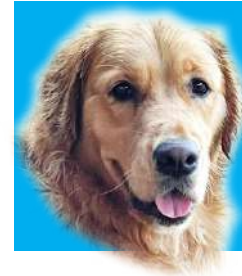


Local Business
Finalists p10 & 11

Local Identity
Peter Naylor p29



Star Pet
Nellie p27



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Wednesday 8 July 2026

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WE HAVE REACHED OUR 150TH EDITION WITH THIS BUMPER 36 PAGE ISSUE! THANK YOU TO OUR FANTASTIC WRITERS & THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL LOCAL ADVERTISERS WHO KEEP THIS FREE NEWSPAPER GOING. THE FORSTER FORTNIGHTLY IS PROUD TO BE A LOCAL FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

By Kerri Knight – Workshop
Coordinator

The Great Lakes and Greater Taree Music Workshop on June 16 and 17, 2026 was a fine example of how music can bring people together. Adult volunteers from the community bands of Taree and Forster as well as staff and students from our local schools, combined to play and sing in an ensemble of over 80 people. Students ranged in age from Year 3 to Year 12 with the oldest adult volunteer being almost 90.

This annual music workshop, heavily subsidised by the Department of Education Arts Units and funded by our local government schools, saw approximately 76 students play and sing their way through two days of music. A huge shout out must go to members of the Great Lakes Band and the Manning Concert Band for their support in mentoring students from Tuncurry and Forster Public Schools. The students from the Great Lakes College also provided perfect modelling and support for our younger players.

The combined band played a variety of music from Rock to Ballads - however the favourite was the finale where the choir joined with the band to perform Baby Shark.

Finale Favourite!



Above & left: 76 students took part in the 2 day music workshop. Photos supplied.

The atmosphere on the return bus trip to school was electric. The students' excitement and energy was infectious as they spoke, at volume, of the joy of playing and singing together. Students were already committing to participate in next year's workshop. There was enthusiasm from the tutors, volunteers and also Club Forster who were happy to have us back. All round, a positive community event.

A huge thanks to Forster Public School for making their bus available for our use. Thank you also to Club Forster for once again providing, free of charge, the venue for the workshop. 'The Backyard' play area always proves a favourite with the students and staff.

See p32 for Annual Great Lakes Band Concert.

Former Atwea student speaks out over sudden closure

By Sophia McCaughan - Forster
Fortnightly

Students of Atwea College in Tuncurry face an uncertain future after the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) closed on Tuesday, June 30.

The announcement was made on Monday, May 25.

Many students reached out to The Forster Fortnightly to talk about their experience studying with Atwea, which this publication understands had been delivering outstanding training services up until its closure.

We reached out to Atwea College with a series of questions surrounding the closure of its training services in an effort to provide clarity and transparency to the community.

Atwea College said that the decision to transition away from an RTO followed a detailed review of its long-term sustainability, including financial performance, funding trends, regulatory requirements, student transition obligations and its future strategic direction.

Atwea said it announced the decision once the review, governance process and transition planning had progressed to the point where the organisation could communicate those affected responsibly.

But for affected student Courtney Lucas, she believes that Atwea College's Head Office should have been more transparent when enrolling prospective students for courses.

Courtney commenced her studies on Thursday, May 14, only two weeks before she was informed that she would no longer be able to continue her Individual Support Ageing/Disability Skill Set that she was set to complete in September.

Continued on page 2.





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Rainbow Flat Rural Fire Brigade volunteers. More photos p13.

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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.

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

Former Atwea student speaks out over sudden closure

Continued from p 1.

"They (Atwea College) weren't very transparent, that's for sure," she said.

"Atwea did not indicate at all in the enrolment process through the sign up online that this was something that was going to happen."

Atwea College said a key factor in the timing of the decision was the need for it to determine whether it could responsibly commit to another year of funded training delivery.

Courtney said she has questions about what happens to her funding she got through the state government's Adult and Community Education Program (ACE).

"I gave them all the information when I signed up for the course, so I would assume that they got the funding," she said.

Atwea said that questions regarding the reallocation of funding are matters for the NSW Department of Education.

Courtney said if the decision to close as an RTO had been in discussion for the last year, there should have been some sort of disclosure made before the teaching period started.

"They (Atwea) just ran it like it was another year," she explained.

"If I had known that they were going to do that (close), no one would have signed up, I would not have, that's for sure."

"I think a lot of other people wouldn't have either."

Courtney considers herself as one of the "lucky" students, she's able to continue studying her course at TAFE NSW in Tuncurry



Atwea College in Tuncurry.

- already working in the aged care/disability sector - this option is not available to students who are not working in the industry and are studying.

She told the Forster Fortnightly that there was some support offered, with Atwea sending out a list of alternative RTO's.

"They did send us a list of all the providers in our area, but then again, a lot of them are well over 30km's travel," Courtney explained.

"You need to have a car, make sure you have the fuel, take time out from your work... it's all this cost, which families can't afford."

Atwea College acknowledged that students in Tuncurry face practical challenges and cannot guarantee that every student will have an identical local delivery option.

Courtney said she has not been given any individual support.

"When it comes to them reaching out, no, I've just been going through their emails," she said.

"They're not really giving me much information or support."

The Forster Fortnightly will continue to report on the closure of Atwea College.

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Doctors at Manning Base Hospital "dismayed and angry" over Redevelopment & theatre accreditation concerns

By Mary Yule - Forster Fortnightly

The Manning Great Lakes Community Health Action Group (MGLCHAG) says it has learned of significant concerns among doctors at Manning Base Hospital (MBH) following a visit by the new Head of Hunter New England Health (HNEH) Infrastructure on 22 June regarding the hospital's Stage 2 and Stage 3 Redevelopment.

According to MGLCHAG, the meeting was held to explain the redevelopment plans and HNEH's funding proposal to the hospital's Staff Medical Council. Prior to the meeting, the Head of Infrastructure had reportedly indicated that two redevelopment options would be presented, including the possibility of combining some of Stages 2 and 3.

MGLCHAG President Eddie Wood said the presentation left doctors deeply disappointed.

"Unfortunately, the presentation by the Head of Infrastructure was an absolute disaster," Eddie said.

The Head of Infrastructure advised the Medical Staff Council there was insufficient funding to complete Stage 2 in full and acknowledged that no final costings or detailed ongoing planning had been completed. A proposal seeking additional funding, which had previously been expected by June, had not been finalised or submitted.

Apparently, the previous acting Head of Infrastructure was preparing a draft funding submission, but it was not completed by the newly appointed Head, highlighting what was described as poor communication within the executive team.

Eddie said, "At the meeting the doctors said they were asked to choose between allocating



Above: Members of the Manning Great Lakes Community Health Action Group (L-R) Tom McDonald, Eddie Wood (President), Trish Wood, Carmel Bartlett and Pat Maunsell. Absent Alan Tickle and Scott Grant. The MGLCHAG have advocated for better health services in the Manning Great Lakes region for 10 years. Photo by Mary Yule.

available funding towards redevelopment works or upgrading key clinical areas, including the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Children's Ward and operating theatres.

"The doctors were stunned and dismayed," he said.

Eddie also claims doctors were informed that the hospital's operating theatres do not currently meet accreditation standards and, if audited today, could fail accreditation requirements, potentially leading to their closure unless upgrades are undertaken.

Eddie said the consequences of any theatre closure would be severe.

"There could be a possibility of no elective surgery and no emergency surgery. Surgeons and staff would leave. The impact on the hospital, its workforce and the wider community would be monumental."

He said discussions are now taking place between the hospital's General Manager and the Staff Medical Council regarding the possibility of reducing clinical services because of

funding constraints and the incomplete Stage 2 redevelopment.

Eddie criticised what he described as a lack of communication and accountability within Hunter New England Health.

"There appears to be a total lack of accurate communication, commitment and leadership at executive level," he said. "There is constant staff turnover and little accountability. There also appears to be no system or dedicated funding for the ongoing maintenance of hospital departments."

He further stated that medical staff had once again been let down by commitments that were made but not fulfilled.

"It is disgraceful that the operating theatres are allegedly not up to accreditation standards," Eddie said. "It is also deplorable that doctors are being asked at this late stage to decide whether existing funding should be spent on maintenance and repairs or on a reduced Stage 2 redevelopment."

Eddie also noted there was mention of an Urgent Care Centre at Forster, but the money for it would apparently be taken out of the \$180 million funding allocated for the Stage Two Redevelopment at MBH. Nothing whatsoever was said about an Urgent Care Centre at Bulahdelah.

"The doctors are totally dismayed and angry," he said. "Who can blame them?"

"Our committee is also angry and horrified at the total lack of will and intent to fulfill the empty promises over the last 10 years to improve the health care needs of our area."



Left: Demolition of the old buildings at Manning Base Hospital in Taree was completed months ago in September/October 2025. October 2025, April 2026 and June 2026 were mentioned as starting dates with still no action. Photo supplied.

ACCC continues to monitor fuel prices as excise is partly restored



By Sophia McCaughan - Forster Fortnightly

The Federal Government is continuing its temporary cut in the fuel excise at a reduced rate while the consumer watchdog says it will monitor fuel price changes closely.

From July 1 until August 2, the fuel excise cut will be lowered from 32 cents per litre to 16 cents per litre.

On March 30 this year, the Federal Government announced that it would temporarily halve the fuel excise tax on petrol and diesel for three months from April 1 2026.

Together with an agreement with state and territory governments to forgo GST revenue on fuel, the overall excise reduction was 32 cents per litre.

On June 21 this year, the Federal Government announced it would be extending the temporary cut in the fuel excise but at a reduced rate.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) wrote to fuel retailers in June reminding them not to take advantage of the partial restoration in excise to profit at the expense of consumers.

ACCC Commissioner, Anna Brakey said in a statement that the watchdog expects that fuel retailers will not attempt to take advantage of the increase in excise.

"We will closely examine fuel price movements and market behaviour following the increase in fuel excise," she said.

"We will not hesitate to take action if retailers make false or misleading statements about price movements or if there is evidence of anti-competitive behaviour."

The ACCC will continue to provide weekly fuel price updates for all capital cities and over 190 regional locations.

The watchdog moved from quarterly to weekly monitoring reports in March this year, following the start of the Middle East conflict.

Australian retail fuel prices are largely determined by movements in international benchmark refined fuel prices (which are driven by international crude oil prices), and the AUD-USD exchange rate.

International benchmark prices movements drive domestic wholesale prices, which then influence retail fuel prices.

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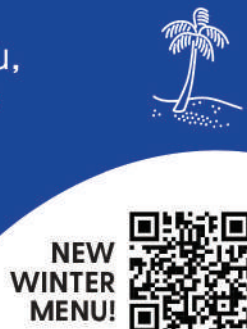
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We've just rolled out an exciting new Winter Menu, featuring a range of new signature dishes and, as always, our contemporary take on pub classics!

To view our new menu, scan the QR code or visit our website.

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Tanya's
Community Update

The NSW Parliament is now in its winter recess, which means I will be spending the month of July where I belong right here in the Myall Lakes electorate, meeting with locals, attending community events and continuing to advocate for the services our region deserves.



Over the past fortnight, the NSW Budget was handed down and, disappointingly, there was very little in it for regional communities. At a time when we need greater investment in healthcare, roads, housing and essential services, regional NSW has once again been overlooked. I will continue fighting to ensure our communities receive their fair share.

I was pleased to welcome NSW Nationals Leader, Gurmeh Singh, to the region. We met with small businesses across both the Manning and Great Lakes to hear firsthand about the challenges they are facing and the opportunities they see for the future. I also took the opportunity to show him both Manning Hospital and the Forster Health Site as we continue pushing for better health services across our growing region.

My annual village visits will commence soon, so keep an eye on social media, local newspapers, and radio for details. There is plenty happening across our communities, including the upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations of Club Forster. I have enjoyed attending several Rotary and Lions changeover meetings in recent weeks and thank all our volunteers for the enormous contribution they make to community life.

As always, if you need assistance, please contact my office. I am always here to help.

Tanya Thompson- Member for Myall Lakes.

Local labourer speaks out about the effects of climate change on his work

By Sophia McCaughan - Forster Fortnightly

A Forster-based labourer is speaking out about the effects of climate change on his work, compelled to make the community aware of the serious problems facing the industry as temperatures continue to rise.

Shannon Jones has been in the landscaping industry for the last 30 years, and has seen the climate change significantly since he started in the sector in the 1990s.

"The effects of climate change on labourers is an occupational health and safety issue," he explained.

"It (climate change) is leading to increased heat stress and sunstroke...the increased heat and humidity in this region is taking its toll."

Australia's climate has warmed by an average of 0.23 degrees since national records began in 1910 according to the Bureau of Meteorology's (the Bureau) State of the Climate Report published in 2024.

In the Bureau's report it found that warming has led to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events over land and in the oceans, while heavy short-term rainfall events are becoming more intense and frequent.

This explains why Summer is feeling longer (and hotter) while Winter is feeling significantly milder and distinctions between seasons are less noticeable.

For Shannon it means having to reduce how many days a week he works, so he can manage heat stress symptoms.

"I've cut back work to three days a week, and I'm lucky that I am heading towards retirement, as opposed to the younger generation who have to work really really hard in the heat five days a week," he explained.

"It's (climate change) already an issue but it's going to get worse for anyone that has to deal with weather in their workplace."



Above: Forster-based labourer, Shannon Jones is speaking out about the impact of climate change on workers. Photo by Sophia McCaughan.

However, he explained that in the last decade he's noticed that the weather has changed rapidly in the region.

"Our weather was absolutely perfect, and it's really rapidly changing every year," Shannon said.

"I've been dealt with some tough conditions, but I had it perfect here (Forster)... and now it (the weather) is just changing rapidly every year now."

For Shannon, he said the heat takes a toll on his body not just physically but mentally.

The Bureau's long-range forecast for Winter predicts that in New South Wales and the ACT rainfall is likely to be below average, but coastal areas (like Forster-Tuncurry) may not see those discrepancies.

Above average temperatures are likely across the state in the day and overnight for most areas, with an increased risk of fire during Winter in parts of central and northern New South Wales.

Shannon said he's worked in a range of places from Mount Isa to the Gold Coast, but it wasn't until he got to Forster where he said the weather was the best to work in.

"It just breaks you, it takes a toll on you, and it's (the heat) is just going to get worse and worse as the years go by," he explained.

Shannon told The Forster Fortnightly that the reason he wanted to speak about the issue of climate change and the impact it has on labourers, is because he worries about the younger generation entering the industry.

"The next generation of workers will be subjected to even worse conditions than I have, and I worry about them," he said.

"It's the reality now that it's getting hotter and hotter every year."

Getting ahead can be tough!



Above: Physiotherapist Lucy Cannon has returned to work locally after four years of studying at Charles Sturt University at Port Macquarie. Lucy believes the financial support she received from GLEF over the four years was crucial and encourages everyone to apply.



Great Lakes Education Fund

Leaving your home, town, family and friends to study or train can be tough...and expensive! The costs can be prohibitive - accommodation, bond, travel, groceries, tools, etc. For some, it can be too much. Yet, for most in the Great Lakes there are few alternatives. The university campuses and many of the TAFE and private college campuses require moving out or expensive regular travel. Some apprentices may live locally but still need to travel distances regularly for their courses.

THAT'S WHERE THE GREAT LAKES EDUCATION FUND (GLEF) CAN HELP!

Just ask local physiotherapist Lucy Cannon who has returned to work locally after four years of studying at Charles Sturt University at Port Macquarie. Lucy (pictured) believes the financial support she received from GLEF over the four years was crucial. "I couldn't have done it without their help. The financial support and the advice and care I received was wonderful" Lucy said. She encourages everyone to apply.

If you are between 16 and 25, have a clear idea of what you want to study or train in after school, a plan to get there, live or have studied in the 2428 postal area, and can demonstrate a financial need - the Great Lakes Education Fund may be able to help. GLEF provides economic support to young people who want to have a go but will struggle financially. Just follow the link below:

<https://cef.org.au/apply-for-a-grant/>
Applications for 2027 close at 5.00pm on 30 September 2026

In 2026 GLEF is providing financial (and other) support to 30 young people in a wide variety career directions. We're helping young people chase their dreams.

GLEF has a wonderful group of individuals, service groups and local businesses who are our community partners and help us support students. If you would like to become part of our community partner scheme please contact via GLEF email.

For further information contact GLEF via email at gl.educationfund@gmail.com

Confirmed case of H5 bird flu detected in Mid North Coast

By Sophia McCaughan - Forster Fortnightly

New South Wales is responding to a confirmed detection of H5 bird flu in a giant petrel found near Hawks Nest.

Lab results from the CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness confirmed on Saturday (July 4) the bird had the highly pathogenic avian influenza.

This is the sixth confirmed case of H5N1 strain recorded in migratory seabirds in

Australia, with five other cases detected in Western Australia since June 19.

At this stage, bird flu has not been detected in commercial poultry flocks, captive births or any other birds in NSW at the time of writing (July 6).

The current risk of bird flu to people in Australia is low.

There is no evidence of any mass mortality in wildlife or spread to other animals.

If you see sick or dead birds or other animals, do not touch them.

Members of the public are urged to avoid contact with any dead or sick birds or animals showing signs of bird flu.

**Report sightings to the
Emergency Animal Disease Hotline
on 1800 675 888
or birdflu.gov.au.**



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Member for Myall Lakes

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MidCoast Council meeting summary: 29 June 2026



Above: Following a report on the public meeting held at the Manning Entertainment Centre in Taree on 24 March 2026, Councillors have endorsed four key priorities for action with 13 identified actions for further investigation. Photo supplied.

Local Heritage fund

More than \$28,000 will be provided to applicants as part of the local heritage fund for 2026-27. A total of 17 applicants will share in the almost \$29,000 available.

The Local Heritage Fund is jointly funded by Council and Heritage NSW. It has been successful in providing a 'helping hand' to landowners of heritage places who are often faced with higher costs to maintain their heritage place. These higher costs are often attributed to the need to undertake heritage strategies or use specific building materials, construction methods or specialist services to maintain the heritage character.

Successful applicants have received funding for projects such as external painting, roof replacement, repair to external timbers, repairs and restorations.

276 Wingham Road, Taree demolition and construction of a service station

A service station on Wingham Road will not go ahead after Councillors supported the recommendation to deny approval for the application. It was found that the development would likely result in unacceptable impacts, including visual, overshadowing, light spill, noise and unresolved traffic access impact. The site was not considered suitable for the development and the proposal was not in the public's best interest.

Proposed code SEPP amendments for paper subdivision areas

Councillors voted to refer the Planning Proposal – Code SEPP Amendments for Paper Subdivision Areas to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to progress to the final stage following the community consultation process.

The proposal will result in a planning change for several paper subdivision areas in the MidCoast which will result in development applications being required for small structures that are currently allowed as exempt development.

It also proposes local exempt development provisions for land with a dwelling entitlement or lawfully established dwelling, so that limited ancillary development can still occur without development consent where appropriate.

A total of 163 submissions were received during the public exhibition period for the proposal, with feedback including a mix of support and opposition. The proposal was supported by those who had concerns about the deteriorating amenity, environmental impacts and unauthorised activity in paper subdivision areas. Submissions in opposition to the proposed changes considered the changes unreasonable.

Following consideration of submissions received during the consultation process no changes are proposed to the intent of the planning proposal, which will be referred to the Department of Planning for gazetting.

Boronia Park netball naming proposal

Council will now call for feedback to name the Boronia Park Netball facility The Pauline Carr Netball Centre. If no objections are received the proposal will be adopted. If objections are taken, a report will be presented to Council.

Forster Little Street boat ramp management
The Forster Little Street boat ramp will be closed on an annual basis between 15 December until 31 January. Signage and bollards will be put in place during these times. The closure will improve safety risks during peak holiday times.

This follows a two-year safety trial.

Manning Entertainment Centre – meeting outcome

Following a report on the public meeting held on 24 March 2026 Councillors have endorsed four key priorities for action with 13 identified actions for further investigation.

The meeting explored financial sustainability options with many suggestions being presented by the community.

The feedback showed strong support for the MEC as a valued cultural and community asset. Many people highlighted its role in providing live performance experiences and opportunities for local artists and school groups. Also, that it is a welcoming venue supported by dedicated staff and volunteers.

Community members made it clear that financial sustainability should not come at the expense of access, affordability or the venue's community purpose.

Council staff will undertake investigations to build on existing business improvement activity, industry benchmarking and respond to ideas raised by the community.

