

Locals excell in sport p22, 23 & 24

Local Identities Ellie & Harry p21



Star Pet Jerry Boy p19



# 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.

FREE

Wednesday 24 July 2024

PROUD TO BE A LOCAL FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS

Circulation 7,000 No.101

## Naidoc Week Celebrations



### NAIDOC Community March in Forster



Above: The NAIDOC Community March along Wharf Street in Forster was well attended.  
Above right: The Aboriginal Flag Raising Ceremony at Forster Police Station. Photos by Mary Yule.

To celebrate NAIDOC Week, many people joined the NAIDOC Community March in Forster on Monday 6 July. Shop keepers and residents came out along the way to enjoy the morning's event.

The March started at 9am from the Forster Town Clock on Wharf Street and ended with an Aboriginal flag raising ceremony at the Forster Police Station on Lake Street. Aunty Lyn gave the Welcome to Country and spoke about music and heritage. She then wished everyone a 'Happy NAIDOC Week' before the gathering was invited to share a morning tea together.

The theme for NAIDOC Week, 7 -14 July 2024, was 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.' The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

[www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)

By Mary Yule.

See pages 2 and 4 for more photos from the NAIDOC Community Day and Community March.

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 TO PUBLISH WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST

**We welcome your stories, photos & letters**

• Send to [info@forsterfortnightly.com.au](mailto:info@forsterfortnightly.com.au) or contact Editor Mary Yule 0413 410 492

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• Business Hours are 9:30am to 5pm (Mon - Fri).

• When submitting stories, please note - around 300 words is best with high resolution photos sent separately (in largest size). Please include names for photos left to right and your contact details.

• The Forster Fortnightly is on the Council for Country Press NSW and is a member of Country Press Australia and Regional Media Connect.



NAIDOC Community Day photo by Mary Yule.

We may publish promotional information based on our assessment of the level of genuine news content. Any material which is clearly advertorial in nature is best promoted as paid advertising. Support the paper that supports the town!

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We acknowledge the Worimi People, the traditional custodians of the land where this newspaper is published. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and future.

**NAIDOC Community Fun Day**



Left: Photo from MidCoast Council.



The NAIDOC Community Fun Day was held at the Flats on Macintosh Street Forster on 10 July 2024 and was hosted by the local NAIDOC organising committee and supporters. Photos by Mary Yule.

Right: Baraya Wakulda choir.



**Supreme Court matter – Cr Epov**

On 2 July 2024 the Supreme Court of NSW finalised proceedings that were commenced by Councillor Peter Epov against MidCoast Council and an external conduct reviewer in relation to a report prepared in May 2024 into a Code of Conduct complaint.

All parties agreed to the consent orders made by the Court. The orders invalidated the report provided to Council, which means Council can deal with the complaint afresh.

By agreeing to the consent orders the matter was finalised quickly, minimising Council's costs. Cr Epov's costs are being paid for by the conduct reviewer.

At the time Cr Epov started court proceedings, Council had not made any decisions in respect of the reviewer's May report, and undertook not to do so once the proceedings were started.

As such, media reports indicating that Cr Epov has been 'censured' by Council are completely incorrect.

Although no evidence or submissions were prepared for the purpose of the proceedings, given the early stage at which they were resolved, Council agreed to making a concession in the orders that the conduct reviewer's May Report was affected by a 'reasonable apprehension of bias', due to a procedural matter, being that the conduct reviewer had determined a separate complaint about Cr Epov previously without notifying Cr Epov.

(Updated 12 July) The Council's Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct explain that a reasonable apprehension of bias arises 'where a fair-minded lay observer might reasonably apprehend that the conduct reviewer might not bring an impartial and unprejudiced mind to the matter referred to the conduct reviewer'. The Procedures require a reviewer not to accept a referral where such an apprehension arises.

There is no suggestion that there was any actual bias on the part of the conduct reviewer as a result of the acceptance of the referral or in the content of the conduct reviewer's May Report.

In response to statements in the media that 'more than 300 staff members resigned in a 12 month period', Council has also clarified that this is incorrect.

During 2022 a total of 221 staff left Council employment. This figure includes resignations, retirements, terminations, etc. During 2023 the number was 185.

[www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au)  
 Published 3.07.2023.



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Pollards General store  
Coomba Aquatic Centre
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**SUBSCRIBE** to our free Forster Fortnightly website and have each edition sent to you every fortnight. Subscribers will also be sent local news alerts and community updates.

If you would like to support this free news service for your community, please see the **DONATE** tab on our website. Thank you.  
[www.forsterfortnightly.com.au](http://www.forsterfortnightly.com.au)

**Improvements to Pacific Palms Community Centre**



Above: MP Dr David Gillespie inspects improvements at the Pacific Palms Community Centre with a MidCoast Council representative.

Work on the upgrade of the Pacific Palms Community Centre is nearing completion.

Over \$500,000 in funding was announced under the former Federal Coalition Government towards the project through the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program.

Federal Member for Lyne Dr David Gillespie inspected the new upgraded facilities at the Centre with representatives from MidCoast Council.

"This is an important community facility that caters for so many uses and I'm delighted works in the Centre are now complete," Dr Gillespie said.

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

"I'd like to take this opportunity to again congratulate the volunteers at the Pacific Palms Community Centre and MidCoast Council and their work to complete this important local upgrade," Dr Gillespie said.

**The works completed to date include:**

- Clearing of all debris/foliage from War Memorial and North (Tennis) carpark.
- Planting of Native Flora to brighten war memorial, paving of the front area and stepping stones to flag poles, laid bark, trimmed down all trees and foliage.
- Removal of Sand and Pouring of a Softfall for the Playground area, adding a rocker
- Painted all internal – skirts/arches, main hall, foyer, kitchen, stores, amenities
- Replacement of all Toilet Seats and Cisterns in the Hall and Tennis facility
- The Pergola has been extended and gutter guarding installed
- The Kitchen has been replaced and Store Room Flooring installed
- New furniture has been purchased to support event hire (markets, wedding hire etc) – chairs and tables that are collapsible and light.

Mid Coast Council's Senior Project Manager Scott Trotter said the remaining works around the centre soon to be undertaken as part of phase two of the project, including:

- Asphalting and widening the road
- Sealing of the carparks
- Additional stormwater and drainage works

**NSW Local Council Elections**



Every four years the community gets the opportunity to vote for the Councillors that will represent them and make decisions on their behalf for a four-year term.

The next NSW Local Government Elections will be held on 14 September 2024.

Voting at these elections is compulsory.

Make sure you are enrolled to vote and that your details are up to date. You must be enrolled by 6pm on 5 August 2024. All you need to enrol is a driver's licence or similar identification document or you can have someone who is already enrolled confirm your identity.

You can find out all about the Local Government elections, including how to enrol to vote and where to get assistance, at: [www.elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/local-government-elections/2024-nsw-local-government-elections](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/local-government-elections/2024-nsw-local-government-elections) Or by calling 1300 135 736.

**MidCoast Council**

At the local MidCoast election you will be asked to vote on which 11 candidates should become a Councillor for the next term. The new Council appoints the Mayor and Deputy Mayor positions.

In the last Mid-Coast Election, 25 October 2021, there were 76,170 residential and

non-residential electors enrolled in this area. 11 Councillors were elected from 80 candidates.

**What are the key dates?**

- **Monday 5 to Wednesday 14 August**  
Lodgement of nominations and registration of candidates and groups is open.
- **Tuesday 6 August**  
Lodgement of postal vote applications open
- **Monday 19 August**  
Postal pack distribution begins
- **Saturday 7 to Friday 13 September**  
Pre-poll voting period is open
- **Monday 9 September**  
5pm: Postal vote applications close
- **Saturday 14 September**  
8am – 6pm: Election Day
- **Friday 27 September**  
6pm: End of postal vote returns
- **Tuesday 1 October**  
Start of progressive declaration of results

[www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/About-MidCoast-Council/About-us/Council-elections](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/About-MidCoast-Council/About-us/Council-elections)

**Local Candidate Feature**

The Forster Fortnightly newspaper will be publishing a Local Candidates Feature for our readers on the 4 September in Edition 104. An invitation will go out to candidates on 7 August in Edition 102.



**Coomba Aquatic Club INC.**

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**WELCOME LIFT FOR BEACHES INTERNATIONAL**

Many people drive through the heart of Forster every day and wouldn't realise the hive of activity taking place at Beaches International, the blue and cream 10 storey holiday apartments located at the corner of The Lakes Way and Beach Street, Forster, just behind the new Forster Surf Club and Beach Bums on Main Beach.

Beaches has been operating since 1999 and contains 23, 2 and 3 bedroom self contained holiday apartments available over 9 levels. Apartments take advantage of the incredible views of Main Beach and Wallis Lake.

Proprietors, Greg and Tammy Randall, have a long history in the tourism and hospitality industry and have managed Beaches for 23 years, making them amongst the longest serving tourism operators in the area.

Greg says, 'We are always working to maintain the high standard customers expect and looking at ways to improve our offering.'

'It is with great excitement that we have just replaced our lift just in time for the Winter school holidays.' With the lowest rates available and a special August promotion on offer, it's the perfect time for locals to consider a staycation or to invite friends and family to visit.

'We feel incredibly fortunate to live and work in such a beautiful area and we just love promoting Forster Tuncurry and the wider Barrington Coast and sharing that experience with our guests,' said Greg.

