings most of my career where I gained valuable and extensive experience in treating potentially limb and life-threatening injuries.

I ran my busy podiatry practice in Orange for eight years before deciding the beach life is for me. In January 2023, I opened Diane Brookes Podiatry at Forster Health Solutions in Forster which is a busy, multidisciplinary clinic and a beautiful relaxing space to work and for my patients to attend.

What is your typical day like?

I wake up early every morning and sometimes consider going for a swim at the Tuncurry Rockpool, but that is as far as I get. So many people tell me how lovely it is in the water. Maybe one day soon I will brave the morning waters!

I begin my work day around 8am, Instruments are checked and documented for sterilisation. The clinic is then set up and ready for patients. The first available appointment is 9am.

My podiatry business is new and not yet too busy. My day is filled with finding ways of letting people know I am available and ready to



help with their foot problems! I also keep up to date with continued professional development where I can throughout the day.

In a busy practice a podiatrist may see around 16 patients a day. As podiatrist, there is never a typical day. You never know what foot problems and challenges the day will bring. We diagnose disease and deformities of the lower limb and foot using medical histories, x-rays, laboratory tests and physical examinations. Treating deformities, prescribing, and making orthotic inserts for patients when required. We also perform minor surgical procedures such as ingrown toenail surgery, using local anaesthetic.

The day does not end when the last patient has left the practice. Paperwork is then dealt with, letters to the GP's if required and finishing off patient notes from the day. The last task of the day is cleaning and setting up the sterilisation process for the next day's patients. finishing the day around 5 - 6pm.

Then it is time to either walk the dog, or relax.

What is the best part of the job?

The best part of the job as a podiatrist is meeting people from different backgrounds and range of ages. Having a direct impact on patients' lives by improving pain and very often providing instantaneous pain relief. Helping them to overcome foot related challenges,

keeping them independent and mobile, and overall improving patients' quality of life.

I enjoy the wide scope of practice. Podiatry is challenging but never boring.

What do you suggest for anyone who is interested in your field of work?

I find podiatry a very rewarding career. I was certain I wanted to be a midwife until I spent 30 minutes shadowing a podiatrist with 25 years experience. I would suggest shadowing a podiatrist in private practice and public health to see if it is for you.

As a podiatrist you can work independently or part of multidisciplinary teams. You would be working with people of all ages. Skills such as good communication, compassion, patience, and understanding are important. Critical thinking skills are a must which would improve your ability to diagnose and treat various podiatry issues when encountering unexpected situations or challenges for treating a patient. You should always be willing to continue to learn, as things advance or change, we need to continue to develop our skills.

There are multiple sub-specialisations in podiatry. The wide scope of practice can allow study and practice in a particular type of medicine. Maybe contact a few of the universities who offer podiatry courses, find out what the course entails and go from there.

Would you like to share information on your local career? Please contact info@forsterfortnightly.com.au

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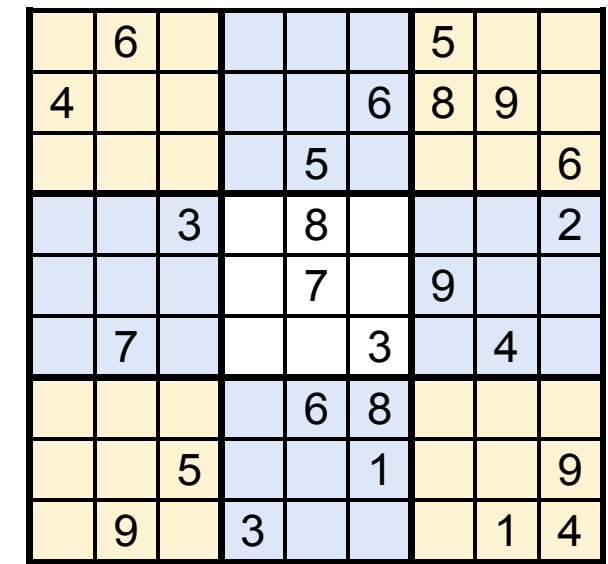


Doodley Squat



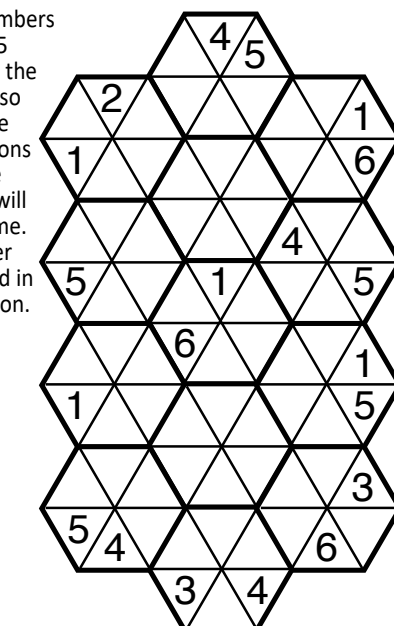
Sudoku

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.