Special meeting to endorse plans for coming year

(See article on p9)

Rates and other fees & charges

(See article on p9)

For full details of all reports please see <https://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes>

The next meeting is on Wednesday 29 July.

Community Regen morning at Forster Community Garden



Karuah & Great Lakes Landcare

Come down and join the Barray Alliance Worimi Rangers and community volunteers as they regenerate and transform this site.

No need to RSVP, just turn up in boots, hat and full-length protective clothes. Morning tea and spare tools and gloves provided.

Friday 17th July 8.30am -12.30pm,
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For more information, please contact Joël greatlakes@midcoast2tops.org.au

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15-19 CASSANDRA CRESCENT
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- Private garden and covered outdoor area
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As part of the trusted GLAICA community, residents enjoy peace of mind & access to a range of lifestyle amenities at nearby GLAICA House.

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Your way of life.*

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- Medical Centres & Services
- Shopping & Cafes
- Bowling Club & Sports
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MEDICAL

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tuncurry Medical Centre | 1.1km / 13 min walk |
| 2. Forster Medical Centre | 4.3km / 8 min drive |
| 3. Forster Private Hospital | 4.3km / 8 min drive |

SHOPPING

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Woolworths Tuncurry | 1.2km / 14 min walk |
| 2. Stocklands Forster | 6.1km / 12 min drive |
| 3. Wharf Street Shops | 2.6km / 6 min drive |

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tuncurry Beach | 1.6km / 18 min walk |
| 2. Tuncurry Rock Pool | 1.7km / 20 min walk |
| 3. Forster Main Beach | 2.9km / 6 min drive |
| 4. Forster Marina | 3.8km / 6 min drive |

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- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Forster Bowling Club | 3.7km / 6 min drive |
| 2. Tuncurry Bowling Club | 900m / 3 min drive |
| 3. Sporties Tuncurry | 1.5 km / 5 min drive |

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tuncurry Post Office | 980m / 12 min walk |
| 2. Forster Post Office | 6.5km / 11 min drive |
| 3. Forster Library | 3.3km / 5 min drive |

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MidCoast Council's four year plan & 2026–27 budget

MidCoast Council

MidCoast Council has adopted its revised four-year Delivery Program and 2026–27 Operational Plan and Budget, setting the direction for Council services, projects and spending over the next 12 months.

The plans were adopted at Council's Ordinary Meeting on Monday 29 June, following a community consultation period.

Mayor Claire Pontin thanked everyone who took the time to read the draft documents and provide feedback.

"When you look at our Delivery Program and Operation Plan, you're seeing the concrete ways we're planning to turn community priorities into actions through our delivery of services and projects," said Mayor Pontin.

"We've had to strike a careful balance between delivering on what the community wants while remaining financially sustainable and meeting legislative requirements."

Like many regional and rural councils, MidCoast Council continues to face growing financial pressures from rising costs, limited income sources and the ongoing impacts of natural disasters. At the same time, it manages almost \$6 billion worth of infrastructure across more than 10,000 square kilometres.

"We know our community wants better roads, reliable services and well-maintained facilities," she said.

"We've worked hard to find savings and direct more funding into roads while continuing to provide the essential services our community relies on."

Roads remain Council's biggest investment, with almost \$149 million allocated in 2026–27. This includes:

- around \$19 million for road maintenance



- more than \$39 million for road capital works, and
- more than \$90 million for natural disaster recovery works following the May 2025 floods, under Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements.

Council has also identified more than \$4 million in operational savings, allowing extra funding to be redirected into road improvements.

Other major investments in the 2026–27 budget include:

- \$69 million for sewer infrastructure upgrades
- \$25 million for water infrastructure projects
- \$17 million for landfill upgrades and environmental compliance
- \$11.5 million for the new Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) processing facility

- \$6 million for community assets including sporting facilities, parks and public amenities
- \$900,000 for stormwater drainage improvements.

Rates and other fees and charges

The adopted budget includes a 3.1% increase in general rates, in line with the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) annual rate peg.

The rate peg recognises inflationary pressures and allows all councils to increase their income to a set maximum

each year. However, it does not translate into a 3.1% increase in rates across households.

Individual rates depend on the Valuer General's assessment.

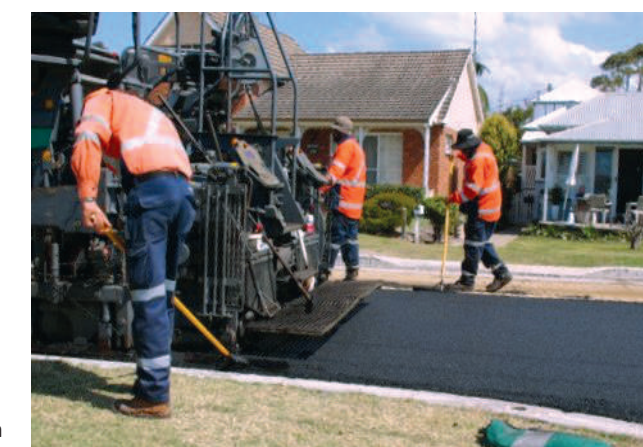
Waste charges will increase by 3.1%, while water charges will increase by 5%, and sewer charges by 5.5%.

Mayor Pontin said these increases were necessary to keep up with rising costs.

During the public exhibition period, Council received 71 submissions which were carefully considered before adopting the Operation Plan and Budget. The main topics raised included proposed Manning Entertainment Centre hiring fees, compliance issues at North Arm Cove, sporting infrastructure and the fairness of rates.

The adopted Delivery Program 2025–2029 (Revised 2026–27), Operational Plan and Budget 2026–27, and Fees and Charges are available on Council's website at <https://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/DPOP>

See page 6 for Summary of Council meeting.



Inside Forster's Australia Post Delivery Centre

By Sophia McCaughan - Forster Fortnightly

The Forster Fortnightly were offered a behind-the-scenes look at the day-to-day operations at Australia Post's Delivery Centre in Forster.

Priscilla Derriman is the Facility Manager for Forster Operations which includes Forster-Tuncurry, Pacific Palms, Taree and Bulahdelah.

She also oversees operations in Taylor's Beach, Cessnock, Singleton and Muswellbrook.

Ms Derriman said the day starts bright and early with delivery trucks from Newcastle arriving at the facility with tens of thousands of parcels at about 5.30am in the morning.

"Our workers start bright and early, they unload the trucks...they then sort out their parcels, straighten up their mail and then head out to deliver," she explained.

"They're usually indoors for about three hours or so and then they are out delivering mail and parcels to the community for the rest of their shift."

There are 11 postmen/postwomen also known as "posties" contracted at Forster who deliver small parcels and letters on a daily basis.

You may see them on your daily walks, scooting around on their little three-wheeler electric motorbikes.

Then there are the 12 contractors who then service Bulahdelah, Pacific Palms, Nabiac, Stroud, Gloucester while also delivering larger parcels throughout Forster-Tuncurry.

With online shopping becoming the way-to-go since the pandemic, Ms Derriman says the organisation has had to employ more parcel contractors to keep-up with the demand of parcel delivery.

"Last year, Australia Post saw 356,000 parcels come through the Delivery Centre in Forster," she said.

Most of those parcels were delivered during the peak times at the Delivery Centre.



Above: Just some of the team at the Forster Delivery Centre (L-R) Ben, Suzie, Marcus and Priscilla.

Right: Australia Post's Forster Delivery Centre.

Photos by Sophia McCaughan.

For the Forster location, the peak period begins in the second last week of November and lasts for about four to six weeks.

"During that four to five week period leading up to Christmas we normally work for six days a week," Ms Derriman explained.

"We all work on the Saturday, just so we can ensure that all the product is being moved through and delivered on-time."

Ms Derriman is hitting a big milestone at Australia Post this year, where she will be celebrating 30 years with the organisation.

She said there have been some big changes in her time, especially as letters die out and parcel delivery continues to increase.

"When I first started here in Forster, we had on average

about three parcel contractors, and now we are sitting at over 10," she explained.

"Those three contractors would take maybe 50 or 60 parcels a day each, so we were only seeing 150 to 200 parcels coming through the building back then."

Australia Post is one of the country's oldest companies and Ms Derriman said it continues to evolve while meeting the needs of residents and businesses.

She said while Australia Post strives to get things right, sometimes it doesn't always go to plan.

Ms Derriman encourages those who have complaints to lodge them with Australia Post whether it be online, over-the-phone, through letter or in-store at the post office.

"If you do make a complaint, they will get read, there is someone looking at it," she explained.

"You will never get a generic response."



Youth mentors recognised

2026 Outdoors NSW & ACT Industry Awards

Two community members are helping shape brighter futures for vulnerable young people and families across the Mid North Coast.

Aaron Dodds and Josie Valenti from 'Into The Wild Adventures' and charity 'Soaring Into the Wilderness Inc', have been recognised as finalists in the 2026 Outdoors NSW & ACT Industry Awards, with three of their flagship programs also named as finalists: Next-Gen Men, Connection & Confidence, and the Lamington Club Men's Group. To be recognised alongside some of the state's most respected outdoor education and community development organisations is an incredible honour and reflects the growing impact of their work on the ground.

Every week, Into The Wild works alongside vulnerable children, teenagers, young adults



Aaron Dodds and Josie Valenti are finalists.

and families through NDIS, Youth Justice, Out of Home Care, schools and community services. Their programs are designed to move young people away from isolation, anxiety and excessive screen time, helping them discover confidence, resilience and purpose through meaningful experiences in nature.



Winners will be announced at the Outdoor Industry Awards on 16th July 2026, Huskisson NSW.

Expression of Interest for "Barrington Coast Bounty"

MidCoast Council

Farmers, growers and food and beverage producers across the region are invited to be part of an exciting new agritourism initiative, with expressions of interest now open for participation in the inaugural Barrington Coast Bounty program.

Taking place 1-31 March 2027, Barrington Coast Bounty will present a curated program of



farm gate and food and beverage experiences, inviting visitors to step behind the scenes and discover the people and produce that define the Barrington Coast.

Participating in Barrington Coast Bounty offers a unique opportunity for producers to share their story, generate additional income, and contribute to a collective showcase of the region's local produce and agricultural strengths.

Submit your expression of interest before 12pm on 12 July 2026.

https://au.openforms.com/Form/89cd0008-6bbe-48d9-ad5d-56234e142e5f?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

2026 North Coast Regional Tourism Awards Finalists

MidCoast Council

Congratulations to our local businesses named as finalists in the 2026 North Coast Regional Tourism Awards.

These awards recognise the innovation, resilience and dedication of the region's tourism operators, highlighting those who deliver outstanding visitor experiences and contribute to the strength of the visitor economy.

Winners will be announced on 30 July at the 2026 North Coast Tourism Symposium & Regional Tourism Awards.

Our local finalists are:

Amaroo Escape Glamping, Barefoot Boats, Discovery Parks Forster, Manning River Ferry Services, Mograni Creek Estate, Pacific



Ocean Brewery, The Ridge Gloucester, What's Beyond the Mile, Destination Barrington Coast (Visitor Information Centres)

Finalists for MidCoast Business Awards

By Jessica Grey – Forster Tuncurry Business Chamber

The Forster Tuncurry Business Chamber is proud to announce the finalists for the 2026 Coastline Bank MidCoast Business Awards.

Following a record 251 entries, independent judges selected finalists across 20 categories. Winners will be announced at the Gala Awards Night on Saturday, 1 August 2026 at Club Forster.

The Forster Tuncurry Business Chamber congratulates every finalist on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to celebrating with the MidCoast business community at the Gala Awards Night

Categories still being finalised: Best Customer Service; Excellence in Workplace Health & Wellbeing; Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion.

Best Hospitality Business

Pacific Ocean Brewery; Bake & Brew Coffee Company; Bukos Bistro; The Natural Waffle Ice Cream Parlour; Thirty Three Degrees; Nate's Pizzeria; Kayes Kitchen Wingham

Best Personal Services Business

MidCoast Hearing; Annie Rose Academy of Dance; Glow Beauty Therapy; Luxe on Manning; Beauty on Bella Skin Care; Forster Tuncurry Rehabilitation Centre

Best Professional Services Business

Mortgage Choice Taree & Forster; Caring Care; MidCoast Hearing; Into the Wild Adventures; Creative Shell; Taree Pool Supplies; Life Skills 4 Kids; The Well Suited Group; Insure More

Best Retail Business

Great Lakes Pharmacy; FoodWorks Hallidays Point; Wild Cosmo Flowers; Picture This! Custom Framing; Releve Dance Collective; Nate's Pizzeria; Taree Pool Supplies; Glow Beauty Therapy; Stroud Butchery

Best Education & Training Business

GeckoSports MidCoast; Hummingbird



Above: Mid Coast Veterinary Hospital are finalists for People's Choice Award - Service.

Performing Arts; Forster Dive Centre; VERTO Self Employment Services; Valley Industries; Into the Wild Adventures; Creative Shell; Luxe on Manning; Annie Rose Academy of Dance

Outstanding New Business

Dreamy Meadows Studio; MidCoast Stairs; Queen of Hearts Beauty Therapy; What's Beyond the Mile; Balance & Flow Business Support; Barrington Coast Vets; Brush Turkey Books

Best Visitor Experience

The Natural Waffle Ice Cream Parlour; Pacific Ocean Brewery; Forster Dive Centre; The Original Tea Gardens Ferry

Outstanding Community Organisation

Great Lakes FM; Soaring Into the Wilderness; CatholicCare Social Services Hunter/Manning; Ronald McDonald House Family Retreat; Old Bar Beach Festival; VERTO Self Employment Services

Outstanding Business Leader

Nathan Gauci; Deb Hopper; Melissa Battishall; Kerrie Jeffreys; Mark Barratt; Lauren Calvert;

Adam Clarke; Trudy Potts; Debra Kay Atkinson; Terry Green

Best Innovation Business

Glow Beauty Therapy; Stroud Butchery; Releve Dance Collective; Law K9 Gym; Nate's Pizzeria; Creative Shell; Life Skills 4 Kids

Best Sustainability Business

Daisy Bangs; Bears Tyrepower; Forster Dive Centre; Talking Timber; Luxe on Manning

Best Trade Business

Bears Tyres; Active 24/7 Locksmiths & Security; Distinctive Building; Kev's Handyman Service; Mackie Electric & Refrigeration; Taree Pool Supplies; Local Pest Experts; MD Auto Electrical & Mechanical; Caiban Electrical

Business Recognition Award

Glow Beauty Therapy; Big Air Indoor Bike Park; Matthew Fawcett; Picture This! Custom Framing; Into the Wild Adventures; VERTO Self Employment Services

Outstanding Employee

Amelia Harris – Great Lakes Pharmacy; Mark



Above: Brush Turkey Books at Wingham are finalists for Outstanding New Business and for People's Choice Award - Product.

Barratt – Bears Tyres; Beth Woolnough – Caring Care; April Riley – Glow Beauty Therapy; Liv – Local Pest Experts; Mackie Electric & Refrigeration

Outstanding Young Business Leader

Matthew McQuillan – MidCoast Stairs; Shelley Kurtz – Creative Shell; Emma Webster – Releve Dance Collective; Matthew Fawcett – Insure More; Hannah Rylewski – Odyssey Cheer & Dance; Amelie Clarke – Forster Dive Centre

People's Choice Award – Service

Manning Veterinary Hospital; Releve Dance Collective; Rejuv Skin Clinic; GeckoSports MidCoast; Roswell World Travel & Cruise; Creative Shell; Reform Motion Pilates Studio; Barrington Coast Vets; JM Envision Designs; Wholesome Care Supports

People's Choice Award – Product

Billy T Cafe; Pacific Ocean Brewery; Modan Kitchen; Nate's Pizzeria; Top of the Town Shoes; Uptown Country; JD Pitt Stop; Picture This! Custom Framing; Stroud Butchery; Brush Turkey Books



Above: Terry Green from Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club is a finalist for Outstanding Business Leader.

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alison_penfold_for_lyne

Authorised by Alison Penfold MP, 144 Victoria Street, Taree NSW 2430.

Union warns against closures of AEC offices in regional NSW



By Sophia McCaughan - Forster Fortnightly

The union representing workers in the public sector is warning that Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office closures across regional New South Wales will cost regional communities local electoral expertise and access to trusted democratic services.

The Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) said cuts to regional public sector jobs will have negative impacts on the workers and their families - impacting communities who rely on the trusted and trained public services they deliver.

It comes after the Federal Government made decisions which will look at the possibility of four regional offices to close - relocating to a hub at Coffs Harbour.

Taree's AEC divisional office for Lyne is proposed to close in October next year while Grafton will close in May of next year.

The CPSU says the Federal Government needs to reconsider its proposed closure of the Taree AEC office (pictured left).

Photo by Sophia McCaughan.

The other two offices that are set to be closed this year are Armidale and West Kempsey, which are already temporarily closed, but are set to close permanently in August and October respectively.

The CPSU said regional communities rely on AEC divisional offices as a cornerstone of representative democracy, supporting truth and integrity of the electoral process, political participation, democratic enfranchisement and civic education.

Union Deputy Secretary, Rebecca Fawcett said the office closures are a risk to democracy.

"If these offices are scaled back or removed, we risk cutting people off from the knowledge and engagement that underpin a strong, healthy democracy," she said.

"The closures don't just cut jobs; they strip regional communities of secure employment, local expertise and the public services that help keep them connected, represented and engaged in the democratic process."

Ms Fawcett said the union is urgently calling on the Federal Government to reconsider its decision.

"The CPSU is calling on the Federal Government to reconsider this decision and work with workers, unions and the community to ensure the integrity and accessibility of our electoral system is protected," she said.

While the AEC has not publicly announced that the Taree AEC divisional office for Lyne will close within the next 12-months, the Forster Fortnightly contacted the AEC for comment.

In a statement a spokesperson from the AEC said while it has not announced the closure of its office in Taree, it can confirm staff consultations are underway with staff about the impacts of a potential move.

"This consultation does not mean that an office closure is imminent, but rather that the AEC is considering options for that location," the spokesperson said.

"While I appreciate that any discussion of office closures can surface concerns related to access to services, the reality is that foot traffic to our offices (including in Taree) is low and continues to decline, which reflects a national trend of the vast majority of voters preferring to deal with the AEC online."

The AEC said office location does not impact voter services and regardless of office location, voting services like pre-polling and polling places at the next federal election will continue to be planned according to the needs of the electorate.

Readers are encouraged to voice their concerns or ask any questions by calling the AEC on 13 23 26 to speak to a representative.

See p24 for Letter to the Editor.

Rotary Changeover & International Theme for 2026/2027



Above: The RCLMC incoming Board (L-R) Brad Fletcher (President), Brian Mitchell, David Lavicka, Kez Murphy, Lance Fletcher, Lindsay Woolnough, Mark Davies and Ian Croker.

Photos by Marilyn Levick.

By Mark Davies – Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast

The Annual Changeover of the RCLMC was held on Tuesday the 30th of June at Sporties Tuncurry.

Our main speaker for the evening was Jess Edwards who we sponsored for the recent RYLA Camp (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards: Ages 19-27). Jess spoke regarding her incredible journey at the RYLA Camp including growing as a person in confidence in a number of areas including public speaking and making some great friends.

Rotary International's Theme for this year 2026/2027 is 'Create a Lasting Impact' and a core part of how we do this is through fundraising. Last year the RCLMC raised almost \$15,000 for various local, regional and international Rotary/Community Projects including almost \$5000 to our main partner Ronald McDonald Family Retreat Forster.

In December 2026 we will begin celebrating 70 years of Rotary locally in Tuncurry/Forster.

Thousands of peoples continue to enjoy a variety of local Rotary Projects each year including those that facilitate the enjoyment of magnificent local views. These include Rotary Lookouts and Walks at Bennetts Head and Pilot Hill or after an invigorating walk, the Cape Hawke Lookout which provides panoramic views of Wallis Lake and the Pacific Ocean. All great places to enjoy the dolphins and turtles,



Above: Jess Edwards - RYLA participant and main speaker at the Rotary Changeover.

etc, at any time of the year and the Humpback Whales frolicking as they head south and hug the coast with their "little ones" between September to early November.

(See p23 for Rotary's July Book Fair.)

Rainbow Flat Rural Fire Brigade: Ready to respond all year

By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

Like most rural fire brigades in our region, Rainbow Flat RFS has had a long and busy fire season, responding to callouts at North Arm Cove, Possum Brush, Rainbow Flat, Taree, Dumaresq Island, Koorainghat, Bulahdelah, Lansdowne State Forest Bulahdelah, Nerong, Nabiac, Markwell, Bunyah, Bulga Road and Bungwahl.