**ESCAPE THE WINTER**  
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**BEACHES INTERNATIONAL**  
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 Forster Main Beach

# Manning - Great Lakes Police District update



Dear Readers,  
It has been a very busy fortnight for local police – with ongoing focus on preventing, disrupting, and responding to crime, whilst also happily finding time to attend many of the NAIDOC Week events across the Police District.

• About 5.10am on Wed 10 July, local police were conducting patrols on bicycles in Bent Street, Tuncurry, in response to an increase in bicycle theft in Forster-Tuncurry during this holiday period. At this time, police observed a 20-year-old man riding a bicycle in a southerly direction towards Bramble Parade. Police stopped and spoke to the man after observing the bicycle he was riding was a small size Fluid Nitro brand lady's mountain bike - with police suspecting the bicycle was stolen. The man was cautioned and questioned regarding the bicycle. During this interaction the man attempted to flee from police. A violent struggle ensued, with the man biting one of the police officers on the leg. After he was restrained and searched it was discovered the man was in possession of other items suspected of being stolen: a new Crane Sports Hydration brand backpack, a Uniden brand power pack and a chisel set (see earlier post on this page for photos of these items). The man was conveyed to Forster Police Station where he was charged with Goods in Custody suspected of being stolen; Assault police officer in execution of duty cause actual bodily harm and Resist police officer in the execution of duty. The man was refused bail.

• On Wed 10 July and Thurs 11 July, local police conducted Operation BRAP - an operation

targeting unlawful and unsafe trail bike activity in Taree and Forster. The operation involved local police with support from the NSW Police Force Aviation Command (POLAIR) and local officers attached to the Traffic and Highway Patrol Command. Two motorcycles were seized by police during the operation (with one to be the subject of a forfeiture application to the Local Court) with 230 random breath tests conducted, 23 roadside drug tests - five of which were positive to a prohibited drug - and numerous charges laid, including Mid-Range PCA, Special Range PCA, Possess Prohibited Drug (x2)

Police Pursuit - drive dangerously and Abandon Child. Local police will continue to target unlawful and unsafe trail bike activity in Taree and Forster, and I would encourage any person with information relating to such activity to contact CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000.

• About 3.30pm on Wed 10 July, local police were patrolling Taree when they attempted to stop a vehicle which was allegedly being driven in a dangerous manner on Barton Street near Bushland Drive. When the vehicle failed to stop, police initiated a pursuit. It was terminated a short time later due to safety concerns. After monitoring the vehicle, police successfully deployed road spikes on the northbound lanes of the Pacific Highway, north of Cundletown. The vehicle did a U-turn and came to a stop in the southbound lanes, where the female driver allegedly ran from the vehicle. She was arrested nearby following a short foot pursuit. Four children - aged 15, 10 and two children aged two - and a dog, were located uninjured in the abandoned vehicle. The 34-year-old woman was taken to Taree Police Station, where she was subjected to alcohol and drug tests, which allegedly returned a positive result for methamphetamine. This will undergo further analysis. The woman was charged with police pursuit - not stop - drive dangerously, abandon etc child under 7 cause danger serious injury (DV), and learner not accompanied by driver/polic officer/tester. The woman was refused bail.



Above and right: The NAIDOC Community March gathering at the Forster Police Station. Photos by Mary Yule.

### NAIDOC Week celebrations

Local police also found time to attend many NAIDOC Week celebrations across the Police District, including the Biripi Community NAIDOC Event, the Gloucester NAIDOC Family Fun Day, the Biripi Youth Disco at Taree PCYC and the Community Fun Day held at Tobwabba Reserve in Forster - all great events! Local police also assisted organisers in ensuring celebratory NAIDOC marches in Taree and Forster went off without a hitch.

Please be kind to each other and don't forget to say "G'day!" to your local police.

Chief Inspector Timothy Bayly - OIC Forster Police Station



## I WANT A CLOSED CASKET FUNERAL

However, towards the end, get the organist to play 'pop goes the weasel' until everyone is staring at my coffin with mute anticipation

Pre-arrange with Allan Pearse

6554 5433

118 Manning Street, Tuncurry  
www.allanpearsefunerals.com.au



## Have your say on walk, cycle, trails



Have your say on the MidCoast walking, cycling and trail-based activity strategy that will guide the development of our walk and cycle networks for the next 10 years.

Check out the interactive map online to see the proposed actions that have been developed using feedback from the Open Spaces and Recreation Strategy community consultation back in 2022.

Provide feedback online by 25 August, or come and chat with us at a pop-up on:

• Wednesday 31 July from 8.30am to 10.30am near the Tuncurry Breakwall

• Wednesday 31 July from 12pm to 2pm near Drift Cafe at Pacific Palms

[www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Our-news/News-releases/Have-your-say-on-walk-cycle-trails-strategy](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Our-news/News-releases/Have-your-say-on-walk-cycle-trails-strategy)

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FRIDAY AUGUST 2  
6PM AMAZING ANTIOXIDANTS  
7PM OUR SEARCH FOR MEANING & VALUE  
SATURDAY AUGUST 3  
10AM THE CASE FOR ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY  
11AM THE CUP AND THE CURSE  
3PM CONFRONTING CANCER  
6PM AMAZING ANTIOXIDANTS

Venue: SDA CHURCH HALL  
29 NORTH STREET  
TUNCURRY NSW 2428

For More Information  
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**NEXT RACE MEETING**

**The JOCKEY CLUB**  
TUNCURRY-FORSTER

**The Luck of the Irish RACE DAY**

**FRI 9 AUG**

*Live Music Frohlich Bros & Fella Felafel*

**Occasions JEWELLERS** Pot Of Gold WIN \$500 Raffle

Win a trip to Mudgee coupon in race book

Best dressed in GREEN win 2 tickets Pavilion Gold Cup

**FREE BUSES - OPEN 11:30**

## Dying to Know Day - What to know before you go

We are all impacted by death in our lives. It might be for the people we love, or it might be our own.

Dying to Know Day is a public campaign with a day of recognition held each year on the 8th August. Each year the theme is changed, and this year the emphasis is on personalising final arrangements and building community.

Our mission is to help all Australians to feel supported and inspired by their own wishes for their final arrangements. Together we can break down the stigma and sense of awkwardness associated with conversations about death, dying and grief. This event is supported by interested individuals and community organisations from across the nation, raising awareness of the importance of planning ahead regarding end-of-life care.

Each year Great Lakes Palliative Care Support (GLPCS) hold a free community awareness session to encourage folk to think about their end-of-life care and to find out the how to put in place the things that are needed to make it not only easier for themselves but for those


close to them when death does occur. Whether we want to think about it, death does touch each of us, it's unavoidable. "What do you need to know before you go?"

**GLPCS cordially invites all interested folk to a free seminar at Club Forster on Thursday 8th August 10am to 12 noon. Morning tea will be provided.**

We will have some interesting speakers covering various aspects of end-of-life care and planning. Speakers will include Dr Arron Veltre, Palliative Medicine Specialist and Conjoint Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine and Public Health University of Newcastle. Emma McLeod, Clinical Nurse Specialist in Palliative Care and Oncology, Forster and Mayo Private Hospitals. Representatives from legal and funeral services will also be involved.

Resources will be available and the opportunity to ask questions will be possible.

For further information please contact Deirdre GLPCS on 0437 830 818.



**Free Community Awareness Seminar**  
**Club Forster Strand St Forster 2428**  
**Thursday 8th August-10am to 12:30pm**  
**Morning tea Provided**

**Speakers include:**

- Dr Arron Veltre Palliative Medicine Specialist
- Emma McLeod Clinical Nurse Consultant Oncology and Palliative Care - Forster and Mayo Hospitals
- Legal and funeral planning representatives

**Further details contact GLPCS 0437 830 818**

## 'Cars under the Stars Forster'

On Saturday 6th July, 'Cars under the Stars Forster' had the first Show and Shine in the paddock at Sporties in Tuncurry for car and motorbike enthusiasts to show off their wonderful cars and bikes.

Around 20 cars and 4 bike owners braved the cold weather. It was great to see the various cars and bikes, meet new friends and being in the running for a trophy.

My own 1969 soft top Mustang "Letty" managed to snag one for Best Ford Muscle. I was pretty stoked at that!

Trophies were decided by our wonderful sponsors on the day, who included Automotive Services Forster, A.G. STONE Bricklaying, Beach Bums Café, Taree Wesleyan Methodist Church and Forster Christian Life Centre.

By Ingrid Cunliffe.

Right: The first 'Cars under the Stars Forster' in the paddock at Sporties in Tuncurry. Photo supplied.



## Got a problem? Tell us about it.

**We know things don't always go to plan.**

With over 10,000km<sup>2</sup> to cover, delivering your every day services like roadworks, water, and bin collections, can sometimes be challenging.

That's why we need your input, to tell us about the things in your neighbourhood we may not already know about.

If you've got an issue or see something that needs addressing, tell us about it.

[midcoast.nsw.gov.au/report](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/report)  
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Your work in progress

## Pacific Cape Lodge

**Now open**  
**Kularoo Drive Forster**



GLAICA Ltd is excited to announce that Pacific Cape Lodge is now open and taking new admissions! If you are interested in a private viewing, please contact Pacific Cape Lodge on 5502 6555.

We now have openings for experienced Registered Nurses who can make best use of their skills and knowledge in a new and exciting environment where you can help shape and establish the future of our care services.

If this is you then please contact us on 6555 5521 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

## What is a friend?



Above: The well-attended Company of Voices concert at the Tuncurry Memorial Hall in 2023.

