

Christmas Carol photos p22

Local Identity Marty Tooze p23



Star Pet Daisy p21



# 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

Thursday 9 January 2025

PROUD TO BE A LOCAL FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS

Circulation 7,000 No.112

## Pink's Family Carnival - 40 years in Tuncurry

The Pink Family Carnival is celebrating its 40th year at Tuncurry with founders Charlie Pink and the late George Pink.

Shelley Easey (nee Pink) recalls the history-

"We held our first Carnival in Tuncurry in December 1984. The original site was on 2 blocks of land owned by the late Ted O'Brien of Forster and the Taree RSL Club. The vacant sand blocks were located on the corner of South Street and the main street of Tuncurry in the CBD and opposite the Bellevue Hotel and across from the Tuncurry Post Office.

I was 10 years old and in mid 1984 my Uncle George approached Ken Baggs, who back then, owned a wool and shoe shop in the main street and was running the Tuncurry Promotions Committee, to support his plan to have our Carnival move somewhere into the Tuncurry township. Uncle George and Ken identified the vacant blocks and Ken agreed to make approaches to all relevant parties, including the Council, to gain the necessary approvals. And so it came to be for the December/January holidays in 1984.

We worked there for about 3 or 4 years. Each year Ken, by then a strong supporter of the Carnival and a close friend of the family, recognized its value as a local attraction and tourist entertainment over the school holidays, would seek the necessary approvals from Ted, the RSL Club and the Council. Then as the Carnival became a regular annual feature it



Above: Four generations of Pink Carnival family at John Wright Park in 2023. Their first Carnival was held at Tuncurry in 1984.

was obvious the vacant blocks had outgrown their use and Uncle George again came to Ken seeking his support for a move down to John Wright Park. We negotiated with the Council and so we moved to its now permanent and ideal location.

As we, the kids, have grown and had families of our own, so too has our Carnival. We now have four generations of the Pink Family and 11 small businesses now operating within the Carnival.

Uncle George passed in October 2022 after a very long hard fought battle with cancer. He

Left: (L-R) Founders and brothers, Charlie Pink and the late George Pink.

loved it here in Tuncurry, fishing out of his boat and socializing with family and friends.

We have developed strong ties and friendships over the years, conducting business with so many of the local businesses, getting materials and services and creating friends forever. I don't think there is a restaurant or shop on either side of the bridge we haven't patronized.

We spent days water skiing at Wallamba, swimming with all our friends in the lake and many mornings pretending we could surf on Tuncurry beach. Then there was Fays movie theatre on a wet night with Pot Black fun parlour as another venue to enjoy.

We've had two weddings here in Tuncurry and Forster. In 1986 Glen and Chris, who

worked with Uncle George for many years, were married on the Dodgem car track on the original site with Ken and Glenda Baggs as guests. Then in 2020 Connor Pink (Aaron and Sharon's oldest son) married Reanna at the Green Cathedral.

My oldest daughter Brielle was born at the Manning Base Hospital in late December 1997 and then 10 days later Glen and Jayze had Jack Pink at the Hospital as well.

Charlie and Cathy Pink, our Nan and Pop, used to come here and work with us before they retired. Nan loved nothing more than her early morning swim at the rock pool.

Continued on page 12.



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Photo by Patricia Macvean.

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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.

**Items of interest - 11 Dec 2024  
MidCoast Council meeting**



The General Manager has also been given permission to complete negotiations and to enter a contract in relation to the project subject to funding being made available from Transport for NSW

**6. Draft MidCoast 2035 Community Strategic Plan**

MidCoast 2035, our revised Community Strategic Plan will go on public exhibition from 28 January next year to gain community feedback.

Each Council in NSW is legislatively required to develop a Community Strategic Plan on behalf of their community.

**1. Roads a top priority**

(See Mayoral column on p3)

**2. FOGO contract negotiation**

(See p12)

**3. Review & reappointment of ARIC members**

Councillors endorsed the reappointment of members to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and will ensure renewal dates are staggered in the future to ensure knowledge is not lost when members change.

All Councils are required under the Local Government Act 1993 to have an ARIC from 4 June 2022. The objective of MidCoast Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee is to provide independent assurance to Council by monitoring, reviewing and providing advice about the organisation's governance processes, compliance, risk management and control frameworks, external accountability obligations and overall performance.

**4. \$7.6 million spent on road network since July**

Maintenance and replacement of transport assets represent a significant proportion of Council's total operational budget.

A quarterly report presented to the meeting, showed Council's year-to-date expenditure on operation and maintenance of the transport network including commitments (as of 26 November 2024), was \$7,640,502.

This represents approximately 44% of the current budget. Excluding commitments, expenditure is approximately 1.3% above the project budget for the period.

Since 1 July 2024 (21 weeks) a total of 2,410 customer requests have been received for Operations North and South. The average response time is six days with the majority of requests responded to within the 10-day target of the Customer Charter.

Taree produces the largest number of customer requests. This aligns with the known backlog of defects on transport infrastructure from historical underfunding.

The request data by issue type shows that almost half of the requests fit into 'road surface' or 'other' categories (including potholes). Footpath defects, signage and rural road grading concerns each account for over 10% of requests. Lower proportions of requests relate to kerb and gutter and street sweeping.

**5. Dredging of the Lower Myall River, Corrie Channel & Eastern Channel**

Tenders received for the dredging of the Lower Myall River, Corrie Channel and Eastern Channel at Tea Gardens were declined.

It was resolved Council would enter negotiations with anyone (whether or not the person was a tenderer) with the view of entering into a contract, to identify opportunities to reduce costs, confirm project funding and best manage the project risks.

The report provides a vision for the future of the community and addresses a broad range of issues that are relevant to the community across the four areas of the Quadruple Bottom Line – social and community, environmental, economic and civic leadership.

Councillors endorsed the draft plan for it to go on public exhibition for 25 days from 28 January to 3 March 2025.

**7. Open Forum**

A recommendation to remove the open forum from Council meeting day was not supported by the majority of Councillors.

As a result, the open forum will remain part of the format. The open forum is an opportunity for members of the community to speak for four minutes on a topic that doesn't relate to an item on Council's agenda.

The open forum will now be continued until the June 2025 meeting with a review of the forum concept to be considered at a Council workshop at that time.

**8. MidCoast Alcohol Free Zones**

Councillors voted to extend the date of the Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) and Alcohol Prohibited Areas through until 31 January 2025 in the eight zones across the region. The decision comes after a request from the Manning Great Lakes Police District and will see updated signage at the locations.

The locations include; Taree AFZ, Wingham AFZ, Gloucester AFZ, Forster AFZ, Tuncurry AFZ, One Mile Beach AFZ, Tea Gardens AFZ and Hawks Nest AFZ.

Councillors also resolved to request NSW Police representatives from each command to provide a briefing to Council to provide specific data and information in relation to the need for each zone.

**9. Phone tower - 15 Showground Lane, Nabiac**

A telecommunications tower will be erected at 15 Showground Lane, Nabiac.

The 30-metre tower is 252.9% higher than the maximum allowed in the Great Lakes Local Environmental Plan 2014 and therefore required Council approval.

The site was deemed appropriate for the construction, and it was reported that it had received support from the community.

**10. Forster Main Beach promenade fencing**

Council committed to providing a budget allocation for the replacement of the Forster Main Beach promenade fencing so a request for tender can be released.

The results of the tender process and recommended supplier will be reported back to Council for consideration and confirmation of the final budget allocation to complete the works.

For full details, please see the meeting agenda at [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes).

**MidCoast Council - Mayoral column**

**Welcome to 2025!**

I hope you all had a joyful, safe and restful holiday season, surrounded by loved ones.

As we step into this new year, many families are still enjoying the holiday spirit, with schools set to return later this month. For those looking for fun activities to do with the kids, be sure to check out the fantastic events and programs happening at our local libraries (see example below). You can find all the details on our library page at <https://library.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Events>

Also, don't forget about our beautiful hinterland towns and countryside if you are looking to spend the day away from the tourist hotspots. They have much to offer.

Council staff are back and ready for action in 2025 delivering outcomes to the community across our whole gamut of services.

At the last Council meeting, I introduced a motion that was supported by my fellow Councillors to help set us up for some early wins this year in fixing our roads.

This builds on the work we began back in 2022 when I called for the development of a strategic plan for our road network. That vision became reality in the form of the

MidCoast Road Strategy, which was presented in 2024. We now must start delivering actions to address the problems we know we have.

I've asked Council staff to prepare a draft 4-to-10-year plan for our road maintenance and repairs budget and to investigate options to enable another one-off contribution toward road improvements in the 2025-26 budget. We'll also be reviewing sources of income allocated to roads over the past three years so we can track our future progress.

Fixing our roads will take time, planning, and careful management. We're dealing with years of neglect, and it's going to require a sustained effort and careful consideration of our spending priorities to bring about the improvements our community deserves.

We will be recommending our program of community consultations with our new Councillors in the next few months. Together, we can make 2025 a year of progress.



**Kids trivia at Forster Library**

Tuesday, 14 January 2025  
10:30 am to 11:30am.

Get ready for an exciting adventure in knowledge, spark curiosity and keep kids laughing. Suitable 8+ yrs. Bookings essential.

**Thank you for making a difference**



Your generous sharing of time and gifting made a difference to our community this Christmas.

With your help, 180 Christmas hampers amounting to \$4,500 were purchased from Foodbank and shared with our community through Forster Neighbourhood Centre, Tuncurry Public School, Forster Public School and Dolphins Childcare. Over 100 were handed out in under two hours at the Forster Tuncurry Church of Christ.

Thank you to all those volunteers who assisted with hand-written Christmas cards so that each person received a personal message with their hamper.

Toys from donations and Good 360 were also handed out to 37 children at Tuncurry and more at Dolphins Childcare.

The impact is huge and it is so awesome that we could do this as a church.

Words cannot express our gratitude for all the volunteers that help at the church week in/week out.



By Tamara Clark/Lynn Law - FTCOC. Photos supplied.

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| <b>Hallidays Point</b><br>Foodworks Hallidays Point<br>Tallwoods Country Club   | Great Lakes Aquatic Centre<br>Ampol Station<br>Tradies Takeaway<br>Coles Service Stn<br>Forster Library                               | <b>Smiths Lake</b><br>Pacific Palms Bowling Club<br>Good Food Store<br>Smiths Friendly Grocer |
| <b>Tuncurry</b><br>Tuncurry Resource Centre<br>Woolworths<br>TSG StopnGo<br>Access Fuels Service Stn<br>Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club<br>The Deck<br>Sporties | Coles<br>Woolworths<br>Stockland Customer Desk<br>Forster Keys Mini Mart<br>Club Forster<br>Lifeline Forster<br>Lakes & Oceans Tavern | <b>Coomba Park</b><br>Pollards General store<br>Coomba Aquatic Centre                         |
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**We live with bush fire, so we're ready for it. Are you?**  
**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**  
 Around here, we know to expect bush fires this time of year. Experience tells us that the small, cost-efficient actions we take now to prepare can keep our loved ones and the community safe. Make sure you know the fire danger ratings, make a fire plan and are ready to leave if you need to. Don't wait.  
 Make a plan at [myfireplan.com.au](http://myfireplan.com.au)

# Walk with the Pelicans over Wallis Lake



MidCoast Council is constructing a new 120-metre section of suspended boardwalk over Wallis Lake in Forster.

The new work will extend the much-loved Memorial Drive Pelican Boardwalk that forms part of the scenic Forster Tuncurry Foreshore

Walk. It provides an exciting new experience for residents and visitors to the area as it will be built out over the water.

"We have been working on improvements to the walk over the past few years, with funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads, Community and Infrastructure Grants helping to replace the deteriorated timber decking in the existing boardwalk back in 2022," said Amanda Hatton, Manager Strategy and Projects.

"We have also recently completed a new low-level landing to provide a safe, ramped access into the water for the community for swimming and paddleboarding."

The new section of boardwalk will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities. It will provide an excellent vantage point for water-based sports and other major events throughout the year such as the New Year's Eve fireworks display.

"We are working with the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding the cultural significance of the foreshore area.

"We will provide interpretive signage with information on the cultural significance of the site, the ecological values of the waterways and the history of the area, including the punt which used to ferry passengers and vehicles across the lake prior to the construction of the Wallis Lake Bridge," Ms Hatton said.

Work is expected to start in mid-2025 and take around six months to complete, weather permitting.

The sand beach access to the Breckenridge Channel and the carpark may be impacted during construction. Once construction begins please follow signage on site.

The project has been funded via two streams – the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund Round 2 - \$2,649,501 and Forster Developer Contributions, with a total project value of \$3,507,668.

# Work on long awaited footpath to get underway



The much-anticipated footpath project from Tallwoods to Diamond Beach Road is one step closer to fruition.

Stage one of the project will be 300 metres of pavement between Tallwood's The Boulevard

and Diamond Beach Road will get underway in early January 2025.

MidCoast Council crews are expected to take about a month, weather depending on the first stage and have urged motorists and pedestrians in the area to be patient and obey site directions.

During this time sections of the road will be reduced to one lane with speed restrictions in place.

The project is a part of Council's Capital Works program and funded through the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund – Round 3 and the Get NSW Active 2023/24 programs.

# "Quilts of Love" for Great Lakes Women's Shelter

Once again the ladies from "Quilts of Love", meeting in the centre at Forster Arts and Craft on Breese Parade Forster, have worked tirelessly to produce some very colourful and functional bags for the Great Lakes Women's Shelter. The bags were donated and delivered to the shelter prior to Christmas as well as gifts of hygiene items for the families staying there.

By Marilyn Adams.

Right: (L-R) Rita Blakeley and Louise Turner. Photo supplied.



# 2024 Update: Coomba & District Progress Association

## Coomba Connections – new producer

Firstly, a big thank you to Annabelle Lewis who has been putting Coomba Connections [community digital newsletter] together for many years. Annabelle has moved out of the area now and is passing the baton to Pat Powell who is taking over the publishing side of Connections.

## Council and the roads

We have just contacted MidCoast Council once again about our roads, which, for a while were fairly acceptable. But the grass has grown again, inhibiting car driver vision; the roads are once again deteriorating, especially on the sides and the dirt roads need regrading. It seems like a never-ending task to get things done, but we are trying to make things safer.