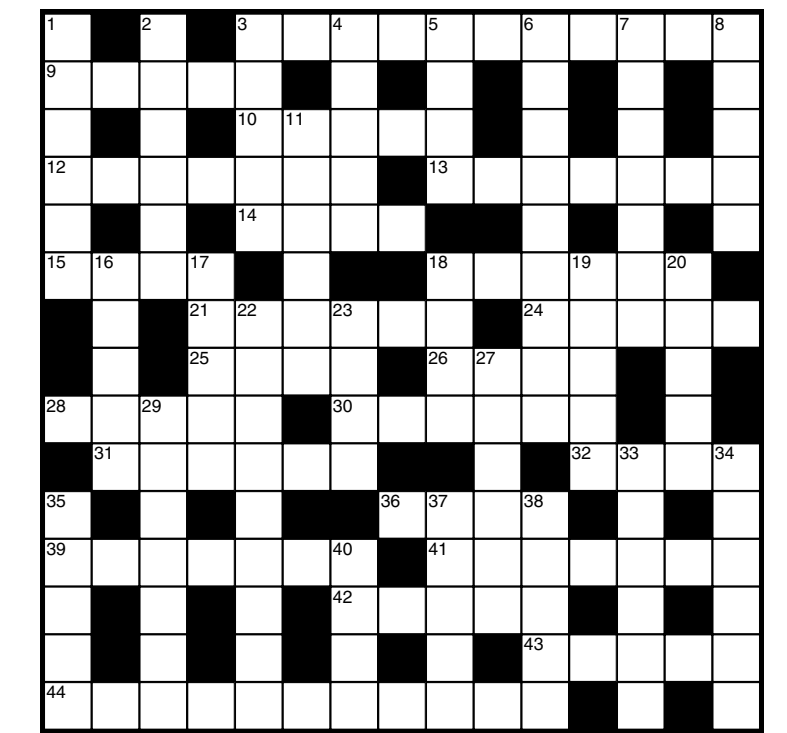
Swamp



Bushy Tales

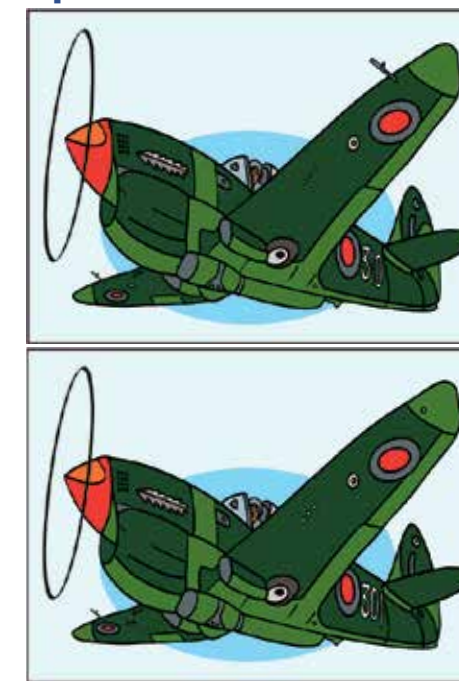


Crossword

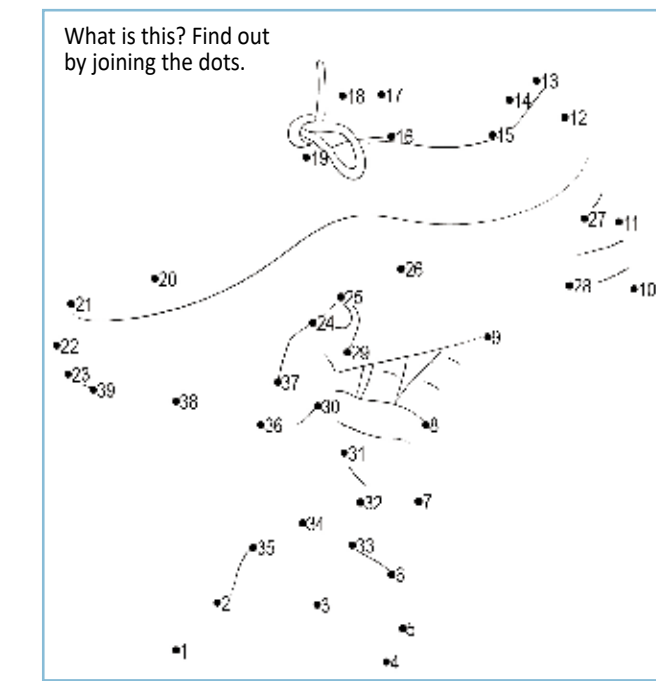


- ACROSS: 3 Having regard for others, 9 Drive forward, 10 Consumed, 12 Common run, 13 Particular, 14 Repose, 15 Table-shaped hill, 18 Worked hard, 21 Disconcert, 24 Present, 25 Meditate, 26 Copies, 28 Cried as a cat, 30 Refer casually to, 31 Forearm bone, 32 Hurried, 36 Tranquil, 39 Naught, 41 Ahead, 42 Sends out, 43 Retains, 44 Service engagements, 1 Deprive of weapons, 2 Capsizes, 3 Unclouded, 4 Musical sounds, 5 Taverns, 6 Hastened progress, 7 Reached destination, 8 Before due time, 11 Representatives, 16 Live coal, 17 Having weapons, 18 Small duck, 19 Fails to retain, 20 Social event, 22 Tests for acting suitability, 23 Beverages, 27 Young hen, 29 Spendthrift, 33 Self-assured, 34 Abstract, 35 Silly, 37 Foreign, 38 Disguises, 40 Microbe

Spot the 5 Differences



Join the Dots



Solutions

Solutions for the crossword and join the dots puzzles. Includes a grid for the crossword and the solution for the join the dots puzzle.

YOUR FORTNIGHTLY TV GUIDE February 22 - 28

Table with columns for days of the week (Wednesday to Tuesday) and channels (ABCTV, SBS, SEVEN, NBN, TEN). Each cell contains a list of programs and their start times.

March 1 - 7

Table with columns for days of the week (Wednesday to Tuesday) and channels (ABCTV, SBS, SEVEN, NBN, TEN). Each cell contains a list of programs and their start times.

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Star Pets



Likes: Blu enjoys running on the beach and swimming in the water. He is ever so gentle and loves meeting people especially children. He loves getting kisses on his nose and cuddles in bed. Oh, and I can't forget he loves playing hide and seek.