For the volunteers at Rainbow Flat Brigade, the season is never quite over. As well as training and maintenance nights and holding stalls at local markets, the Rainbow Flat crew are also on call to assist with motor vehicle accidents,

or MVAs, due to their proximity to the Pacific Highway and The Lakes Way.

'We provide fire protection and suppression when there is a motor vehicle accident on the road. We are protecting everyone involved including emergency service workers.' said Theresa Price, Community Engagement Officer. 'We usually stay until the vehicle is towed away, providing cleanups and assist in returning the roads to normal.'

During the Easter weekend this year the crew responded to a vehicle accident during heavy rain. The vehicle had left the freeway and needed a large emergency response. Supported



"We have an awesome team at Rainbow Flat," said Theresa Price. Photos supplied.

by Tinonee RFS, the crews gave fire protection and clean up so the highway could quickly reopen.

In January this year they responded to three separate accidents on the Pacific Highway and assisted with fluid spill and fire protection. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured in these accidents. Again, wet weather was involved.

For a hardworking crew, they also know how to have fun. At the end of May, Rainbow Flat RFS celebrated the end of the fire season with a

lunch and barefoot bowls for members, family, friends and a few members from Diamond Beach RFS.

Theresa said, "We have an awesome team at Rainbow Flat, however we're always looking for new members in our area to be part of our diverse team of women and men."

For enquiries, please contact Barry Price, Captain of Rainbow Flat RFB by email: rfrssecretary@gmail.com Or find us on Facebook.

Key stage underway



MidCoast Council

A key stage in the replacement of Wingham's Bight Bridge is now underway, with

geotechnical investigations commencing two weeks ago.

The investigations involve lifting a barge and core drilling rig into the Manning River, with a series of core samples to be collected from four locations across the river.

The information gathered will help engineers determine the foundation requirements for the new bridge, including how bridge abutments and piers need to be anchored into the riverbed to withstand future flood events and other loading conditions.

The current project timeline aims to have the bridge replacement project ready to go to tender in early 2027, with the intention of opening the new bridge to traffic in 2028.

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Manning - Great Lakes Police District Update

Dear Readers,

This fortnight I will detail two great arrests by local police, demonstrating our ongoing efforts to prevent, disrupt and respond to crime. I will also provide dates/details regarding two very important upcoming community meetings.

Two Arrests

A man will face court charged following a routine vehicle stop. About 3.45pm on Monday 22 June 2026, police stopped a vehicle in the Manning Great Lakes area for roadside testing. The alleged driver of the vehicle, a 24-year-old man, underwent a roadside drug test that allegedly returned a positive result to cocaine. The driver underwent a secondary oral fluid sample that will be sent for further analysis. Following inquiries, officers commenced a search of the vehicle. During the search, police allegedly located and seized \$1740 cash and approximately 20kg of ketamine. The ketamine has an estimated potential street value of \$1 million.

The man was arrested and taken to Forster Police Station where he was charged with

- Take part supply prohibited drug (greater than or equal to large commercial quantity)
- Possess prohibited drug and

- Recklessly deal with proceeds of crime (less than or equal to \$5000).
- He was refused bail.

A man will also face court charged



following a Manning Great Lakes Police District investigation into alleged drug and firearm offences. In June 2026, detectives established Strike Force Ontar to investigate alleged firearm and drug offences in Taree. About 7.50am on Friday 12 June 2026, police executed a search warrant at a home on Gwenneth Avenue, Taree. During the search, police allegedly located and seized a dart gun, gel blaster firearm, LifeCard folding pistol, firearm parts, ammunition, and several small resealable packages that are undergoing further examination. About 10.15am on Tuesday 23 June 2026, police attended a motel in Forster where a 28-year-old man was arrested.

He was taken to Forster Police Station where he was charged with six offences,

- Supply prohibited drugs on an ongoing basis
- Possess unauthorised pistol (two counts)
- Acquire firearm part without authority to do so
- Possess or use a prohibited weapon without permit, and
- Possess ammunition without holding licence/permit/authority.

He was refused bail.

Inquiries are continuing under Strike Force Ontar.

Upcoming PACC Meetings:

Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee (PACC) Meetings will be held in Taree and Forster later this month (see below for details). PACC meetings are community-led forums where local Aboriginal residents and



representatives collaborate with NSW Police to address crime prevention, safety, youth issues and family safety. These meetings are open to ALL local Aboriginal people.

1. Time/date: 9.30am – 11am on Thursday 30 July 2026

Venue: Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service, 68A Macintosh Street, Forster

2. Time/date: 1pm - 3pm on Thursday 30 July 2026

Venue: First Steps Count Child and Community Centre, 4 Myall Avenue, Taree

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

Chief Inspector Timothy Bayly - OIC Forster Police Station

Long Service Honours at Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry



Above: (L-R) Back row - Darren Hulm (Superintendent Zone Commander North, Marine Rescue NSW), Geoff Anderson (Unit Commander MRFT), Henry Kocon, Richard Neal, Bruce Findlay, David Gibson and Peter Nash.

Middle - Barry Edmunds, Lyn Herdon, Lorraine James, Lyn Lambert, Anne Starkey, Tony Breen DUC and Peter Page.

Front sitting - Sue Welch and Carol Parker.

but I've seen rescues. I've seen boats go up in the air on the bar in the past, and I thought I could join and help them raise funds. And that's where I am."

Anne said one of the greatest rewards had been the friendships formed through her volunteer work.

"I've met some lovely people," she said, pointing to fellow recipient Peter.

Peter credits Anne with helping him begin his own Marine Rescue journey.

Living near the market, he struck up a

Despite that, he has remained a dedicated radio operator.

"I've enjoyed every moment I've spent in Marine Rescue," Peter said. "It's always been a big part of my life here since I retired. And in all that time, Anne has been a very close friend."

"Yeah, all the time," Anne replied. "We work well together. That's the way it should be."

Both Anne and Peter said the camaraderie among Marine Rescue volunteers and market stallholders remained one of the most rewarding aspects of their involvement.

"They're a great group of people," Anne said. "And I like the company."

Peter agreed, saying stallholders had become an important part of the Marine Rescue family.

"One of the things I enjoy most at the markets is going around to all the stallholders and letting them know we're there. If we're having a raffle, they get very indignant if they don't get asked to buy a ticket. They like to be involved."

"That's right. They get upset with us if we don't talk to them," Anne said. "I make a point of going around to all the stallholders and letting them know we're there. If we're having a raffle, they get very indignant if they don't get asked to buy a ticket. They like to be involved."



conversation with Anne about joining the organisation.

"She told me to come over on Monday morning and meet the commander," Peter recalled. "So I did that, and that was 17 years ago."

Unlike many volunteers, Peter had no boating experience when he joined.

"Every boating skill I developed here, I was taught," he said.

Peter served on rescue vessels for five years while also undertaking regular radio duties. He later became administrative secretary during the Coastal Patrol days and served as deputy commander for three years before illness forced him to step back from active service.

Right: Peter Page and Anne Starkey outside the Forster Tuncurry Marine Rescue Co-Ordination Centre. Photos by Mary Yule.

By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

Seventeen volunteers from Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry have been recognised for their long-standing commitment to keeping people safe on the water, receiving 15 Years of Service Clasp during a ceremony on June 25.

The awards were presented by Unit Commander Geoff Anderson and Marine Rescue NSW Superintendent Zone Commander North Darren Hulm.

Among those honoured were Anne Starkey and Peter Page, whose combined service reflects decades of contribution to the organisation.

While Anne officially joined Marine Rescue in 2014, her involvement stretches back much further. She was instrumental in helping establish the Tuncurry Market in the 1980s alongside then Coastal Patrol divisional commander John Lynch. Coastal Patrol became Marine Rescue NSW in 2010.

The markets were created as a fundraising initiative to support the construction of what

is now the Marine Rescue Coordination Centre, built in 2005, and to purchase essential equipment.

Anne said, "John asked me if I could start the markets in Tuncurry because I was already running one in Forster."

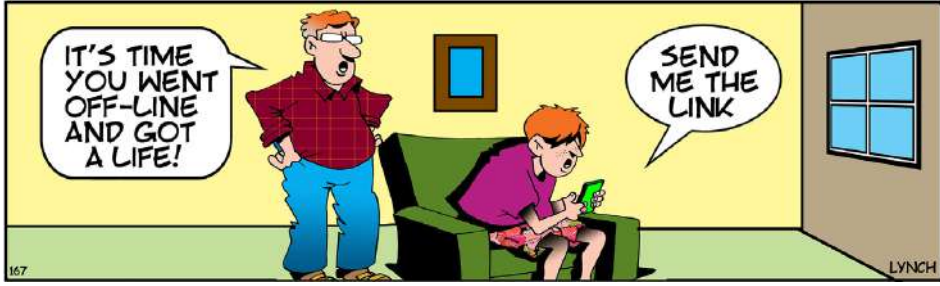
More than 40 years later, the markets continue to operate and remain an important source of fundraising for the organisation.

After becoming a full member, Anne took on the role of market coordinator, a position she held for 14 years before stepping down in 2022. She said Marine Rescue plays a vital role in a community surrounded by waterways.

"What would we do without these members that risk their lives going out in those boats?" she said.

"I think it's one of the most valuable things that we have around here. Being where we live, with all the water, it's something that is essential. I haven't got anybody in the family up here who's got boats or is interested in boats,

The Grin Bin

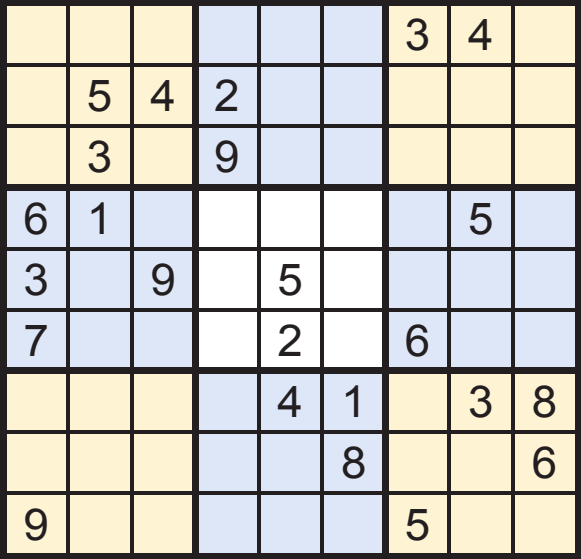


Doodley Squat



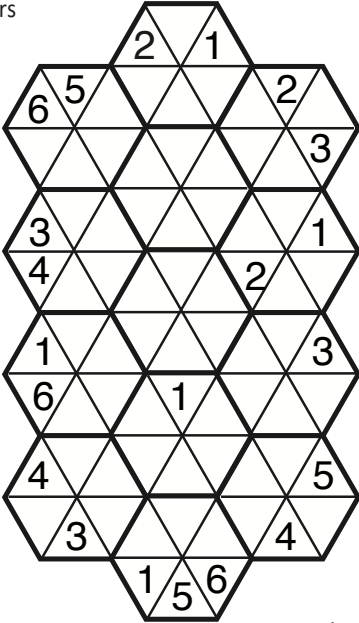
Sudoku

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

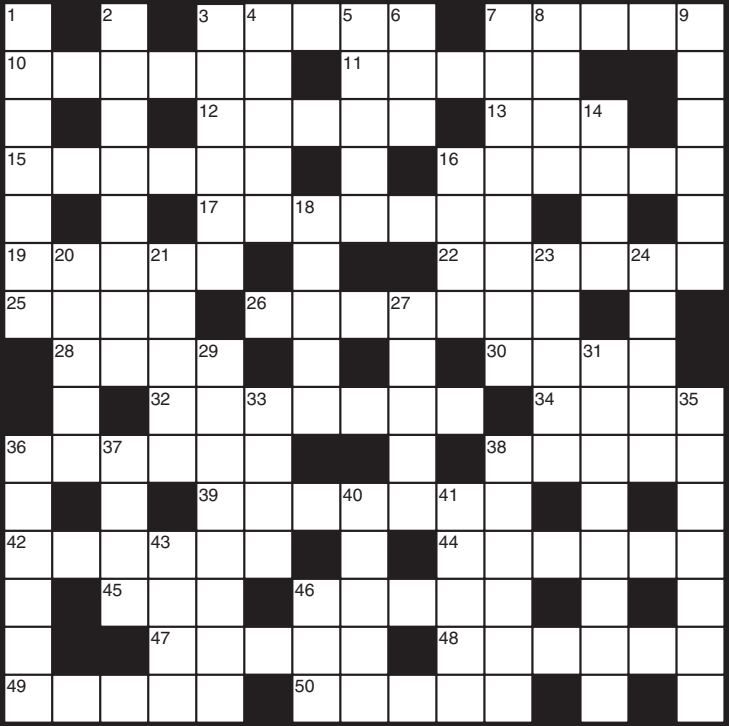


Quick Workout

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



Crossword

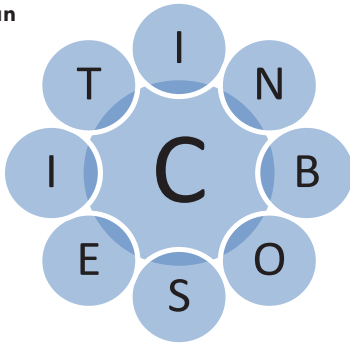


Focus

An All Australian Word Game

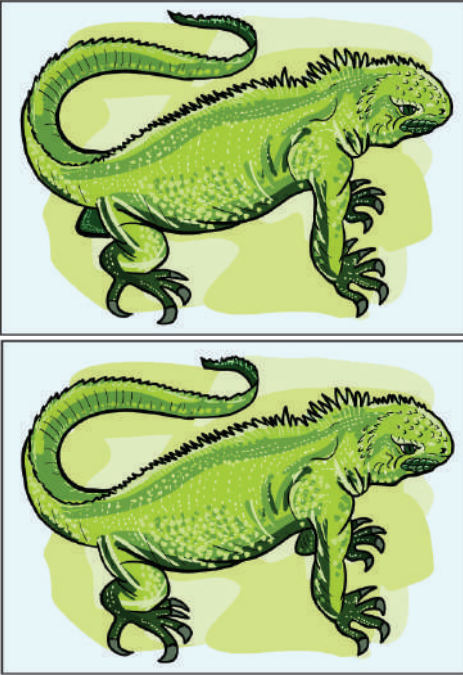
- * Each word must contain the centre 'Focus' letter and each letter may be used only once
- * Each word must be four letters or more
- * Find at least one nine letter word
- * No swear words
- * No verb forms or plurals ending in 's'
- * No proper nouns and no hyphenated words

TODAY'S FOCUS Good: 11 words
Very good: 18 words
Excellent: 34 words



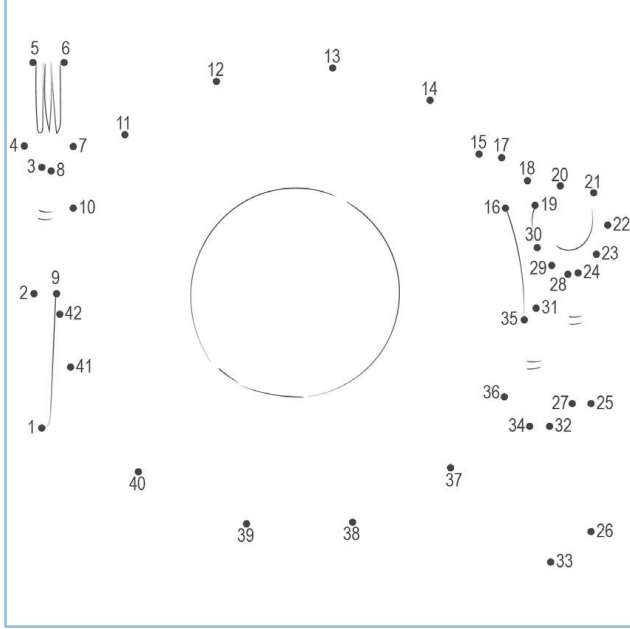
Reference: Macquarie Concise Dictionary
Focus No. 3988

Spot the 5 Differences



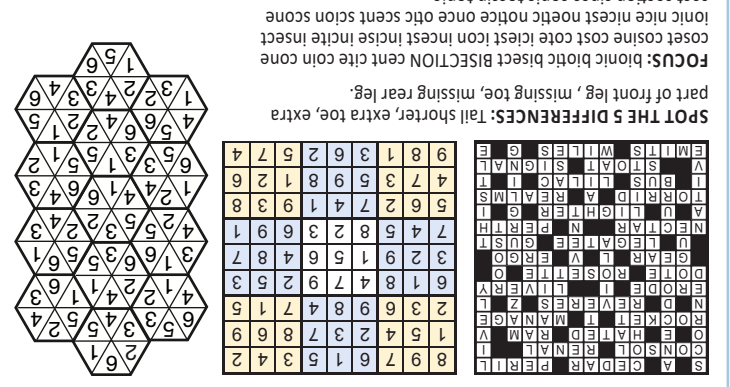
Join the Dots

What is this? Find out by joining the dots.