## The pool

The Pool Committee has had a big win lately. Patience has paid off and the pool is finally able to be used for summer. The committee consists of volunteer community people who have dedicated their time and energy to make good the pool which has been sadly lacking attention for years. A huge thank you for your efforts. Whilst it isn't finished, we can see the finish line and appreciate everything that you have done.

## Addressing power outages

Steve Martin has had a fabulous achievement this year with the power all checked and maintenance done after a huge solid couple of super days trimming trees. And since then, we have only had one black out!

## Fish cleaning table

The fishing cleaning table has been fixed, but as it attaches to the pool for the water inlet, it needs to be reattached when the pool is finished.

## Progress 50th Anniversary

We had a fabulous 50th Anniversary lunch which was very successful. So many stories, so much food...and fabulous music. Thank you to those who attended and for all those that



helped. Days like these don't just happen - they take a lot of planning and effort. All members were admitted free of charge (with money raised from the Brunch Cafe wages being donated to the Coomba & District Progress Association) and we all enjoyed a 3 course meal.

## Keep Australia Beautiful Awards

We also had a great win at the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards. We now know that there are many other categories that we could have entered successfully. Next year we will go in with a vengeance! Recognition for all the volunteer groups here and the input of their time into the community is something that definitely needs to be shared. Most groups that attended were council run (and funded), but not ours. Thanks so much to the volunteers who make this community what it is. Your time and effort is really appreciated.

## Welcome pack

Next year there will also be a new "Welcome Pack" available for anybody who is new to Coomba Park and surrounds. The Welcome Pack is a great tool for getting to know what's on and what's happening and it contains information to assist with settling into the area. It will be available at the Brunch Cafe in hard

## Brunch Cafe

The Brunch Cafe has reopened on 5 January. If you wish to volunteer and meet some lovely locals and learn new skills, please contact Nuran Akbal on 0412611313 or email coombabrunchcafe@gmail.com. If you have a spare Sunday once a month or even less frequently, it's the place to be! No previous skills required. All you need is a willingness to learn and a love of sharing a coffee, a chat and enjoying being part of the community. The Brunch Cafe is open 9 - 12pm on a Sunday. It's a very affordable place to eat and the profits are generated back into your community.

## Having your say

If you would like to participate in C&DPA meetings and you have a wish list, please join us. You are of course always welcome to the meetings whether you are a member or not, however with strength in numbers we can achieve a lot more for the community. Coomba & District Progress Association has been running for 50 years now, one of the longest – if not the longest running Progress Associations around. Public meetings are held every 3 months in the Coomba Community Hall. If you wish for something to be on the agenda, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## Keeping in contact

If you want to keep up with what's happening in our community, go to our Facebook page <https://facebook.com/CDPASSoc>

You might like to save these email addresses too:

coombaprogess@gmail.com  
coombaconnections@gmail.com

By Gillian Chapman – C&DPA

# Annual deployment of FADs



Above: Forster has a FAD at latitude 32° 13.211' and longitude 152° 40.680'. It is 17km from the closest access point.

Each year ahead of summer, Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs or fish magnets) are strategically placed along the NSW coast to provide reliable locations for fishers, especially those targeting the much sought-after Dolphinfish (Mahi Mahi).

The FADs remain in the water until early winter when they are removed for routine maintenance, including cleaning, fitting the GPS systems on individual FAD buoys and replacing anchors, chains and ropes.

FADs are a NSW Government initiative run by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) with support from the Recreational Fishing Trust.

Recreational fishers are encouraged to keep up to date on FAD deployments, coordinates and responsible fishing tips on the FishSmart app or at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fish-aggregating-devices](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fish-aggregating-devices)

They are also reminded to check the latest marine weather forecast before heading offshore to wet a line. Many FADs are placed far from shore. Please ensure your boat is suitable for offshore fishing.

NSW is home to more than a million recreational fishers. The industry contributes some \$3.4 billion in economic activity each year and support the equivalent of 14,000 full-time jobs.

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## Jeremy Miller chosen as Independent Lyne candidate



radio, running local events, managing the Manning Entertainment Centre and serving on Council. I'm married to a local teacher, we've raised three kids here, and there's nowhere else we'd rather be."

Jeremy is not a typical politician, according to Gillian Calvert. "He is just someone who loves this place and gets things done. Whether it was helping build

After listening to the community and an extensive search, Independent Lyne is excited to announce its support for Jeremy Miller as the community-backed independent candidate for Lyne in the 2025 Federal election.

"Jeremy Miller is well-known in the Manning area as an energetic small business owner and throughout the MidCoast Council area as Deputy Mayor. He is the candidate we need to represent our community and we're delighted he is Standing For Lyne", said Chair, Gillian Calvert.

"I'm thrilled and honoured to have been chosen as the community independent candidate", Mr Miller said. "Independent Lyne is a group of volunteers who have been working for over a year, holding hundreds of conversations right across our electorate and now they've chosen me to represent our community. That's a responsibility that I don't take lightly."

"I've been rolling up my sleeves and getting stuck into local community projects since the 1990's, always looking for practical ways to make things better through my time on the

community facilities, running major events, or solving problems on Council, he has always focused on bringing people together and finding practical solutions", Ms Calvert said.

"My loyalty is to the people of Lyne, not a political party so I will consult with the Lyne community about issues before the parliament and be accountable to the electorate for my decisions," Jeremy said.

"My record will be transparent to everyone; no fancy promises, just practical action and real results for our community," Jeremy Miller promised.

**Editor's note: The Forster Fortnightly will publish a Meet the Candidates feature for the Lyne District after the Federal Election date is announced.**

**There were 8 candidates for the Lyne District in the last Federal Election on 21 May 2022.**

**Dr David Gillespie has held the seat of Lyne since 2013 and is retiring at the next election.**

## Community support to make Christmas special for all

Each year, Forster Neighbourhood Centre tries to provide Christmas Hampers for vulnerable community members in need. We receive generous support from Club Forster each year to make this happen. Christmas Hampers are purchased through Food Bank to provide a small box of festive items that make Christmas that little bit more special.

This year, Forster Neighbourhood Centre has been able to extend our Christmas Hampers to include dignity items, children's gifts, gift vouchers and additional festive food items thanks to the generous support of our Great Lakes community.

We would like to acknowledge contributions from community members Kathy Butterworth, Larry Fullerton, Desleigh Langford and anonymous people dropping cash donations into the centre to assist; community groups



Above: Grant Mazwell (on far right) with volunteer staff at the Forster Neighbourhood Centre.

Church of Christ, Evermore Retirement Village, MidCoast Outreach and Homebase Youth Services; and local businesses Arvia (Grant Maxwell) and Project Pete Handyman Services (Peter Howard).



At the end of an extremely challenging year, struggling to access sufficient funding for our work, it provides such hope about the future with our village of supporters around us. On behalf of Forster Neighbourhood Centre, sincere thanks to our supporters and partners – we couldn't do it without you!

Left: Steve (on far left) with FNC staff. Photos supplied.



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At Ingenia Lifestyle Kokomo, you'll embrace a vibrant and social lifestyle, surrounded by resort-style amenities designed for relaxation, recreation, and connection.

This is where endless begins. We invite you to stay.



Ingenia Lifestyle Kokomo

**Tanya's Community Update**

**Happy New Year Myall Lakes!**

As we welcome 2025, I hope the year ahead brings health, happiness, and success to you and your loved ones. I'm so excited for another year of representing you and working together to make our beautiful region an even better place to live, work, and visit.

This year I'm really looking forward to seeing progress on major projects for our community. The recommendation of Stage 2 of the Manning Base Hospital redevelopment, along with the Forster Hospital project are big milestones that will deliver improved healthcare services to our region. I will keep the community updated as these projects develop.

We're also pushing ahead to secure 10,000 signatures for a safer intersection at Failford Road and The Lakes Way. Once we reach this target, I'll be able to bring it to the floor in parliament for debate. We're currently at just over 8,000 signatures, so if you haven't signed the petition yet, please sign below to add your support.

If there's anything at all that I can assist you with, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office. All the best for the new year!

Tanya Thompson MP  
6555 4099 | myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au



**Manning - Great Lakes Police District Update**

Dear Readers,

School holidays are upon us and with this comes a great influx of visitors to our wonderful area.

Unfortunately, holiday periods can also see an increase in property theft from holiday accommodation - particularly of bikes - so it is timely I provide a few simple crime prevention tips that can minimise the chance of you becoming a victim of crime!

**Crime prevention: Caravan Parks**

When you arrive at a Caravan Park -

- Ask the manager about safety and security in the area.
- Get to know your neighbours and who belongs there.

- Secure your outdoor equipment with a good quality chain and lock.
- Secure your vehicles with wheel and hitch clamps.

DO...photograph, video and keep an accurate description of all your vehicles and valuables (particularly serial numbers).

DO...mark your valuables with an identification number such as your driver's licence.

DO...keep all your doors and windows locked, even when you're nearby.

DO...take all your valuables with you when you leave the park or area.

DO NOT...leave bikes, eskies (particularly with alcohol), surfboards, wet suits, fishing gear or any other recreational equipment unattended outside.

DO NOT...leave equipment - especially bikes - on top of vehicles or boats without chaining/locking them.



- Never leave your bicycle unattended and unsecured.
- Always use a good quality bike lock/chain when parking your bicycle away from home.
- Always lock the wheels and frame to a secure object.
- Always park your bicycle in a well lit and populated area.
- Where possible, secure your bicycle inside your holiday accommodation.



Above: Inspector Timothy Bayly.

**Speeding, fatigue and alcohol are the three main causes of death and injury on our roads, so please remember:**

If you have become the victim of theft or crime immediately contact the Police (you can report the crime immediately on 131 444) and your Caravan Park Reception Office.

**Speeding, fatigue and alcohol are the three main causes of death and injury on our roads, so please remember:**

- Don't drive at inappropriate or excessive speed
- Don't drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Don't drive when fatigued
- Don't drive distracted - put your mobile phone in your glovebox and concentrate on driving safely
- Make sure you and your passengers wear your seatbelts - or your helmet if riding a motorbike

Please remember to 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

DO NOT...leave washing, shoes or wet swimmers and towels outside overnight.

DO NOT...leave spare keys hidden outside the caravan when going out.

DO NOT...leave things of value on display inside your vehicle or caravan (such as mobile phones, laptops, cameras, handbags or wallets).

**Going out?**

- Leave a light or radio on to try and give the appearance you're inside.
- Make sure you key lock all your doors, windows and roof hatches.
- Turn on your alarm.

If you can't take valuables with you, secure them in a safe or ask the Park Office to store your valuables in the office safe for you.

**Protect your bike!**

- Always record the serial number, brand and model of your bicycle and accessories and take a photo.

**Young people's plan**



**2. More support**  
Help young people access support like mental health services.  
Help to find a job.

**3. Improve safety**  
Provide safe and inclusive community spaces for young people to hang out.

**What parents, carers and service providers said:**

**1. There are gaps in programs and services**

Including mental health, counselling and diagnostic services, medical and

allied health, and safe and affordable accommodation.

**2. Young people need more things to do**  
Need improved recreational facilities, more activities and events.

**3. Improve access to programs, services & activities**  
Cost, location and lack of available transport, along with limited places, make many existing programs, services and activities inaccessible for our young people

The feedback received during this consultation will inform the Children and Young People's Action Plan. The final plan will be put on public exhibition for community feedback before being endorsed by Council.

MidCoast Council asked our community to provide feedback to help develop the MidCoast Children and Young People's Action Plan. Consultation took place from July to October 2024 across the MidCoast region.

"More activities that are government funded or at an affordable price. As a low income family we could never afford social activities for them." - parent

**How you had your say:**

- 159 responses to the Young People's survey
- 97 responses to the Parents & stakeholder survey
- We spoke with 319 people at pop-ups or other meetings

**What young people told us:**

**1. More things to do**  
Provide a wider range of activities and events.

**2024 Forster Tuncurry Lions Club Trailer Raffle results**

The 2024 Forster Tuncurry Lions Club Trailer Raffle was drawn at 1pm on the 18th of December. Stockland Staff members were in attendance.

1st Prize - Trailer & contents Ticket 4749 Kevin Williams - Hallidays Point

2nd Prize - \$200 Ticket 5030 Warwick Hansen - Forster

3rd Prize - \$100 Ticket 3783 C. Harris - Forster

We take this opportunity to thank the community and visitors for supporting our annual fund raiser.

Preparing for this annual



Above: (L-R) Lions Peter Sloan, Suzanne Newton, Margaret Kentwell, Dot and John Monks. Photos supplied.

Below: FTLC President Suzanne Newton (yellow top) and Paige Stockland Admin.



event takes a lot of time and effort from our dedicated volunteers. John and Dot Monks are to be commended for time spent on the daily Trailer Setup/closing in Stockland. Our success relies on the Lions volunteers for selling tickets. A huge "Thank You" to those Lions.

Peter Sloan, Andrew Parr, Margaret Kentwell and Jenny Olsen contributed to the success of distributing and selling Lions Christmas Cakes.

Overall satisfaction of a very successful outcome and a job well done is the only reward needed.

We encourage you to consider joining our long standing, friendly and well respected club. Membership is not all hard work; a number of fabulous social events are arranged throughout the year.

For further information call President Suzanne Newton 0418 607 292 or Bev on 0428 273 037  
By Margaret Kentwell - FTLC

Tanya THOMPSON MP

Member for Myall Lakes

Happy New Year MYALL LAKES

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and bright 2025!  
I'm looking forward to another year representing the Myall Lakes.

Tanya Thompson MP

1-9 Manning Street, Tuncurry

myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au

02 6555 4099

TanyaThompsonForMyallLakes

tanyathompson.com.au

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

SIGN THE PETITION FOR A SAFER INTERSECTION

Over 8,000 signatures!

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

ENROL NOW FOR TERM 1, 2025

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MJC

MARGARET JURD COLLEGE

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Now open for viewing  
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For further information please contact GLAICA House Tuncurry during business hours  
Mon - Fri 9:30am till 4pm (02) 6554 5521

# Tribute to Garry McQuillan: A legacy of dedication & leadership



Above: Garry and Margaret McQuillan. Photo by Mary Yule.