**Someone who supports you? Who is there when you need them?**

**Well, our Historic Tuncurry WW1 Memorial Hall is in need of friends.**

This has led to the idea of forming a Friends of the Hall group. Because the hall is owned by the Crown and administered by a small management committee of volunteers appointed by the State Minister, (and receives no external funding, apart from grant applications) we are hoping to involve more community members to support these volunteers.

Those of us already involved in Tuncurry Memorial Hall, believe that a strong community is built on shared interests, skills, and a deep appreciation for our local heritage. Our Friends of the Hall program is not about monetary contributions but rather about harnessing the diverse talents and skills of our community members.

**Joining the Friends of the Hall program is as easy as 1-2-3**

**Step 1: Express Your Interest**

Let us know that you're interested in becoming a Friend of the Hall! Simply send us a message on our Facebook page or through our newly updated website at: [www.tuncurrymemorialhall.com.au](http://www.tuncurrymemorialhall.com.au) with your email and or telephone details and we'll reach out to you with more details.

**Step 2: Share Your Skills**

Tell us about the skills and expertise you're eager to contribute. Are you an expert in graphic design? Fundraising? A wordsmith with a passion for writing? (Or making grant

applications!) A social media maven? Or simply happy to help set up chairs or organise afternoon teas or do bar duty. We want to know how you can help us!

**Step 3: Get Involved**

Once you've joined the Friends of the Hall community, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded individuals, and help shape the future of Tuncurry Memorial Hall. Together, we can create remarkable experiences and events that celebrate our local history and enrich our community.

**Keen for more concerts**

The huge and enthusiastic crowd who turned out to be part of Company of Voices performance 'Songs of Love and War ... And a Piano!' last year in our Tuncurry WW1 Memorial highlighted the need for a Friends support group.

"It was truly a vindication of live music making in our area and confirmed our view that people are really keen to have more creative performances in our wonderful historic hall," said CoV founder and Director Leigh Vaughan.

The fact that we now have a beautiful digital grand piano securely stored in the hall means we are now able to invite other performers to come and give concerts here. Stay tuned for live performances coming in August and October this year.

"We are already in negotiation with several chamber groups and some jazz enthusiasts for next year, so we will be open to all styles and genres," said booking agent Nyaree Donnelly. **Tuncurry WW1 Memorial Hall Face Book** [www.tuncurrymemorialhall.com.au](http://www.tuncurrymemorialhall.com.au)

## Forster Tuncurry U3A - Term 3



Hello to all the retired or semi-retired over 50's! U3A (University of the Third Age) is a world wide not for profit organisation run by members. Life experiences are drawn on and shared, creating a relaxed atmosphere of learning and keeping mind and body healthy and active.

We offer a variety of classes such as General topics of interest, History, Art, Travel, Singing, Writers, Collectors "road shows", Philosophy, Media Discussions and Book Clubs. We regularly have guest speakers on a variety of subjects such as CPR explained and Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, which were held this term.

We also hold social outings, for morning teas or lunch. Our walking group and gentle exercise classes are very popular.

U3A truly has something for everyone! Our half yearly membership for terms 3 and 4 is only \$30. This entitles you to attend as many classes as you like Monday to Friday at our beautiful venue of Cape Hawke Surf Lifesaving Club, One Mile Beach, Forster.

**Come and join us for Welcome Morning Tea on Monday 29th July 10-12 and meet our friendly members.**

More information is available on our website at: [forstuncurryu3a.net.org.au](http://forstuncurryu3a.net.org.au)

**U3A**  
**Term 3 Dates**  
**Monday 29th July**  
**to Friday 20th of**  
**September 2024.**

**Enrol Now**  
[forstuncurry.u3a.net.org.au](http://forstuncurry.u3a.net.org.au)  
**It's never too late to**  
**Live, Laugh and Learn**



## Regional Heywire Competition

Heywire is a lived experience storytelling competition from the ABC, calling for stories from young people aged between 16-22 in regional, rural and remote Australia.

Heywire is about giving Australia a window on your life and/or your community. You are unique and the place where you live is unique, and that makes your story fascinating. Personal stories are the most compelling.

Entries must be a true story about an aspect of your life. Stories can be in any format: text (400 words), video (2 to 4 minutes), photos (10 images) or audio (2 to 4 minutes) - whatever form suits you best!

There are tips for a great story and samples of past winners on the website.

**What can I win?**

1. Work with ABC producers to have your story featured on the ABC. Be heard across Australia and internationally.
2. A trip to the Heywire Summit! Winners get an all expenses paid trip to the Heywire Summit in Canberra, to develop ideas to make regional Australia a better place for young people.



**Ready to enter?**

Great! Entries are now open for our 2025 Competition and will close on September 1, 2024.

The easiest way to enter is by filling out the form at: [www.abc.net.au/heywire/competition](http://www.abc.net.au/heywire/competition)



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# GLWS Inaugural Ball – Black Tie Biker's Ball

'Sisters on Steel' (SOS) Social Motorcycle Club (SMC) - Hunter Region Chapter, alongside Great Lakes Womens Shelter (GLWS) Manager Carly Ravenscroft, proudly organised their first Ball-Black Tie Bikers Ball on 6 July at Club Forster.

This event was to raise much needed funds for the women and children of our local facility who have been affected by domestic violence in their lives. Every week and we are hearing of more homicides and domestic fuelled violence in all states of our country, which is just heart breaking as it's the innocent ones and their families who suffer.

Saturday was a fantastic night for everyone who participated and contributed to raising money for the GLWS. Everyone put their best frocks on and best suits, enjoyed a delicious meal at Club Forster. Throughout the night there were speeches, raffles, and some auctions, raising \$5000 for GLWS. It was a real pleasure also to have Annabelle Daniel, CEO of Women's Community Shelters send a video on our special night thanking and recognising Sisters on Steel SMC and congratulating our Great Lakes Womens Shelter and Community. We would like to acknowledge Sallianne McClelland for the wonderful job she did as our MC for the

night, and the amazing team of volunteers the "Hallidays Helpers".

The Sisters of Steel are an all-women social motorcycle club who are all year-round raising awareness and much needed funds for women and children of domestic violence.

Great Lakes Womens Shelter

Right: SOS Helen Dare, MC Sallianne McClelland and SOS Gina Ferguson. Photo supplied.



# Homelessness issues in our community

## What is the definition of homelessness?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines homelessness, for the purposes of the Census of Population and Housing, as the lack of one or more elements that represent 'home'.

The ABS statistical definition of homelessness is 'when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives, they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate;
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations' (ABS 2012).

So, homelessness is not just about people who sleep in the streets, under bridges, in shop fronts, on park benches. These are the visible ones. It also includes people living in improvised dwellings, temporarily in supported accommodation, lodgings, and boarding houses and in severely overcrowded dwellings.

On any given night we know that there are around 122,500 who are without a home in Australia.



## Homelessness in our Mid Coast LGA

In our Local Mid Coast Government Area, the 2021 Census estimated 300 people were homeless and another 301 in marginal housing (Table 6.1- Estimating homelessness: Census 2021). According to this data from the 2021 Census and Homelessness NSW, homelessness has slightly decreased in NSW but has increased in regional areas. The Hunter Valley (excluding Newcastle) recorded a 32.5% jump, and the Mid-North Coast experienced a 25.9% increase.

Note that these are estimates and are likely to be an undercount because of the temporary nature of such accommodation and the fact that people in housing stress move around and

are sometimes hard to find or are not able to fill out forms or are not counted.

With the rising cost of living and rents, more people including those who are not traditionally thought of to be homeless are experiencing housing stress and homelessness. There are a number of people and families living in cars or temporarily in holiday accommodation that come to the local Community Kitchens as well as those who sleep around the various parks, etc.

The Taree Community Kitchen crew will often serve over 200 meals on a Monday with an average of 100 meals a day, while the Forster kitchen has also had an increase - with Monday numbers often close to 100 and many days averaging 60 meals served (pictured left).

While programs such as these are invaluable and well needed, they do not fix the issue of homelessness, the causes of which can be quite complex. But we do know that without social affordable housing the issue won't go away and people continue to live rough or in unsuitable and unsafe structures

We live in an area that has plenty of vacant places. My own block of units would have for instance 10 places which are largely vacant. However, these are not available for people

to rent as reasonable rates. Midcoast Council recently sent out a letter asking people to put their places on the long-term rental. This is a step in the right direction but still does not address the need for low-cost housing for our marginalised in our community.

There are several great organisations in our community helping our homeless. These includes Vinnies, Salvation Army, Catholic Care, Church of Christ, Great Lakes Youth Homeless Service, etc, and during our coming meetings I hope we can hear their perspective to help inform ours.

## Forster Social Justice Group

Our Group is a social justice group so we are involved with bigger picture thinking and doing. Rather than raise money or participate in charitable works, a social justice group works for systemic change by raising awareness in the community and lobbying and advocating for change.

By Judy Woolstencroft – FSJG.

Forster Social Justice Group is facilitated by the Forster Tuncurry Uniting Church and anyone is welcome. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5pm in the Uniting Church, corner of McIntosh and Lake Street, Forster. Contact Judy 0408 051 203.

# Art Wall at Hallidays Point

"Each artwork has been a thrill to get up on the wall and everyone is enjoying them," said Alana Perkins, member of Black Head Bazaar committee.

Like their recent Focal Point Photo Prize Competition (see article in the previous Forster Fortnightly, 10 July), the committee are passionate about bringing the arts to Hallidays Point and have created an Art Wall on the park side of the Hallidays Point Library. Since the beginning of 2024, they have progressively installed large photos of artwork from local artists along the outside wall.