Solutions

Puzzles and pagination supplied by Auspax Media



YOUR FORTNIGHTLY TV GUIDE

July 8 - 14

	ABCTV	SBS	SEVEN	NBN	TEN
WEDNESDAY	6.00 Morning Programs. 1.55 Spicks And Specks. 2.30 Brush With Fame. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 3.55 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Green. 8.35 Spicks And Specks. 9.10 That Blackfella Show. 10.15 Race Around The World. 11.15 News. 11.30 The Business. 11.50 You Can't Ask That. 12.20 Murdoch Mysteries. 1.05 Long Lost Family. 1.55 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's Kitchen. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 7.30.	6.00 FIFA World Cup. Round Of 16. Switzerland v Colombia. Cont. 8.30 FIFA World Cup. Mexico v England. 11.30 FIFA World Cup. Portugal v Spain. 2.30 PBS. 3.30 WorldWatch. 4.00 FIFA World Cup: Highlights. 4.30 Cook Up. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 Mastermind. 6.30 News. 7.30 Australia's Greatest Conman? 8.25 Great Killer Smog. 9.20 Coldwater. 10.20 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.15 Kirby At War. 3.15 D-Day Superhero. 4.15 Tradfest: Dublin Castle. 4.45 Leopard. 5.00 NHK. 5.30 ANC Philippines Tonight.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. 7.30 The 1% Club UK. (PG) 8.30 The Front Bar. (M) 9.30 Unfiltered. (PG) 10.00 The Agenda Setters. 11.00 The Fall And Rise Of Reggie Dinkins. 11.30 Stumble. 12.00 New Amsterdam. 1.00 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Morning Programs. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 The Hundred With Andy Lee. 1.00 Getaway. 1.30 Destination WA. 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 Rugby League. NRL State of Origin. Qld v NSW. 10.00 State Of Origin Post-Match. 11.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Quarter-finals. 12.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Day 10 Late. Quarter-finals. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 Getaway. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Ent. Tonight. 6.30 Bold. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. (PG) 7.30 MasterChef Aust. (PG) 8.40 Boston Blue. (M) 9.40 News. 10.40 Cheap Seats. (M) 11.40 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.
THURSDAY	6.00 Morning Programs. 11.05 Anatomy Of A String Quartet. 12.00 News. 1.00 The Capture. 2.00 That Blackfella Show. 3.05 Restoration Aust. 4.00 Frankie Drake. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Back Roads. 8.30 Grand Designs. 9.15 Ground Up. 9.50 Twenty Twenty Six. 10.20 News. 10.35 The Business. 10.50 Frankie Drake. 11.35 Long Lost Family. 12.25 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's Kitchen. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 7.30.	6.00 Morning Programs. 11.00 BBC News At Ten. 1.30 France 24. 1.55 PBS News. 2.55 Living Black. 3.30 The Cook Up. 4.00 Land Wars. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. H'lights. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 Spain With Michael Portillo. 8.30 Eva Longoria: Searching For France. 9.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.00 Kate And Larapinta. 2.30 It Takes A Village. 3.30 Giving Back: Students Who Returned. 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Quarter-final. FRA v MAR.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Beat The Chasers UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. (PG) 7.30 Football. AFL. Round 18. Fremantle v Sydney. 11.00 AFL Post-Game Show. 11.30 Kick Ons. 12.00 Brave New World. (MA15+) 1.00 ICU. (PG) 1.30 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Morning Programs. 12.00 MOVIE: Eat, Love, London. (2024) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Rugby League. NRL Women's Premiership. Cronulla Sharks v Broncos. 10.00 Wimbledon 2026 Pre-Show. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Semi-finals. 12.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Day 11 Late. Semi-finals. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Ent. Tonight. 6.30 Bold. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 Taskmaster Australia. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. (PG) 7.30 Taskmaster Australia. (M) 8.40 NCIS. (M) 9.40 News. 10.40 Big Bang. (PG) 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.
FRIDAY	6.00 Morning Programs. 11.00 Stuff The British Show. 11.00 Race Around The World. 12.00 News. 1.00 Portrait Artist Of The Year. 1.45 Ground Up. 2.20 The Assembly. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 4.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.25 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 Monty Don's British Gardens. 8.30 Saint-Pierre. 9.15 Green. 9.55 Would I Lie To You? 10.25 News. 10.40 Spicks And Specks. 11.15 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.00 Rage New Music. 5.00 Rage.	6.00 FIFA World Cup. Quarter-Final. France v Morocco. Continued. 8.30 FIFA World Cup. Round Of 16. USA v Belgium. 11.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Round of 16. ARG v EGY. 2.30 BBC. 3.00 Nula. 3.30 Cook Up. 4.00 FIFA World Cup: Highlights. 4.30 Cook Up. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 MOVIE: Journey Home. David Gulipilli. (2025) 9.20 Cycling. Tour de France. 1.55 Railway Journeys UK. 2.30 Mirusia: Live. 4.00 Tradfest. 4.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Quarter-final.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Your Money & Your Life. (PG) 1.30 Border Security: Int. (PG) 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Gardens. 8.00 MOVIE: Where The Crawdads Sing. (2022) (M) Daisy Edgar-Jones. 10.35 To Be Advised. 12.15 MOVIE: Out Of Line. (2001) (M) 2.30 Shopping. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. 5.00 NBC Today.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: Love Is A Dog's Best Friend. (2025) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 A Current Affair. 7.30 Rugby League. NRL. Tigers v NZ Warriors. 9.55 NRL Friday Night Footy Post-Match. 10.45 Tennis. Wimbledon. Semi-finals. 12.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Day 12 Late. Semi-finals. 3.00 Skippy. 4.30 Global Shop. 5.00 TV Shop. 5.30 Postcards. (PG)	6.00 Ent. Tonight. 6.30 Bold. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 Taskmaster Australia. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 7.30 Selling Houses Aust. 8.40 Have You Been Paying Attention? (M) 9.40 News. 10.40 Big Bang. 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.
SATURDAY	6.00 Rage Charts. 7.00 Wknd Brekky. 9.00 Rage. 10.30 Rage Vault Guest Programmer. 12.00 News. 12.30 Cooper & Fry. 2.05 Saint-Pierre. (M) 2.55 Bill Bailey's Wild West. Australia. (PG) 3.40 Griff's Canadian Adventure. 4.30 Stuff The British Show. (PG) 5.00 Aust Story. 5.35 Landline. 6.00 Kath & Kim. (PG) 6.30 Hard Quiz. (PG) 7.00 ABC News. 7.30 Cooper & Fry. (M) 9.05 Doc Martin. (PG) 9.50 The Capture. (MA15+) 10.55 Rage. (MA15+)	6.00 FIFA World Cup. Quarter-Final. Continued. 7.30 FIFA World Cup Replays. 2.00 BBC News. 2.30 France 24. 3.00 WorldWatch. 4.00 FIFA World Cup: Highlights. 4.30 Grafts Of Scotland's Rivers. 5.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.30 News. 7.30 Jewels Of The Mediterranean. 8.25 National Parks From Above: Ireland. 9.20 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.00 Snowpiercer. 3.45 Bamay. 4.20 Tradfest: The Dublin Castle Sessions. 5.00 NHK World. 5.15 Euronews. 5.30 ANC Philippines Tonight.	6.00 NBC Today. 7.00 Weekend Sunrise. 10.00 Morning Show. 12.00 Motor Racing. Supercars C'ship. Townsville 500. Qualifying. 2.00 Motor Racing. Supercars C'ship. Townsville 500. Pre-race and race. 5.00 News. 5.30 Weekender. 6.00 News. 7.00 Better Homes. 8.00 The Great Outdoors. (PG) 8.30 MOVIE: The Lost World: Jurassic Park. (1997) (PG) 11.05 TBA. 12.45 Motor Racing. Supercars C'ship. Townsville 500. Qualifying. H'lights. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 It's Academic. 5.00 Million Dollar Minute.	6.00 Morning Programs. 12.30 Rugby League. NRL Women's Premiership. North Qld Cowboys v Tigers. 2.30 NRLW Wrap. 3.15 Rugby League. NRL Women's Premiership. Canterbury Bulldogs v Titans. 5.00 News. 5.30 Getaway. 6.00 9News Saturday. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 MOVIE: The Notebook. (2004) 10.00 MOVIE: The Blind Side. (2009) 12.30 Wimbledon 2026 Pre-Show. 1.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Day 13 Late. Women's final. 4.00 Great Australian Detour Snow. 4.30 Global Shop. 5.00 TV Shop. 5.30 Helping Hands.	6.00 Tough Tested. 7.00 Reel Action. 7.30 Escape Fishing. 8.00 I Fish. 8.30 On The Fly. 9.00 All 4 Adventure. 10.00 4x4 Adventures. 11.00 Intrepid Adventures. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 MasterChef Aust. 1.00 Good Food Everyday. 1.30 Taskmaster Australia. 2.30 Deal Or No Deal. 3.00 The Finish Line. 4.00 Lingo. 5.00 News. 6.30 Dog House Aust. (PG) 7.30 Selling Houses Australia. (PG) 8.30 Selling Houses Australia. (PG) 9.15 Watson. (PG) 9.15 FBI. (M) 1.00 Shopping. 5.00 Hour Of Power.
SUNDAY	6.00 Rage. 7.00 Wknd Brekky. 9.00 Insiders. 10.00 Officers. 10.30 World This Week. 11.00 Compass. 11.30 Praise. 12.00 News. 12.30 Landline. 1.30 Monty Don's British Gardens. 2.30 Race Around The World. 3.30 The Assembly. 4.10 Grand Designs. 5.00 Back Roads. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Compass. 7.00 News. 7.30 Race Around The World. 8.30 Ground Up. (M) 9.05 The Capture. (MA15+) 10.20 Cooper & Fry. (M) 11.55 Rage. 2.45 Poh's Kitchen. 3.15 Doc Martin. 4.05 Antiques Roadshow. 5.00 Insiders.	6.00 Morning Programs. 9.30 Al Jazeera. 10.00 PBS News Horizons. 10.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Quarter-final. 1.30 Motorcyle Racing. ProMX C'ship. 4.30 Building The Snowy. 5.30 Cycling. Tour de France. H'lights. 6.00 News. 7.30 Jewels Of The Mediterranean. 8.30 Mont-Saint-Michel: Rising Again. 9.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.30 Putin's Crisis. 3.30 Britain's Most Expensive Houses. 4.25 Bamay. 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.15 Euronews. 5.30 PBS News Horizons.	6.00 Morning Programs. 12.00 Motor Racing. Supercars C'ship. Townsville 500. Qualifying. 2.00 Motor Racing. Supercars C'ship. Townsville 500. Pre-race and race. 5.00 News. 5.30 Weekender. 6.00 News. 7.00 Better Homes. 8.00 The Great Outdoors. (PG) 8.30 MOVIE: The Lost World: Jurassic Park. (1997) (PG) 11.05 TBA. 12.45 Motor Racing. Supercars C'ship. Townsville 500. Qualifying. H'lights. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 It's Academic. 5.00 Million Dollar Minute.	6.00 Morning Programs. 1.30 Rugby League. NRL Women's Premiership. Dragons v Eels. 3.30 Rugby League. NRL. Manly Sea Eagles v North Qld Cowboys. 6.00 9News Sunday. 7.00 LEGO Masters Bricktacular. 8.30 60 Minutes. 9.30 9News Late. 10.00 The First 48. 11.00 Love Cheats. 12.00 Getaway. 12.30 Wimbledon 2026 Pre-Show. 1.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Day 14 Late. Men's final. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Mass. 6.30 Key Of David. 7.00 Joseph Prince. 7.30 Silvia's Italian Masterclass. 8.00 10 Minute Kitchen. 8.30 Everyday Gourmet. 9.00 Mixed Martial Arts. UFC 329. Prelims. 11.10 MasterChef Aust. 1.30 CBC. 2.00 Deal Or No Deal. 2.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. 3.00 The Finish Line. 4.00 Lingo. 5.00 News. 6.30 10 News+. 7.00 MasterChef Australia. (PG) 8.15 Watson. (PG) 9.15 FBI. (M) 12.00 10 News+. 12.30 Shopping.
MONDAY	6.00 Morning Programs. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 4.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Aust Story. 8.30 Four Corners. 9.20 Media Watch. 9.35 If You're Listening. 10.00 Stuff The British Show. 10.35 News. 10.45 The Business. 11.05 Lucy Worsley's Victorian Murder Club. 12.05 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.50 Long Lost Family. 1.40 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's Kitchen. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 Late Programs.	6.00 Morning Programs. 1.20 France 24. 1.50 PBS News Compass Points. 2.20 Al Jazeera News Hour. 2.55 Pharaohs Of The Two Lands. 4.00 FIFA World Cup 2026: Highlights Show. 4.30 The Cook Up. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. H'lights. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 Michael Palin: Into Iraq. 8.30 24 Hours In Emergency. 9.25 8 Out Of 10 Cats. 10.25 SBS News. 10.55 Gomorra. 2.35 Britain's Most Expensive Houses. 4.20 Bamay. 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.15 Euronews. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. (PG) 7.30 Farmer Wants A Wife. (PG) 9.20 The Rookie. (M) 10.20 The Agenda Setters: Rugby League. 11.20 The Agenda Setters. 12.20 New Amsterdam. (MA15+) 1.20 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 LEGO Masters Bricktacular. 1.30 Find My Beach House Australia. 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Travel Guides. (PG) 8.40 100% Footy. (M) 9.40 9News Late. 10.10 Outback Opal Hunters. 11.10 Footy Classified. 12.10 Tipping Point. 1.05 Hello SA. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Morning Programs. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 7.30 MasterChef Aust. 8.40 Have You Been Paying Attention? 9.40 News. 10.40 Big Bang. 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.
TUESDAY	6.00 Morning Programs. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 3.55 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Aust Story. 8.30 Four Corners. 9.20 Media Watch. 9.35 If You're Listening. 10.00 Stuff The British Show. 10.35 News. 10.45 The Business. 11.05 Lucy Worsley's Victorian Murder Club. 12.05 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.50 Long Lost Family. 1.40 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's Kitchen. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 Late Programs.	6.00 Morning Programs. 11.00 Cycling. Tour de France. H'lights. 12.00 BBC News At Ten. 12.30 France 24. 1.00 PBS News. 2.05 The Last Violin. 3.30 The Cook Up. 4.00 Michael Mosley Secrets Of The Superguns. 5.00 Letters And Numbers. 5.30 North American Fan Feasts. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 Portugal With Michael Portillo. 8.30 Insight. 9.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.00 Britain's Most Expensive Houses. 2.55 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 4.00 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Semi-final.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. (PG) 7.30 First Dates Australia. (M) 8.40 Doc. (M) 9.40 Kitchen Nightmares USA. (MA15+) 10.40 The Agenda Setters. 11.40 Happy's Place. 12.10 New Amsterdam. 1.10 The Outdoor Room. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: Just For The Summer. (2020) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 The Hundred With Andy Lee. (PG) 8.30 Outback Terror: The Falconio Murder. (M) 10.30 9News Late. 11.00 The Grand Tour. (M) 12.15 Footy Classified. 1.15 My Way. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Building Ideas. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Morning Programs. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 7.30 MasterChef Aust. 8.40 Cheap Seats. 9.40 News. 10.10 Sports Tonight: The Weekly Kick Off. 10.40 Big Bang. 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.

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Club Forster's 50 Year Anniversary

Celebrating 50 Years of community, connection & memories



Above: Our team, our community, our people, circa 2013.
Proudly supporting local clubs, organisations and community initiatives for generations.

Club Forster

It all began with seven local blokes, a keg of beer and a windswept Sunday afternoon.

Back in the 1950s, long before Club Forster became one of the Mid North Coast's leading

hospitality and entertainment venues, a small group of mates gathered each Sunday in a makeshift tent on a vacant paddock. In those days, liquor laws required them to drink inside an enclosure, so the tent became their weekly meeting place.



A proud moment in our history – the arrival of the Leopard AS1 Tank, proudly displayed as a lasting tribute to the servicemen and women who have served our country.



The addition of 'The Courtyard' and 'Atrium' for contemporary dining and special events.

One particularly wild day, the wind had other ideas.

As the tent surrendered to the elements, neighbour Perc Monahan, affectionately known as "Tea Cosy", welcomed the group into the front room of his little home, Lone Pine Cottage. That simple act of hospitality sparked something extraordinary.

From those humble beginnings, the Lone Pine Club was born.

Over the following decades, the club continued to grow alongside the community it proudly served. A move to Wharf Street followed, before construction of the new Strand Street clubhouse began in 1974. On 17 July 1976, the doors officially opened, creating the Club Forster so many generations have come to know and love.

Today, as we celebrate 50 years at our Strand Street home, it's not just the building we're celebrating.

We're celebrating the people.

The generations of members who have made the club part of their lives. The staff, past and present, whose dedication has created lasting friendships and unforgettable experiences. The volunteers, sporting groups, community organisations and local

Club Forster's 50 Year Anniversary

A snapshot of 50 remarkable years

Club Forster

Over the past five decades, Club Forster has seen a lot of change, but one thing has remained the same: bringing people together.

From hosting international sporting events and award-winning community programs to unforgettable nights of entertainment, local celebrations and special milestones,

the Club has been part of the lives of generations of locals and visitors alike.

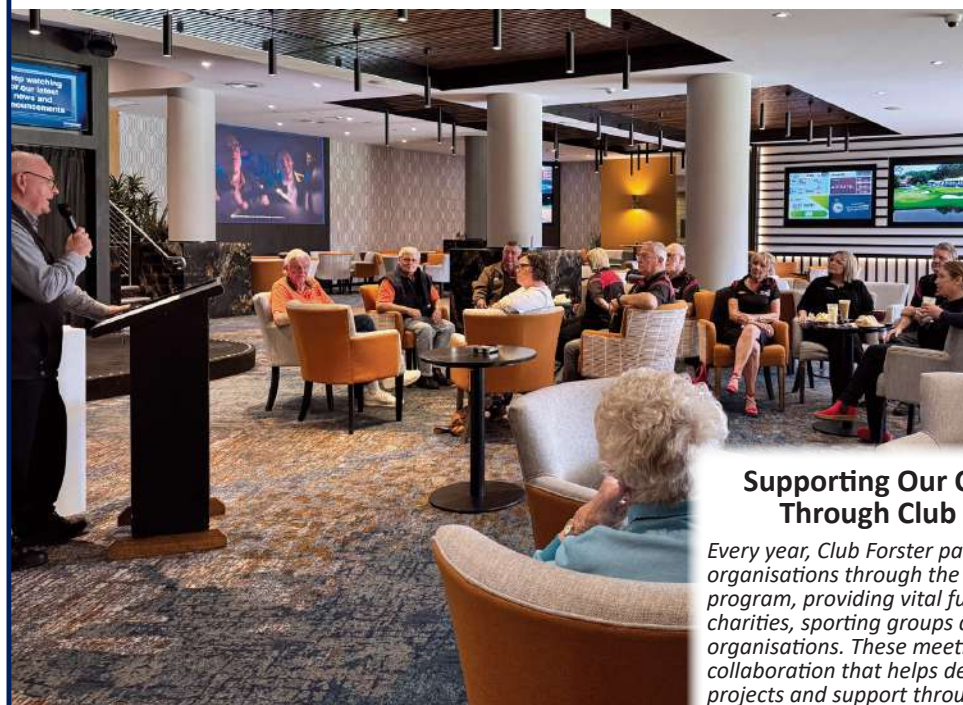
The following photos offer a glimpse into some of those moments. While they represent only a fraction of our history, each one tells a story of community, connection and the people who have helped make Club Forster what it is today.



Michelle Youngblood with the sign that honours Eddie Youngblood (pictured).

Honouring Eddie Youngblood

Following the passing of long-serving Marketing and Entertainment Manager Eddie Youngblood in 2021, Club Forster proudly renamed its Auditorium in his honour. Eddie's passion for live entertainment, his legendary Elvis performances and his lasting contribution to the Club continue to be remembered every time guests enter the Eddie Youngblood Auditorium.



Supporting Our Community Through Club GRANTS

Every year, Club Forster partners with local organisations through the ClubGRANTS program, providing vital funding to charities, sporting groups and community organisations. These meetings represent the collaboration that helps deliver meaningful projects and support throughout the Great Lakes region.



Celebrating 75 Years of Service for the Forster-Tuncurry RSL Sub-branch

Left: RSL Sub-branch President Ces Miller speaking in front of Club Forster.

Club Forster was proud to host RSL celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of the Forster-Tuncurry RSL Sub-branch in November 2022.

The milestone honoured generations of service personnel and recognised the enduring partnership between the Club and the local veteran community.



(L-R) Club Forster's General Manager Peter Clarke, Vice President Colin Cross, Director Robyn Kirk and Neil Stucky.

State Recognition for Community Wellbeing

Club Forster was honoured at the 2023 ClubsNSW Clubs & Community Awards, taking out the prestigious Mental and Social Wellbeing Award. The award recognised the Club's ongoing commitment to improving the health, wellbeing and social connection of its members and the wider community.

Rockabilly Weekend 2025

One of Club Forster's most colourful events, Rockin' By The Beach Festival transformed the Club into a celebration of classic cars, live rock 'n' roll music, retro markets and dancing. The much-loved Festival continues the Club's tradition of bringing unique entertainment experiences to the community.



Asia Pacific Seniors Snooker Championship 2026

In February 2026, Club Forster proudly hosted the Asia Pacific Seniors Snooker Championship, welcoming some of the region's finest players and supporters.

The prestigious event showcased the Club's outstanding facilities while bringing together competitors and spectators from across Australia and overseas.



What's On club forster

19 STRAND ST FORSTER NSW
WWW.CLUBFORSTER.COM.AU

CLUB FORSTER 50^{YR} ANNIVERSARY

Community. Connection & Memories

13 - 18 JULY 2026

Celebrating 50 Years! Join us as Club Forster celebrates 50 years of community, connection and memories. Enjoy a week of birthday fun with Kids Bingo, member rewards & trivia, birthday raffles & gameshows, meal offers, live entertainment, Neptunes Revival Night, Family Fun Birthday Party, past & present staff party, VIP evening, nostalgic displays and plenty more surprises! Celebrations build to a spectacular pinnacle on Saturday 18 July with our Grand Finale concert. Celebrate and be part of Club Forster history!

club forster SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN! **CLUB FORSTER 50^{YR} ANNIVERSARY**

BINGO KIDS

MONDAYS 06 & 13 JULY

ON SALE 3.30PM STARTS 4PM

LUCKY DOOR PRIZES!

\$50 VOUCHER

MAJOR PRIZE WIN A PS5

\$50 LUCKY DOOR PRIZES!

PLEASE BRING CASH TO PLAY!

CLUB FORSTER 50^{YR} ANNIVERSARY

FAMILY FUN-BDAY PARTY

in the BACKYARD

SPECIAL SHOW WITH **the REPTILE MAN!**

Round up the whole crew!

JOIN THE BIRTHDAY FUN!

SAT, 18 JULY 12PM-3PM

FREE EVENT

WWW.CLUBFORSTER.COM.AU

ONE NIGHT ONLY

NEPTUNES Lounge

REVIVAL NIGHT

A NOSTALGIC TRIP BACK IN TIME TO THE GLORY DAYS OF NEPTUNES LOUNGE.

LATE-NIGHT MUSIC • THEMED NIGHTS • GUEST DJS • GOOD TIMES

FEATURING DJ HYPT

BRINGING BACK THE SOUNDTRACK OF THE ERA!

FRIDAY 17TH JULY

TIME: DOORS 8PM

CLUB FORSTER 50^{YR} ANNIVERSARY

ONE NIGHT. ONE DANCEFLOOR. ONE MASSIVE THROWBACK.