Sunday 15 December 2024 marked a significant moment for the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club (TFJC) as we pay tribute to a remarkable leader and visionary, Garry McQuillan, who is stepping down from his role as President after 19 incredible years of dedicated service.

Garry, alongside his loyal wife Marg, has been the heart and soul of TFJC. His unwavering commitment has transformed our racecourse into the premier facility it is today, garnering accolades such as the prestigious "Country Race Club of the Year." Garry's meticulous attention to detail is legendary—there isn't a single aspect of the club, from the first nail hammered to the smallest item in the jockeys' rooms, that hasn't been touched by his expertise.

Garry's influence reaches far beyond the track. Respected across the racing community, he has been a mentor, advisor, and friend to many. Leaders in the industry regularly seek his counsel, and his contributions have left an indelible mark on the sport we all cherish.

As we bid farewell to Garry as President, we are confident in the club's future under the capable leadership of Michael Summers. Garry's mentorship has laid a solid foundation for continued success, and we look forward to supporting Michael in his new role.

While Garry may be retiring from the presidency, his journey with TFJC is far from over. He will remain on the Board, attend race

meetings, and cheer on his favourite horses while enjoying a well-deserved chance to travel and spend more time with Marg. On behalf of everyone at TFJC, we extend our deepest gratitude to Garry and Marg. Your dedication, hard work, and passion have shaped the very essence of this club, and your legacy will inspire us for generations.

### Honouring Garry's Legacy

In recognition of his enduring contributions and as a testament to his legacy, Garry has accepted the honorary position of Patron of TFJC. He will join current Patron Ray Hadley in this esteemed role, ensuring his deep connection to the club continues for years to come.



Above: Vice President/Secretary Julie Manning and President Mick Summers.

### New President Micheal Summers

Michael Summers first became involved with the Tuncurry-Forster Jockey Club in 2011 and was appointed as a club advisor in 2013. He then moved to the Vice Presidency role which he held until recently announced as the new Club President.

Michael stated, "I have known and admired Garry since I was a young boy, and when he initially approached me to assist with the club, I couldn't say yes quick enough. I have been there ever since and have thoroughly enjoyed working with Garry as well as the tremendously dedicated committee and wonderful volunteers."

"What Garry, as well as Marg, have done for the TFJC and the entire community as a whole cannot be overstated. His commitment passion and drive is unrivalled, and has been an honour to work along his side."

"It's an extremely tremendous privilege that firstly Garry as well as the committee and members have honoured me to assist in taking the club through the next phase of its development and continued growth."

Michael Summer is a long time local having resided in Forster since

moving here as a young child from Sydney. He is a Civil Engineer with a Port Macquarie based consultancy business.

Michael has served on a number of local sporting committees including Forster-Tuncurry Touch, Cape Hawke Surf Club and Great Lakes Junior Cricket, as well as Team Manager for Grand Master Fay Shacklock (Taekwondo) since 2016. Most notably he has been President of the Forster Aquatic Swimming Club for the last 17 consecutive years.

### Background of the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club

• In 1980, Norm Roberts, John Darcy and Don Creighton formed the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club. In 1984 Les Dunk and Rusty Begg also joined the board. It was not until 1985 that Norm Roberts arrived at a meeting and said, "I have found some land which will be suitable" that the Tuncurry Racecourse became a reality.

• The Development Application for the subdivision of the Racecourse Estate in Tuncurry was submitted to Council (then named Great Lakes Council) and consisted of 34 blocks, which went on sale for \$25,000 to \$35,000. Rusty Begg was made Trustee of the land and Norm Roberts took on the role of the Project Manager.

• During the next 15 years the club members worked on a voluntary basis to organise the sale of the sand dredged from the lake to finance the building of a racetrack.

• With the election of a new committee in 2001 came the first DA submitted to Council. These plans included infrastructure for the building of Stewarts Towers jockeys' change rooms, race viewing rooms and betting rings.

• At this stage, the club was operating as a non-TAB track and held two social meetings to raise funds for a defibrillator for Forster Hospital. These meetings helped the club gain momentum.

• Shortly afterward, the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club was officially granted its license in October 2008. This marked the beginning of its journey toward becoming a TAB-recognised venue.

"Achieving our TAB license was a significant milestone and marked the beginning of a new chapter for us," said Julie Manning, Vice President/Secretary.

"The license brought increased prestige, as well as improvements in the quality of our track, horses, trainers, and jockeys. From here, we went from strength to strength."

The Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club became the last club in New South Wales to be registered with a racing license. Before this, it had been 80 years since another race club had been granted such a license.

• The club continues to add more infrastructure for the growing crowds. By February 2022, the club completed work on - a 20 by 12m shed cover for the public seating area that holds



Above: Early work on the original horse-tie building structure and (below left) creating the jockey facilities.

230-250 people with large television screens on either end; an extension of the male jockey rooms; split levels at the front of the pavilion to allow more people to view the races and an extra 20 horse ties to the existing 100.

• On 12 February 2023, the club hosted a NSW Country Championship Qualifier for the very first time. One reason to be awarded this big event is its 'heavy 10' rating for the track (a rating signifying a track that copes very well under any conditions).

• On 29 September 2023, the club was awarded Country TAB Race Club of the Year.

• On 4 December 2023, the internal dirt road is sealed and Chapman's Road is widened to allow easier access for club users and safer access to the large dam inside the racetrack for fire trucks in emergency situations.



Above: Spectators enjoying the modern club today.

### Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club today

"Today, we are striving to establish ourselves as the premier country racetrack on the Mid North Coast. Our slogan, "Coastal Country Racing at its Best," truly reflects the quality and passion that define our club," said Julie Manning.

"It has been a tremendous amount of work to bring the track to its current standard, and I'm proud to say that our efforts are paying off."

"Garry's leadership and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the club's success."

(See opposite page for Seafood Race Day advertisement.)

# NEXT RACE MEETING

# 18th JAN



**The Jockey Club**  
TUNCURRY-FORSTER

# Seafood

# RACE DAY

Coastal country racing at its best!

GATES OPEN 11:30AM

FREE BUSES

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# The Beach Boys Experience

SAT 11  
JAN 2025

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SHOW 8PM



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# Pink Family Carnival - 40 years

Continued from page 1.



Left: (L-R) Four generations of the Pink family - Maria, Selina, Laney and Bowie.

We have celebrated 40 Christmases and many birthdays and again so many memories and special moments here.

It's great catching up with the locals and tourists who have lived or holidayed here for generations and have shared special memories with us. They now bring their families to our Carnival which is a very special privilege and experience for all of us.

I would like to especially acknowledge the following but are not limited to the extensive connection to the local people and businesses - Dorviks, Bob and Chris Madden Engineering, Taree, Joe Fazio, JR Richards, Bruce Collins, Greg Pettit our Security, Steve and

Right: (L-R) Four generations - Aaron, Charlie, Grayson and his Dad Connor Pink. Photos supplied.



Lorna, Mid Coast Waste, Norm and Brett Roberts (Curley) Electricians, Frank Cachia, Cachia Upholstery, Gary McQuillan, President, Tuncurry Jockey Club and previously Vide Ezy, Fred Williams ski maker (he used to do specialized fiberglass jobs for Uncle George and my dad Charlie), Terry Green Manager of the Tuncurry Bowling (previously Manager at the Tuncurry Sporties Club) has been a great friend. He coordinated with Vicky Smyth in about 2007 for our first Disability Fun Day that has been a huge success for many years and so many ideas that we have come up with over a nice cold drink. Colleen's Bakery always made Maria Pink a special chocolate cake for her birthday. Then there are the Thompson brothers at the Tuncurry Post Office Bruce Warwick and David with their mother Judy, who have been such great friends for all these years. Wally Campbell the milk man who used to deliver milk to our Carnival daily, still visits us every year as does Ken Baggs and many others. Midcoast Council which has been a great support over the 40 years.

Such great people who have worked with us for so long. The family is eternally grateful and we hope to be here for many years to come.

Tuncurry is very special to us all in many many ways.

# Major step toward FOGO approved



MidCoast Council is making significant progress toward meeting the state-mandated Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) requirements, set to be in place by 2030.

In a decisive move at its meeting on 11 December, Council approved a contract with NALG Envirotech Pty Ltd to deliver the FOGO service and mandated the appointment of an independent Construction Quality Assurance Officer to oversee the development of a state-of-the-art FOGO processing facility near the Tuncurry Waste Management Centre.

David Rees, MidCoast Council's Waste Manager, highlighted the critical need to comply with the Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, which will enforce strict mandates and penalties for non-compliance.

"Failure to meet these obligations could result in fines of up to \$500,000 per offence and \$50,000 daily for ongoing breaches. That's why it's essential we get this right. Our focus is on delivering a reliable, cost-effective facility that reduces landfill, benefits the environment, and serves our community well into the future," Mr. Rees said.

The Tuncurry facility, to be designed, built, and operated by NALG Envirotech in partnership with global waste technology leader Kanadevia Inova (HZI), will be one of the first in Australasia to utilise hybrid organic waste technology. This innovative facility will process up to 95,000 tonnes of organic waste annually in its first stage, scheduled to be operational by 2027. The facility will generate renewable energy equivalent to powering 1,300 homes, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and earn valuable carbon credits.

By diverting organic waste from landfill, the facility will produce certified compost, biogas for electricity generation, and potentially biochar, firmly establishing MidCoast Council as a leader in the circular economy and decarbonisation. Furthermore, the facility will support neighbouring councils and businesses in meeting the 2030 mandate, setting a new benchmark for waste management innovation in Australia.

"This project is more than just meeting compliance. It's about creating a sustainable future by turning waste into resources, reducing emissions, and contributing to energy generation. We're proud to be at the forefront of this transformation, whilst ensuring the MidCoast Community receives the most cost-effective service possible for the mandated FOGO service" Mr. Rees added.

MidCoast Council's commitment to this cutting-edge facility underscores its dedication to delivering environmental, economic, and community benefits, setting an inspiring example for councils across the country.

# Puzzles Page

## The Grin Bin



## Doodley Squat



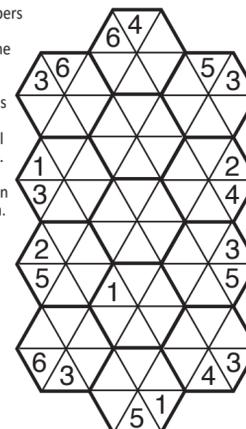
## Sudoku

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

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

## 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.



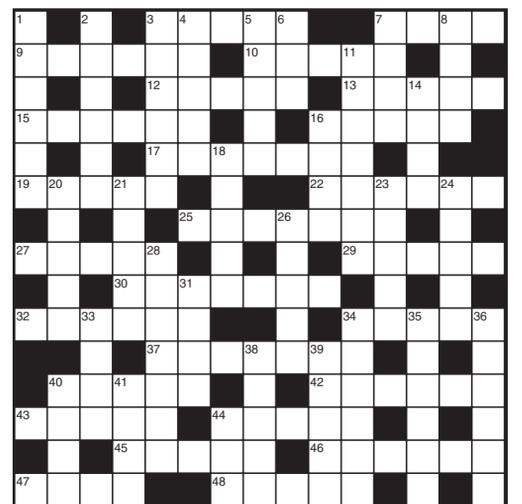
## Swamp



## Bushy Tales



## Crossword



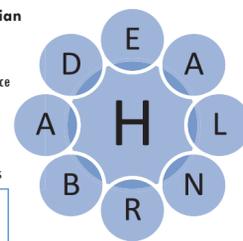
- ACROSS**
- 3 Spurious
  - 7 Ink spot
  - 9 Slumbering
  - 10 Clamour
  - 12 Very bright
  - 13 Furniture item
  - 15 Cowardly
  - 16 Female horses
  - 17 Young hare
  - 19 Useless remains
  - 22 Hospital employees
  - 25 One of refined taste
  - 27 Country
  - 29 Brilliance of success
  - 30 Temperature units
  - 32 Harsh
  - 34 Advises strongly
  - 37 Bears witness to
  - 40 Suites of rooms
- DOWN**
- 1 Rank
  - 2 Delight
  - 3 Surface slants
  - 4 Hold an opinion
  - 5 Combine
  - 6 Turf
  - 7 Carry
  - 8 Lubricants
  - 11 Bodily height
  - 14 Insects
  - 16 Bill of fare
  - 18 Snake
- 20 Scope**
- 21 Lead the way
  - 23 Happen again
  - 24 Dodge
  - 26 Game of skill
  - 28 Charged with gas
  - 31 Obtains
  - 33 Electrical unit
  - 34 Unscrupulous moneylender
  - 35 Long-armed ape
  - 36 Oozed
  - 38 Banishment
  - 39 Thither
  - 40 High-pitched flute
  - 41 Dry
  - 44 Fuel

## Focus

An All Australian Word Game

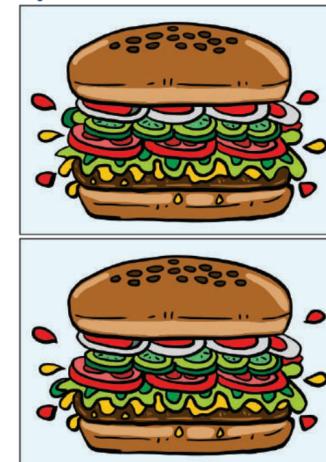
- \* Each word must contain the centre 'Focus' letter and each letter may be used only once
- \* Each word must be four letters or more
- \* Find at least one nine letter word
- \* No swear words
- \* No verb forms or plurals ending in 's'
- \* No proper nouns and no hyphenated words

TODAY'S Good: 12 words  
FOCUS Very good: 18 words  
Excellent: 29 words



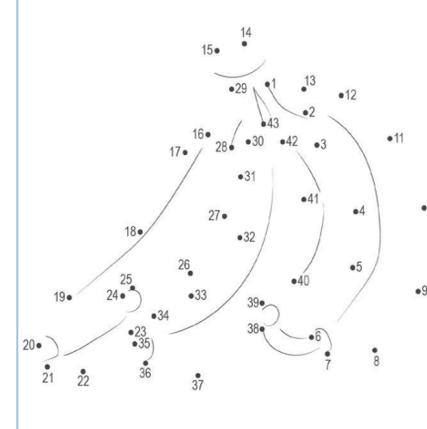
Reference: Macquarie Concise Dictionary  
Focus No. 3946

## Spot the 5 Differences



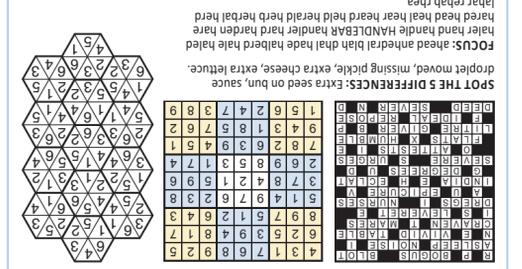
## Join the Dots

What is this? Find out by joining the dots.