After discussing several creative ideas for the wall space, including a mural, Alana came up

with the idea of an Art Wall. The committee thought this would be relatively easy to do as they could ask their local artist friends for permission to use their work, as well as using local artwork that was hanging in the homes of friends.

"The artists were grateful and happy to go through the process when we asked for permission. Some waived the \$200 fee we offered so it was like a donation," said Alana. "We like to offer a fee to be fair to artists. They need to be paid properly."

Alana said the project was also easy to achieve as the wall is on private land. Jim Dickson is the owner of the shopping complex and was very

happy to give permission. Local photographer Julie Slaven visited the homes and took high resolution photos so the artwork could be enlarged onto metal, ready to display.

All the art is by local artists, except for the 'Platypus' which was designed by an artist in Tasmania who



Above: Abstract pastel by Yvette Huggill.

Continued on page 10.

# Timely tech upgrade for Marine Rescue



Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry have received a \$12,000 grant from the Community Building Partnership Program to upgrade their old technology and make their job of monitoring

vessels and water conditions easier.

Local MP Tanya Thompson said, "Our Forster Tuncurry Marine Rescue volunteers are saving lives on the water every day. I am pleased that this investment will enhance their ability to train volunteers and coordinate rescue operations effectively."

"I congratulate the entire Marine Rescue team on their successful funding application. These communication upgrades will make a huge difference to the entire team."

Geoff Anderson, Unit Commander stated, "This grant comes at a time when our six 10-year-old laptops used for training marine rescue volunteers and ongoing education purposes, have reached the end of their serviceable life utilising operating

systems that can no longer be supported. The training replicates actual procedures in an operational scenario to not only Log boaters' time at sea but also co-ordinate and assist search procedures in non-operational scenarios."

"The remaining funds will cover the upgrade of equipment and Monitors in the Radio Room used by our volunteers to monitor and interact with the boating public to log and monitor their safety at sea. Two large curved and 2 flat screen monitors will replace the existing 6 screens to not only provide better clarity and definition of the information displayed but to free up important desk space," stated Geoff.

Rodney Percival, Marine Rescue member and IT specialist, explained, "Having 2 large screens for the radio tower upstairs means we can monitor all sites for Marine Rescue on the one screen instead of switching between. This will make it much easier for us to do our job."

Rodney said all new computers will be purchased and installed in the coming weeks. If you would like to get involved and be part of Marine Rescue visit: [www.marine-rescue.com.au/volunteer](http://www.marine-rescue.com.au/volunteer) Story and photo by Mary Yule.

# Tanya's Community Update



July is my favourite time of the year, it's Parliament's winter break, allowing me a full month at home without the back-and-forth to Sydney. So, I make the most of this time to engage with the Myall Lakes community through my annual Electorate Tour.

As my tour comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to meet with me. I have loved connecting with both new and familiar faces and I appreciate you sharing your concerns.

Your firsthand knowledge of your own community is so important. This tour is an opportunity for me to gather direct feedback and gain a greater understanding of our local issues, from the people that live there.

While each community has its unique challenges, common concerns across our electorate include road conditions, healthcare, affordable housing and the rising cost of living.

I am committed to addressing the issues that were brought to my attention and I will continue to advocate for better infrastructure, improved healthcare services, and measures to ease the financial burden on our residents.

If you were unable to attend my tour and would still like to share your thoughts, please contact my office on 02 6555 4099 or [myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Tanya Thompson MP

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# Tanya THOMPSON MP

Member for Myall Lakes



## ELECTORATE TOUR

Thank You!



UPPER LANSDOWNE



GREEN POINT



OLD BAR



KRUMBACH



MOORALL CREEK



LANSDOWNE



SMITHS LAKE

1-9 Manning Street, Tuncurry

02 6555 4099

tanyathompson.com.au

myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au

TanyaThompsonForMyallLakes

Authorised by Tanya Thompson MP, 1-9 Manning Street, Tuncurry NSW 2428, funded using Parliamentary Entitlements July 2024.

# Community Resources announces launch of RENEW Project

Community Resources is excited to announce the RENEW Project – 'Rejuvenating Employment, Nurturing and Empowering Women' – a new program that will benefit local women in the Mid North Coast region experiencing barriers to entering or re-entering the workforce. The program has been made possible through funding from the NSW Government.



The Hon. Jodie Harrison, NSW Minister for Women says, "The NSW Government is pleased to fund Community Resources Limited's RENEW Project as part of our Return to Work Pathways Program grant".

does just that – supporting women who face intersecting barriers to workforce participation to become job-ready and secure sustainable employment."

Lisa Berry, General Manager, says, "We were delighted to receive this much-needed funding, which will enable us to employ five women across our community services: Homebase Youth Services, Helping Hands and Great Lakes and Manning Youth Homelessness Services".

"There is just nothing else like this program in our area. Traineeships in community services are limited. This program has the potential to be life-changing for the women in this program."

Local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women are strongly encouraged to find out more and apply today through Seek: [www.seek.com.au/job/76970210](http://www.seek.com.au/job/76970210)

"The RENEW Project will support Aboriginal women in the Forster-Tuncurry region to gain confidence and build on-the-job skills, helping them transition smoothly back to the workplace. I look forward to seeing the results of this project."

Over 12 months, five local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women will receive wrap-around support to achieve qualifications and lasting employment.

"Our government is committed to the economic advancement and empowerment of women and girls in our state. This grant

## Art Wall at Hallidays Point

Continued from page 9.

Alana met on her travels. She loved his work, and like most of the artists, he was thrilled and thanked her for asking.

Alana wanted each of the artworks to portray a different style. There are 8 installations running from left to right on the Art Wall.

1. A photographic image of a shark using an electron microscope to depict texture and detail by Kim Hamilton from the Barrington Coast.
2. An Australian bush landscape painting in oils by Rod Spicer from Tinonee.
3. A contemporary Aboriginal symbolic painting by Mandee Davis, Birrbay artist, from Forster.
4. A 'cartoon style' character pencil drawing by Robbie Crane from Wingham.

5. An abstract pastel drawing of flowers and fruit by Yvette Hugill from Wingham.

6. An environmental statement painting by Alison Higgs from Wootton.

7. A black and white linocut of a platypus by John Osborne from Tasmania.

8. Photo of carved and painted wooden shields made by Andy Snelgar, Ngemba people, from Old Bar.

The Art Wall is now completed, and Alana said the committee would love more wall space - perhaps to put up some photos from their



Above: Linocut of Platypus by John Osborne.

recent Photo Prize Competition.

"Art Walls are something other areas could do," suggested Alana, "and not super expensive. Each artwork cost us between \$400 to \$700 to have the photo enlarged onto metal. The Black Head Bazaar footed this bill with proceeds from the market."

By Mary Yule.

For more information on the artists, please visit: [www.hallidayspointinfo.com/art-wall-black-head](http://www.hallidayspointinfo.com/art-wall-black-head)

Right: David Coyle installing the Art Wall behind Hallidays Point Library. Photos supplied.



Above: Figurative drawing by Robbie Crane.



### The Grin Bin



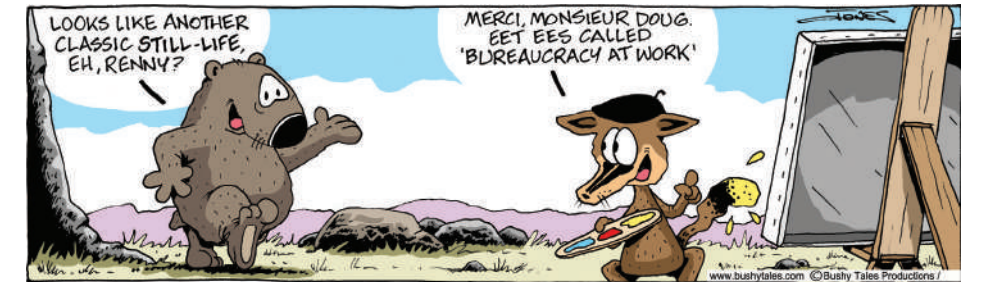
### Swamp



### Doodley Squat



### Bushy Tales



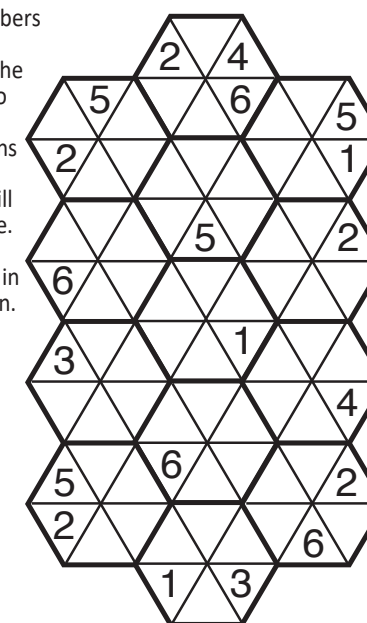
### Sudoku

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

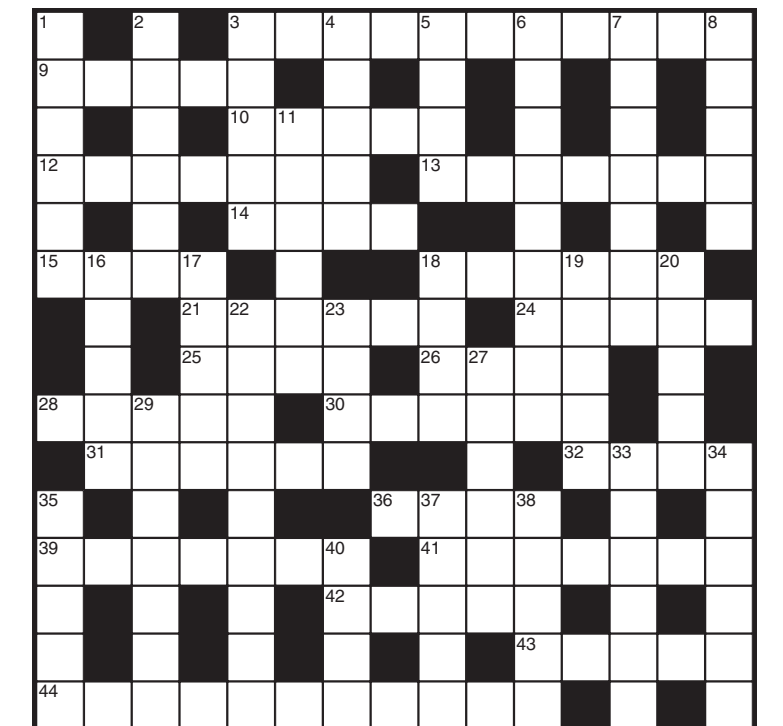
8	2				3			
6		9				4		
				9				
				6	2	1		
			5	9			3	
	4		8				5	
	7		4				8	
					9		2	
			2			3	7	