DON'T MISS IT! FREE EVENT

WWW.CLUBFORSTER.COM.AU

CLUB FORSTER 50^{YR} GRAND FINALE

SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026

NEIL DIAMOND'S HOT AUGUST NIGHT

the concert

PETER BYRNE with the **AUSTRALIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

"THE DAY YOU'LL SEE A BETTER DIAMOND WILL BE THE DAY THE MAN HIMSELF APPEARS ON STAGE..."

CLUB FORSTER | MEMBERS ONLY EXCLUSIVE!

Last tickets!

www.clubforster.com.au/shows

Come celebrate with us!

Club Forster's 50 Year Anniversary



Above: 50th Selfie Frame – Capture your place in Club Forster history.

Right: 50th Anniversary Pin – A collectable memento of this historic year.



Club Forster

A 50th birthday only comes around once.

As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we've created a collection of special commemorative keepsakes and experiences to help mark the occasion and give our members something to remember for years to come.

From our limited edition Golden Membership Card and commemorative anniversary pin, to our handcrafted birthday cupcakes, signature Golden Years cocktail, fun selfie frames and themed celebrations throughout the club, every detail has been thoughtfully created to capture the spirit of our 50th year.

Whether you're collecting a keepsake, snapping a photo with family and friends,

Right: Limited Edition Golden Membership Card – A special keepsake celebrating our golden milestone.

Left: Birthday Cupcakes – Freshly made by Kellie and our talented in-house pastry team.

AND Golden Years' Cocktail – Crafted by Shennah. Raise a glass to 50 years of memories!

enjoying a birthday treat, or simply soaking up the atmosphere, we hope you'll take home more than just a souvenir. We hope you'll take home another wonderful Club Forster memory.

Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to celebrating the last 50 years and creating memories that will last for the next 50.



We're Celebrating CLUB FORSTER 50th ANNIVERSARY

Sporties Tuncurry is joining the celebrations as we mark 50 years of Club Forster! Throughout Celebration Week, enjoy your chance to **Have a Birthday Drink on Us** every day, along with bonus **Birthday PowerPoints** and **fuel card giveaways** during Game Shows and Raffles. Plus, special Kids Bingo sessions will feature an exciting **major prize** up for grabs. Come celebrate with us and enjoy even more chances to win!

Community, Connection & Memories

13 - 18 JULY 2026

What's On Sporties TUNCURRY

Sporties TUNCURRY
SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!
KIDS BINGO
WEDNESDAYS
08 & 15 JULY
ON SALE 3.30PM
STARTS 4PM
LUCKY DOOR PRIZES!
\$50 VOUCHER
\$50 VOUCHER
\$50 LUCKY DOOR PRIZES!
PLEASE BRING CASH TO PLAY!

CLUB FORSTER 50th ANNIVERSARY
To help celebrate Club Forster's 50th Birthday, we're making Kids Bingo bigger and better than ever!
JUST \$10.00 PER CHILD
IN WEEK 2!
MAJOR PRIZE WIN A PS5

65 Beach St, Tuncurry NSW 2428
WWW.SPORTIESTUNCURRY.COM.AU

Sporties TUNCURRY
GAME SHOWS
MONDAY 10AM HOLLYWOOD EXTRA
TUESDAY 10.30AM HOLLYWOOD EXPRESS
WEDNESDAY 10AM CRAZY BINGO
THURSDAY 3PM HOLLYWOOD EXTRA
FRIDAY 10.30AM HOLLYWOOD EXPRESS
50th BIRTHDAY BONUS PRIZES!
BONUS BIRTHDAY POWERPOINTS
FUEL CARD GIVEAWAYS
EXTRA BIRTHDAY PRIZES EVERY SESSION!

CLUB FORSTER 50th ANNIVERSARY

July 15 - 21					
ABC TV	SBS	SEVEN	NBN	TEN	
6.00 Morning Programs. 1.35 Media Watch. 2.00 Back Roads. 2.30 Brush With Fame. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 4.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Gruen. 8.35 Spicks And Specks. 9.05 Race Around The World. 10.10 QI. 10.40 News. 10.55 The Business. 11.10 You Can't Ask That. 11.40 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.25 Long Lost Family. 1.15 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's Kitchen. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 7.30.	6.00 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Semi-Final. Continued. 7.30 FIFA World Cup Replay. 10.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Quarter-final. 1.30 Al Jazeera. 2.00 BBC News At Ten. 2.30 France 24. 3.00 WorldWatch. 4.00 FIFA World Cup: Highlights. 4.30 Cook Up. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Alone Australia. 9.45 Coldwater. 10.40 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.10 Journey Of The Pelicans: An Outback Mystery. 3.00 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 4.00 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Semi-final.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. 7.30 The 1% Club UK. 8.30 The Front Bar. (M) 9.30 Unfiltered. 10.30 The Agenda Setters. 11.00 The Fall And Rise Of Reggie Dimkins. 12.30 Sunday. 12.00 Everything I Know About Love. 1.00 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Morning Programs. 1.30 Destination WA. 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Tipping Point: Travel Guides. 8.45 NRL Origin Story. 10.00 9News Late. 10.30 Freddy And The Eighth. 11.30 A Killer Makes A Call. 12.30 Tipping Point. 1.10 Drive Thru. 1.30 M. 2.00 Tipping Point. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Ent. Tonight. 6.30 Bold. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Lingo. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. (PG) 7.00 MasterChef Aust. 7.30 Boston Blue. (M) 9.40 News. 10.40 Cheap Seats. (M) 11.40 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.	WEDNESDAY
6.00 Morning Programs. 10.35 Spicks And Specks. 11.10 QI. 12.00 News. 1.00 The Capture. 2.15 Bee Cause. 2.30 Brush With Fame. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 4.00 Frankie Drake. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Back Roads. 8.30 Grand Designs. 9.15 Ground Up. 9.50 Twenty Twenty Six. 10.20 News. 10.35 The Business. 10.50 Frankie Drake. 11.35 Long Lost Family. 12.25 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's Kitchen. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 7.30.	6.00 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Semi-Final. Continued. 7.30 FIFA World Cup Replays. 2.00 BBC News At Ten. 2.30 France 24. 3.00 WorldWatch. 4.00 FIFA World Cup 2026: Highlights Show. 4.30 The Cook Up. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 Spain With Michael Portillo. 8.30 Eva Longoria: Searching For France. 9.20 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.15 Britain's Most Expensive Houses. 4.05 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 4.35 Bamay. 5.30 NHK. 5.30 ANC Philippines Tonight.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Beat The Chasers UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. (PG) 8.30 Air Crash Investigations. (PG) 9.30 Homicide: With Ron Idles. (PG) 10.30 TBA. 12.00 Brave New World. (MA15+) 1.00 ICU. 1.30 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: How To Find Forever. (2022) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Rugby League. NRL. Penrith Panthers v Broncos. 9.55 NRL Thursday Night Footy Post-Match. 10.40 9News Late. 11.10 Bad Blood. 12.10 Tipping Point. 1.00 Next Stop. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Ent. Tonight. 6.30 Bold. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Lingo. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. (PG) 7.00 NCIS: Sydney. 8.30 NCIS. (M) 9.30 News. 10.30 Big Bang. (PG) 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.	THURSDAY
6.00 Morning Programs. 10.30 Stuff The British Stole. 11.00 Race Around The World. 12.00 News. 1.00 Portrait Artist Of The Year. 1.45 Ground Up. 2.15 The Assembly. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 4.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.40 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 Monty Don's British Gardens. 8.30 Saint-Pierre. 9.15 Gruen. 9.55 Would I Lie To You? 10.25 News. 10.40 Spicks And Specks. 11.10 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.00 Rage New Music. 5.00 Rage.	6.00 Morning Programs. 1.00 BBC News At Ten. 1.30 France 24. 2.00 PBS News. 3.00 Nula. 3.30 The Cook Up. 4.00 Michael Mosley Secrets Of The Superagers. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 Trade Secret: The Polar Bear Market. 9.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.30 Britain's Most Expensive Houses. 4.20 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Your Money & Your Life. (PG) 1.30 Border Security: Int. (PG) 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 7News At 6.30. 7.00 Better Homes And Gardens. 7.30 Football. AFL. Round 19. Sydney v Adelaide. From the SCG. 10.30 AFL. Post Game Show. 11.55 GetOn Extra. 11.45 To Be Advised. 1.35 ICU. (PG) 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. 5.00 NBC Today.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: Love On The Amazon. (2025) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 A Current Affair. 7.30 Rugby League. NRL. Roosters v Melbourne Storm. 9.55 NRL Friday Night Footy Post-Match. 10.45 NRL Origin Story. (M) 11.55 Resident Alien. (M) 12.40 Tipping Point. (PG) 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Morning Programs. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Lingo. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 7.30 Love It Or List It Australia. 8.30 Have You Been Paying Attention? 9.30 News. 10.30 Big Bang. 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.	FRIDAY
6.00 Rage Charts. 7.00 Wknd Brekky. 9.00 Rage. 10.00 Rage Vault Guest Programmer. 12.00 News. 12.30 Cooper & Fry. 2.00 Saint-Pierre. 2.55 Bill Bailey's Wild West Australia. (PG) 3.40 Griff's Canadian Adventure. (PG) 4.30 Stuff The British Stole. (PG) 5.00 Aust Story. 5.35 Landline. 6.05 Kath & Kim. (PG) 6.30 Hard Quiz. (PG) 7.00 ABC News. 7.30 Cooper & Fry. (M) 9.05 Doc Martin. (PG) 9.50 The Capture. (MA15+) 11.05 Rage. (MA15+)	6.00 Morning Programs. 1.30 France 24. 2.00 PBS News. 3.00 Mother Of Chicks. 3.20 Grand Tours Of Scotland's Rivers. 4.20 Woyballs: Australia's Beautiful Game. 5.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 News. 7.30 Jewels Of The Mediterranean. 8.25 Sagrada Familia: Gaudi's Challenge. 9.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.05 Underground Army. 3.55 Ireland In Music: Caihnnin. 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.15 EuroNews. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.	6.00 NBC Today. 7.00 Weekend Sunrise. 10.00 Morning Show. 12.00 Horse Racing. Winter Challenge Day and VRC Members Race Day. 5.30 Getaway. 6.00 9News Saturday. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Rugby Union. Nations C'ship. AUS v ITA. 10.00 Nations Championship: Australia v Italy Post-Match. 10.30 MOVIE: Three Kings. (1999) 12.45 The First 48. 1.35 Surfing Aust. 2.00 The Incredible Journey. 2.30 TV Shop. 4.30 Global Shop. 5.00 TV Shop. 5.30 Helping Hands.	6.00 Morning Programs. 2.30 NRLW Wrap. 3.15 Rugby League. NRL. Women's Premiership. NZ Warriors v North Qld Cowboys. 5.00 News. 5.30 Getaway. 6.00 9News Saturday. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Rugby Union. Nations C'ship. AUS v ITA. 10.00 Nations Championship: Australia v Italy Post-Match. 10.30 MOVIE: Three Kings. (1999) 12.45 The First 48. 1.35 Surfing Aust. 2.00 The Incredible Journey. 2.30 TV Shop. 4.30 Global Shop. 5.00 TV Shop. 5.30 Helping Hands.	6.00 Mass. 6.30 Key Of David. 7.00 Joseph Prince. 7.30 Silvia's Italian Masterclass. 8.00 10 Minute Kitchen. 8.30 My Market Kitchen. 9.00 Cook With Luke. 9.30 GCBC. 10.00 Good Food Everyday. 10.40 MasterChef Aust. 1.00 The Dog Hospital With Graeme Hall. 2.00 Deal Or No Deal. 2.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. 3.00 The Finish Line. 4.00 Lingo. 5.00 News. 6.30 Dog House Aust. (PG) 7.30 Selling Houses Aust. (PG) 9.40 Ambulance UK. (M) 12.00 FBI. (M) 1.00 Shopping. 5.00 Hour Of Power.	SATURDAY
6.00 Rage. 7.00 Wknd Brekky. 9.00 Insiders. 10.00 Officers. 10.30 World This Week. 11.00 Compass. 11.30 Praise. 12.00 News. 12.30 Landline. 1.30 Monty Don's British Gardens. 2.30 Race Around The World. 3.30 The Assembly. 4.15 Grand Designs. 5.00 Back Roads. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Compass. 7.00 News. 7.30 Race Around The World. 8.30 Treasure & Dirt. 9.30 Believe Me. 10.20 Cooper & Fry. (M) 11.55 Rage. 2.45 Poh's On The Road. 3.10 Doc Martin. 4.00 Antiques Roadshow. 5.00 Insiders.	6.00 DW English News. 6.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Third place play-off. 9.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Semi-final. 1.00 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Third place play-off. 4.00 FIFA World Cup 2026: Highlights Show. 4.30 Building The Snowy. 5.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 News. 7.30 Eiffel Tower: Life Behind The Scenes. (PG) 8.30 Structures Of Marvel: Medieval Paris. 9.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.25 Ireland In Music: Caihnnin. 3.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Final.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. (PG) 7.30 The Chase Australia. 8.40 The Rookie. (M) 9.40 The Agenda Setters: Rugby League. 10.40 The Agenda Setters. 11.40 Happy's Place. (PG) 12.10 New Amsterdam. (MA15+) 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 LEGO Masters Bricktacular. 1.30 Find My Beach House Australia. 2.30 The Clues. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Travel Guides. (PG) 8.40 100% Footy. (M) 9.40 9News Late. 10.10 Outback Opal Hunters. 11.10 Footy Classified. 12.10 Tipping Point. 1.05 Hello SA. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Ent. Tonight. 6.30 Bold. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Lingo. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 7.30 MasterChef Aust. 8.40 Have You Been Paying Attention? 9.40 News. 10.40 Big Bang. 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.	SUNDAY
6.00 Morning Programs. 2.00 Back Roads. 2.30 Brush With Fame. 3.00 Restoration Aust. 4.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Aust Story. 8.30 Four Corners. 9.20 Media Watch. 9.35 If You're Listening. 10.00 Stuff The British Stole. 11.30 News. 10.45 The Business. 11.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 11.45 Long Lost Family. 12.30 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's On The Road. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 7.30.	6.00 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Final. Continued. 8.30 Morning Programs. 1.30 Al Jazeera. 2.00 Queens That Changed The World. 2.55 Iznik: The Sunken Basilica. 4.00 FIFA World Cup: Highlights. 4.30 The Cook Up. 5.00 Cycling. Tour de France. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Soccer. FIFA World Cup. Final. 9.30 Alone Australia. 11.45 Gomorrah. 3.15 Michael Mosley Secrets Of The Superagers. 4.10 Hitler's Putsch: Birth Of The Nazi Party. 5.00 NHK World. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. (PG) 7.30 The Chase Australia. 8.40 The Rookie. (M) 9.40 The Agenda Setters: Rugby League. 10.40 The Agenda Setters. 11.40 Happy's Place. (PG) 12.10 New Amsterdam. (MA15+) 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 LEGO Masters Bricktacular. 1.30 Find My Beach House Australia. 2.30 The Clues. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Travel Guides. (PG) 8.40 100% Footy. (M) 9.40 9News Late. 10.10 Outback Opal Hunters. 11.10 Footy Classified. 12.10 Tipping Point. 1.05 Hello SA. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Morning Programs. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Lingo. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 7.30 MasterChef Aust. 8.40 Have You Been Paying Attention? 9.40 News. 10.40 Big Bang. 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.	MONDAY
6.00 Morning Programs. 3.00 Fake Or Fortune? 3.55 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Foreign Correspondent. 8.30 Kitchen Cabinet. 9.00 The Assembly. 9.45 Compass. 10.15 News. 10.30 The Business. 10.50 Four Corners. 11.35 Media Watch. 11.55 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.40 Long Lost Family. 1.25 Rage. 3.00 Gardening Aust. 4.00 Poh's On The Road. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 Late Programs.	6.00 Morning Programs. 3.00 Going Places. 3.30 The Cook Up. 4.00 Michael Mosley Secrets Of The Superagers. 5.00 Letters And Numbers. 5.30 North American Fan Feasts. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 Portugal With Michael Portillo. 8.30 Insight. 9.30 Cycling. Tour de France. 2.20 Anne Boleyn. 3.10 Michael Mosley Secrets Of The Superagers. 4.10 Ireland In Music: Caihnnin. 4.40 Bamay. 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 Late Programs.	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. 2.00 Bridge Of Lies. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 News. 7.00 Home And Away. (PG) 7.30 First Dates Australia. (M) 8.40 Doc. (M) 10.40 The Agenda Setters. 11.40 Happy's Place. (PG) 12.10 New Amsterdam. (MA15+) 1.10 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: The Clue To Love. (2021) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 NBN News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 The Hundred With Andy Lee. (M) 8.30 TBA. 10.00 9News Late. 10.30 A Killer Makes A Call. 11.30 Footy Classified. 12.20 Tipping Point. 1.10 Destination WA. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Building Ideas. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Skippy. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.	6.00 Ent. Tonight. 6.30 Bold. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Everyday Gourmet. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.20 MasterChef Aust. 11.30 Farm To Fork. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Lingo. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 10 News+. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. (PG) 7.30 MasterChef Aust. (PG) 8.40 The Cheap Seats. (M) 9.40 News. 10.40 Big Bang. (PG) 11.30 10 News+. 12.00 Shopping.	TUESDAY

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What's on around town & beyond!

Local Calendar

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

July

Open until 26 July - Still Life Exhibition
Open Sat & Sun - 4pm or when flags flying at Forster Gallery, 34 Lake St Forster.
(See advertisement this page.)

Fri 10 to Mon 13 July - Rotary Book Fair
9am to 4pm daily, Tuncurry Memorial Hall
Enquiries: Brian Leggott 0422 365 256
(See advertisement opposite page.)

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

Sat 18 July - Forster Farmers Market
8am to 12pm in the grounds next door to Forster Court House on Little St.
Enquiries: Linda 0421 347 273

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

Sun 26 July - Pacific Palms Market
9am to 1pm Pacific Palms Community Centre.
Community Library Stall open in hall.
Enquiries: Jennifer Doyle 0401 968 516

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FORSTER-TUNCURRY

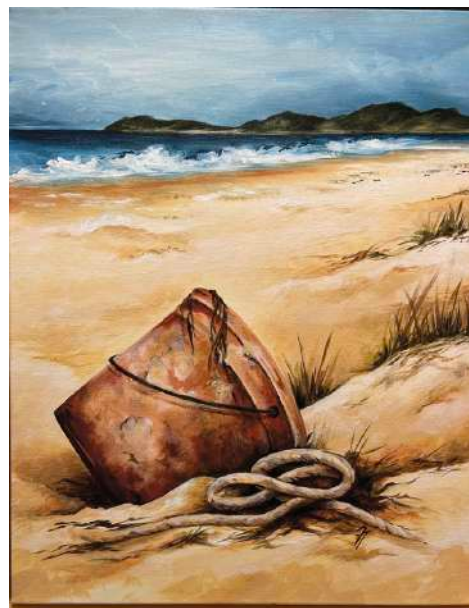
Still Life explodes with colour

By Elizabeth Ho – Forster Gallery

A vibrant explosion of colour awaits visitors at Forster Gallery's latest exhibition, Still Life, showcasing the diverse talents of some of our 204 members. This collection invites viewers to pause and appreciate the intimate objects of everyday life through a myriad of lenses.

Challenging the traditional still life we recognise from its Dutch Golden Day roots, the artists have expanded the theme to explore not only objects like flowers arranged on a table or fruit in a bowl. Expect to find works that include unexpected subjects like vintage cars, beach buckets and even vintage smoking implements.

From the classic to the abstract, a still life sits well in many of the home environments, from kitchen to study to dining room, offering a fresh perspective on the familiar, reminding us that beauty and intrigue can be found in the quietest corners of life. With prices starting at fifty dollars, a piece of original art makes a thoughtful gift for your special someone.



Still Life Exhibition
20 June – 26 July 2026

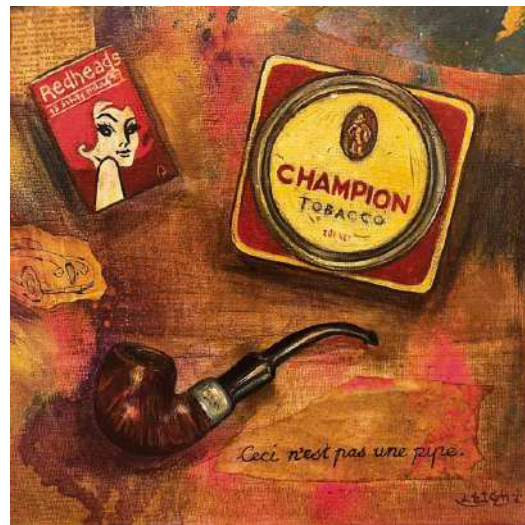
FORSTER GALLERY
34 Lake St, Forster
Open Sat and Sun 10am – 2pm or when the flags are flying
All works for sale — Entry free
www.forstergallery.org

Feature wall artist for the exhibition is gallery member, Gail Sue whose colourful works range from the traditional to the abstract.