## Solutions

Puzzles and pagination supplied by Auspac Media



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# YOUR FORTNIGHTLY TV GUIDE

# January 9 - 15

	ABCTV	SBS	SEVEN	NBN	TEN																																			
THURSDAY	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>11.00</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>12.00</b> News. <b>1.00</b> David Attenborough's Tasmania. <b>2.00</b> Fake Or Fortune? <b>3.00</b> Back Roads. <b>3.30</b> Grand Designs. <b>4.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>5.05</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>6.00</b> A Bite To Eat. <b>6.30</b> Hard Quiz. <b>7.00</b> News. <b>7.30</b> 7.30. <b>8.00</b> Back Roads. <b>8.30</b> Long Lost Family. <b>9.15</b> Grand Designs. <b>10.05</b> Dr Karl's How Things Work. <b>10.35</b> Britain By The Book. <b>11.25</b> Grand Designs. <b>12.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>1.00</b> Rage. <b>3.40</b> Parkinson In Australia. <b>4.30</b> Gardening Aust. <b>5.30</b> 7.30.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>2.00</b> Such Was Life. <b>2.10</b> Heritage Rescue. <b>3.00</b> Ireland In Music. Cathlinn. <b>3.30</b> Plat Du Tour. <b>3.35</b> The Cook Up. <b>4.05</b> Jeopardy! <b>4.30</b> Letters And Numbers. <b>5.00</b> Motor Racing. Dakar Rally. Stage 4. Highlights. <b>6.00</b> Mastermind Aust. <b>6.30</b> News. <b>7.30</b> Going Places. <b>8.30</b> The Emerald Isles With Ardal O'Hanlon. <b>9.30</b> The Darkness. <b>10.25</b> SBS News. <b>10.55</b> DNA. <b>11.45</b> Blackout: Tomorrow Is Too Late. <b>12.40</b> Bianca. <b>2.35</b> Grayson's Art Club. <b>3.25</b> Make Me A Dealer. <b>4.15</b> Late Programs.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Sunrise. <b>9.00</b> The Morning Show Summer Series. <b>11.30</b> News. <b>12.00</b> MOVIE: A Love Vain. (2021) <b>2.00</b> Motorbike Cops. <b>2.15</b> Catch Phrase. <b>3.00</b> The Chase. <b>4.00</b> News. <b>5.00</b> The Chase Aust. <b>6.00</b> 7News Local. <b>6.30</b> 7News @ 6.30. <b>7.00</b> Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 28. Melbourne Stars v Sydney Sixers. <b>10.30</b> Seven's Cricket: The Spin. <b>11.15</b> Pam &amp; Tommy. (MA15+) <b>12.15</b> The Real Manhunter. (M) <b>2.00</b> Shopping. <b>4.00</b> NBC Today. <b>5.00</b> Sunrise 5am News. <b>5.30</b> Sunrise.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Today. <b>9.00</b> Today Extra Summer. <b>11.30</b> 9News Morning. <b>12.00</b> MOVIE: Mr Pawsitively Perfect. (2023) <b>2.00</b> Pointless. <b>3.00</b> Tipping Point. <b>4.00</b> 9News Afternoon. <b>5.00</b> Tipping Point Australia. <b>6.00</b> NBN News. <b>7.00</b> A Current Affair. <b>7.30</b> A Night With Novak. From Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne. <b>10.30</b> Forza Jannik. <b>11.40</b> Resident Alien. (M) <b>12.35</b> Tipping Point. (PG) <b>1.30</b> TV Shop. <b>2.30</b> Global Shop. <b>3.00</b> TV Shop. <b>4.00</b> Believer's Voice Of Victory. (PG) <b>4.30</b> ACA. <b>5.00</b> Today Early News. <b>5.30</b> Today.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>10.30</b> Jamie's 5 Ingredient Mediterranean. <b>11.30</b> Judge Judy. <b>12.00</b> Farm To Fork. <b>12.30</b> Family Feud. <b>1.00</b> Jamie Oliver: Cooking For Less. <b>2.00</b> Wheel Of Fortune. <b>2.30</b> Lingo. <b>3.30</b> Judge Judy. <b>4.00</b> Neighbours. <b>4.30</b> Bold. <b>5.00</b> News. <b>6.00</b> Deal Or No Deal. <b>6.30</b> The Project. <b>7.30</b> The Truth About The Skinny Jab. <b>8.30</b> MOVIE: Little Fockers. (2010) <b>1.15</b> The Project. <b>2.10</b> Stephen Colbert. <b>3.00</b> Shopping. <b>4.30</b> CBS Morning.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>11.00</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>12.00</b> News. <b>1.00</b> Penguin King. <b>1.55</b> Fake Or Fortune? <b>2.55</b> Back Roads. <b>3.25</b> Grand Designs. <b>4.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>5.00</b> A Bite To Eat. <b>5.30</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>6.30</b> Hard Quiz. <b>7.00</b> News. <b>7.30</b> 7.30. <b>8.00</b> Back Roads. <b>8.30</b> Grand Designs. <b>10.05</b> Dr Karl's How Things Work. <b>10.35</b> Britain By The Book. <b>11.25</b> Grand Designs. <b>12.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>1.00</b> Rage. <b>3.40</b> Parkinson In Australia. <b>4.30</b> Gardening Aust. <b>5.30</b> 7.30.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>2.00</b> Such Was Life. <b>2.10</b> Heritage Rescue. <b>3.00</b> Railway Journeys UK. <b>3.35</b> The Cook Up. <b>4.05</b> Jeopardy! <b>4.30</b> Letters And Numbers. <b>5.00</b> Motor Racing. Dakar Rally. Stage 5. Highlights. <b>6.00</b> Mastermind Aust. <b>6.30</b> News. <b>7.30</b> MOVIE: The Prestige. (2006) <b>9.55</b> Rock Legends: Elton John. (2025) <b>SBS News. 10.55</b> Every Family Has A Secret. <b>11.55</b> De Gaulle. <b>12.50</b> Kin. <b>2.45</b> Grayson's Art Club. <b>3.35</b> Make Me A Dealer. <b>4.25</b> Bamay. <b>5.00</b> NHK World English News Morning. <b>5.30</b> Late Programs.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Sunrise. <b>9.00</b> The Morning Show Summer Series. <b>11.30</b> News. <b>12.00</b> MOVIE: As Gouda As It Gets. (2020) <b>2.00</b> Motorbike Cops. <b>2.15</b> Catch Phrase. <b>3.00</b> The Chase. <b>4.00</b> News. <b>5.00</b> The Chase Aust. <b>6.00</b> 7News Local. <b>6.30</b> 7News @ 6.30. <b>7.00</b> Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 29. Hobart Hurricanes v Sydney Thunder. <b>10.30</b> Big Bash League Post-Game. <b>11.00</b> Better Homes And Gardens Summer. <b>12.30</b> The Real Manhunter. (M) <b>2.30</b> Shopping. <b>4.00</b> Million Dollar Minute. <b>5.00</b> NBC Today.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Today. <b>9.00</b> Today Extra Summer. <b>11.30</b> 9News Morning. <b>12.00</b> MOVIE: Sparks Over Brooklyn. (2023) <b>2.00</b> Pointless. <b>3.00</b> Tipping Point. <b>4.00</b> 9News Afternoon. <b>5.00</b> Tipping Point Australia. <b>6.00</b> NBN News. <b>7.00</b> ACA. <b>7.30</b> Find My Beach House Australia. <b>8.00</b> Find My Beach House Australia. (PG) <b>8.30</b> MOVIE: King Richard. (2021) (M) <b>11.30</b> Casualty 24/7. <b>12.20</b> Tipping Point. <b>1.10</b> Delish. <b>1.30</b> TV Shop. <b>4.00</b> Skippy. <b>4.30</b> Global Shop. <b>5.00</b> TV Shop. <b>5.30</b> Drive TV.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>8.00</b> Bold. <b>8.30</b> Deal Or No Deal. <b>9.00</b> Lingo. <b>10.00</b> Ent. Tonight. <b>10.30</b> Jamie's 5 Ingredient Mediterranean. <b>11.30</b> Judge Judy. <b>12.00</b> Farm To Fork. <b>12.30</b> Family Feud. <b>1.00</b> Jamie Oliver: Cooking For Less. <b>2.00</b> Wheel Of Fortune. <b>2.30</b> Lingo. <b>3.30</b> Judge Judy. <b>4.00</b> Family Feud. <b>4.30</b> Bold. <b>5.00</b> News. <b>6.00</b> Deal Or No Deal. <b>6.30</b> The Project. <b>7.30</b> MOVIE: The First Wives Club. (1996) <b>9.35</b> MOVIE: Stargy &amp; Hutch. (2004) <b>11.40</b> The Project. <b>12.40</b> Stephen Colbert. <b>1.30</b> Shopping.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>10.30</b> Take 5. <b>11.00</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>12.00</b> News. <b>1.00</b> The Newsreader. <b>2.00</b> The Split: Barcelona. <b>3.00</b> Back Roads. <b>3.25</b> Grand Designs. <b>4.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>5.00</b> A Bite To Eat. <b>5.30</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>6.30</b> Hard Quiz. <b>7.00</b> News. <b>7.30</b> The Secret History Of The British Garden. <b>8.30</b> Murder In Provence. <b>10.00</b> Joanna Lumley's Great Cities Of The World. <b>10.50</b> Grand Designs. <b>11.35</b> Long Lost Family. <b>12.25</b> Rage New Music. <b>5.00</b> Rage.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>2.00</b> Great Australian Railway Journeys. <b>3.05</b> Destination Flavour China. <b>3.35</b> The Cook Up. <b>4.05</b> Jeopardy! <b>4.30</b> Letters And Numbers. <b>5.00</b> Motor Racing. Dakar Rally. Stage 11. Highlights. <b>6.00</b> Mastermind Aust. <b>6.30</b> News. <b>7.30</b> MOVIE: The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button. (2008) <b>10.30</b> SBS News. <b>11.00</b> De Gaulle. <b>12.00</b> Kin. <b>2.40</b> Make Me A Dealer. <b>3.30</b> Peer To Peer. <b>4.00</b> Bamay. <b>5.00</b> NHK World English News Morning. <b>5.30</b> ANC Philippines The World Tonight.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>10.30</b> Take 5. <b>11.00</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>12.00</b> News. <b>1.00</b> The Newsreader. <b>2.00</b> The Split: Barcelona. <b>3.00</b> Back Roads. <b>3.25</b> Grand Designs. <b>4.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>5.00</b> A Bite To Eat. <b>5.30</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>6.30</b> Hard Quiz. <b>7.00</b> News. <b>7.30</b> The Secret History Of The British Garden. <b>8.30</b> Murder In Provence. <b>10.00</b> Joanna Lumley's Great Cities Of The World. <b>10.50</b> Grand Designs. <b>11.35</b> Long Lost Family. <b>12.25</b> Rage New Music. <b>5.00</b> Rage.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>2.00</b> Great Australian Railway Journeys. <b>3.05</b> Destination Flavour China. <b>3.35</b> The Cook Up. <b>4.05</b> Jeopardy! <b>4.30</b> Letters And Numbers. <b>5.00</b> Motor Racing. 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Dakar Rally. Stage 11. Highlights. <b>6.00</b> Mastermind Aust. <b>6.30</b> News. <b>7.30</b> MOVIE: The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button. (2008) <b>10.30</b> SBS News. <b>11.00</b> De Gaulle. <b>12.00</b> Kin. <b>2.40</b> Make Me A Dealer. <b>3.30</b> Peer To Peer. <b>4.00</b> Bamay. <b>5.00</b> NHK World English News Morning. <b>5.30</b> ANC Philippines The World Tonight.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>8.00</b> Fish. <b>8.30</b> Everyday Gourmet. <b>9.00</b> My Market Kitchen. <b>9.30</b> Drew Barrymore. <b>10.30</b> Farm To Fork. <b>11.00</b> 10 Minute Kitchen. <b>11.30</b> Silvia's Italian Masterclass. <b>12.00</b> Australia By Design: Innovations. <b>12.30</b> Exploring Of The Grid. <b>1.30</b> The Yes Experiment. <b>2.00</b> 4x4 Adventures. <b>3.00</b> GCBC. <b>3.30</b> My Market Kitchen. <b>4.00</b> All 4 Adventure. <b>5.00</b> News. <b>6.30</b> Dog House Aust. <b>8.30</b> House. <b>9.30</b> Ambulance Australia. <b>10.45</b> Ambulance UK. <b>1.00</b> Shopping. <b>5.00</b> Hour Of Power.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>10.30</b> Take 5. <b>11.00</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>12.00</b> News. <b>1.00</b> The Newsreader. <b>2.00</b> The Split: Barcelona. <b>3.00</b> Back Roads. <b>3.25</b> Grand Designs. <b>4.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>5.00</b> A Bite To Eat. <b>5.30</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>6.30</b> Hard Quiz. <b>7.00</b> News. <b>7.30</b> The Secret History Of The British Garden. <b>8.30</b> Murder In Provence. <b>10.00</b> Joanna Lumley's Great Cities Of The World. <b>10.50</b> Grand Designs. <b>11.35</b> Long Lost Family. <b>12.25</b> Rage New Music. <b>5.00</b> Rage.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>2.00</b> Great Australian Railway Journeys. <b>3.05</b> Destination Flavour China. <b>3.35</b> The Cook Up. <b>4.05</b> Jeopardy! <b>4.30</b> Letters And Numbers. <b>5.00</b> Motor Racing. 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(2008) <b>10.30</b> SBS News. <b>11.00</b> De Gaulle. <b>12.00</b> Kin. <b>2.40</b> Make Me A Dealer. <b>3.30</b> Peer To Peer. <b>4.00</b> Bamay. <b>5.00</b> NHK World English News Morning. <b>5.30</b> ANC Philippines The World Tonight.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>8.00</b> Fish. <b>8.30</b> Everyday Gourmet. <b>9.00</b> My Market Kitchen. <b>9.30</b> Drew Barrymore. <b>10.30</b> Farm To Fork. <b>11.00</b> 10 Minute Kitchen. <b>11.30</b> Silvia's Italian Masterclass. <b>12.00</b> Australia By Design: Innovations. <b>12.30</b> Exploring Of The Grid. <b>1.30</b> The Yes Experiment. <b>2.00</b> 4x4 Adventures. <b>3.00</b> GCBC. <b>3.30</b> My Market Kitchen. <b>4.00</b> All 4 Adventure. <b>5.00</b> News. <b>6.30</b> Dog House Aust. <b>8.30</b> House. <b>9.30</b> Ambulance Australia. <b>10.45</b> Ambulance UK. <b>1.00</b> Shopping. <b>5.00</b> Hour Of Power.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>10.30</b> Take 5. <b>11.00</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>12.00</b> News. <b>1.00</b> The Newsreader. <b>2.00</b> The Split: Barcelona. <b>3.00</b> Back Roads. <b>3.25</b> Grand Designs. <b>4.15</b> Long Lost Family. <b>5.00</b> A Bite To Eat. <b>5.30</b> Antiques Roadshow. <b>6.30</b> Hard Quiz. <b>7.00</b> News. <b>7.30</b> The Secret History Of The British Garden. <b>8.30</b> Murder In Provence. <b>10.00</b> Joanna Lumley's Great Cities Of The World. <b>10.50</b> Grand Designs. <b>11.35</b> Long Lost Family. <b>12.25</b> Rage New Music. <b>5.00</b> Rage.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> Morning Programs. <b>2.00</b> Great Australian Railway Journeys. <b>3.05</b> Destination Flavour China. <b>3.35</b> The Cook Up. <b>4.05</b> Jeopardy! <b>4.30</b> Letters And Numbers. <b>5.00</b> Motor Racing. 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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.