### 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



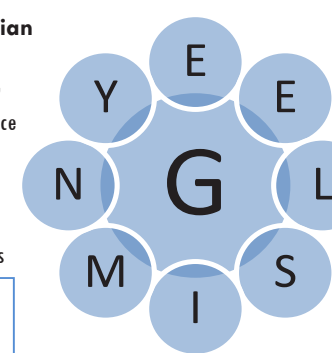
- ACROSS**
- 3 Eating places
  - 9 Speed and rhythm
  - 10 Sheep-like
  - 12 Treachery
  - 13 Cleansed by hard rubbing
  - 14 Migrate
  - 15 Supplemented
  - 18 Of highest grade
  - 21 Come forth
  - 24 Bury
  - 25 Mode of transport
  - 26 Remainder
  - 28 Heavenly body
  - 30 Meal
  - 31 Sea nymphs
  - 32 Measure of length
  - 36 Of the ear
  - 39 Urgent desire
  - 41 Upholder of a heresy
- DOWN**
- 1 Sculptured likeness
  - 2 Obstruct
  - 3 Henhouse
  - 4 Glisten
  - 5 Monkeys
  - 6 Know again
  - 7 Closest
  - 8 Den
  - 11 Whirling movement
  - 16 Glory
  - 17 Frighten from
  - 18 Decorative plant
  - 19 Vestibule
  - 20 Singer
  - 22 Fabrics
  - 23 Disencumbers
  - 27 Desired with rivalry
  - 29 Wonder
  - 33 Shrewd
  - 34 Physician
  - 35 Exclusive story
  - 37 Digit
  - 38 Pancake
  - 40 Equipment

### Focus

An All Australian Word Game

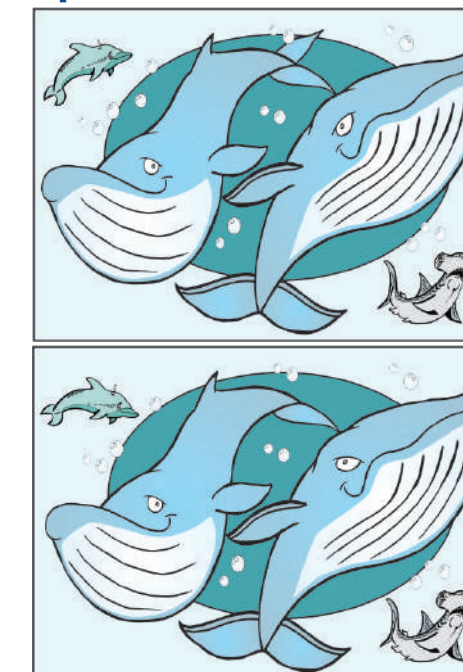
- \* Each word must contain the centre 'Focus' letter and each letter may be used only once
- \* Each word must be four letters or more
- \* Find at least one nine letter word
- \* No swear words
- \* No verb forms or plurals ending in 's'
- \* No proper nouns and no hyphenated words

TODAY'S FOCUS: Good: 8 words, Very good: 14 words, Excellent: 24 words



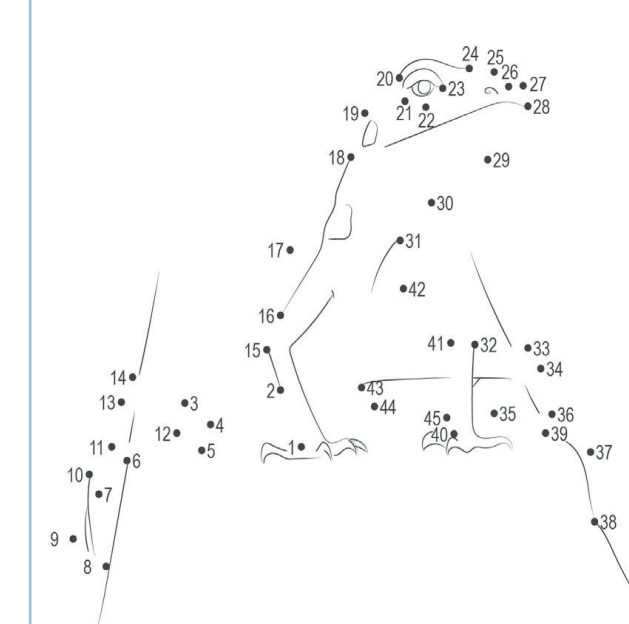
Reference: Macquarie Concise Dictionary Focus No. 3935

### Spot the 5 Differences



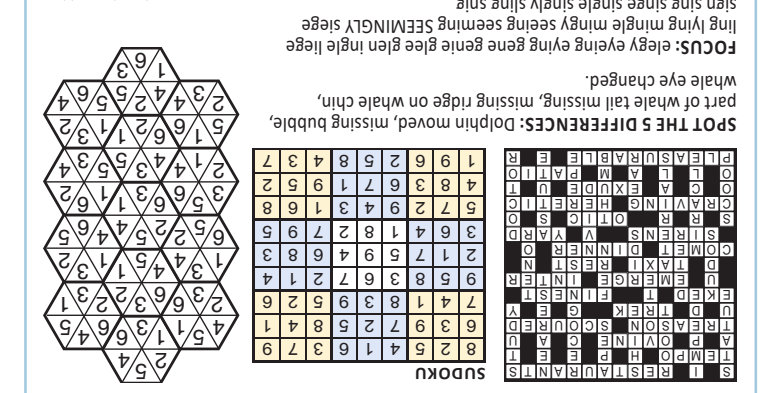
### Join the Dots

What is this? Find out by joining the dots.



### Solutions

Puzzles and pagination supplied by Auspac Media



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Local Calendar

Your 'Local Calendar' lists free events. Max 4 lines. It is the responsibility of the organisation to update their information.

July

Sat 27 July - Tuncurry Market 8am to 1pm at John Wright Park, Tuncurry. Enquiries: Anne 0417 400 994

Sun 30 July - Pacific Palms Market 9am to 1pm Pacific Palms Community Centre. Community Library Stall open in hall. Enquiries: Jennifer Doyle 0401 968 516

August

Sun 4 August - Hallidays Point Car Boot Sale 7am to 12pm Hallidays Point Shopping Village. Enquiries: Peter Bickerstaff 0493 054 916



Sun 11 August - Forster Town Market 8am to 1pm, Town Park, Oyster Pde Forster. Search Forster Town Park Market on Facebook.

Sun 11 August - Tallwoods Village Market 8am - 1pm at 61 The Blvd, Tallwoods Village Opposite the Tallwoods Golf Club Contact Caileen 0488 508 846

Sat 17 August - Forster Farmers Market 8am to 12pm Forster Info Centre, Little St. Enquiries: Linda 0421 347 273

What's on around town & beyond!

Enjoy 'Strictly Social' dancing!

Whether you're a beginner or want to expand your dance repertoire, the Strictly Social Dance Club is about the enjoyment of dancing to great music in the company of likeminded people.

During the year Formal Evenings are organised to celebrate particular themes. Recently we held a wonderful 1940s Ball.

Wonderful 1940s Ball

Dancers from up and down the coast joined locals as we took a step back in time attending our "1940s Ball" on Friday 28th June. The 1940s theme for the décor and the fashions of the era contributed to a wonderful atmosphere as everyone enjoyed this "Strictly Social" event.

Music from the 1940s had everyone on the dance floor celebrating the moves and grooves of this inspiring decade of challenge and change.

Our grateful thanks, for their continued assistance and support to Club Forster Management and Staff, who provided the venue and catering services, and to our own dance club members and visitors who attended ensuring the success and enjoyment of the evening.

Come and try our Tuesday night Social Dancing. Enquires Kay on 0412 314 449.

Right: The 1940s Ball in June 2024.



What's on around town & beyond!

Mad Hatters Tea Party & Preloved Fashion Show

Thrift Shop to Catwalk - Charity Fundraising Community Event

Kick off the Spring season in style! This event celebrates preloved fashion, fabulous food, and fundraising for a great cause. Dress to impress in your finest Springtime Elegance attire and join us at our upcycled Mad Hatters Tea Party.

Your ticket purchase supports the Great Lakes Women's Shelter and helps raise awareness for Pink Up Forster Tuncurry to help fund breast care nurses in the Mid Coast region. We can't wait to see all the amazing upcycled hats and stylish outfits our guests come up with. Let's celebrate spring with elegance and a touch of pink! Co-host Liz Cole from The Whitehouse Nook & Cafe.