The Gallery is currently displaying a Valerie Wright original monotype painting, "Oyster Leases" which is up for sale to a lucky investor or collector.

All artworks are for sale and entry is free. Location is close to town at 34 Lake Street, Forster – just look for the big paintbrush. Parking is easy and the gallery is disability friendly.

To find a class or open studio day, the website is www.forstergallery.com.au
Open Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 2 pm and when the flags are flying.



What's on around town & beyond!

Help 'Create a Lasting Impact' ...and chill out



By Mark Davies – Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast

Rotary International's Theme for this year 2026/2027 is 'Create a Lasting Impact' and a corner piece in the jigsaw puzzle of how Rotary does this locally is our Book Fairs in July and January each year.

Free entry and children's books at the amazing budget friendly price of 50 cents each. Other books and jigsaw puzzles are \$3.00 each; cash and Eftpos are welcome

Check out the eclectic and intriguing range of Non-Fiction books sorted in over 15 categories including Australian, Art, Humour, War Related and Crafts & Hobbies in the 2nd Hall. The

Twice Yearly
BOOK FAIR Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast Forster Tuncurry

Fri 10th - Mon 13th July 2026
Tuncurry Memorial Hall
Free Entry - Doors open 9am to 4pm*

Fiction Room & Extensive Children's Section
Non-Fiction Room

Cash & EFTPOS Welcome **7 Point Rd Tuncurry**
(Closing hours may vary*)

Main Hall features a terrific selection of Fiction books organised by the Author's Surname A-Z, a boutique Sci Fi/Fantasy section and an extensive Children's Section.

Over the last twenty-three years thousands of customers have bought and enjoyed tens of thousands of books and raised funds towards Local, Regional and International Rotary/Community Projects. These include Ronald Macdonald House Family Retreat Forster, the Great Lakes Women Shelter, Great Lakes Palliative Care, and in 2025, the NSW Mid

North Coast Flood Disaster Relief. The Tuncurry Memorial Hall was built in 1921 and so if it's cold outside then it will be coolish inside the Hall to chill out!

Contact Brian Leggott on 0422 365 256 for more details or <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryTuncurryForster>

(See advertisement above.)

You are invited to our 'Ruby Ball' in July

Ruby Ball
Tickets \$50 each **Friday 31st July 2026**
Door open 5:30pm - Sit down at 6:00pm
2 course meal, tea & coffee served in Auditorium.
Raffle, Monte Carlo & Jackpot Draw. Dress: Formal
Venue: The Auditorium, Club Forster, Street, Forster NSW
Phone Melisa 0478 529 426
Live Band program & Dinner Entertainment "Barry Noble"



Pacific Palms Bowling Club

Live Music, Cocktails, Bistro, Lawn Bowls. *There's always something happening at the Palms!*

Monday
Monday Curry Night \$20

Tuesday
Happy Hour 3pm to 5pm
Members Swipe Draw at 5:30pm
Bingo From 10:30am
Pizza's L \$20 / S \$15
\$15 Seniors Lunch + Drink

Wednesday
Raffles from 6pm
Club Super Draw from 6pm
220gr Scotch Fillet Steak w/Chips & Salad \$25

Thursday
Mufti Bowls & Raffle from 12:30pm
Happy Hour 3pm to 5pm
Ribs Night \$25

Friday
Raffles from 6pm
Super 100 Draw after Raffles
Mega Pie Lunch & Tap Beer \$20
Fresh Fish Friday Night \$34
Live Music Every Friday 8pm

Saturday
Fishing Club Raffle starts at 3pm & 4pm
Happy Hour 3pm to 5pm
Kids Meals \$5 (16y) with Meal Purchase

Sunday
Chook Run Bowls from 10:30am
Kids Meals \$5 (16y) with Meal Purchase

Award Winning "Perfect Plate"
Thai-Infused Sesame Crusted Salmon

Sunday "Chill Around the Green" is back
Outdoor Bar from 2pm + Live Music from 3pm
Donation Bowls from 1pm and Hot from the Birro

Slam Tango Fri 10th July
Soul Station Fri 17th July

Open 7 Days
11:00 till Late
Lunch 12pm & Dinner 5:30pm
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Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
Specials not available during school holiday periods.

Two mini art exhibitions at your local libraries

Exhibition 'There is Something About Water'

Forster Library

15 July - 26 August

A selection of watercolour paintings by local Marine Artist/Ocean Swimmer/Cape Hawke Surf Lifesaver, Wayne Barry.



In the Gallery: 'Behind the Door & Under the Bed'

Hallidays Point Library

1 - 31 July

Local artist Fred Bullen's collection of work in many different media shows his art journey. Fred will donate 50% of art sales to the Great Lakes Women's Shelter.



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

Proposed merger for regional AEC offices

It has come to my attention that the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in Canberra have decided to “save money” by once again targeting the regions.

I live in Tuncurry in the federal electorate of Lyne. Our nearest office is in Taree. The latest and most painful decision from the Canberra bubble is the proposed closure of 4 AEC regional offices (Taree, West Kempsey, Grafton and Armidale) and direct people to a proposed hub in Coffs Harbour by October 2026!

Staff? Access for voters? And on it goes. The seasoned overworked current staff are

considered to be collateral damage. There is an assessment that the loss of their jobs is “of moderate consequence.”

Already there is a massive shortage of staff due to the lack of recruitment after 2025 Federal Election.

The current staff are working nonstop with a huge population who need help registering to vote and the need to promote our democracy. Either way, there will be no seasoned, efficient staff in this massive area who will travel to Coffs Harbour. The casual workers will not be available to work having found alternative employment.

Ms Fay Badgery - Tuncurry



Above: Two Humpback whales travelling north off Blueys Beach, Pacific Palms on 2 July. The whale on the right is pregnant while the whale on her left is believed to be her calf from last season. Photo by John Kelly, a regular visitor from Sydney.

Screen Reviews

TV Show Reviews by Leon Batman - Forster

The Woman In The Wall - Britbox, released September 2023, 6 episodes

An Irish mystery drama partially based on Magdalene Laundries, Mother and Baby Homes. The story follows Lorna who suffers from her time in the Magdalene system where she was told her newborn baby died at birth. Eventually despite strong opposition from the church she finds her body is alive and well living in the USA. A really gritty series that fills you with disbelief at the atrocities carried out by Magdalene Laundries.



Brilliant Minds - HBO/ Foxtel, released September 2024, 2 seasons

An American Medical Drama reviving around Dr Oliver Worth, a brilliant and caring physician who takes on job treating patients suffering from complex neurological and psychological problems with his team of interns. Interesting to watch especially the way they research each case.



Joe Pickett - HBO/Foxtel, Released December 2021, 2 seasons

Joe Pickett is a newly appointed Game Warden with high ideals of doing the right thing in his area in Wyoming. He quickly finds out that the man he replaced was corrupt. His life, together with that of his family, comes under constant threat as he tries to do the right thing for the area he manages. An excellent series with plenty of great scenery as Joe Pickett battles corruption.



“Angus Taylor needs to do something,” comments Angus Taylor on Angus Taylor’s Facebook

The Shovel

POLITICAL SATIRE: Former leader of the Opposition Angus Taylor received some harsh feedback about his recent political performance, in the form of an angry comment on Facebook from Angus Taylor.

Time and time again, Pauline Hanson’s One Nation has dwarfed the Coalition in the polls — despite Taylor promising that under his leadership the Liberals would be brought into relevance for the first time this decade.

As this continues, Liberal ride-or-die supporters have begun to feel that perhaps axing the party’s first female leader after merely 276 days on the job, only to replace her with a mediocre man who’s contributed less than a teaspoon



of intellect to the national dialogue, may have been poorly thought through.

One everyday punter who strongly agrees with this sentiment is Facebook user Angus Taylor, who slammed Angus Taylor on one of Angus Taylor’s Facebook posts.

Book Review

Book Review by John King - Pacific Palms Librarian

Stories From The Otto Bin Empire

This book by Judy Nunn was published in 2024, so it is very recent. Stories From The Otto Bin Empire are clearly drawn from real life. While showing some of the truly awful circumstances that people find themselves in, it also shows a spirit of humanity.

In her introductory note, Judy recounts a story that she later found to be true, of a homeless person being given a \$50 note by a journalist who wondered what he would do with it. He expected a trip to the pub. What he saw was the guy purchasing a supply of food from a supermarket, going to an evident meeting place and sharing this bounty with his fellow homeless.

The six stories in this book are clearly real and the places discernible to anyone who knows Sydney.

They cover the teenagers who left home because of domestic violence, those who OD (overdoes), some who lost their partner, returned soldiers, and a matriarch who keeps the group together around their wheelie (Otto) bins – hence the name of the book. Down and out, you might say. Yes, but human beings have a story to tell.

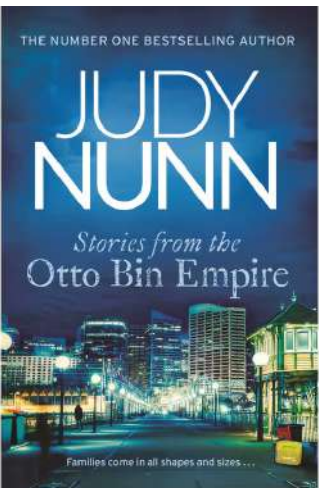
There is the evil side – of teenage gangs from well-off families coming into the city to beat up “poofers”. (There is a current case where a gang claiming to be IS related, has been filmed and recorded doing just that.) There is the case of the violent husband tracking his fearful wife and killing her rescuer. A woman in her sixties

has her large house (near Centennial Park?) taken over by her son and family relegating her to the basement, and doubtless to an old people’s home to get sole possession of the house.

But the group of homeless look out for each other. They respect each other’s privacy. They share. They contribute by helping the Salvos. Some have part time jobs.

In the final chapter, Judy Nunn observes that with the housing crisis, the cost of living, the lack of rental properties, the city’s homeless had gone up 20% in the past year, and that included ordinary, middle-class folk with ordinary middle-class lives till now, the year 2024.

She observes in her introduction that she knows one such homeless group who have set up camp not a twenty minute walk from her inner-city apartment. A sign nearby reads “Home is where the Heart Is.” This is the bond they share.



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Sorry!
Due to a clash of bookings, Forster CWA's monthly Devonshire Tea & Handmade Craft morning scheduled for Saturday, July 18 has been cancelled.
However, we look forward to seeing you at Forster Civic Centre on Saturday, August 15, when we will be serving our freshly made jam and cream-laden scones, served with tea or coffee from 9:30am till 11:30am.
Of course, there'll also be the usual tables of delicious cakes, pickles, relishes, and handmade crafts on sales.
FORSTER CWA
The funds we raise support local community groups.

Please help – lost necklace
On Saturday 20th June, 2026 at around 11:30am, I lost my precious gold necklace at Stockland Forster. This necklace is absolutely irreplaceable. It belonged to my beloved Aunt, who passed away 26 years ago, and it carries two very special charms: a sapphire charm given to me by my husband for our 25th wedding anniversary and a personally designed gold ribbon charm representing my journey as a breast cancer survivor. The necklace is a belcher style with a parrot clasp.
If anyone has found it, or knows someone who may have, please contact the editor or it can be handed in anonymously to LifeLine Forster in an envelope with my name on it as I am a volunteer there. I am desperate to have it returned.
Thank you so much, Kerin McNamara.



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Community News

www.forsterfortnightly.com.au

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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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Al-Anon Family Groups

Does someone you love drink too much?
7:00pm Salvation Army Hall, South St, Tuncurry.
Contact: 1300 252 666

Boomerang Bags Forster Tuncurry

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

Club Forster Travel Club

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

Forster Family History Research Service

Available Mon & Wed 2 - 4pm and Tues, Thurs &
Fri 10am - 12pm at Forster Library.
Email: library@midcoast.nsw.gov.au

Forster Hospital Pink Ladies

Meetings held the 2nd Monday of each month
Forster Palms Motel at 1.30 pm. Afternoon tea
afterwards. Contact Pat on 0412 684 044.

Forster Tuncurry Lions Club

Meetings held 3rd Monday each month.
Club Forster 6:30 for 7pm Dinner.
Contact President **Peter Sloan 0419 125 152**

Forster Tuncurry Men's Shed Inc.

48 Midge Orchid Rd Darrawank
Open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
Contact Richard 02 6515 2249

Get Active Coomba Park exercise

at Coomba Park Aquatic Club
Dec to Mar 8-9am Mon, Weds & Fri
Contact Lindy 0415 392 554

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

Forster Tuncurry Seniors

Breeze Parade Forster
Carpet Bowls 12.45 – 3:45pm
Contact 02 6505 2686

Girl Guides Forster Tuncurry

Mondays 5:15pm - 7pm school terms. Ages
7yrs+. Fun, friends, adventure. 2 free visits. 34A
Lake St Forster. Enquiries 0403 131 810

Great Lakes Evening VIEW Club

Meetings held
4th Monday of the month with 6:30pm dinner at
Sporties. Phone Pat 02 6554 5466

Great Lakes Ladies Probus Club

4th Monday of
the Month 10am Forster Bowling Club Contact
Sandra 0478 609 258

Great Lakes Vietnam Veterans Association

Email: vvagf@forster@gmail.com

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

Mixed Social Tennis

Monday 9 - 11am at Tuncurry Sporties courts,
Beach St. Contact Rhys 0402 636 895

Mid North Coast Bootscooters

Beginner lessons 6 - 7pm every Monday at
Tuncurry Memorial Hall. Check our Facebook
for updates or call Lorraine 0400 708 511.

Quota Club of Forster Tuncurry

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday each month
Club Forster. Lunch 12.30pm
Meeting 1.30pm, Enquiries 02 6555 7219

Tennis Forster

Every Monday 8.30am - 11.30am Mixed
Organised Social Forster Tennis Club, Lake Street.
Enquiries: Jaime 02 6554 9120

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

Tuesdays

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Club Forster Social Dance Club

Every Tuesday we have Learn to Dance 6-7pm
then Social Dance 7-9pm.
Enquiries: Jenny 0412 609 181

Coomba Park Tennis Club

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

Forster Shores Combined Probus Meeting

Held 3rd Tuesday of the month, 2pm Sporties
Club, Tuncurry. To attend contact Col Jay on
0448 918 645 and Linda Lovell 0447 473 510.

Forster Tuncurry Radio Sailing Club

Tuncurry Racecourse Lake – 1pm
Contact Bruce 0466 153 616

1st Forster Tuncurry Scout Group Venturer

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

Great Lakes Prostate Cancer Support Group.

Fourth Tuesday of every month
7pm Club Forster.
Email: jjpatchwood@gmail.com

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

Pacific Palms Probus 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

Pickleball Tuncurry

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

Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast

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

Surfing Mums around MidCoast Beaches

Take turns surfing, swimming, walking, etc.
From 9:30am. Enquiries Vanessa 0452 247 440

The Coomba Mens Shed

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

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

Wallis Lake Tourers Travel Club Inc.

Meet 10am 2nd Tuesday of the month
Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club
Enquiries Gail 0421 965 885

Wednesdays

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

Club Forster Table Tennis

Each week new players welcomed.
6 - 9pm. Contact Harold 02 5591 7133
or Bruce 0414 532 496

Dementia Information drop in at Forster

Library 4th Wed of the month 9.30 -
11.30am. Speak with local Dementia Alliance
representative on local services.

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

Forster Tuncurry Evening View Club

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

Forster Tuncurry Men's Shed Inc.

48 Midge Orchid Rd Darrawank
Open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
Contact Richard 02 6515 2249

Get Active Coomba Park exercise

at Coomba Park Aquatic Club
Dec to Mar 8-9am Mon, Weds & Fri
Contact Lindy 0415 392 554

Great Lakes Breast Cancer Support Group

Meet on the first Wednesday of the month
at the Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club at 4pm.
Contact Lorraine 0410 588 736

Great Lakes Historic Automobile Club

First Wednesday monthly (not January)
at Sporties in Tuncurry.
Talk to Derek Hinde 0421 441 997

Great Lakes Knit and Spin

Every Wednesday 10am – 12pm,
Forster Civic Centre, Wallamba 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.

Green Bikes Community Workshop

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

Hallidays Point Men's Shed

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

One Mile Beach Dunecare

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

Seaside Heritage Quilters meet on the
first and third Wednesday of the month
10am-2pm at Forster Surf Club Beach Street,
Forster enquire 0400 890 728

Social Tenpin Bowling

Forster Entertainment centre
Wednesdays 10am
Contact Jamie 0431 766 582

Surfing Mums Hallidays Point

Take turns surfing, swimming, walking, etc.
From 9:30am. Enquiries Vanessa 0452 247 440

The Sunrise Club

Meet 6am every Wednesday at South One Mile
for men to connect, talk and support.
Enquiries: Heath on 0410 519 825

Twin Towns Tennis Club

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

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

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

Women's Shed Forster Tuncurry

- Meets
fortnightly 11:30am in Wang Wauk Room at
Forster Civic Centre. Closed school holidays.
Updates on Facebook. Cheryl 0448 237 918.

Thursdays

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

Codependents Anonymous

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

Coomba Mens Shed

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

Forster District Combined Probus Club

9.45am First Thursday of every month at Club
Forster. Contact Jacqui Costello 0410 662 671

Forster Keys Progress Association

Dad's Army/Navy volunteer clean-up
Every Thursday 7am - 9am, Community Hall
36A Elizabeth Pde. Contact: Brian 02 6555 5076

1st Forster Tuncurry Scout Group Joey Section

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

1st Forster Tuncurry Scout Group Scout

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

Great Lakes Concert Band

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

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.

Great Lakes Vietnam Veterans Association

Email: vvagf@forster@gmail.com

Knit and Knatter

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

Mens Social Tennis

Thursday 9 - 11am at Tuncurry Sporties courts,
Beach St. Contact Rhys 0402 636 895

Tennis Forster

Every Thursday 12.30pm – 4pm Men's
Organised Social Forster Tennis Club, Lake
Street. Enquiries: Jaime 02 6554 9120

Twin Towns Tennis Club

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

Fridays

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Forster Country Women's Association (CWA)

3rd Friday of the Month, 10am to 11:30am
Coolongolook Room at Forster Civic Centre,
Lake Street. Contact: Annette 0411 028 857

Forster Tuncurry Men's Shed Inc.

48 Midge Orchid Rd Darrawank
Open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
Contact Richard 02 6515 2249

Forster Tuncurry Red Cross

1st Friday of the month at 10:30am.
Please contact Janet on 0413 799 543 to find
out new venue.

Forster Tuncurry Seniors

Breeze Parade Forster
Carpet Bowls 9:15 - 12pm & Games 1pm - 4pm
Contact 02 6505 2686

Get Active Coomba Park exercise

at Coomba Park Aquatic Club
Dec to Mar 8-9am Mon, Weds & Fri
Contact Lindy 0415 392 554

Ladies Social Tennis

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

Pickleball Tuncurry

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

“Quilts of Love” Forster Arts & Crafts

Breeze Parade, Forster 10am-12noon.
Last Friday of every month Feb-October.
Contact Christine 02 6557 5627

Surfing Mums Hallidays Point

Take turns surfing, swimming, walking, etc.
From 9:30am. Enquiries Vanessa 0452 247 440

Tuncurry Beach Dunecare

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

Twin Towns Tennis Club

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

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

Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous

9.30am, Steps and Traditions
Girl Guides Hall - Opp Council Playing Fields
Lake St, Forster 1300 222 222

Community News

www.forsterfortnightly.com.au

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Club Forster Table Tennis

Each week new players welcomed.
12:45 - 3pm. Contact Harold 02 5591 7133 or
Bruce 0414 532 496

Dragon Boating

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

Forster Country Women's Association

CWA are serving Devonshire teas, 3rd Saturday
of month 9:3am - 11:30am, Coolongolook Rm,
Forster Civic Centre. Enquiries: 0411 028 857

Forster parkrun community 5km run/walk

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

Great Lakes Orchid Society Meeting

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

Green Bikes Community Workshop

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

Forster Tuncurry Radio Sailing Club

Tuncurry Racecourse Lake – 1pm
Contact Bruce 0466 153 616

National Parks Association

Saturday walks in national reserves and parks
between Kempsey and Buladelah.
Contact Brett on 0428 961 470

Over 55s Forster/Tuncurry Social Group

Weekend meals at a local club or restaurant,
or a location about an hour's drive from town.
Contact Heather Yates 0414 507 781

Pickleball Tuncurry

5pm at tennis courts behind Sporties.
Enquiries: Sonia Rockley 0427 309 032

Tennis Forster

Every Saturday 12.30pm – 4pm Mixed
Organised Social, Forster Tennis Club, Lake
Street. Contact: Jaime 02 6554 9120

Twin Towns Tennis Club

7.30am Mixed Social every Saturday, Capel St
Tuncurry. Contact Ellise 0411 476 063.