January

Fri 10 to Mon 13 Jan - Rotary Bookfair 9am at Tuncurry Memorial Hall Enquiries Brad Fletcher on 0414 849 937.

Sat 11 Jan - Music in the Atrium Free concert, 11:30am at Forster Civic Centre

Sun 12 Jan - Forster Town Market 8am to 1pm, Town Park, Oyster Pde Forster. Search Forster Town Park Market on Facebook.

Sun 12 Jan - Pacific Palms Market 9am to 1pm Pacific Palms Community Centre. Community Library Stall open in hall. Enquiries: Jennifer Doyle 0401 968 516

Sat 18 Jan - Forster Farmers Market 8am to 12pm Forster Info Centre, Little St. Enquiries: Linda 0421 347 273



Sat 18 Jan to Sun 16 Feb - Summer Exhibition 2025 Forster Gallery, 34 Lake St Forster. Open Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4pm or when flags are flying.



Sun 19 Jan - Great Lakes Museum Car Boot Sale, 9am to 1pm at Great Lakes Museum, 1 Capel St Tuncurry. Enquiries: 6554 6275

Sat 25 Jan - Tuncurry Market 8am to 1pm at John Wright Park, Tuncurry. Enquiries: Anne 0417 400 994

Advertisement for Damian Wright, ARIA Nominated Flamenco Guitarist, performing at Music in the Atrium on 11-01-25. Includes details about the concert and location.

What's on around town & beyond!

Vote for JJJ's Hottest 100



Friends, gather round. It's that special time of year again. Voting is open, beads of sweat are forming over finalising shortlists and hopes are high for our faves to poll well. Welcome to Hottest 100 season.

Wait, what is the Hottest 100?

Glad you asked! The Hottest 100 is Triple J's annual poll of all your favourite tracks of the past year. It's where you get to tell us what made it to your playlists in 2024.

Hundreds of thousands of you hand-pick up to 10 songs that you obsessed over across the last 12 months. The only rule is that the song has to have been released between December 1, 2023 and November 30, 2024.

When is the Hottest 100 on?

To kick things off and set the musical democracy vibes, Double J will be jumping in their time machine on and taking it back to 2004 to relive that epic countdown on Friday 24 January.

The official big day is Saturday 25 January! Tune in to triple j as we count down the 100 most voted-for tracks from midday. Chuck a party, go to the pub, blast it through a speaker at the beach - it's a summer tradition!

Then on Monday 27 January, we'll be back again to count down the tracks that clocked in from 200 to 101 from 10am. The ones that just missed the big list, but we love them just as much.

- Voting is open and closes - 5pm Monday 20 January
• Double J replays Hottest 100 of 2004 - 12pm Friday 24 January
• Hottest 100 of 2024 - 12pm Saturday 25 January
• Hottest 200-101 of 2024 - 10am Monday 27 January

How does voting work?

Head to the triple j website or the triple j app and follow the signs to the Hottest 100 voting page at www.abc.net.au/triplej/countdown/hottest100

You'll be able to trawl through heaps of songs released over the last 12 months to add to your list.

Huge Bookfair at Tuncurry



Above: At Rotary's Bookfair in Tuncurry you will find children's books at a brilliant bargain price of 50 cents each and other books at a very economical \$3.00 each. (See advertisement below for more details.)

Enquiries via the RCLMC Facebook page or to Brad Fletcher on 0414 849 937.

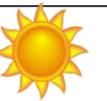
Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast BI-ANNUAL BOOK FAIR Tuncurry Memorial Hall Fri 10th - Mon 13th January 2025. Over 10 thousand books in two rooms: 1: Fiction & Extensive Children's Section, 2: Non-Fiction. Free Entry - Doors open 9.00am. Cash and EFTPOS Welcome. 7 Point Rd Tuncurry. (Doors close Mid Afternoon)

We encourage you to support our local advertisers who help make this paper FREE to pick up!

Forster Gallery and Great Lakes Art Society proudly presents our Summer Exhibition 2025 Sat 18 January - Sun 16 February. FORSTER GALLERY - 34 Lake St, Forster. Open Saturday and Sunday, 10am - 4pm or when the flags are flying. www.forstergallery.org

Devonshire Tea & Crafts 18th January Forster Civic Centre Lake Street Forster 9:30 - 12pm. Includes image of a scone.

'Out and About'



Above: Swimming at the Bullring on Main Beach.



Above: Browsing through the local shops.



Above: Playing at the Tuncurry Rockpool playground.



Below: Chilling by the Tuncurry Rockpool.

Photos of fun summer holiday activities by Patricia Macvean

Below: Snorkelling on Main Beach.



Below: Fishing in the Forster Tuncurry Channel.



IWA SUMMER 2025 MELTDOWN TOUR. LIVE PRO WRESTLING. FRIDAY 10 JANUARY. Doors open 7.30pm for a 8pm Belltime. Priority Seating \$29pp. General Admission Adults \$25, Kids \$18. Book NOW at reception or book online at www.outix.com.au

KID'S SHOW! POP SQUAD. A CELEBRATION OF TAYLOR SWIFT, KATY PERRY, DUA LIPA. THURSDAY 16 JANUARY. Doors open 11am for 11.30am show. Tickets \$22 Adults, \$18 Children (12 years & under). Book NOW at reception or book online at www.outix.com.au

The Bad 80s BAND. SATURDAY 25 JANUARY. FREE in the Main Lounge From 8pm.

TUNCURRY BEACH BOWLING CLUB. 21 Parkes Street, Tuncurry NSW 2428. Ph 02 6554 6477 | www.tuncurrybeachbowling.com.au

# 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)

### Use boat ramp alternatives

The boat owners who complain about the ramp being closed for a few months have probably never been swimming at the Little Street Baths when inconsiderate boat owners drive their boats up onto their trailer (which they aren't supposed to do) and stir up silt and muddy water which flows into the baths making it very unpleasant for people who bring small children to swim in the shallows, and everyone else.

The letter to the editor (edition No.111 on 12 December) finds fault with all the other ramps but I have seen many times when the ramp in question is nothing short of chaotic with cars lined up past the cafe and on the roundabout.

As the saying goes "you pave paradise, put up a parking lot!"

For goodness sake, the ramp will be open most of the year and there are plenty of alternative ramps, use them!

Patsi Sladen - Forster.

### Local Thrushes at One Mile Beach

We all know that Humans are thoroughly stuffing up the world's ecology system through massive loss of habitation/pet predation and sheer ignorance.

My Grey Thrush family had built a nest on a pillar which was protected from the weather, but 2 days after their babies hatched, they were eaten by kookaburras.

Eventually they hatched 2 more eggs and by this time the kookaburras had raised their young nearby and had left. When the hatchlings were about 10 days old, I noticed the young weren't responding to the parents. A few days later I found the dead chicks

tossed out of the nest. What happened??? Perhaps they had been feeding on snail bait. Poisons get into the food chain and unwittingly decimates so many native birds and animals.

Over the 28 years I've lived here I've seen many bird species disappear. The resident owls have gone through eating rats that have been baited. The Beach Curlews didn't stand a chance with the foxes that were plentiful back then.

The Rainbow Birds or Bee Eaters went to domestic cats along with other species. Loss of habitat has helped to thin down the bird population too.

The parent Thrushes seem to have succumbed to snail bait. So very sad. I miss them and their song greatly.

Will the Grey Thrush be next to disappear?  
Lee Carmichael - One Mile, Forster.



## Teens facing social media ban relieved they'll still be able to watch gambling ads

**POLITICAL SATIRE:** Fifteen-year-old Jake Nelson won't be able to use TikTok once the Government's social media ban is introduced, but is comforted by the fact he'll be old enough to watch a thousand ads from Sportsbet about the latest odds at Randwick.

"I get why the Government is doing it," Nelson said. "Social media causes anxiety and depression, ruins relationships and is incredibly addictive. On the other hand, gambling does all those things too, but wields enormous power over governments. So it makes sense".

A Government spokesperson said social media was corrosive for young minds. "The problem with social media is that it is all-consuming. Teens are spending their days watching inane content on their devices, when they should be encouraged to get out of the bedrooms, get in



front of the television, and get up to speed on the great multis on offer this weekend".  
www.theshovel.com.au

Below: Amazing drone photos showing mist rolling into Blueys Beach (north and south end) on 16 December by John Kelly.



Below: Photos of the new wharf being installed on Wallis Lake at Pacific Palms by Jerry.



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## Weekly Diary

The 'Weekly Diary' is FREE to promote community group information. Max 4 lines. It is the responsibility of the organisation to keep their information current.

### Mondays

**Great Lakes Ladies Probus Club**  
4th Monday of the Month  
10am Forster Bowling Club  
Contact Sandra 0478 609 258

**Forster Hospital Pink Ladies**  
Meetings held the 2nd Monday of each month Forster Palms Motel at 1.30 pm. Afternoon tea afterwards. Contact Cathy Cook 0429 265 656.

**Boomerang Bags Forster Tuncurry**  
9:30am -12:30pm every second Monday  
Tuncurry Memorial Hall  
Ring Leonie Dowell 0430 623 332

**Forster Tuncurry Seniors**  
Breeze Parade Forster  
Carpet Bowls 12.45 – 3:45pm  
Contact 6505 2686

**The Man Walk - walk, talk and support**  
Meet 7am Mondays at the Rock Pool, Tuncurry. BBQ/soup once a month.  
Contact Steve Rogers 0407 200 615

**Great Lakes Evening VIEW Club**  
Meetings held 4th Monday of the month with 6:30pm dinner at Sporties.  
Phone Pat 6554 5466

**Club Forster Travel Club**  
Meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month 2pm Wallis Lake room, Club Forster  
Contact Mal Prewett 0455 157 785

**Manning Great Lakes Parkinson's Support Group**, Last Monday of the month 1.30pm Club Forster.  
Contact Ken, 0427 021 877, Phil 0439 418 478

**Quota Club of Forster Tuncurry**  
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday each month Club Forster. Lunch 12.30pm  
Meeting 1.30pm, Enquiries 6555 7219

**Al-Anon Family Groups**  
Does someone you love drink too much? 7.30pm Salvation Army Hall, South St, Tuncurry.  
Contact: 1300 252 666

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
12pm Women's Meeting, Daily Reflections Uniting Church Hall - Cnr Macintosh & Lake St, Forster 1300 222 222

**Forster Tuncurry Lions Club**  
Meetings held 3rd Monday each month. Club Forster 6:30 for 7pm Dinner.  
Contact President Sue Newton 0418 607 292

**Tennis Forster**  
Every Monday 8.30am - 11.30am Mixed Organised Social Forster Tennis Club, Lake Street. Enquiries: Jaime 6554 9120

**Great Lakes Vietnam Veterans Association Sub-Branch** meet at Unit 3/80 Kularoo Drive, Forster, between 10am to 1pm  
Email: vvaglforster@gmail.com

**1st Forster Tuncurry Scout Group Cub Section**  
Scout Hall Cnr Lake & McIntosh Sts Forster, Mondays 5 - 6.30pm for 8 - 11 years. Enquiries: leanne.richardson@nsw.scouts.com.au

**Mixed Social Tennis**  
Monday 9 - 11am at Tuncurry Sporties courts, Beach St. Contact Danny 0409 549 799

**Coomba Fitness Group**  
9am - 10am, in the Coomba Aquatic Club Gazebo. All levels of fitness welcome. Contact Lindy on 0415 392 554

### Tuesdays

**Forster Shores Combined Probus Meeting**  
Held 3rd Tuesday of the month, 2pm Sporties Club, Tuncurry. To attend contact Peter Dreise on 0407 842 905

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

#### Pacific Palms Probud Club

Meets second Tuesday each month at Pacific Palms Recreation Club, 9.30 for 10.00am start, Feb to Nov. Ring Jim on 0418 201 167

#### Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast

Meet 6pm on first and third Tuesday of each month at Sporties, Tuncurry.  
Call Lance Fletcher 0409 850 671.