Save the date: Saturday 31 August, 3-5pm

Dress theme: Springtime Elegance

Event Highlights:

Best Dressed Prizes: Show off your stunning outfits and compete for the best-dressed awards (Tip: Add a splash of pink!)



Above: Co-hosts El (top) and Liz at their Winter Woolies Fashion event on June 2024.

- Best Upcycled Mad Hatters Prizes Announcement: Get creative with upcycled hats for a chance to win (Tip: Reimagine waste & pink it up!)
Preloved Fashion Show: Marvel at stylish preloved outfits.
Savoury & Sweet Items Served: Enjoy delicious treats, including bubbles, fruit punch, filtered coffee & tea.
Preloved Stylist Fashion Guru Guest Speakers: Gain insights and tips from fashion experts to embrace your own unique style.

We are thrilled to host our third Thrift Shop to Catwalk event that not only showcases beautiful, preloved fashion but also supports our community and promotes sustainable practices. Thank you for joining us to reimagine waste, normalising preloved fashion, and giving second-hand clothes a second chance to reduce landfill. Co-host El Rattray - Eco Threads Collective.

Each Friday this August:

- Head to The Nook Opshop to Pimp Up & Pink Up Your Mad Hatters Hat for a chance to win at the upcoming event!
And/or Decorate your hat 10am - 3pm at The White House Nook and Cafe on Failford Road, Darawank. \$10 fee applies

Tickets: \$50

www.glws.org.au/events
www.events.humanitix.com/thrift-shop-to-catwalk-springtime-elegance-mad-hatters-tea-party

Premiere Movie Night Fundraiser - 8 August



Wonderful community fundraising effort pays off

The Committee would like to thank our community for supporting the fundraising for The Rehabilitation Services of Forster Private Hospital with various events in 2023.

This is the third year our committee has provided some exciting fundraising events.

With the money raised from 2023 we have upgraded nineteen televisions for the patients staying in the hospital and using the rehabilitation services. A one-armed walker and weight chair was also recently purchased and delivered.

For 2024 we have two events organised

1. A Premiere Movie Night.

Thursday 8th August promises to be a great night with drinks and pizza. A lucky door prize and raffles are always fun with our community generously donating these prizes.

'It Ends With Us' at Great Lakes Cinema Tuncurry at 5 pm promises to be a great movie so contact a friend or a few and purchase your tickets.

Tickets will be available until sold out or Monday 5th August at the four places listed on the advertisement below.

2. Save the date - Cocktail and Auction event

Our second and last event for 2024 will be a wonderful Cocktail and Auction Event with music, raffles etc at 33 Degrees Tuncurry on Friday 20th September.

The committee of Fran Hanson, Susie Lee, Marg LeRougetel, Carol Barclay, Julie Anderson, Julie Henry, Deb Lawson, Kristie Peterson, Tracey Sullivan and Julie Wilcox thank you all and hope to see you at the Movie Night on August 8th and the Cocktail event on September 20th.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Rehabilitation Services of Forster Private Hospital. These improvements are supported by your generous donations.

TUNCURRY MARKETS
John Wright Park
Saturday 27 July
8am - 1pm
Bookings Essential
Enquiries 0417 400 994

Enrol now in our complimentary VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASS led by a fully qualified vegetarian chef!
STARTING JULY 28TH AT 11 AM
AT THE TUNCURRY SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
28 NORTH STREET TUNCURRY
YOU WILL LEARN
How to make nutritionally-balanced food that your whole family will enjoy.
How to be confident your family is getting what you need.
Ingredients that will boost the flavour & nutritional value for even the fussiest eater.
or just want to lower your food bill, this course is for you.
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TUNCURRY BEACH BOWLING CLUB
SPORTS Luncheon
FRIDAY 26 JULY
DOORS OPEN 11.30AM FOR A 12 NOON START
Includes 2 course meal, beer, wine & soft drink
RAFFLES | CELEBRITY INTERVIEWS | AUCTIONS
BOOK NOW at the Club or call 6554 6477
All proceeds go to GREAT LAKES Womens Shelter

THE ULTIMATE PINK SHOW
songs include
SO WHAT LIKE A PILL WHO KNEW FUNHOUSE
GOD IS A DJ TRUSTFALL RAISE YOUR GLASS & MORE!
SATURDAY 27 JULY
FREE IN THE MAIN LOUNGE from 8pm

SYDNEY HOTSHOTS
AUSTRALIA'S ULTIMATE LADIES NIGHT
ONE NIGHT
ONE SHOW
STRICTLY 18+ STRICTLY LIMITED
SATURDAY 17 AUGUST
Doors open 7.30pm for an 8pm show
VIP GOLD front row - \$75pp
VIP SILVER second row - \$65pp
GENERAL ADMISSION - \$35pp
Book NOW at reception or online at tix.yt/sydneyhotshotstuncurry
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Thrift Shop to Catwalk
CHARITY FUNDRAISING COMMUNITY EVENT
MAD HATTERS TEA PARTY & PRELOVED FASHION SHOW
SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST 2024 - 3PM-5PM
\$50ea DRESS THEME - SPRINGTIME ELEGANCE
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Movie Premiere
IT ENDS WITH US
Staring Blake Lively based on a novel by Colleen Hoover
Great Lakes Cinema
THURSDAY 8 AUGUST - 5:00PM
FUNDRAISING FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES AT FORSTER PRIVATE HOSPITAL
JOIN US FOR A FUNDRAISING MOVIE NIGHT WITH WINE & PIZZA
\$25.00 Per Person
LUCKY DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLES
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MANNING SHOE STORE | IN HOUSE FORSTER | COASTING HOME | FORSTER PRIVATE HOSPITAL



# Mixed bag and Feedback

## Letters to the Editor

'Letter to the Editor' is the place for our community to share their thoughts and feedback. Maximum 250 words unless prior arrangement. 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 are required, unless specifically requested otherwise. Send your letters to [info@forsterfortnightly.com.au](mailto:info@forsterfortnightly.com.au)

## Labor totally unaware of Bokie infiltration at Unions, says Anthony 'Mad-Dog' Albanese



In a heated media conference, a leather-clad Albanese strongly rejected claims of any knowledge of untoward behaviour, saying he had full confidence in his team, and Victorian Premier Jacinta 'The Hammer' Allan.

"I have a long association with the union movement but, as I said to my Chief of Staff Joe Knuckles this morning, we can't be expected to know what they're up to at any given moment," Mad-Dog said.

He said he was confident Labor members would support his version of events, reminding them that a Labor membership was 'for life'.

Albanese said he was keen to move on from the issue and refocus attention on the Government's new tax incentives for 1500 cc motorcycles.

[www.theshovel.com.au](http://www.theshovel.com.au)

**Political Satire:** Suggestions that the Labor Party had any knowledge of bokie gang infiltration at the construction union the CFMEU is ridiculous, according to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who says he wants to be referred to as Tony 'Mad-Dog' Albanese from now on.

## Screen Reviews

TV Show Reviews by Leon Batman - Tuncurry

### 1. Above Suspicion - Britbox, January 2009 - January 2012, 4 Seasons

Another excellent UK crime drama written by Lynda La Plant follows the work of rookie detective Anna Travis in a male dominated police station helping solve a string of grisly murders. Anna is not your typical female detective preferring to wear tight skirts and high heels at work in lieu of the more normal slacks and flat shoes. This does bring her undone at times but she never uses her sexuality to advance herself. Excellent police drama having you thinking to the end who the villain is.



### 2. Bosch - Prime, February 2014 - June 2021, 7 Seasons

A binge worthy American police procedural series about LA Detective Harry Bosch. Harry is an old school ex Army veteran detective who tends to rub people the wrong way at times in his pursuit of his mother's killers from many years previous. Harry also has current cases to solve plus a daughter and ex wife who live in Las Vegas. An extremely good series to watch as Harry pursues the bad guys around his dysfunctional family life and police politics.



### 3. My Lady Jane - Prime, June 2024 continuing

Lady Jane is a UK historical fiction comedy drama series loosely based on the actual events surrounding Lady Jane who was Queen for 9 days. This show will not be for everyone, Gen X and Millennials may like it but Baby Boomers will probably call it disgusting and stupid. However, it will be up to the individual make a decision on whether to watch.



## April & Grahame McKay's 4WD bush bash

We left Forster on Anzac Day, 25 April 2024, to meet with 16 other 4WD thrill seekers at Birdsville to cross the Simpson Desert and the Madigan Line in Grahame's 1995 80 Series Landcruiser.

It took 3 days to get to Birdsville from Forster. We travelled through Uralla, Mitchell and Betoota. Betoota - What a town! What a pub! Grahame says Betoota used to be on the main road, but now it is bypassed. But that doesn't stop the visitors. Hard to resist the \$5 can of beer after a visit and a look around at the memorabilia. One last stretch of 180km to Birdsville.

April hadn't been to Birdsville, so we had a good look around. Got our desert pass and a delicious pie at the bakery. The Birdsville pub shouted Grahame and April a birthday beer and small birthday cake after the start dinner.

We left Birdsville on 29 April at 9am for the start of the Simpson Desert double crossing. One of the vehicles had to return to Birdsville

due to a cracked chassis. Temporary repairs with straps and steel zip ties enabled the return to Birdsville and back home. First overnight stop is Poeppel Corner. We topped up with 70 litres water, 200 litres of fuel and supplies at Mt Dare, ready to follow the Madigan Line for 800kms.