Sundays

Coomba Park Tennis Club

Every Sunday 8 - 10am Mixed Social Tennis
Enquiries: Text Melissa 0403 309 807

Forster Rainbow Pride

Social activities for
LGBTQIA+ community. FB/Insta/Subscribe for
info & dates ForsterRainbowPride@gmail.com
or call Jeni 0414 296 859.

Forster Tuncurry Boardriders:

Runs on a
Sun once a month from Feb to Dec. See
forstertuncurryboardriders.com or contact
info@forstertuncurryboardriders.com

Forster Tuncurry Dolphin Dancers

Full house for Great Lakes Women's Shelter Fundraiser



Above: Back row (L-R) Steve Roach, MP Tanya Thompson, MC Renee Gartner and Group CEO of St Johns Park David Marsh. Front row – Darryl Brohman, TBBC Event Manager Melissa Payne, TBBC Head of Community Engagement Terry Green, Director at St Johns Park Maryann Parcell, Yvette Higgins OAM and Greg Ritchie.

By Mary Yule - Forster Fortnightly

Big numbers attended the annual 'Fundraiser Sports Luncheon' hosted by the Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club (TBBC) on Friday 3 July, with all proceeds going directly to the Great Lakes Women's Shelter.

Guest speakers included Australian rugby league player Steve Roach, Queensland rugby league player Darryl Brohman, Australian Olympic water polo player Yvette Higgins and comedian Greg Ritchie.

The Great Lakes Women's Shelter supports women and children experiencing domestic and family violence or homelessness. In 2025, the shelter supported 276 clients, with an average stay of 10 weeks. During this time, women and children received not only safe accommodation but also support with safety planning, housing, finances, legal and health services, parenting, schooling, and recovery.

The shelter also provides outreach services, helping women in the community access advocacy, referrals, and practical support without needing to stay at the shelter.

Top right: MC Renee Gartner chats with Simon Gould, representative from the Great Lakes Women's Shelter.

Right: A full house for the Fundraiser.

Photos by Mary Yule.



Local Identity – Peter Naylor

Interview by Vanda Gooley

Peter Geoffrey Naylor, 72, is a resident of Tuncurry and manager at the Dorsal Boutique Hotel. He said he is enjoying his best life in what he regards as 'Paradise'. He is an Australian masters/open-water swimmer and has competed successfully in ocean swimming events. Strong endurance and efficient swimming technique underpin his successes.

Peter was born in Sydney, whose father, Alec Naylor, was a member of the Australian Army. Peter's mother, Patricia Blackburn, was a single supporting mother who was a foster parent to some 360 children over many years in Darwin, Katherine and Batchelor in the NT, and who held a variety of jobs in the hospitality and cleaning industries. She passed away in 2024 at 101yrs. Peter has three siblings. Kevin Naylor (A retired member of the NSW Police living in Tuncurry), Gerald Naylor (a retired bricklayer living in Darwin) and Nadine Tsangaris (a very busy great grandmother) living in Darwin.

Peter grew up in Darwin after the family moved there in 1962 when he was 9, which he said was an adventure, with lots of fishing, hunting and "escapades our parents would have gone grey over if they'd known." Darwin in the early 1960's was quite the last frontier with a huge emphasis on outdoor activities and self-reliance even at that early age."



Above: Peter representing the Northern Territory in water polo.

He began walking around to see if he could assist anyone, but it took a good 15 minutes before anyone was found. The silence after the noise of the raging storm winds all night was very eerie. No dawn chorus that day! "It was a frightening experience that you would not wish upon anyone, and it took some years to become completely comfortable with Darwin's tropical storms again."

Peter was one of the many locals who stayed to assist with the clean-up and rebuilding after the cyclone as his mother was already resident in Katherine and his brothers were in Sydney. His sister and her family were evacuated to Sydney which meant Peter could devote his time to the recovery effort.

Despite this disaster, Peter reflects fondly on the camaraderie experienced after Cyclone Tracy, the community pulling together was a wonderful experience.

Peter has two daughters, Rachael, her partner Che and their two daughters Mia and Sophie who live in Coffs Harbour and Amanda, her husband Daniel and their two sons Ollie and Jacob, who live in Darwin.

Peter attended primary school in Sydney, Darwin and Adelaide, then high school in Darwin, followed by NT Uni and the Adelaide School of Plumbing. He is a licensed plumber, drainer and gas-fitter. Peter is also an open water coxswain and held a Master V ticket which allowed him to operate a commercial vessel up to 24 metres long in Australia's economic zone.



Above: Peter at daughter Amanda's wedding.

In 1993 Peter was awarded Life membership of the NT and Darwin Water Polo Associations. Today, Peter keeps himself fit by a daily regimen of walking for 45 minutes or so and swimming from Paradise Marina to the bridge and back, which is hard work against the incoming tide! To put it into perspective, one way against the tide can take as long as 40 minutes with the return trip with the tide taking 10 minutes.

Despite all his water achievements, Peter said his greatest achievement is his daughters and grandchildren.

Out of the water, Peter completed a Charity bike ride, Sabrina's Ride for Life, 4 riders. He rode from Adelaide to Darwin, some 3,200 km over 35 days, raising \$100,000 for the Black Dog Institute and establishing a scholarship at Charles Darwin University for mental health studies. The ride wasn't incident free. Lidia,

left homeless and over 36,000 evacuated from the town. Peter recalls the frightening sound of the cyclone and witnessing the destruction of the houses around him with each flash of lightning. He remembers leaving the unit where he had sheltered in a wardrobe to see the utter devastation. The roads were impassable: it was not possible to drive a car or a bike due to the debris.



Above: "Pete is a family man with 2 daughters and a tribe of grandkids who have a firm hold on his heart."

the only female rider fell from her bike in Port Augusta and broke her arm. Peter's ride wasn't without incident including him hitting a piece of rubbish on the road and falling off and breaking his collar bone, also injuring his shoulder. Lidia and Peter then walked 87 kms over 4 days both with their arms in slings. Peter was able to resume cycling on the 5th day and completed the ride on his bike, while Lidia continued to walk every day for the rest of the trip and completed 480 kms. Peter was only able to complete the trip with the assistance of the awesome support crew.

Peter has encountered some challenges in his life including overcoming a severed Achilles tendon which took about 14 months of rehab, plus a brush with a rare cancer, a gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST). Both times incurring a loss of about 30kg in weight.

Peter's biggest inspiration is Manuel Estiarte, the Spanish water polo player named the world's best water polo player 7 times, attended 6 Olympic Games and was of relatively short stature, and Lance Armstrong, despite everything. (Armstrong achieved international fame for winning the Tour De France seven consecutive times but was stripped of his titles after doping allegations).

Peter and his friend Judith came on a road trip to Tuncurry to catch up with his brother Kevin, arriving here in early December 2005. Judith was so infatuated with the drive over the bridge that they purchased a house by late January 2006. The house was used as a holiday home for several years until it became time to retire to 'Paradise'. Afterwards, Peter sold his business in Darwin but continued to work between Forster and Darwin for another few years, finally settling here full-time in 2018.

Peter loves the easy-going lifestyle of the Mid North Coast - plus the camaraderie with people he hangs out with.

Peter's mottos to live by are 'If it's broken, you can either fix it or it's still broken.'

"Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself."

"No problems, only solutions."

John Koorey, a friend for about 20 years said this of Peter...

25 years ago, any swimmers crossing Main Beach, the Bullring or swimming Breckenridge Channel to the bridge was usually Trevor Bennett, Phil Stokes or John Koorey who were considered the upper echelon of aged swimmers in Forster.

Then, from Darwin came an ex-water polo legend,

seeking fame in Forster. Peter Naylor came and conquered, considering everyone a threat or a fair go. Peter loves to win with no respect or consideration for any status, ranking, age or gender and even, if necessary, swimming with one arm to further embarrass lesser performing swimmers.

Excelling in Ocean swims, Peter has been winning in his age group and is competitive in open categories at swims from Forster to Darwin.

As a plumber builder he is called upon by the local community for the many quick fix jobs that he can assist, always obliging and generous with his time. Any other spare time is spent in a 'fix mode'! Peter has a backyard resembling a mechanics workshop and an abundance of broken and repaired items wherever he may be.

Michael Tartt, a friend from Darwin for almost 60 years said this of Peter...

"Firstly, a little context, Pete (Nails) and I grew up together in Darwin. We competed at the local swimming clubs both in Porap and Nightcliff (suburbs of Darwin). We both played water polo, mostly in the same team but also against each other (it's easier to be on the same team!). I played alongside Pete at the Nationals once while Pete played every year, even competing several times internationally!"

I have watched and worked alongside Pete for most of my life and can honestly say he is a best mate. The first to raise his hand when help is needed and asking nothing in return. Putting in long hours to support the family, riding out many difficult times, including cyclone Tracy!

How would I describe Pete? Generous, determined, driven, competitive and honest.

Whilst working on a mate's boat, Pete lost his balance and fell backwards through a hatch on the deck completely severing his Achilles tendon. He was hospitalised for many weeks and was eventually informed that he would never be able to walk with his heel on the ground again due to the shortening of the tendon. Pete, being the determined man he is, decided to have none of that and pushed himself day and night until finally he not only could walk, but run!

Peter at the FINA World Masters Water Polo (face showing).

Can he swim? Yes - like a fish! Pete has 2 speeds when it comes to swimming...fast and flat out! We did many miles in the pool together; all I ever got to see was Pete's heels as he swam off! As for long distance ocean swimming, he can have that on his own!

I decided after finding out I had a life-threatening illness to move to Forster to live out my remaining years, imagine my surprise that whilst telling Pete my decision he announced he had a house in Tuncurry and was also planning to retire here!

Yep, lifelong mates. (Oh, I didn't die, guess I'm a little determined myself!)"



Peter at the FINA World Masters Water Polo (face showing).

Floriade

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Our Local wildlife



By Kym Kilpatrick – FAWNA Hallidays Point

The distinctive Yellow billed Spoonbills

Spoonbills are pretty distinctive looking birds with their spatula or spoon shaped bills. There are two species in Australia, the Royal Spoonbill and the larger Yellow-billed Spoonbill. This is another wetlands dependent bird, found in our area, but it prefers fresh-water wetlands and can be a visitor to larger ponds, farm dams and flooded pastures.

Yellow-billed Spoonbills are large white waterbirds. They have yellow bills, legs, and feet and somewhat featherless 'faces'. They range from 80 to 96 centimetres tall and between 1500 to 2230 grams in weight. Males are slightly larger than females and have longer bills. In breeding season their plumage changes with long hackles developing on their chests, black tipped lacy plumes on their wings and the facial skin develops a bluish tinge with a black outline.

Breeding occurs in wet seasons, between August to October in our area. During courtship male Yellow-billed Spoonbills perform elaborate dances to attract potential mates. They also loudly vocalise and clap their bills.

They are monogamous during the breeding season but do not appear to form life-long partnerships. They will return to their favourite nesting sites year after year. Nests are preferably built in high forks of trees overhanging water, or among reed beds. The male will bring the nesting materials to the female and she builds the nest, typically a shallow unlined platform bowl of sticks and reeds.

Two to four dull white eggs are laid, and both parents share the incubation and care of the young. Incubation takes around 21 days, after which the chicks who are initially helpless or altricial, are fed by regurgitated food from their parents until they are approximately 6



Above: Photo of Yellow-billed Spoonbill by Danny Knight of Signal Hill Photography.

weeks old. After this, they will follow their parents to the feeding grounds but stay close for another several weeks and not reach full adulthood until their second year. All going well, Yellow-billed Spoonbills can live to 10-15 years.

Yellow-billed Spoonbills, like their Royal cousins, are unique for the amazing dexterity of their bills. Their bills contain rows of blunt knobs along the upper and lower mandibles, called papillae, which work as vibration detectors. Their prey includes yabbies, aquatic insects, freshwater snails, shrimp, and small fish including the invasive tadpole eating mosquitofish.

They hunt by walking slowly through the water sweeping their open bills from side to side in a series of crescent-shaped movements. When prey is detected, it is quickly grabbed, then lifted to be swallowed whole.

Yellow-billed Spoonbills are not considered endangered, and are adaptable birds occasionally frequenting our water reservoirs, sewage ponds, and irrigated farmlands. Although not truly migratory they are nomadic and will follow floods and inland waterways. They can be impacted by drainage and other damage to wetlands such as grazing by hard hoofed animals, including feral species.

Early town water supplies

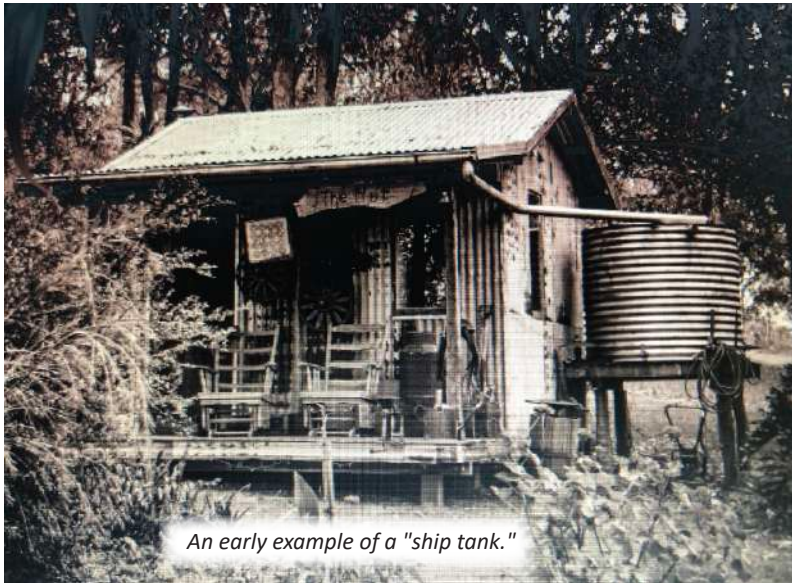
Great Lakes Museum

The early settlers in Forster Tuncurry dug wells tapping the plentiful supply of underground water. The water was brackish and varied in quality from one well to another.

Along the northern side of Tuncurry House a well was dug, carefully timbered down to prevent the loose sand falling and filling it up, reaching water about 14 feet. The top was timbered over and a "donkey tail" pump was installed, this being the Tuncurry water supply. However, like all swamp water it was cloudy in appearance, smelled and tasted "swampy". If the season was dry and the house tanks low, what else did they have?

There were several wells in Forster, the better known being Bennett's Head well at the Tanks which James Hadley and his boys dug. George Underwood had a well up near the golf course and Ehefeldt's well down Little Street, from which pipes carried water out to the end of his two-tiered wharf and supplied ships with fresh water. These wells gave good service to supplying water to the settlement together with the settler's rainwater tanks.

The house tanks at the beginning, before corrugated galvanised iron, were known as "ship tanks". Cubicle in shape and built of sheet steel and riveted down the corners, were



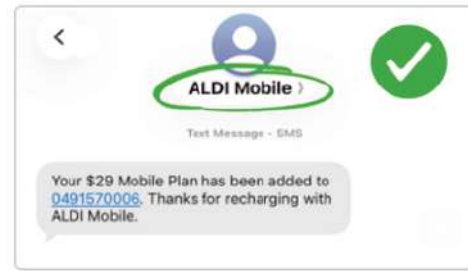
An early example of a "ship tank."

able to hold 2.7 cubic metres or around 600 gallons of water. Set up on a wooden stand beside the dwelling with necessary guttering they caught rainwater that ran from the tin roof, drained into the tank and although always a little salty the water was reasonably pure.

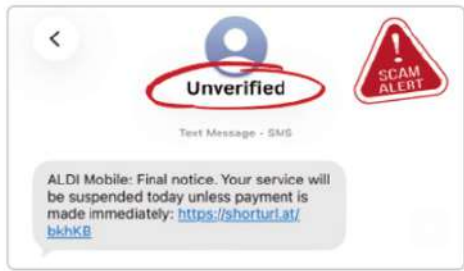
John Wright often looked out to the west at the hills among which the Wallamba rose and talked about damming the stream up there and running water down to the village, but nothing came of it. But this scheme was seriously considered at one time, when it could be seen that the growth of the community was making some sort of water supply an urgent need. Samples were taken from the Wallamba above salt level and it was found to have a very high chloride level and a hardness of degree higher than desired for domestic supply.

The Great Lakes Museum is at 1 Capel Street, Tuncurry. Opening hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-1pm and Sunday 1pm-3pm.

From pay to taxes, big changes are coming for Australian workers & businesses from July 1



Standard ALDI Mobile recharge confirmation SMS. Check symbol for reference only.



ALDI Mobile does not send SMS payment requests. Scam symbol for reference only.

Above: An example sent by mobile phone provider Aldi Mobile to its customers ahead of the SMS register to fight scams from 1st July. Image credit: Aldi Mobile/The Conversation



The Conversation, 24 June 24

July 1 ushers in a new financial year – and a raft of changes that will affect both workers and businesses.

From changes in superannuation payments and parental leave to an above-inflation increase in the minimum wage, here's what you need to know.

Modest tax cuts are coming

From July 1, the current lowest income tax rate, which applies to income from A\$18,201 to A\$45,000, will be reduced from 16% to 15%.

So a person earning \$45,000 or more will save \$268 a year.

New 'instant' \$1,000 tax deduction

If you're someone who hates keeping track of receipts, there's good news.

While it still has to pass parliament, the federal government has proposed an "instant" \$1,000 work-related tax deduction to start this financial year. That's higher than the little-known \$300 limit on receipt-free work deductions available already.

It's forecast to leave about 6.2 million Australians better off than now.

But be warned: if you're among the majority of Australians who claim more than \$1,000 in work expenses, you'll be better off still collecting those receipts and claiming the way you have before.

National minimum wage increase

Around 2.8 million of Australia's lowest-paid workers will get a 4.75% pay rise from July 1. The very lowest-paid workers – about 100,000 people on entry-level and minimum pay – get a bigger 5.97% pay bump.

The national minimum wage will rise from \$24.95 an hour to \$26.44, or up from \$948 a week to \$1,004.90 per week.

Yet even after the new rises, Australia's lowest-paid employees will still have less buying power at the shops than they did five years ago.

Payday super

From July 1, all Australian businesses need to pay their employees' superannuation on the same day as they pay salaries. It's expected to leave ordinary workers thousands of dollars better off in the long term, while guarding against a persistent problem of super being underpaid.

Parental leave pay changes

The length of paid parental leave is increasing slightly, by ten days, to a total of 26 weeks from July 1, and the payment will increase to \$1,004.70 per week.

The government says this will provide families with more financial support and parents will still need to meet an income test and work test.

Instant asset write-off extended

For small businesses, an instant writeoff for assets costing less than A\$20,000 will be extended permanently from July 1. This applies to small businesses with annual turnover of less than \$10 million.

SMS register to fight scams

For years, scammers have used a simple trick to lure people into clicking links they shouldn't.

You get a message from "AusGov" and assume it's from the Australian government. In fact, that's a fake "sender ID" – the identity of who's sending a text – close enough to the real "myGov" that it has fooled people.

From July 1, those scam text messages should show up on your phone under a single, "unverified" message thread.

While it's a welcome move, it is expected to catch some businesses and community groups off-guard. If they haven't registered their legitimate sender ID by July 1, their messages risk ending up in that "unverified" scam thread too.

Supermarket price-gouging law

From July 1, it will be harder for our two largest supermarkets – Coles and Woolworths – to charge "excessive prices". A new law has been brought in to increase scrutiny on their pricing practices, following similar rules in the European Union.

Penalties will apply for any breach, although "excessive pricing" may be difficult to prove.

Anti-money laundering rules widened

Updated laws covering anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing (known as "AML/CTF") will apply to more businesses from July 1.