Dislikes: There isn't much that Blu doesn't like but he does run away from the vacuum and then tries to catch it. He also doesn't like when his friend Ze gets put to bed.

Claim to Fame: Blu has a very unique bond with his best friend Ze the rabbit. They enjoy each other's company and run around the house but when it's bedtime for Ze, Blu gets sad and sits at the

hutch watching him. Blu also has a very long tongue that is ever rarely in his mouth. He is always poking it out at everyone and makes

Name: Blu
Breed: Short Haired Border Collie
Age: 1 year and 5 months (6/12/2022)

If you would like to see your beloved pet featured in Star Pet please submit a high resolution photo and answers to info@forsterfortnightly.com.au

Letters to the Editor

'Letter to the Editor' is the place for our community to share their thoughts and feedback. Letters are limited to 250 words. Material that is offensive, defamatory or overtly political will not be published. This newspaper intends to provide an opportunity of reply for any person/organisation involved before publication. The author's name and town is required, unless specifically requested otherwise. Send your letters to info@forsterfortnightly.com.au



www.moir.com.au



Above: Swell hitting the back of the Bullring by Patricia Macvean.

Below: Close up of a bee by Judy Butler.



Local Legend – Ron Gallagher



Local race car enthusiast Ron Gallagher who at the tender age of 83 has finally had his last hoorah. 'Revvin Ron' has excelled with his need for speed in his treasured Toyota 86 and Ford Capri. He has achieved a collection 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 these races.

Interview by Vanda Gooley.