#### Wallis Lake Dining Group

We dine out on the 1st Tuesday of the Month at various restaurants.  
Please call Jim Peters on 0418 201 167

#### Hallidays Point Combined Probus Meeting

1st Tuesday of the month  
10.00am at Black Head Surf Life Saving Club  
To attend contact Ian Campbell 0417 928 791

#### Wallis Lake Tourers Travel Club Inc.

Meet 10am 2nd Tuesday of the month  
Tuncurry Memorial Hall on Point Rd  
Enquiries Kayleen 0416 184 684.

#### The Coomba Mens Shed

Open Every Tuesday 8.30am - 12pm  
86 Moorooaba Rd, Coomba Park.  
Contact Warren Arnold 0407 721 604

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

8pm I.D. Meeting at Community Centre Hall, behind Reccy car park, 3957 The Lakes Way, Pacific Palms 1300 222 222

#### Pickleball Tuncurry

9:30am at tennis courts behind Sporties.  
Enquiries: Sonia 0427 309 032.

#### Club Forster Social Dance Club

Currently in Recess.  
Dancing to resume Tuesday 4th February 2025.  
Enquiries: Kay 0412 314 449

#### Great Lakes Speakers Club

Meet every FIRST & THIRD Tuesdays each month Feb to early Dec, Club Forster 6.50pm for 7pm start. Contact Graham 0424 426 280

#### Hallidays Point Surfing Mums

Meet every Tuesday 10:30am at Black Head Beach near surf club.  
Enquiries: Vanessa on 0452 247 440

#### 1st Forster Tuncurry Scout Group Venturer Section

Cnr Lake & McIntosh Sts Forster, Tues 6.30 - 8.30pm for 14 to 18 yrs. Enquiries: leanne.richardson@nsw.scouts.com.au

#### Forster Tuncurry Radio Sailing Club

Tuncurry Racecourse Lake – 1pm  
Contact Bruce 0466 153 616

#### Coomba Park Tennis Club

Every Tuesday 4 - 6pm Mixed Social Tennis  
Enquiries: Text Melissa 0403 309 807

### Wednesdays

#### Green Bikes Community Workshop

Open 12 - 3pm. Supplying parts & free help with bike problems. Tuncurry transfer station. Budding mechanics welcome. 0458 809 975

#### Great Lakes Breast Cancer Support Group

Thank you to everyone who has supported the group this year. Our next meeting will be, 5 February 2025. Contact Lorraine 0410 588 736

**Seaside Heritage Quilters** are in recess until 4th February, 2025. Our first meeting for 2025 will be on 5th February at 10am at the Masonic Hall, Lake St.

#### Club Forster Table Tennis

Each week new players welcomed.  
6 - 9pm. Contact Harold 5591 7133 or Bruce 0414 532 496

#### Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

Forster Tuncurry Group  
First Wednesday of the month, 3pm Sporties Tuncurry. Enquiries: Ruth 0434 234 511

#### Forster Tuncurry Evening View Club

Meet Second Wednesday of each month 6.00pm for 6.30pm Club Forster  
Contact Lorraine Tilley 0408 055 109

#### Great Lakes Knit and Spin

Every Wednesday 10am – 12pm,  
Forster Civic Centre, Wallambah room.  
Enquiries Kayleen 0416 184 684.

#### Great Lakes Suicide Prevention Network

Meet third Wednesday of every month at 6pm Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club & on zoom. Email greatlakesspn2428@gmail.com for details.

#### Forster Digital Photographic Club (FDPC)

Meets third Wednesday each month, 7pm in the Wallis Lake Room at Club Forster, Strand Street, Forster. Enquiries: Keith 0468 351 107

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

9am, As Bill Sees It Meeting  
Girl Guides Hall - Opp Council Playing Fields Lake St, Forster 1300 222 222

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

8pm, I.D. Meeting at Salvation Army Hall 7 South Street, Tuncurry  
1300 222 222

#### One Mile Beach Dunecare

Every Wednesday, 8:30am Carpark at Collendina Park, Beach end of Strand Street  
Contact Mark Linton 0402 045 718

#### Hallidays Point Men's Shed

Meet 9am to 2pm in premises behind Community Church, 27 Diamond Beach Rd.  
Enquiries: Stephen Cox 0418 146 067

#### Dementia Infomation drop in at Forster Library

1st Wed. of the month 9.30 - 11.30am. Speak with local Dementia Alliance representative on local services. Contact Christine 0408 548 698

#### Coomba Fitness Group

9am - 10am, in the Coomba Aquatic Club Gazebo. All levels of fitness welcome. Contact Lindy on 0415 392 554

#### Twin Towns Tennis Club

8am Mixed Social and 7pm Night Comp every Wednesday. Capel St Tuncurry.  
Contact Ellise 0411 476 063.

#### Great Lakes Historic Automobile Club Inc.

Meets first Wednesday every month at 7pm Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club  
Visitors are welcome. Laurie 0402 315 215

### Thursdays

#### Coomba Mens Shed

Open every Thursday 8.30am-12pm.  
86 Moorooaba Rd, Coomba Park.  
Contact Warren Arnold 0407 721 604

#### Codependents Anonymous

Difficulty maintaining relationships?  
5.30 - 7pm Uniting Church, Tuncurry.  
www.codependentsanonymous.org.au

#### Great Lakes & Manning Stroke Recovery Club

We meet every 2nd & 4th Thursday of month. New members and visitors are most welcome. Contact can be made by ringing 1300 650 594.

#### Al-Anon Family Groups

Does someone you love drink too much? Help is available! 12.30pm Uniting Church, Cnr South & Bent St, Tuncurry. Contact: 1300 252 666

#### Forster District Combined Probus Club

9.45am First Thursday of every month (except January) Club Forster. Contact Secretary Christine Armstrong 6557 5627

#### Knit and Knatter

1st Thursday of the month 1-3pm, Tuncurry Community of Christ, 4 Manning Street  
Tuncurry. Contact Wendy Ballard 0411 036 171

#### Forster Keys Progress Association

Dad's Army/Navvy volunteer clean-up Every Thursday 7am - 9am, Community Hall 36A Elizabeth Pde. Contact: Brian 6555 5076

#### Lodge Forster Great Lakes United

Meets third Thursday of the month 7pm at the Lodge Hall, 27 Lake Street  
Tuncurry. Enquiries: Bob Mackinnon on 0437 854 466

#### Tennis Forster

Every Thursday 12.30pm – 4pm Men's Organised Social Forster Tennis Club, Lake Street. Enquiries: Jaime 6554 9120

#### Great Lakes Vietnam Veterans Association Sub-Branch

meet at Unit 3/80 Kularoo Drive, Forster, between 10am to 1pm  
Email: vvaglforster@gmail.com

#### 1st Forster Tuncurry Scout Group Joey Section

Scout Hall Cnr Lake & McIntosh Sts Forster, Thursdays 5 - 6 pm for 5 to 8 years. Enquiries: leanne.richardson@nsw.scouts.com.au

#### 1st Forster Tuncurry Scout Group Scout Section

Scout Hall Cnr Lake & McIntosh Sts Forster, Thursdays 6.30 - 8.30pm for 11 - 14 years.  
Contact: leanne.richardson@nsw.scouts.com.au

#### Mens Social Tennis

Thursday 9 - 11am at Tuncurry Sporties courts, Beach St. Contact Danny 0409 549 799

#### Great Lakes Concert Band

Rehearses Thursdays 5-7pm at Club Forster in Cape Hawke Room. New players very welcome.  
Enquiries: Lynne 0488 146 915

#### Twin Towns Tennis Club

8am Mixed Social every Thursday, Capel St Tuncurry. Contact Ellise 0411 476 063.

### Fridays

#### Forster Country Women's Association (CWA)

3rd Friday of the Month, 9:30am to 11:30am Coolonglook Room at Forster Civic Centre, Lake Street. Contact: Annette 0411 028 857

#### Wallis Lake History Group

1st Friday of the Month, 1.30pm Great Lakes Room, Club Forster, Strand St. World History by Members. Call Jim Peters on 0418 201 167

#### Forster Tuncurry Seniors

Breeze Parade Forster  
Carpet Bowls 9:15 - 12pm & Games 1pm - 4pm  
Contact 6505 2686

#### Forster Tuncurry Red Cross

1st Friday of the month at 9:30am.  
Please contact Judy on 0403 400 875 to find out new venue.

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

1pm, I.D. Meeting at Masonic Lodge Hall - 27 Lake Street, Forster 1300 222 222

#### Pickleball Tuncurry

9:30am at tennis courts behind Sporties.  
Enquiries: Sonia Rockley 0427 309 032

#### Tuncurry Beach Dunecare

Every Friday, 8:30am Barry Stonham Park, Rockpool Road, adjacent to new playground  
Contact Mark Linton 0402 045 718

#### Ladies Social Tennis

Fridays 9 -11am at Sporties Tennis Club, Beach St Tuncurry.  
Enquiries: Yvonne on 0418 422 392

#### Coomba Fitness Group

9am - 10am, in the Coomba Aquatic Club Gazebo. All levels of fitness welcome. Contact Lindy on 0415 392 554

#### Twin Towns Tennis Club

8.30am Mixed Social every Friday, Capel St Tuncurry. Contact Ellise 0411 476 063.

### Saturdays

#### Forster parkrun community 5km run/walk

Pebbly Beach Playground off Head St 7:45am for 8am start every Saturday  
facebook.com/Forsterparkrun

#### Club Forster Table Tennis

Each week new players welcomed.  
12:45 - 3pm. Contact Harold 5591 7133 or Bruce 0414 532 496

#### Forster Country Women's Association

CWA are serving Devonshire teas, 3rd Saturday of month 9:3am - 12pm, Coolonglook Rm, Forster Civic Centre. Enquiries: 0411 028 857

#### Great Lakes Rural Australians for Refugees

2pm at St Albans Church Hall, Forster.  
Regular monthly meeting on the last Saturday of the month. Enquiries: 0418 650 694

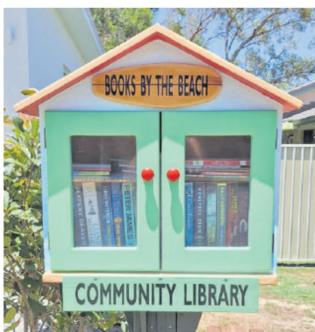
#### Great Lakes Orchid Society Meeting

Meets second Saturday of the month 2pm Forster Public School, Head Street.  
Enquiries: John 0408 034 633

#### Dragon Boating

Come paddle with us on Wallis Lake 7.15am for 7.30am start  
Contact Janis 0420 235 987

## Community Library



A new community library 'Books by the Beach' has popped up on the beach end of Colliton Parade in Forster. It has already become a hit with locals and visitors who are keen to swap good books over the summer holidays. This community library was organised by local resident Jock Milward, to encourage the fun of sharing and reading.

## Community Meals & Pantry



Above: Forster Community lunches.

### Forster Community Lunches

The Forster Community Kitchen is serving lunches to the community Monday to Thursday 12 - 1pm.

All are welcome. Lunches are served in the CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL located behind the Catholic Parish at 33 Lake Street, Forster.

People can also bring a bag and choose which food items they would like to take home from the produce tables.

Enquiries: Volunteer Coordinator Meg Loring on 0409 840 054 or the CatholicCare Office on 6539 5900.

### Tuncurry Community Morning Tea & Lunch

Every Friday the TUNCURRY SALVATION CHURCH at 7 South Street is serving Community Morning Tea & Lunch.

10:30am - Doors open for cake & coffee, place names for produce market.

11am - Produce Market, \$5 bag of staples & meal ingredients are available.

11:30am to 1pm - Lunch served

Enquiries: Pastors Nicole & Tony Bezzina on 6554 6101. www.facebook.com/Forstersalvos

## Forster Library



• Family History Advisory Group - provides support with family history research. Volunteers will be available Tuesday & Thursday 10am - 12 pm, Monday, Wednesday & Friday 2pm - 4pm in the Family History room on Level One of the Library.  
Or email familyhistory@gmail.com

## Star Pet



**Name:** Daisy

**Breed:** Cockatiel

**Age:** 3 years

**Likes:** Flying, she is the most proficient flier I have seen (which led to her claim to fame). She is also a 'velcro bird' who loves being with you and not in her cage at all until dark. She likes to try to eat everything you are eating. We adopted her so her previous owner must have fed her everything. She loves egg and pasta! Which we give in small amounts.

**Claim to Fame:** Longest single flight for a cockatiel. She escaped from my parent's house near Forster the Golf Course car park on 23 December, leaving her baby brother Squid (white one).



Below: Daisy and Squid.

If you would like to see your beloved pet featured in Star Pet please submit a HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTO & answers to info@forsterfortnightly.com.au

## Pets of the Fortnight



### This little guy needs a home and a name!!!

This little guy is approximately 14 weeks old and is an absolute delight. Still very kittenish and loves playing in the tunnel with his brother and sister. They run and play and then curl up somewhere for a nap.

All our animals come desexed, microchipped, vet checked, have had flea and worm treatment and have had at least one vaccination.

If you are interested in meeting this little guy , please call Marg on 0408 670 757.

Our rehoming number is R251000222.

Animal Welfare League NSW - Great Lakes/Manning Branch

# 2024 Christmas Carols in Tuncurry & Black Head

## Black Head Carols in the Park

A crowd of around 600 attended Black Head Carols in the Park

Kiddies Hut, Hummingbird Music Studio and a Hallidays Point Public School drew plenty of applause from an appreciative crowd.

A variety of performers provided contemporary as well as traditional Christmas theme music for people to either sit back and enjoy or join in.

Santa arrived to the Aussie Jingle Bells lead by Hallidays Point Public School.

The event was organised by Hallidays Point Community Church and supported by the Lions Club.

By Alan Tickle - Hallidays Point Community Church.



## Rotary Carols by Candlelight

The 2024 Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast Carols by Candlelight was held on the 16th December 2024 at Harry Elliott Oval to much fanfare. Over 1000 people attended the event, celebrating its 50th Anniversary from humble beginnings on Pilot Hill in 1974.

We were well led by the Great Lakes Band and their singers on the evening. There was also a special appearance by Santa. The Band was supported by the Choirs of Tuncurry and Forster Public Schools. A highlight for many families and friends.