From Poeppel Corner we drove to Purnie Bore for our next overnight stop. What a day! Massive sand dunes as high as telegraph poles. April found the right gear, low range in third, to conquer these dunes. Full noise, 4000 revs and into it.

Onto Eyre Creek, and thankfully no water to drive through. Purnie Bore was a sight to see. Came in late then made camp in swags and had a makeshift dinner. Next morning we inspected the artesian water at the bore. At 99.9 degrees this water helps to keep the wild animals and birds alive.

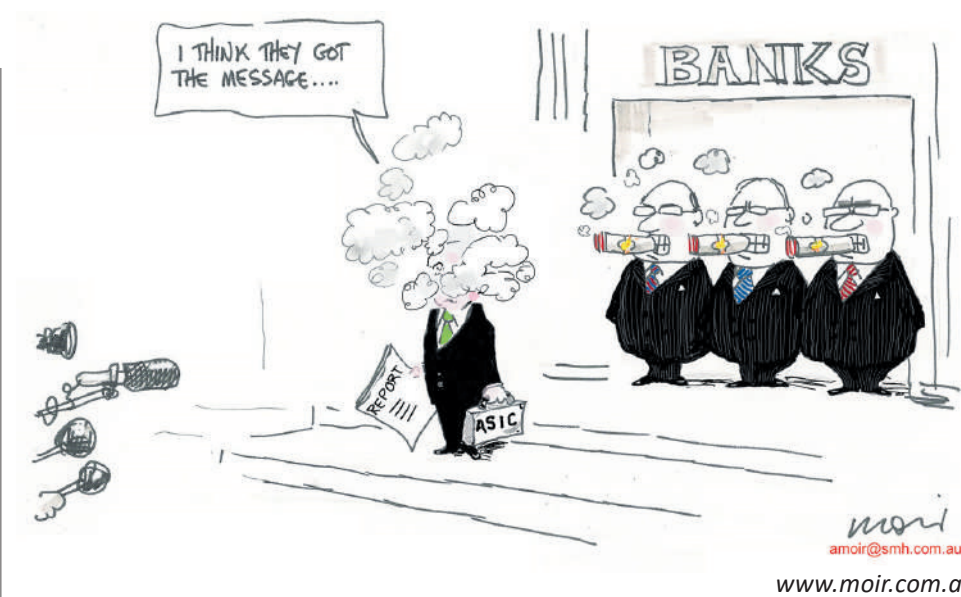
Then onto Dalhousie Springs for an overnight stop. It has a massive artesian spring that is a

swimming hole the size of a football field that is permanently 36-39 degrees. The next morning, we had a visit to the Dalhousie ruins where people used to live and keep cattle and sheep. How tough they were, but now the homestead and other buildings are ruins.

Next, onto Mount Dare Roadhouse. Last fuel for near 700-800 kms. Enjoyed lunch, refuelled and got some supplies - \$120 litres of fuel at \$3.15 per litre and \$8 for a loaf of bread. Then onto Old Andado homestead. A property that was once owned by a lady called Molly Clarke. Her old homestead is a site to see with old stove, jars, tins, crockery collection and beds. Molly is buried at the homestead. There were facilities available which were very welcome.

After Old Andado we began the Madigan Line. A quick visit to Mac Clarke Conservation reserve (Molly Clarke's late husband) where there are around 1000 Waddywood trees (Acacia peuce) that are protected. These are

Continued on page 20.



## Book Review

### Burma Sahib

Burma Sahib by Paul Theroux is a semi-biographical account of Eric Blair's five years as a policeman in Burma in the 1920s when he was nineteen and fresh out of Eton. Blair is perhaps better known by his nom-de-plume of George Orwell. Theroux emphasises that this is a work of fiction as he lacked the sources for a proper biography.

The British Empire is waning; there are the left-behind colonialists; some who married locals are shunned from the best clubs, undoubtedly where business was done. The Burmese hate the Indians, the Indians despise the Burmese, and both hate the British. There is incipient insurrection especially among the monks; there is banditry, dacoits, bride-burning when the expected dowry is not paid, murder, theft and insubordination.

In many ways, it is quite invidious (likely to arouse resentment) for foreign colonialists to try to keep law and order; the point is made that previous royalty had eliminated all rivals and governed by fear. Yet, the image of colonialism is stark: monkeys when speaking of the Burmese, the cane used for beatings or the fists, servants and warehouses, while the local subordinate police, Indian and Burmese, do the work.

Blair is a misfit and is recognised as such by hard-bitten senior police and ex-first world war military, many scarred from the trenches. He is pushed to do things abhorrent to him. Indeed, Blair is ordered to make an example of the young monks, children. They are to fear British authority as a defence against insurrection. He has some sympathy for the locals even while carrying out required orders and that makes him a failure. That he has learnt to speak Burmese and Hindi raises suspicions even more - don't talk to them, just discipline them. He is also a loner, much preferring to seek solitude

by reading rather than clubbing.

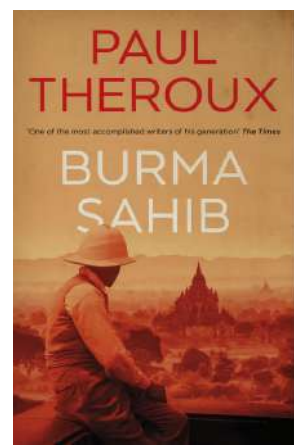
Theroux paints a strong and disturbing picture of the times, of the country, of colonial society, and of the locals. Blair starts at the police college in Mandalay, is posted to the delta area, then Rangoon, Insein, Moulmein. The fact that he has relations there who have married locals and had children with them is a shameful secret for him since, were it known, his loyalty to the system would be questioned even more.

Could it have been different? Theroux does not say. The most he says in the words of an Indian merchant whom Blair befriended: is there any hope for Burma? Blair, himself, returns to England on medical grounds after dengue fever, and resigns. He is a soul riven by acting against his nature and convictions. A disturbing book indeed.

For insight into Burma's 2,500 year history and events up to 1994, go to Insight Guides - Myanmar Burma which has also many superb photographs.

By John King - Librarian

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# Massive 45 personal bests at NSW Country Swim Champs



Above: (L to R) Joel Fleming, Nash Wilkes, Ryan Brown and Hamish Carmichael. Photos supplied.

Forster Aquatic Swimming Club (FASC) has had such an exciting last month, 5 - 7 July, culminating in the 2024 NSW Country Championships at Sydney Olympic Park and our little club placing 21st in the state out of 81 clubs and swimming in 55 events and achieving a massive 45 personal bests.

The athletes had such amazing achievements during the 3-day event in Sydney including a massive highlight achieved by Nash Wilkes who placed 1st and broke a NSW Country Record in 17 & Over 100m men's breaststroke. Nash also recorded 1st places in the 100m individual medley, 200m breaststroke and 50m breaststroke.

Peter Sanders, Head Coach said, "There was great camaraderie within the club during the event, the Club Captains Tanna Davey and Riley Brown and older kids in the team motivated the youngsters. It was a great weekend of

achievement, resilience and determination."

Joel Fleming, who is looking forward to attending the Junior Pan Pacific Games in Canberra in August 2024 and recently placed first in Nationals for 17 & Over 50m freestyle, was in fighting form, achieving 1st place in the 50m freestyle, 2nd place in 100m freestyle and 3rd in 50m butterfly. Brothers Ryan and Riley Brown achieved great results and participated in the NAIDOC week relays. Ryan placed 1st in both the 17 & over 4x50m freestyle relay and in the mixed 4x50m medley relay. Riley Brown achieved 2nd place in the same relay categories.

Hamish Carmichael achieved 2nd place in the 13-14 years 50m breaststroke. Top 10 finishes were recorded by Piper Bamford, Ryan Brown, Hamish Carmichael, Tanna Davey, Joel Fleming, Eva Keen, Sophie Scislo, Byron Vicary and Nash Wilkes.



Left: Hamish Carmichael at Sydney Olympic Park.

Byron Vicary will be heading to the Junior State Short Course in August and Piper Bamford, Ryan Brown, Hamish Carmichael, Tanna Davey, Joel Fleming, Eva Keen, Kaitlin Perry, Sophie Scislo off to Senior State Short Course. As Coach Adel Gregory says "This is a year-round sport, these kids are at the pool at 5:30am and working hard. They need to be congratulated on their determination for giving their best effort under pressure."

FASC also recently held their Presentation Day and 'wow' was it special. So many up-and-coming swimmers. Age Champions this year awarded to Hendrix Stewart (4 years), Paisley Mutch (5 years), Myles Stewart (6 years), Layla Clayton (6 years), Ky Westaway (7 years), Abbie Keegan (7 years), Lucas Lenkic (8 years), Anna Brooks (8 years), Dane Clayton (9 years), Olivia Perry (9 years), Toby Westaway (10 years), Maddie Keeghan (10 years), Liam Lenkic (11 years), Hayley Duncan (11 years), Liam Fletcher (12 years), Hamish Carmichael (13 years), Sophie Scislo (14 years), Ryan Brown (15 years), Sophia Lee (15 years), Tanna Davey (17 years) and Joel Fleming (17 years). The highest point scores of the year went to Hamish Carmichael and Tanna Davey and special awards were given to Toby Westaway, Murphy Ralston and Sara Westaway for encouragement. Lucas Lenkic, Shay Underwood and Piper Bamford were awarded for most improved and Riley Brown and Tanna Davey



Above: Tanna Davey in the backstroke.

for sportsmanship. Club spirit was awarded to Sophie Scislo, and coaches awards to Liam Lenkic and Riley Brown.