The rules will now apply to real estate professionals, lawyers, accountants and conveyancers and some other businesses. These services will need to register with the regulator, AUSTRAC, and meet certain requirements, such as checking the identity of customers and reporting certain transactions.

What's not changing from July 1

- Changes proposed in the May federal budget to negative gearing and the 50% capital gains tax discount are not yet law. They are currently being debated in parliament and are due to begin on July 1 2027.

- A new minimum tax on discretionary trusts, also flagged in the budget, is not due to start till July 1 2028. These types of trusts are typically used for income splitting, so a high income earner pays a lower rate of tax.

- The Working Australians Tax Offset announced in the May budget provides an additional tax offset of \$250 each year. But this only starts from July 2027.

For more changes coming in from July 1, 2026 – including on business and company fees – check the federal government's Business website.

Old wooden hand tools rescued from Tuncurry Tip



Above: Some of the rescued wooden tools now on display. Photos supplied.

Ian Yager - Manning Great Lakes Woodworkers Inc

A collection of old wooden hand tools has been

rescued from the Tuncurry Waste Management Facility by a member of our Club and donated to the Club for display in our Gallery.

The hand tools include specialist planes and spoke shaves from the late 19th Century and may well have been used for specific purposes including shaping timber wheel spokes and coach building.

Members of the Club carried out minor renovations to preserve each item and all will be displayed in the Club's Gallery.

The Club and Gallery are located at Harry Bennett

Kim can be contacted on email: mglwoodworkers@yahoo.com or by phone: 0404 481 084.



Manning Great Lakes Woodworkers' Gallery.

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Thanks to our community for your support

By Deidre Stokes – Great Lakes Palliative Care Support

On behalf a Great Lakes Palliative Care Support (GLPCS) may I take this opportunity to thank the members of our community for their ongoing support. We are very grateful and appreciate the assistance you all give with our fundraising endeavours

At the beginning of May, Judith Tyne “our beanie lady” from Tuncurry made another donation of \$800 from the sales of her knitted beanies. What an amazing effort! Judith has been supporting us in this way for some years now. Her beanies can be purchased from Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club.

With the assistance of the Forster Tuncurry Golf Club and the organising committee of the annual Matt Nixon Memorial Golf Day proceeds have benefitted us greatly. In May we received another cheque for \$23,245.97 being proceeds from this special event. Our sincere appreciation to the Nixon family and all their supporters. These funds will be of great benefit to many of our Palliative Care and Oncology patients, their carers and families within our local community.

We are grateful to Bunnings for the opportunity to run a BBQ at Stockland once a month. We have also received donations from Forster Tuncurry Anglican Parish; Lions Club of Forster Tuncurry and Hallidays Point Lions Club. The residents and staff of Sunrise Supported Living have also been fundraising for us for some time now.

We were also given the opportunity to sell raffle tickets at the recent Motorfest held at John Wright Park, thank you to Great Lakes Historical Automobile Club and for Burson Auto Parts for providing the prizes.

No, doubt you are aware we receive no government funding and we try our best to



Above: (L-R) Matt Nixon Memorial Golf Day Cheque Presentation. (L-R) Shaun Flannery, Garry Nixon, Jan Lynch (Forster Tuncurry Golf Club) Roz Dreise, Kevin Stokes (GLPCS) and Rhonda Nixon. Photo supplied.

support our local Palliative Care and oncology staff fill the gaps in care that arise frequently. We do our utmost to assist people stay at home as long as possible, and to remove some of the financial strain experienced by carers and families at one of the most challenging times of their life.

The need in our community and surrounds obviously has escalated due to increased numbers of patients and families in need as

well as the impacts of the rising cost of living. We continue to provide vouchers for groceries, petrol, pay for medications, utility bills and car costs on a needs basis as well as topping up home visits for personal care and domestic help when other services are not available as requested by our Palliative Care Nurses and Social Worker. We are being called on more now, to top up services to those with aged care packages that have insufficient funds to

and their families.

We continue to be able to do what we can with the assistance of an amazing local community, and an incredible group of volunteers who do their utmost to support all our work. If you would like to join us, we would love to hear from you. We can be contacted on 0437 830 818.

provide end of life care. This can give the patient and family the opportunity to continue care at home until their death if that is their wish. There is a great need for assistance with housework and personal care for patients under 65 years of age as there are very limited services available for this demographic of palliative care patients. Sadly, the need for assistance with younger patients has also escalated.

To give you some idea of what services we have provided lately this is just a snippet. Since the end of March this year, we have provided \$6,000 in petrol and grocery vouchers; \$14,753 in nursing and domestic help, \$5,415 for provision of equipment for the use of folk in our local area. \$1,553 in assistance with payment of accounts, such as utilities and car rego. Currently we are assisting with the costs of medications for 5 patients

What a wonderful afternoon!

The Great Lakes Band

To everyone who joined us for our Annual Concert on Sunday 28 June—thank you for supporting live community music! Your support means the world to us.

As a community band, we're so

fortunate to have such an amazing community behind us. Whether you came to the concert, donated a raffle prize, bought raffle tickets, helped with the set-up or pack-up, or simply cheered us on, you all played a part in making the day such a success.

A very special thank you to Club Forster for their continued support by providing rehearsal space and access to the auditorium. We truly appreciate everything you do for our band.

We can't wait to see you at our next performance!

Photos by Matilda Yule.



Forster Digital Photography Club's May Results 2026

By Keith Pascoe – Forster Digital Photography Club

For the month of May members entered 42 images for Creative and 48 images for Open. The Judges Choice for Creative was awarded to Dale Rabbett for her fabulous image "Slick Swimmer".

In the Open category the Judges Choice went to Jane Hulme for her intriguing image "Lost in the Gallery". Our congratulations to both winners.

The following is the results for both competitions.

Creative

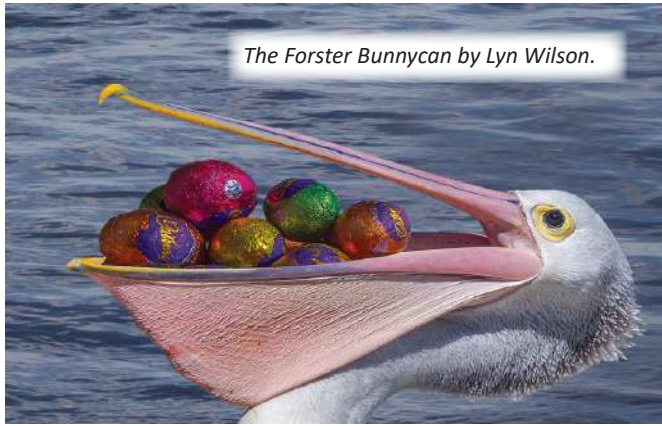
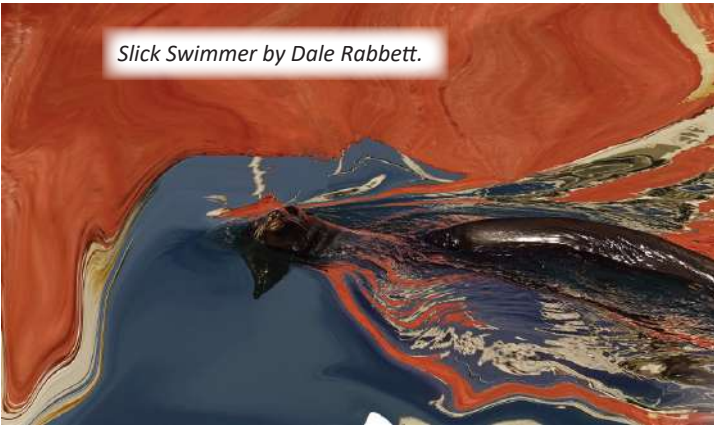
Merits: Lost in the Gallery by Jane Hulme (Also Judges Choice) Mixed Fruit by Dale Rabbett, Spanish by Design by Keith Pascoe, Ginger Flower by Jane Hulme,

Credit: Ripple Rose by Janice Amato, Banksia Dreaming by Wanda Amos, The Forster Bunnycan by Lyn Wilson, Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne, Polka Dot Begonia by Robyn Pascoe

Open

Merits: Slick Swimmer by Dale Rabbett (Also Judges Choice) Learning about Nature by Michelle Alcorn, Softly Softly by Wanda Amos,

Credits: Warrior by Michelle Alcorn, Cockatoo by Janice Amato, Learning to Surf by Keith Pascoe, Golden Sunrise by Kathy Majewski, The Old Wine Press by Malcolm Walker



Above: Lost in the Gallery by Jane Hulme.



Above: Ripple Rose by Janice Amato.

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Census

Running a Marathon for Lily

By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

In just six weeks' time, Forster resident Josh Londero will take on the marathon at the Forster Run Festival, dressed head-to-toe in pink to help raise funds for Lily Manttari and her family.

Nineteen-year-old Lily was diagnosed earlier this year with a rare form of ovarian cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy following the successful removal of a tumour.

"We're very close to the family," Josh said. "I actually grew up with Lily's mum in Singleton. As we grew up, we moved away, got married and had kids. They moved to Forster many years ago, and we moved here about 18 months ago. Our daughters became good friends—they're both named Lily."

"We're just trying to raise some money to help them get through it," Josh said. "While the treatment is covered by the government, Lily had to have her eggs harvested before chemotherapy, which cost around \$5,000. Then there's all the time she's had to take off work, and the time her mum and dad have had to take off to take her to appointments. It all adds up."

"We've set up a GoFundMe page to help ease some of that financial burden."

To support the fundraiser, Josh has been documenting his marathon training on Facebook.



"I've been posting my runs on Facebook. I'm decked out all in pink, and I'm running the Forster Marathon as the culmination of the fundraiser. A few businesses around town have donation tins, and it's all going really well. I'm amazed at the support from the local community, family and friends."

Preparing for his first major fundraising marathon has also introduced Josh to a new running community.

"It's going well. I usually like to do everything myself, but I've recently joined Forster Runners and they've been incredibly supportive. They've helped me structure my training and given me plenty of advice."

Josh will also be making sure Lily is front and centre on race day.

"Yes, I'll definitely be wearing pink. We're hoping to have a special shirt made with Lily's photo on it, and I'll have her name on my race bib."

"If I finish in time and earn a medal, I'm going to give it to Lily. What she's going through is so much harder than running a marathon. She deserves a medal far more than I do."

Lily Manttari plans to take part in the 3km event at the Forster Run Festival on Sunday, 16 August, walking alongside her family, friends and supporters, all dressed in pink.

The community can follow Josh's training and fundraising journey through his Facebook page and support the family's GoFundMe campaign in the links below.

<https://www.facebook.com/joshua.londero>

#OvaryActingForLily

Right: Josh Londero and Lily Manttari at Main Beach, Forster. Photo by Mary Yule.



Biggest contingencies for years with some outstanding results

By Dave Hughes – Forster Runners

Saturday the 4th of July saw the start of the long awaited 46th ASICS Gold Coast Running Festival weekend. It is a paradise for running with its flat, fast and scenic course located alongside the city's renowned surf beaches and stunning Broadwater. This event has become one of the most popular events in Australia.

This year saw a record 43,000 participants take to the streets in several distances. Runners from 59 countries competed over the weekend, highlighting the international appeal of the event. Over 60% of participants achieve a personal best time each year and it's perfect if you're aiming to qualify for the world famous Boston Marathon. The most popular distances are the 21.1km half marathon and 42.2k marathon which sold out within hours of being released. For many runners, the finish line represents months of training. For others, it's the culmination of years of personal challenge. Gold Coast Marathon weekend reminds us that running isn't just about speed—it's about resilience, community and discovering that we're capable of more than we imagined.

Forster Runners sent one of their biggest contingencies for years with some outstanding results. In the Half Marathon Hayley Moody ran 1h 36m (33rd/542), Justine Lea 1h 36m (36th/542), Nat Baker 1h 37m (51st/665), Lindy Mcdonell 1h 41m (8th/256), Lorna Barber

Right: Dave Hughes with his daughter Megan, "My greatest supporter." Photos supplied.

1h 57m (164th/542), David Hughes 1h 58m (9th/37), Alison McMurray 2h 06m (253rd/542) and Phil Brennan 2h 31m (134th/158). In the Marathon Mandy Brooks ran 3h 54m (110/514) and Timmy Richmond 4h 18m (1115/1589).

It was Lindy Mcdonell's umpteenth trip to the Gold Coast and praised the vibrant atmosphere and the professional running of the event.

Lorna Barber was ecstatic with her result and was asked for her views on her performance

Lorna said, "7 months of running, learning, showing up and trusting the process — and today it all came together with a PB I'm incredibly proud of. A huge thank you to Josh



Moody — THE best coach. Thank you for believing in me, guiding me and getting me to the start line feeling ready. Very lucky to share this journey with such a brilliant group of mums who are out there challenging themselves and doing hard things just for themselves"

Nat Baker had similar praise for coach Moody. "I've got no business being in the time bracket I had, but our bloody amazing coach (Moody) enforced in us that I did belong," said Nat "I'm never entering another race without the VIP treatment package ...it was worth every penny"

Justine Lea managed a scintillating 17 minute personal best and said, "Honestly, we couldn't have ordered more perfect weather. Such a fun course with fantastic crowds and even greater company. I was in absolute disbelief when I crossed that finish line."

Right: (L-R) Justine Lea, Lindy Mcdonell, Lorna Barber, Alison McMurray, Nat Baker and Hayley Moody before the start of the Gold Coast Half Marathon.



Lex lives up to his label & 'Spanner' surprises everyone



Above: Barry 'Spanner' Wrench.

By Dave Nash – Club Forster Blue Water Fishing Club

After the weeks of seemingly endless rain, and despite a weather forecast of changeable

weather, the Club Foster Blue Bluewater Fishing Club Competition Outing for June was held over the weekend of 20th and 21st June.

The weekend saw 6 boats log on over the weekend, with 12 anglers contesting. Uncertain sea conditions forecast for the Saturday saw only 4 boats head out. Sunday with its better forecast saw an additional two boats hitting the water on the Sunday. Sea conditions were a little lumpy early on but leveled out to perfect glassy seas as the day got older.

Fish catches were a little down with catch rates being lower than average and unevenly spread amongst boats. 60 fish were entered into the competition in total, but 2 boats contributed 36 of these. Thus, sparse pickings for the bulk of the fleet!

Without any question of a doubt, self-titled 'Fisherman' Lex Court lived up to his label winning the competition with 419.68 points from 21 fish, the best being a snapper of 583mm length. However, Martyn Barry pipped Lex for best snapper with a 586mm fish! Frank Harshman took out the longest flathead prize (563mm) and Matthew Judd the longest trag (611mm).

With the author being away for a few months, a report for the May competition was not posted. Readers did not miss much though as only 44 fish were recorded from 16 anglers in 8 boats. It demands reporting, though, that in a slow competition Barry 'Spanner' Wrench,



Above: Frank Harshman took out the longest flathead prize.

regular recipient of competition wooden spoons, shattered that reputation recording 11 fish, including a snapper of 561mm. However, the fishing deities were against him. They not

only denied Barry a competition win, they added insult to injury by giving the win to Barry's deckie Ray Morrison, who recorded 15 fish resulting in 270 points. Barry suffered the shame of being outfished on his own boat! Barry's pain was not over yet though, as he was also runner up for best snapper. This prize was won by Lindsay Rathbone who recorded a cracking snapper of 740mm. Perhaps we will have to rename him 'Bridesmaid' Barry!

All fish that are caught/and or released are according to DPI regulations as per club By-laws. Fish are either eaten by our members that catch them or given away to their friends and family. There is also a bag limit as to how many fish of each species can be caught. The club competitions also incorporate the option to practice catch and release.

For those interested in joining the Club Forster Blue Water Fishing Club, please see the club website or contact Barry Wrench on 0428 557 090.

New Pearlers make a splash on the dragon boat racing scene

By Michelle Richardson – Great Lakes Pearl Dragons

Two new members of the Great Lakes Pearl Dragons are proving that it's never too late to take on a new sporting challenge, following memorable debuts at both the Grafton Dragon Boat Regatta and the NSW State Club Championships.

The sisters, who jokingly described themselves as "battling their nerves almost as much as the fuel prices on the drive up the M1," recently represented the Great Lakes Pearl Dragons in their first competitive dragon boat events.

Their introduction to racing began on the Clarence River at Grafton, where they tackled the demanding 5-kilometre endurance event before stepping into the shorter 500 and 200-metre races.

"The strength, skill and synchronicity of our team carried us through," they said. "We finished the 5km with barely a breath left, but incredibly proud of what we'd achieved."

Away from the racing, they quickly discovered that dragon boating is about far more than competition.

"The atmosphere, encouragement and inclusivity from our teammates and the wider dragon boat community made our first regatta an unforgettable experience."

One of the weekend's highlights was taking part in the traditional paddle gauntlet, marking the

completion of their maiden regatta alongside their fellow Pearlers.

Buoyed by their first taste of competition, the pair soon found themselves competing on an even bigger stage at the NSW State Club Championships at the Sydney International Regatta Centre in Penrith.

Walking into one of Australia's premier paddling venues was an experience they won't soon forget.

"Everything felt bigger—the marshalling area, the race starts, the giant results screen and the atmosphere. It really brought home the scale of the sport."

The sisters were thrilled to be selected to race and embraced every opportunity to cheer on their Great Lakes Pearl Dragons teammates between events.

While they didn't return home with medals of their own, they proudly celebrated the outstanding performances of fellow Pearlers, who claimed multiple podium finishes throughout the Championships.

The experience has only strengthened their determination to improve.

"We're back at training with a new goal," they said. "We'll keep working harder, paddling faster and chasing that first piece of bling."

Great Lakes Pearl Dragons President Michelle Richardson said, "These sisters embraced every opportunity, supported their teammates and



(L-R) Sisters Louise Webber and Kylie Webber.

threw themselves into the experience with enthusiasm. They're a wonderful example of what makes our club so special."

The Great Lakes Pearl Dragons continue to welcome new paddlers of all ages and

abilities, with regular training sessions held throughout the year. The club is now preparing for a busy second half of the season, including regional regattas and the Club Crew World Championships in Taiwan later this year.

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Dance students celebrate Newcastle success



Above: Back row - Matilda Davey, Tahlia Emerson, August Ridgeway, Lilly-Rose Davidson, Chloe Barrett, Hayley Deland, Alynta Day, Ecko Herder, Amy Gavan and Bonnie Dempsey.
Second row - Avalon Huebner, Samantha Castillo, Matilda Dillon, Annabella McElroy and Kovi Coulton.
Front row - Evie Kanyaro, Ella Frappell, Mia Emerson, Scarlett Redman, Olivia Kanyaro, Remmy Minard, Harper Coulton and Cleo Minard. Photos supplied.

Dance Elite Forster/Tuncurry
Dance Elite Forster/Tuncurry is celebrating another outstanding achievement after students travelled to Newcastle for the Lakeside Dance Challenge, returning home with incredible results across a variety of dance styles.
Competing against strong studios from across the region, Dance Elite students proudly represented the Forster/Tuncurry community with their talent, dedication and sportsmanship.
The studio took a team of 38 dancers, ranging in age from just 5 to 19 years, with every routine placing throughout the competition.

Dance Elite was awarded:
• 15 x First Places
• 1 x Second Place
The studio also received several major awards, including:
• Highest Point Score – 10 Years Jazz
• Technique Award – 10 Years Lyrical
• Highest Point Score & Technique Award – 12 Years Lyrical
• Performance Award – 14 Years Lyrical
Studio owner and principal Hayley Deland said she couldn't be prouder of the students,

not only for their outstanding results but for the way they embraced the opportunity to compete in a new environment.
"Seeing our dancers step onto a new stage, challenge themselves and perform with confidence was incredibly rewarding. While the awards are exciting, what makes me most proud is the teamwork, resilience and encouragement they showed one another throughout the entire competition."
The excitement doesn't stop there. On Monday 6th of July, a group of Dance Elite students embarked on an international dance cruise through the South Pacific, where they have been invited to perform onboard as part of the ship's entertainment program.

The dancers have been rehearsing for months in preparation for a 30-minute production showcasing a variety of dance styles inspired by countries from around the world. The opportunity will see the students perform for international audiences while creating lifelong memories together.
Dance Elite has proudly provided quality dance education to the Forster/Tuncurry community for almost two decades, with a focus on developing confident, respectful and passionate young people through dance.
As preparations continue for the upcoming cruise, the studio congratulates every student who represented Dance Elite in Newcastle and thanks the families whose ongoing support makes opportunities like these possible.



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