We ran the canteen providing sausage and steak sandwiches and drinks and were supported by an Ice Cream van and the debut of Chitta Chats Coffee Van.

As has been the case for 29 years, the event was Emceed by Lyn Lelean, much to the delight of the kids who love an opportunity to get on the microphone and share their Christmas wish list within earshot of Santa.

The event was quite successful and all moneys raised go back into our Community projects. We now look ahead to our January Book Fair (see advert on page 16) and the beginning of another terrific year for our club.

By Brad Fletcher - Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast.

Below: Photos by Patricia Macvean.



# Local Identity - Marty Tooze

Interview by Vanda Gooley.

Marty Tooze, 54, is a proud father of two, a civil engineering development engineer by day and an aspiring musician by night. "I use the word aspiring because no matter how long you've been playing or performing, or what achievements you may have accomplished, the innate love of music within, pushes you to keep striving too always do better. I think it's one of the intricacies of the musicians' genetic make-up - to never be truly satisfied with where you sit in your skill set. As frustrating as what that sounds, I'm grateful for it, because it's one of the main drivers that keeps me continually wanting to improve or change my musical persona."

Marty was born in Newcastle Hospital, long before it was torn down to make way for the ritzy high-rise developments that now stand on the precious real estate that the hospital once inhabited. Marty's father was a boilermaker and his mother worked numerous jobs, one of which was as a factory worker for the now extinct YY Cordial Company. With the help of his grandfather, Marty's father built the family home in Birmingham Gardens, a stone's throw from where the first foundation stone was laid in 1971 for what is now the University of Newcastle. Marty is the youngest of three children, "being blessed to have both a sister and brother who both helped to guide me during my younger years and continue to do so to this day."

Marty considers himself to be extremely fortunate to be part of a blended family. "My gorgeous partner of three years has a son and daughter with whom I'm thankful to say I have great relationships with."

As a young man, Marty had aspirations of becoming a wood technology teacher as he had an eye for detail and a keen interest in cabinet making and all things that could be made from timber. He also thought that he would make a pretty cool teacher. Alas, this was not to be. It was 1987, interest rates were 18.5% and unemployment was through the roof. So, at the end of year 11 an opportunity came before him to become an apprentice Civil Engineering Construction Carpenter. After seeking advice from his father and school wood working teacher, both advised that he should grab the opportunity with both hands as it was guaranteed work for four years - something that was very hard to come by at the time. It certainly was a far cry from teaching or cabinet making, but four years of full-time employment had allowed Marty to purchase a snazzy looking 4WD and bank enough money to fulfil his dream of travelling around Australia. The car was packed with carpentry tools and of course a PA and guitar. "The world had finally opened up for me. I was treasuring the new sights of our beautiful country."

Marty revelled in the travel experiences and loved meeting new, and interesting people. After settling in Cairns and working within his trade for a couple of months, he secured a job on the largest sailing catamaran in the southern hemisphere owned and operated by one of the few Australian companies operating out of Cairns Harbour at the time - Ocean Spirit Cruises. Here Marty wore many hats, deckhand, lifeguard, AND entertainer! "It was probably the greatest job that I've had in my

life. Meeting and talking to people from all walks of life, diving The Great Barrier Reef, and really honing my skills not just as a performer, but as an entertainer."

Family illness unfortunately necessitated a move back home where Marty picked up work in the Civil Engineering and Earthworks world. He also spent some time as a chairman (surveyor's assistant) travelling the state and the southern patches of Queensland facilitating the set out for the North Coast Rail Loops, imperative to today's free flowing railway movements between the two states.

"Being blessed with the upcoming birth of my first child, it was time to find something that was more permanent and stable." Back to the Council he went, starting within the Concrete Construction crew, then moving through to become a Team Leader of Road Construction. Marty then applied for a job within the office providing construction plans for driveway crossovers and undertaking the inspections of same. This position was a good "filler" for Marty whilst he undertook further study by correspondence and eventually received a Cert IV in Civil Engineering Design. This helped him acquire the role of Development Engineer that he stayed in for 15 years assessing and inspecting all things development related. This was a position that Marty really enjoyed as it made him feel as though he was giving back to his community by having some influence in the type of developments that benefit our beautiful surrounds.

Marty has only recently moved on from this position in the Council and now operates his own business (very similar to his role within Council) where he assesses and inspects developments within our local area as well as further afield. Marty's new company is known as Down to Earth Development Services "and that is exactly what you get - an honest, quality service that everyday people can understand and hopefully benefit from. It's an exciting time and I can say with much gratitude that it is really taking off."

Marty was very fortunate to be exposed and surrounded by a broad spectrum of music in his youth. His father played guitar as well as his brother, but his biggest influence, supporter, and fan was his father's step-uncle. Known to Marty as Uncle Boy ("Boy" being a nickname he was given as a child), he had become a

step-brother to his grandmother through the tragedies of the second world war. He owned a large portion of land near the old church that Marty's family had moved into at Boolambayte

when he was about 5 years old. 'Boy' loved the romanticism of the steam train era and was drawn to artists such as Jimmy Rogers who was one of the first white blues players to sing of the allure of travel, and a life of wandering and adventure. Hank Williams, Slim Dusty and Chad Morgan were other favourites of his which became part of the founding fabric of Marty's early exposure to the wonders of music.

As a 'young Marty', he was involved in the Bulahdelah Country Music Club and often went in

competitions as was the "done thing" of the day. He was fortunate enough to win a few trophies and even a brand-new acoustic guitar which was a big deal for him at the time. "I still think it had more to do with the elaborate cowboy shirt that my auntie had made for me to wear that day, than the performance I nervously struggled through!"

Marty has always been keen to help other people in need within his community and being able to play guitar and sing was a great way to not only bring people together but to also help raise funding for whatever was desperately needed at the time. Marty quite frequently would donate his time to play at nursing homes and charity events for those in need. "The best thing that I have ever done with my music hands down, was to organise a concert for a friend of mine who was suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. This horrific disease, along with many other things, took away my friend's ability to talk. At the time, there was a computer device that with the help of laser technology, was capable of helping my friend communicate with his loved ones. This device, however, was far too expensive for any friends or family to obtain and so, a charity fundraiser was formed called "Help a Mate Communicate". The aim of the night was to raise \$4,000 to put towards the device. I was overjoyed and overwhelmed by the community's support when the final tally came in at over \$12,000. To me this has been my greatest achievement for so many reasons."

It brought together the outstanding generosity of a small community, and several talented musicians who not only donated their time, equipment and their talents but many of



Marty's musical brethren also found it in their hearts to "kick the tin" as well. "I will forever hold undying gratitude to all of those who helped organise and make that night the success that it undoubtedly was." Marty's friends' name was Lee Johnson, and his loving family set up a trust account for all the donations raised which services any individual within the local area that requires some form of medical assistance through the Lee Johnson Fund. Lee had the most aggressive form of MS and tragically he passed away at a terribly young age. "I'm pleased to say that he still visits me in my dreams, and we go on boyish adventures together - just like the old days."

Apart from his music, Marty enjoys surfing, being in the saltwater, swimming and bushwalking, exploring, and being places that He's never been before.

About our area, Marty said he loves its natural beauty and the sense of connect to country that that natural beauty provides.

Marty's favourite saying is "Try and live with a grateful heart and appreciate the beautiful things that surround us".

Long term friend, Leo Quinn said this about Marty...

"I have been fortunate and privileged to have had Marty Tooze as one of my best friends for over 30 years. In all my life, I've never met anyone quite like him. He is unique and once you meet him, you are highly unlikely to forget him."

He has an uncanny knack of putting people at ease and making them feel special. All my family and friends that have met him want to adopt him as family.

From personal experience, many is the time that he has been selflessly supportive of me in my times of need.

He's a wonderful father to his children, Tanayah and Nick, and the exceptional love and care he has lavished upon them shines through in who they have become.

I am proud to have him as a friend and love him like a brother. I think everyone deserves a Marty Tooze in their lives."



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# Busy year for Great Lakes Westpac Rescue Support



Above: A thank you Christmas Luncheon was enjoyed by the local Support Group, provided by Richard McGovern (second from left in front row) from Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service.

Great Lakes Westpac Rescue Support Group have had a very busy time since the election of the Office Bearers for the 2024-2025 season at their Annual General Meeting held at Forster.

The New Committee Members are President Harold Astle, Vice President Ted Bickford, Secretary Ruth Stocker, Treasurer Harold Astle, Catering Officer David Stocker, Collection Tins Officer Mike Walker and Publicity Officer Judi Wilkinson.

Bunning's BBQs are always very popular every month with all members helping out. Thank you to everyone for their continued support during our very busy year.

A very successful awareness week was held at Stockland Shopping Centre during August with memorabilia for sale and the Raffle of an air fryer donated by Laraine Stein and Roselin Bultitude. Thank you ladies. The 100 Club Raffle was also very popular and was drawn by a staff member at Bakers Delight who support our Westpac Rescue Service in Forster Tuncurry.

Our Great Lakes Group was approached by the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club asking our group to make Sandwiches for their Race Day Meetings and to sell Tickets on Race Days. The Jockey Club have also offered our group to Collect Cans and Bottles after Race Days which has been very successful.

Bucket collections have been popular with members Janette Thomson and Judi Wilkinson at Nabiac Hotel and The Lakeside Hotel in Forster. Well done girls.

Ruth and David Stocker have approached the Reflections Caravan Park in Tuncurry to ask if we could set up bottle & can collection stations. This has been very successful. The Park have provided 4 beautiful cages with signage on them in the park. Our volunteers collect these once a week and take them to the Recycling Depot to raise much needed funds for the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service. Great work David and Ruth.

Midcoast Council have generously donated a lovely gazebo to the Great Lakes Support Group for use when holding outdoor events such as Tallwoods Golf Day and Reflections Park's Egg & Bacon Breakfast for the Cadet Cup. Thank You Mid Coast Council.

Sporties Mens Bowling Club in Tuncurry organised a fantastic Charity Bowls Day & Auction in October with many great prizes on offer. A special thank you to all the local business houses and local people who donated to make this day such a great success.

Members of the Great Lakes Support Group were presented with their Special Awards for dedicated services to our group. Members who received awards were Ted Bickford for 25 years' service, Harold Astle for 5 years' service and Janette Thomson for 5 years' service. Well done members.

During November, the local Support Group held more awareness days at Stockland Shopping Centre Forster which proved to be very successful. The had a great Raffle on offer of an air fryer donated by Judi Wilkinson, and lovely Christmas Hampers donated by Laraine Stein. Information days concluded on 30 November with the drawing of the raffles by a staff member at Bunnings Warehouse. The winner of the air fryer was Maria Campello from Forster. Hamper winners were Trish from Forster and Wendy from Forster. Thank you to everyone who supported our Information Days and Raffles.

Forster Support Group would like to say a special thank you to the following - Bunnings Warehouse in Forster, Stockland Shopping Centre Forster, Bakers Delight in Forster, Reflections Caravan Park in Tuncurry and Sporties Mens Bowling Club in Tuncurry.

Our busy year has concluded with the presentation of a cheque for \$20,000 to our Regional Officer Richard McGovern for our hard-working Forster Support Group. Well done.

A lovely Christmas Luncheon was enjoyed by the Support Group, provided by Richard McGovern as a special thank you.

If you've got a few spare hours up your sleeve and are interested in joining one of NSW finest Community Fund Raising Groups as a volunteer, then we would welcome you to our Group. We have raised a substantial amount over the last few years, and we are always looking for new ideas to fund raise for the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service. To do this we are searching for enthusiastic community focused people JUST LIKE YOU!

Give us a call and let's have a chat. President Harold Astle on 0421 087 945 or Secretary Ruth Stocker on 0434 234 511, or join us at our next monthly meeting on 5 February 2025, 3pm at Sporties Mens Bowling Club Tuncurry.

By Judi Wilkinson - GLWRSG.

## Our Local Wildlife



### The Mosquito

When people think of deadly critters in our natural environment, most will think of sharks, crocodiles, snakes and maybe spiders. But the deadliest animal on the planet is actually much smaller, the mosquito.

Worldwide mosquitos spread viruses such as Malaria, West Nile, Yellow Fever, Kunjin, and Zika. In Australia Japanese Encephalitis, Ross River, Barmah Forest, Murray River Encephalitis and Dengue Fever viruses are all mosquito borne with predictions that increasing chemical pesticide resistance and climate change will only exacerbate the threat they pose.

So significant is the problem of mosquito borne diseases that CSIRO scientists (in collaboration with private companies) are devoting considerable resources to developing biological controls in which some species of male mosquitos are genetically engineered to become sterile and thus limit their species reproduction.

While this is promising research, there is a lot that we can do in the meantime to limit mosquito populations around our homes.

Encouraging and protecting microbats around your house is one highly effective intervention. A single microbat can eat up to half its body weight or 1,200 mosquitos in one night while larger microbats can eat that many mosquitos in an hour. Many microbats are dependent on tree hollows for their nest-spaces so putting up specialised microbat nestboxes in suitable places around your home, in shaded spaces that do not get direct sun, is a highly effective mozzie control strategy.

We placed one microbat nesting box on the south side of our house and others in some nearby trees and it is a joy to be outside at night and watch them doing their rapid aerial flybys as they guard us from these biting pests. Microbat droppings are tiny, have no smell and do not carry diseases. However, microbats are vulnerable to sometimes chasing mosquitos into our houses, in which case, leaving the doors open should allow them to safely exit. They can

Right: Photo of microbat by Micheal Penny.

also become victims of sticky flypaper in open spaces such as verandas.

Swallows likewise are super mozzie exterminators, and they are always welcome in our shed space despite their sometimes messy droppings. Of course, it is also delightful watching the chicks develop and graduate to become the brilliant aerial acrobats they are.



Above: Photo of mosquito from www.csiro.au

Other super mozzie exterminators include dragon and damsel flies. Dragon and Damsel flies are part of the insect world that specifically target mosquitos and can catch them on the wing. In their waterborne larvae stage, they primarily predate on wrigglers. Having a population of these stunning insects around nearby ponds and wetlands means that thousands of mosquitos are eliminated each night.