Michael Summers, President of Forster Aquatic Swim Club for now 18 years, said, "All these amazing kids, have amazing and supportive parents and we are so lucky to have many of them on our committee which assists the coaches creating these champions."

A special thanks must go Grant Fleming (Vice President & Officials Accreditation Officer), Xanthe Vicary (Secretary & Public Officer), Wendi Davey, (Treasurer & Officials Accreditation Officer), Michelle Scislo, Rachel Lenkic (Race Secretaries), Tanna Davey (Registrar), Dave Underwood (Funding/sponsorship and catering), Emma Dodds (Member Protection Officer), Andrew Ralston (Catering Officer), Debbie Brown (Uniform Officer).

Bring on the 2024 and 2025 season. Forster Aquatic Swimming Club is looking good!

By Xanthe Vicary - Forster Aquatic Swim Club.

year that you mark it on your calendar now. The Gold Coast Running Festival is extremely popular and sells out very quickly.

By Dave Hughes - Forster Runners.

Far left: Bray Smith ran under the 3 hour mark in the marathon while Lindy Mcdonell (below) ran a PB. Photos supplied.



# Gold Coast Running Festival

Over 30,000 runners of all abilities gathered on the Gold Coast during the weekend of the 6-7th of July. It's one of the most popular events on the running calendar and encompasses several distances including 4k, 5k, 10k, half and full marathons.

Being a super flat course with practically zero elevation augurs well for fast times and personal bests. Some runners use the marathon as a qualifier for other races including the world famous Boston Marathon. The atmosphere is electric with most of the course supported by thousands of spectators, up to six and seven deep at some points.

Some of the signage held by spectators was original and hilarious eg "Don't trust a fart at 20 km", "Smile...you paid to do this", "If I see you collapse I'll pause your Garmin" and many more. Small children were handing out lollies to the passing runners and the parents were yelling out your name "Go Hayley, go Mark, you've got this...not far to go" (which seems a bit premature at the 3 km mark).

Saturday morning at 6am over 9000 runners lined up for the half marathon. The starting corral was jammed pack with excitement and last minute nerves. A lot of "sandbagging" was going on. Sandbagging is a term used for making excuses for a sub-par performance before you commence your run eg "my Achilles is a bit touchy" or "I haven't had the best

preparation" or "I'll be happy just to finish".

Andy Buchanan won the male section with an extraordinary time of 62 minutes (2m 57s per km pace) whilst first female Leanne Pompeani took 69 minutes to take first place.

Forster Runners' notable (age category) performances (age) came from Mark Fletcher (84 minutes, 22nd/388) and Hayley Moody (97 minutes, 41st/622). Both were personal best performances.

On Sunday over 8000 runners participated in the gruelling marathon (42.195km). There were many themed costumes like a dinosaur or a fairy etc. I'm sure those characters either lost a bet or thought it was a great idea after several alcoholic beverages.



# 5 Country Titles for Forster Tennis Club

Continued from back page.

"Everyone loves coming to Forster to play. They come for a week with their families and supporters. Local businesses tell me how busy they are with the number of tennis competitors in town."

Jaime said the weather during the competitions was mostly fine. "We had one really wet morning and night, but we were able to use our 'super soppers' to get the courts ready again in no time. The super soppers are made in Old Bar and were originally designed for cricket but are great for tennis."

Jaime said this event relies on club members and volunteers. He said they did a fantastic job

at running the kitchen, the BBQ and general competition duties.

Forster Tennis Club are the hosts for the Country Championships in 2025 before they need to tender. Jaime said they have been working with Council to bring the event back. Priceline is their major sponsor, which has enabled them to be competitive in the tender process.

By Mary Yule.

Right: Finn McDonagh (on the left) and Noah Pociask (Port Macquarie) won the 16 Boy's Doubles. Photos supplied.

Paige Hudson won the 16 Girl's Doubles with partner Jess Kelly (Swansea).



# Social Golf Club game results



Winners and placegetters (L to R) 1st Darryl Fahey, 3rd Les Cawthorne and 2nd Allan Brinckley. Photo supplied.

Our Club Forster Social Golf Club played at the Tuncurry Golf Course on 7th July. There was the threat of rain, but the course was good.

Results

1st - Darryl Fahey with 35, 2nd - Allan Brinckley with 33 and 3rd - Les Cawthorne with 32.

Nearest to pin: 4th - Wayne Richards, 9th - Darryl Fahey, 14th - Glenn Stewart and 16th Allan Brinckley.

Our 21st July Forster game results will be in the next edition. Our 4th August game is likely to be a team's event at the Tuncurry Course. Meet at 6.50am for a 7.20am hit off. Our proposed game on the 23rd of June was washed out.

For all enquiries contact Glenn Stewart on 0414 235 006.

By Warren Warner - CFSGC.

# Dragons discover pearls of wisdom



Left: Members modelling shirts (L to R) 2017 Australian Dragon Boat Champs - Albany, Wadonga; 2011 Australian Dragon Boat Champs - Canberra; 2016 GLPD international regatta - Hong Kong.

A group of founding members came together for a lunchtime reminisce in May, where much laughter was had recalling many fun times. A lot of memories were shared and a revival of those will be reported in future GLPD Newsletters.

Great Lakes Pearl Dragons (GLPD) are forging swiftly ahead with increased membership, the construction of a long-awaited new home for their boats and equipment, increased activity in regattas and involvement with combined NSW teams, whilst planning international travel for 2025. With so much to look forward to, it was felt the time was right to cast our minds backwards to appreciate how far the Club has come since inception in 2009.



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One of these members, Robyn McIntosh, was kind enough to loan her collection of regatta/team shirts gathered during her representation of Great Lakes Pearl Dragons at State, Regional, international and various regattas either locally or interstate. A team of current members were delighted to model some of these on behalf of Robyn, to showcase her dedication and commitment to the Club and the sport.

If you are interested, a Learn to Paddle programme commences on 14 September. Contact 0420 235 987 or email dragons2428@hotmail.com

Left: Members modelling NSW State Dragon Boat Racing Team shirts (various years) and 2019 NSW Dragon Boats State Championships.

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## Two local Athletes reaching for the stars



Above: Ella McDonald reaching for the stars.

James Turner, Daniel Lawton and Tarli Black are local names that spring to mind over the years putting Forster Tuncurry Athletics Club on the map. Representing the area at State, National and International level, these athletes have given hope to the next generation of Athletes

to aspire to athletic achievement from our small club.

For what has been a rather successful Athletics Season for the club, two athletes have caught the attention of Little Athletics NSW Talent Scouts and offered spots in Elite Athletics Programs for further development opportunities.



Above: Promising Athletes Jasmine Lette (on the left) and Ella McDonald from Forster Tuncurry Athletics Club. Photos supplied.

Jasmine Lette who competes in the 15 yrs Multi Class Division has been offered an opportunity to attend the Coles Little Athletics National Camp at the Gold Coast Performance Centre

in August. This will bring together the Nations top athletes under the guidance of Olympic Gold Medallist Glynis Nunn OAM. Following in the Footsteps of our area's most successful Para Athlete James Turner who is an Australia Hall of Fame member, Olympic and World Championship Gold Medallist, Jasmine has a fantastic opportunity to make her own legacy in the para Athlete world.

Ella McDonald has excelled over the last two seasons particularly in the High Jump event with consecutive State Golds and a National Silver. Ella has been offered a place in the NSW Little Athletics Leap Program which brings the State's best 12yr old females into two camps at the NSW Institute of sport for development similar to the principles of the National Camp. Under the guidance of Dan Lawton, another well-known local high jumper, Ella has certainly jumped to the stars.

**The Forster Tuncurry Athletics Club is also seeking community support to assist the families with the burgeoning costs in sending these Athletes to their respective camps. Enquiries can be directed to the Forster Tuncurry Athletics facebook page or email [vpftac@gmail.com](mailto:vpftac@gmail.com)**

## 5 Country Titles for Forster Tennis Club

"What a massive week it has been at the NSW Priceline Pharmacy Forster Country Championships! Our academy players and coaches have truly outdone themselves with some incredible results," said Jaime McDonagh, Coach/Manager of Forster Tennis Club. "This year, our players have brought home an impressive 5 Country Titles."

"Congratulations to Laia Pasini for her victories in the Open Ladies Singles, Open ladies Doubles with Taya Powell (Tamworth), and Open Mixed Doubles with Nathan Monk. Paige Hudson won the 16 Girl's Doubles with partner Jess Kelly (Swansea), while Finn McDonagh and Noah

Pociask (Port Macquarie) dominated the 16 Boy's Doubles."

"Another great result for locals was Nathan Monk and Liam O'Neil reaching the semis in the Open Men's Doubles. Connor Johnson (Camden) was the winner of the Open Men's Singles. We are so proud of all our players."

The NSW Country Championships is the biggest regional tennis event of the year and was held in Forster for the second year in a row, from 5 to 12 July. There were 190 competitors in the Open competition and 300 in the Juniors. Most games were played at the Forster Tennis Club on Lake Street, while many earlier games

Right: Open Mixed Double winners Nathan Monks and Laia Pasini from Forster Tennis Club.

were played at Twin Town Tuncurry, Sporties Tuncurry, Old Bar and Cundletown.

Jaime said, "Many tennis clubs come to this Championships for a chance at winning a Country Title. There are no huge point scores for the players, it's the prestige of getting a State Title and their name on the perpetual trophy. There are some great player's names on these trophies."

Continued on page 22.





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