At 83 years young, Ron Gallagher, who seems to have defied the aging process has finally decided to retire from motor car racing. Ron has been described as a fine wine – he just gets better with age. I entered Ron's home for our interview by his garage that resembled Aladdin's Cave – where endless trophies line his shelves and cabinets and moments of his illustrious career frame the walls. I was lucky enough to see his two victorious cars in his garage – his Ford Capri, which Ron has raced for 3 decades, and his Toyota 86. Ron's Capri has won him many Hill Climb races across the country. The Hill Climb specialist regards Bathurst as his favourite race (it entails racing the wrong way up the Bathurst Mountain), but he said a local track at Bulahdelah comes a close second. Whilst I was interviewing Ron, an interested enthusiast from SA was discussing purchasing Ron's Capri – I'm sure it will be a sad day when it comes to fruition.

Ronald Gallagher was born in Canada Bay, Sydney, on 16th May 1939. Ron's father used to walk an hour, from Bayview Rd to Enfield to Ron's mother's house to court her – it must have been true love. As Ron's father progressed in life he built the Gallagher home, where his mum and dad had three sons Vince, Jim and Ron, being the youngest. Ron's son Stephen now lives in the Gallagher home with his family. Ron's father supported his family by working shifts at Nestles for 50 years. He rode his push bike 10 miles each way, day and night to work – a true family commitment.

Ron met his lovely wife Leonie at the weekly dances. Ron would escort Leonie and her girlfriends to the dances. Ron and Leonie married in 1963 and they will celebrate 60 years of marriage on February 21st. They had two children; Jillian who sadly passed away several years ago. She had 4 children who live in Queensland and Stephen who has 3 sons.

Ron attended Sunnyside Infant School then Burwood Christian Brothers but Ron "couldn't settle." He was very unhappy there being a spirited child, and frequently wagged school which causing his parents much distress. He then transferred to a school in Enmore which he loved, despite the long journey to get there. Ron said the school was terrific with great teachers and subjects such as science,

metalwork and woodwork. Ron obviously thrived here and after only 12 months, much to people's surprise and amazement, Ron became a prefect. It was a tough school with self-made tattoos, leather jackets and spiky hair do's – fights broke out daily. "When I left school, my brother Jim sat me down and said there are 3 things in life you need to adhere to, 'get on with people, have good manners and look after your family.'

Growing up, Ron discovered Surf Life Saving, going to dances, girls and of course his passion for sports cars. This passion was in the family genes as his two elder brothers both owned fast sports cars. Competing in many things was in Ron's blood. At 13 he represented the state in soccer. Then came tennis and squash followed by joining the surf club and competing in many surf boat races and many carnivals, winning a state title in the 'A' crew. "It was a wonderful time in life." He also played baseball with his son in the Golden Oldies and won two years in a row, playing for Baulkham Hills.

Ron's first car was the family car which he used to attend his surf patrol duties. He quickly progressed to an MG TD then a black and white 1955 Austin Healy sports which was in the 1955 New York Car Show. This was followed by a 1955 K140 Jaguar which he proudly clocked at 136MPH at Bathurst.

Then it was time to return to reality 'getting married changed a lot of things!' "My next step in life, apart from getting married was a 1954 FJ Holden sedan and this was my life for a long time."

Ron became a fitter and turner engineer tool maker by trade in the can making industry. He also worked 2 extra jobs (at the gas works office work and in a bar) so he could buy their first home in Greenacre. As the children got older, Ron's passion for fast cars continued. After going through several family cars, he bought a ford Cortina "and had a 'little fiddle' with this car. After a few more 'normal' cars he bought a 1970 V6 Capri (pictured right). Ron said 'this was an amazing car and was my hobby for some time until I regrettably sold it.' It wasn't long before he found another Capri V6 which was to be Ron's race car for the next 35 years. After numerous modifications he went on to competing in many super sprints at Eastern Creek, Oran Park, Amaroo Park, Goulburn and Bathurst. A super sprint duo is a high speed drag style duel between two vehicles. Ron won many of these races, once clocking up 125kph along the famous Conrod Straight. In 2021, Ron won the prestigious Peter Janson Speed Event Championship Shield two years in a row. 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.

After racing many super sprints, Ron decided to change his type of racing competition and went into hill climbs (racing up a hill with harsh bends and twists and competitors are timed from the bottom to the top.) Ron said this period was a very special time in his life. The comradery amongst the competitors was amazing. Competitors would always help each other even if they were in the same class.