Spiders with their webs, as well as frogs and fish are also mozzie predators and worth encouraging as part of your mozzie arsenal. And of course, there are also the recommendations of wearing loose light coloured protective clothing and using personal repellants.

By Kym Kilpatrick - FAWNA Hallidays Point.

Here is a link to make a Microbat Nesting Box: <https://www.gbwildlifecarers.org.au/forms/Building%20a%20microbat%20nestbox.pdf>



## Biomedical Sports Podiatry

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1a Trades Ct Forster, NSW 2428

# Seeking family of Harry Train

French Historian Bernard Feutry is asking Forster readers for their help in contacting the family of Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) airman Henry "Harry" Roland Train who fought in France during World War II.

Pilot officer Harry Train was shot down over Eppe-Sauvage on 7 May 1942. He survived the plane crash and was hidden by local school teacher André Dewelde before being betrayed to the Germans and sent to Dulag Luft - a transit camp for prisoners of war in Frankfurt. He was later sent to the infamous Stalag Luft jail at Zagan in Poland. Andre was later killed fighting with the French resistance.

Formerly from Grenfell (central west NSW), Harry is now buried at the Forster Cemetery. He died at the age of 75 -76 years in 1985.

Mr Feutry, 73, has been researching plane crashes in his region of Avesnois in France for the last 13 years. He is also a friend of the association of Squadron 460 RAAF.

"There were 34 crashes between 1940 and 1945 with 116 airmen killed - six Americans, 69 British, 10 Australians, 13 Canadians, five New Zealanders and 13 French. A number of airmen were never located or escaped unscathed or were taken prisoner."

Mr Feutry wishes to invite families of airmen to attend a memorial service on 26 April 2025 in France.

On this date "A memorial dedicated to the 116 airmen killed in our region will be inaugurated

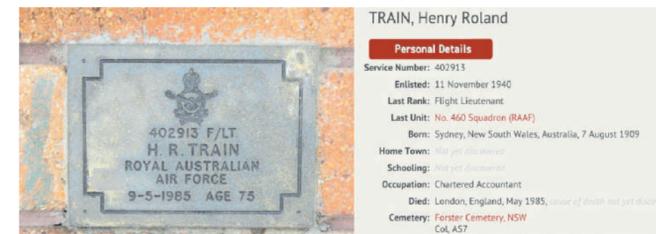


Above: (L-R) Photo of Pilot officer Harry Train and Andre Dewelde by Mademoiselle Bienfait.

in the village of Boussieres sur Sambre in the north of France."

Mr Feutry has tracked down a number of families to attend the memorial. "To date, 14 families will come from the six countries for the ceremony."

He asks anyone that can help him track down the family of Harry Train to email him at [bfcp76@laposte.net](mailto:bfcp76@laposte.net). His website is <http://aviateursavesnois.free.fr/>



**Personal Details**  
 TRAIN, Henry Roland  
 Service Number: 402913  
 Enlisted: 11 November 1940  
 Last Rank: Flight Lieutenant  
 Last Unit: No. 460 Squadron (RAAF)  
 Born: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 7 August 1909  
 Home Town: Forster, New South Wales  
 Schooling: Not yet disclosed  
 Occupation: Chartered Accountant  
 Died: London, England, May 1985, cause of death not disclosed  
 Cemetery: Forster Cemetery, NSW  
 Col, 457

# Part 2: Timeline from 1960

## Great Lakes Historical Society

1960s Memorial Park - once sandy swamp down to the water's edge was filled with sand dredged from Wallis Lake and levelled to become a park

1961 Holy Name School, Lake Street, Forster opened

1963 First Blessing of the Fleet in Wallis Lake

1965 Forster break wall extended. Tuncurry break wall remade and extended

1967 First Oyster Festival held

1970 Memorial Hall leased by Mr. Howard to again run as a Movie Theatre

Cream boats cease operating

Sewerage scheme became a fact in Tuncurry

1970 Cape Hawe Community Hospital opened by Mr. Leon Punch MP on 1st December.

Pathology & Physiotherapy Departments added in 1997. Radiology Department and additional wards in 1989. Day Surgery in 1995. Second level extension for future services added in 2001

1971 Stroud Shire Council changed name to Great Lakes Shire Council

1973 First permanent Ambulance Officer appointed to Forster

1975 Historical Society formed. Forster's old National Bank building moved to Capel Street, Tuncurry

1981 Old original Tuncurry School added to Historical Society's site

Tuncurry, Failford and part of Nabiac join the Great Lakes Council Shire

1985 GLAICA (Great Lakes Aged and Invald Care Association) opened

1986 The Cheers Cottage - moved from Peel Street and added to Historical Society's site

1988 Memorial Hall renovated

1993 Great Lakes Shire Council changed name to Great Lakes Council

1999 Memorial Hall Cinema vacated - new cinema built at corner of Lake and Manning Streets

2004 Tudor House, Forster demolished (now The Dorsal)

By Anne Masters - Director/Volunteer of Great Lakes Museum.

Great Lakes Museum is open Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri from 10am - 1pm and Sun 1 - 3pm at 1 Capel Street Tuncurry.



Right: The Parade of La Madonna de Martiri (Patroness of Fishermen) to the Wallis Lake waterfront for the blessing of the fleet



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## Forster hosts Branch Carnival

The 2024 Lower North Coast Surf Life Saving Branch (LNCSLSB) Carnival was conducted at Forster Main Beach on Saturday, 7 December 2024.

A calm, warm day greeted nearly 150 competitors from the six LNCSLSB clubs. These conditions were in stark contrast to the powerful surf which caused the Day 2 cancellation of surf events at the NSW Interbranch Carnival at nearby One Mile Beach the previous weekend.

Under the direction of carnival referee Geoff Horn, Cape Hawke Surf Club Director of Surf Sports, events proceeded from the 8.15 am colour party and march past then concluded as timed with a 1pm finish.

Branch President, Bernadette Nicholson, was high in praise of the day. "It was a wonderful turnout and seeing the priority given to surf sports by all clubs."

"Of course, carnivals cannot run without the officials, work parties and water safety officers. We are indebted to the many who assisted in making the day a great and incident free success."

The carnival had three championship components - Juniors, Seniors and Overall. The three largest clubs understandably dominated the day and took out the first 3 places in each



Above: U10 swim winners - Harry Lynch (Black Head) and Anna Brooks (Forster).

component. The champion junior club was Cape Hawke with Black Head second and Forster third. The senior award went to Black Head, from Forster and Cape Hawke. The 2024 LNCSLSB overall championship was taken out by Black Head, followed by Cape Hawke and Forster.

Right: Forster juniors sleep over at surf club. Photos supplied.

Forster SLSC Junior Activities Chair, Nova Grosvenor, said, "I am super proud of our youngsters and their drive to be competitive."

"Our club is in a rebuilding phase with our nippers following Covid restrictions and loss of a home with the demolition of the old club and construction of our magnificent new building."

As if the carnival wasn't enough, 27 Forster SLSC junior members went straight to a sleepover in the new clubhouse on the Saturday evening with activities coordinated by youth members, Braydan Lee and Katie Tisdell, supported by Jarrah Verdich, Charlotte Grosvenor and Dylan Kinkade. Forster club senior personnel acted as chaperones.



The aim of the evening was to encourage retention of juniors as they exit the nipper programs and to create interest in inflatable rescue boat (IRB) qualifications and racing.

The Forster SLSC nippers' program will restart on Sunday 9 February and conclude on Sunday, 16 March 2025.

By Annie Evans - FSLC.

## Social Golf Club Players of Year

We congratulate our Lady and Man Golf Players of the Year for Club Forster Social Golf Club. Lady: Maree Fieldhouse with 59.5 points. Man: Ken Woods with 73.5 points. These points are made up from the accumulation of every game played during 2024 plus bonus points for coming 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

Our next game will be our Australia Day Shield on 19th January at Tuncurry Course. 7am for 7.27am hit off.

All enquiries contact Ken Woods on 0401767257.

By Warren Warner. Photos by Sharon Evans.

Right: Club Captain Ken Woods presenting the award of Lady Golf Player of the Year to Maree Fieldhouse.

Far right: Club President Jimmy Lovegrove presenting the award of Man Golf Player of the Year to Ken Woods.



## December fishing outing

The Club Forster Bluewater Fishing Club monthly fishing outing was conducted on Saturday 14th December 2024. 15 members in 9 boats participated, with 80 fish weighing a total of 86.2kg (including some good size snapper) coming over the gunnells.

Best Snapper of the day was a 5kg Model caught by new member Greg Scott. Martyn Barry took out both the best Teraglin prize (2.48 kg) and largest other species prize for a 4.04kg Dolphin fish, which was also the monthly mystery fish prize. Dave Nash, with a total of 17 fish, received the most points on the day (331 points) with Greg Scott running up with 241 points.

The Flathead category was won by Joe Bujalski with a 1.48kg Flathead. Category runners up were Frank Harshman (Flathead), Dave Nash (Snapper) and Greg Scott again (Teraglin).

It was great to see a new member do so well on a first outing. Anyone interested in joining our Blue Water Fishing Club can contact Barry Wrench on 0428 557 090.

By Dave Nash - CBFCL. Photo supplied.



Above: New member Greg Scott with a 5kg Snapper.

## Trophies galore: Croquet Club



Above: (R-L) John Matlawski and Steve Wallace at the presentation.

Forster Croquet Club held their Christmas party and presentation of trophies on 4 December. 70 players attended and enjoyed the dinner and comradeship.

Special mention goes to Peter Long who was runner-up in 2 Association events and won the Ricochet Division 2 Championship. He also won Captain's Trophy, Division 2 Singles and Division 1 Doubles, partnered by Andrew Bissex, in golf croquet events.

John Matlawski also deserves special mention for winning the Association Division 4 Championship, Division 3 Golf Croquet Doubles, partnered by Steve Wallace, and the Jeff Christensen Encouragement award for most improved player.

Another very pleasing result was the Best Carnival Performance which was won by Caroline and Doug Feilen for their efforts in the Doubles Open Challenge.

Caroline and Doug are two of our newer players and won 6 of their 9 games in the recent Open Competition.

Other winners were as follows: Division 1 Golf Championship Singles - Wal Wallington, Division 3 Championship Singles - Ricky Fittock (who also won Division 3 Ricochet), Division 4 Golf Championship Singles - Renita Connor.

Division 2 Golf Doubles Championship was won by Mary Greig and Edna Kelly and Division 4 Golf Doubles Championship was won by Ilija and Rose Bilbija.

Hoopmakers Handicap was won by Iain Tait-Kerr with Lee Hawryluk as runner-up. The Cedar Bat was won by Jenifer Boulton with Steve Wallace runner-up.

Aileen Matlawski won the President's Trophy and Association Division 3 Championship. Tony Jones won the Briginshaw Trophy for Association players and Graham Innocent won the Jan Lawless Trophy for Ricochet.

As you can see it was a busy year for the Croquet Club.

By Helen Cooper - Forster Croquet Captain. Photo supplied.

## Presentation Day for Mens Vets

On Monday 2 December, Mens Vet Golf had a great day at the Forster golf course and Clubhouse with over 100 players and guests attending for a novelty nine hole event. This was followed by a magnificent Xmas Lunch and ham raffles and prizes, with everyone dressed in their Xmas attire.

Another big programme is set for next year and any new members will be welcomed (conditions apply).

By David Blanchard



Right: (L-R) Ian Bartholomew 2024 Club Champion and Peter Tarplee 2024 Player of the Year. Photos supplied.

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### There's always something happening at the Palms!

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Fri 10 January



DJ Emil  
17 January

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# They just kept coming!

**Visitors over the summer holidays helped to set a new record of 331 participants at Forster Parkrun on 28 December 2024**

Chris Newell (Event Director) was Run Director for the day and stated:

"What a perfect cool morning for our new record of 331 participants at parkrun this morning. Wow! We thoroughly enjoyed having you from all over the country and thank you for joining us."

"Also, thank you to the extra vollies [volunteers] who jumped in at the last moment to make it all happen smoothly for you. We love a great parkrun and this morning was just that. It is great seeing everyone standing or sitting around chatting afterwards sharing their experiences and stories. Afterall, isn't that what parkrun's about?"



Above and right: They just kept coming at Forster parkrun!



Above: Visitors Sam (in black shirt) and his partner Madeline ran parkrun on New Year's Day. Photos supplied.

## An extra parkrun was held on New Year's Day

James Quiring was Run Director (RD) for Wednesday the 1st of January 2025 and stated:

"Thank you to the 143 participants and 16 volunteers that helped us welcome in 2025 at Forster parkrun this morning. It was a beautiful if not slightly hot morning. We had 31 first timers to our course, including 2 parkrun first timers. Visitors came from Queensland, Victoria, Canberra and all over NSW. Twelve PBs (personal bests) were recorded for the event, but well done to everyone - especially those who stayed up and saw the New Year in, and even more so, those who couldn't remember if they did this morning! A big thanks to a wonderful team of vollies. You guys rock and make the RD job so easy!"

James chatted to some visiting participants and stated:

"What a wonderful start to 2025 Forster parkrun. This morning, I thought I would have a chat with a few of the parkrun family to see what brings them to our beautiful parkrun."

"Welcome Sam Wilson. Sam and his partner, Madeline ran our parkrun today. Madeline also had their 2 small children in a pusher. They are holidaying at Seal Rocks and came in to do parkrun. Sam started at Nulkabar parkrun (near Cessnock) and now lives at Coonabarabran. Both are keen runners and enjoy parkrun because of the family friendly environment. Sam and Madeline did great times today and finished with smiles. Thank you so much for joining us. We hope to see you again."

"I also had a chat with Nick. He is holidaying from Sydney with his family. They love the Forster parkrun and have done about 10 here. It is a favourite because you can go for a swim after. Nick's partner, Kara did her 100 and 101st run at Forster parkrun. What an achievement. Thank you for having a chat with me."

### How to join in the fun

This free community 5km run/walk starts 8am every Saturday at the Pebbly Beach playground off Head Street in Forster. Newcomers are encouraged to arrive at 7:45am for an event briefing. Register for free and bring your printed parkrun ID.

To register, please visit: [www.parkrun.com.au](http://www.parkrun.com.au)

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