Ron won several State titles over the years. Over the last 4 years Ron found it difficult to tow his Capri from Forster to the track, he was 80 after all. Not surprisingly, Ron was the eldest competitor in the state hill climb. Ron's son came to the rescue. Stephen purchased a Toyota 86 sports car which Ron successfully won the NSW State title in for 4 consecutive years. "Now I can almost relax and do the normal house things." He said he would now probably take up fishing again and go on car outings and picnics with the local car club.

Ron considers his greatest achievements to be racing cars and surf boats, raising a great family and having a great wife and son. He said, "I'm glad to be alive!"

Ron said he is inspired by his wife, Leonie and his son Stephen.

Leonie and Ron have travelled quite extensively both at home and abroad, but still found time to become foundation members of Forster Probus and members of the Forster Tunccurry Travel Club. They were also in charge of the Red Cross Disaster Fund in Forster for 2 years.

Ron and Leonie, who had been holidaying in the Great lakes for around 50 years, decided to retire here from Carlingford Sydney. I asked Ron what he loved about Forster Tunccurry, he said, "Its cleanliness and beauty. All our great friends

and wonderful neighbours and our Catholic Church."

Bob Lundie-Jenkins, Competition Secretary Bathurst Light Car Club had this to say about Ron.

'Ron has been a competitor in State Hill Climb events as long as I can remember. He has been a class winner in just about every one of our events he has entered and holds a number of course records in the Esses and Mountain Straight hill climbs and the Concord Supersprints.

Having a well-prepared car and the expertise and experience plus the determination to drive that car as fast as it will go and always being competitive – all work to being a winner. But Ron remained a humble 'fair dinkum' bloke, happy to help fellow competitors and always with good humour.

These qualities make Ron Gallagher one of the greatest ambassadors for our sport.

I am proud to call him a good mate and his decision to retire from competition is a sad day for our sport. He will be missed at the start line."



Above: Leonie and Ron Gallagher celebrated 60 years of marriage on the 21st February 2023. Photos supplied.



Allan Ingersole – long term friend

"I have known Ron for about 50 years. In our early relationship we played squash and Ron was extremely competitive, with a 'never give up' attitude but always acknowledging the better player on the day. I'm sure he would have had the same attitude to car racing. It is no surprise to me that he has been so successful."

Small Town New Year

Facing the end of summer in this small town sort of organic. Our kids jump off the jetty towards home back to real life. Holiday heads dwindle walking on Wharf Street just got easier. Less cool cabanas decorate Main Beach.

Now the kids are back to school shut the lights on Trampolines & Mini Golf. The traffic's less horrible 'Yes vacancy' say the motels. Packing tents into trailers afterwards, flattened grass needs rain. Gradually fewer boats get out to fish.

At this time of year kings of paddle boards dried and folded quieten Wallis Lake.

By Joy Higgins, Forster.



Quick shop costs \$180



SATIRE: A quick trip down to the local supermarket to pick up a few bits and pieces has come in at just under \$200, it has been revealed.

Sydney woman Josie Dobson told her partner she was just popping down to the shops to get a couple of things they forgot and ended up dropping a day's salary.

"I just grabbed some milk, a carton of eggs, a capsicum and some washing powder, scanned them at the self check-out, and then called over the assistant to tell him that the machine had got the decimal point in the wrong spot," Dobson explained.

"Turns out it hadn't got the decimal point in the wrong spot and we now need to take out a second mortgage on our home, which is tricky because we don't own it," she explained. "Lucky I forgot to get shavers, otherwise the bill would've pushed seven figures".

Dobson said she had learnt her lesson and would not be silly enough to eat food or wash her clothes from now on.

www.theshovel.com.au

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Forster Athletes medal haul at Regional Championships



Above: Silver medallist's Delilah Marshall, Louisa Whight, Ella McDonald and Abby Blatch in the Junior Girls Relay.

PB's across most events showed that although small in size, the Forster Tuncurry Little Athletics can hold their own against the much larger clubs from Tamworth, Port Macquarie and beyond.

6 Athletes have automatically qualified for the State Championships in Sydney on March 18-19th. A handful of athletes are also waiting for the final two regions results to see if they can also qualify for state.

Some of the club's highlights include the Under 8's Harry LYNCH in his first Regional Championships, running the race of the carnival in the 200m Final which saw him and 3 other athletes duelling it out over the last 100m with several lead changes on a number of occasions. 0.22 of second separated the 4 athletes in a photo finish across the finish line, with Harry picking up a silver medal.

A special mention to Jasmine LETTE in the Under 13's Girls who competes in the Multi Class category for athletes with Physical and Intellectual Impairments. In her first year of Athletics, Jasmine won a swag of medals at the National PSSA Carnival late last year and then backed up it at Tamworth, qualifying for state in 5 events. Jasmine was also Honoured by the NSW State Government during the week in recognition of her achievements at the Australian Track and Field's Championships in 2022.

What was really pleasing to see was the sportsmanship and determination in all our athletes over the two days in testing conditions. An average temp of 30 plus over the two days tested our athletes who all rose to the occasion



Above: Harry Lynch (left) who came second in a tight finish of the 200m Final.

and were great ambassadors for our club and community. For a lot of our Athletes this was their first Regional Athletics Carnival in front of hundreds of athletes and spectators.

GOLD:

- Zara RAHMAN - U9's Shot put
- Louisa WHIGHT - U9's High Jump
- Ella McDONALD - U11's High Jump. Long Jump
- Jasmine LETTE - U13's 100m, 200m - Multi Class
- Tarli BLACK - U17's 100/200m

SILVER:

- Harry LYNCH - U8's 200/400m

- Jayden McDONALD - U9's High Jump
- Joey HILL - U11's 800m
- Jasmine LETTE - U13's Discus, Shotput, Long Jump (Multi Class)
- Junior Girls Relay - Louisa/Delilah/Ella/Abby

BRONZE:

- Harry LYNCH - U8's Discus
- Charli ALLEN - U9's High Jump
- Zara RAHMAN - U9's Discus
- Louisa WHIGHT - U9's 800m
- Georgia HARDY - U11's Shot Put
- Joey HILL - U11's 1500m
- Ella McDONALD - U11's 100/200m
- Abby BLATCH - U12's 400m
- Rosabel SMITH - U12's 1500m

By Lee McDonald - Vice President FTAC


See page 20 for records broken by two athletes, Ella McDonald and Tarli Black, at the same Championships.

Below: Zara Rahman who won gold in the U9's Shot put.



This is the second part of an article describing how well the Forster Tuncurry Athletic Club (FTAC) performed as a whole at the recent Regional Little Athletics Championships in Tamworth...

20 Athletes from the Forster Tuncurry Athletics Club took on the best athletes from the Northern NSW area at the Regional Little Athletics Championships at Tamworth on the 4th and 5th February and came away with a mountain of success. With 8 Gold, 12 Silver and 10 Bronze medals, 2 Regional Records and




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ALAUSTRALIA'S MOST COMMON CANCER EVERY YEAR SKIN CANCER ACCOUNT FOR AROUND 80% OF ALL NEWLY DIAGNOSED CANCERS IN AUSTRALIA

AROUND 2,000 DEATHS PER YEAR

MELANOMA IS THE 6TH MOST COMMON CAUSE OF CANCER DEATH IN AUSTRALIAN MEN AND 10TH MOST COMMON IN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

2 in 3 AUSTRALIANS WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH SKIN CANCER BY THE AGE OF 70

MORE THAN 12,500 CASES OF MELANOMA ARE DIAGNOSED IN AUSTRALIA EVERY YEAR

MELANOMA IS MORE COMMON IN MEN THAN WOMEN

MEN ARE MORE THAN **2.5 TIMES** AS LIKELY TO DIE FROM MELANOMA

DON'T BE A STAT SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SEEK & SLIDE AND SPOT IF YOU NOTICE ANY NEW OR CHANGING SPOTS GET THEM CHECKED BY AN EXPERT

2 in 3 AUSTRALIANS WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH SKIN CANCER BY THE AGE OF 70

Melanoma accounted for approximately 11% of all new cancer cases diagnosed in 2022.

The estimated number of deaths from melanoma of the skin in 2022 was 1,281 (825 males & 465 females).

Melanoma accounted for an estimated 2.6% of all deaths from cancer in 2022.

Melanoma of the skin was the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia in 2018. It is estimated that it will become the third most commonly diagnosed cancer from 2022.

In 2022, it was estimated that a person had a 1 in 17 (or 5.8%) risk of being diagnosed with melanoma of the skin by the age of 85 (1 in 14 or 6.9% for males and 1 in 21 or 4.7% for females).

In 2020, melanoma of the skin was the tenth most common cause of cancer death in Australia. It is estimated that it will become the eleventh most common cause of death from cancer in 2022.

Reference - Australian Government Cancer Australia and AIHW Cancer Data in Australia 2022

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