

GLFM Radio
turns 40! p3

Local Legend
Donna Ballard p23



Star Pet
Hugo p21



Forster Fortnightly

Your local independent community newspaper distributed to
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Wednesday 2 September 2026

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Farewell Tuncurry Post Office Legends



After decades behind the counter, the three Thompson brothers are officially calling time! The Thompson family has been part of the Tuncurry Post Office since 1972 and over the years the boys have made it much more than just a place to collect the mail. Read more on page 10. (L-R) David Thompson, Bruce Thompson, Judy Thompson, Tanya Thompson MP, Adam Thomas and Warrick Thompson. Information & photo credit: Tanya Thompson MP Office.

Bush Fire Danger Period starts early

NSW RFS Mid North Coast

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has announced that the Bush Fire Danger Period commenced in the Mid Coast and Port Macquarie Hastings areas on 1 September 2026, urging residents to prepare now due to continuing dry conditions across the region.

Across NSW, 27 Local Government Areas commenced their Bush Fire Danger Period on

1 September 2026, ahead of the statewide statutory commencement on 1 October 2026.

This follows four Local Government Areas which commenced on 1 August and the AFAC Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring identifying above normal fire potential across parts of northern and south-eastern NSW.

RFS Superintendent Ugo Tolone said the declaration reflects the increased fire risk across the area.

"The Mid Coast and Port Macquarie Hastings areas are experiencing drying conditions across the landscape, with increasing fuel availability and the potential for warmer conditions to

further elevate fire danger as we move into spring," Superintendent Tolone said.

"People should use this time to prepare their properties and review their bush fire survival plans. Recent RFS research found while 70% of people say they have a bush fire plan, less than half have taken steps to prepare their property, and 62% are unaware there are free RFS resources available to help them prepare."

"Simple actions can make a difference. Clear leaves from gutters, remove flammable materials from around your home and ensure hoses can reach all sides of your property."

During the Bush Fire Danger Period, landowners and managers must obtain a Fire Permit from their local Fire Control Centre before lighting any fire, including for hazard reduction. On Total Fire Ban days, all Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificates are automatically suspended.

Regardless of the time of year, people must also notify their neighbours and local fire authorities at least 24 hours before lighting up. Notifications can be made online at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify.

Further information is available at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP

See p7 on how you can help your local area.

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Photos from Pacific Palms Market on page 25.

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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.

Safety upgrade for Bungwahl School's Kiss & Drop Zone

By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

A long-awaited safety upgrade for Bungwahl Public School has received the green light, with \$408,323 in funding allocated to construct a new pathway and kiss-and-drop zone along Seal Rocks Road.

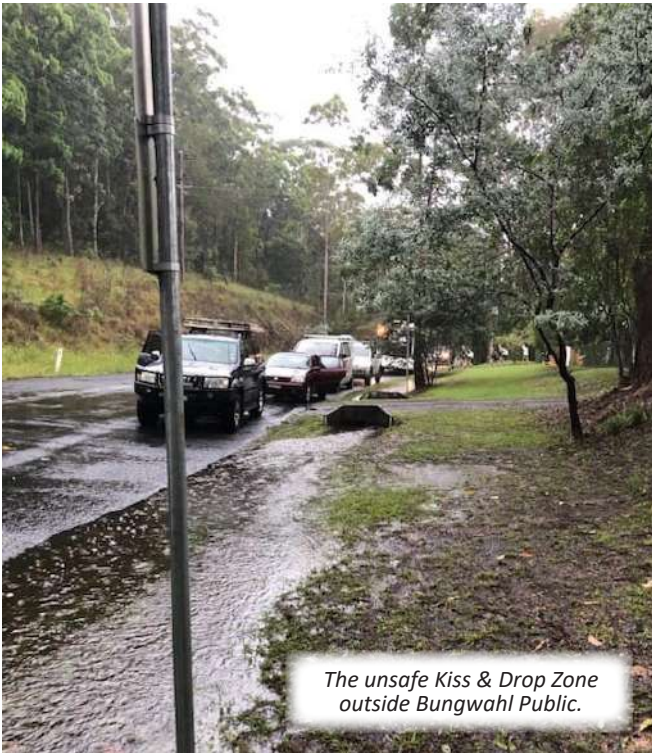
The project, funded through the NSW 2026–27 Black Spot Program, will deliver a 190-metre pathway and upgraded drop-off area outside the school.

The school's P&C Committee has campaigned for several years for improvements to the stretch of road, raising concerns about the safety of students and families using the existing kiss-and-drop area.

In its submission, the P&C highlighted the difficult conditions outside Bungwahl Public School, which sits on a narrow section of Seal Rocks Road.

The existing kiss-and-drop area is essentially an unmarked section of roadside shoulder within a 70km/h zone and is located on a bend. A deep drainage ditch runs alongside the kerb, often leaving the area waterlogged or sodden. As a result, children getting in and out of vehicles are frequently forced to do so from the roadside, requiring them to walk into the path of oncoming traffic.

The safety concerns are compounded by the volume and type of traffic travelling to and from Seal Rocks, including rental vehicles, motorhomes and large vehicles towing caravans. The school is also located within a



The unsafe Kiss & Drop Zone outside Bungwahl Public.

70km/h speed zone, while the flashing lights associated with the school's 40km/h signs are often not operational, according to the P&C.

Seal Rocks Road is one of 82 sites across NSW to receive an upgrade under the latest Black Spot Program funding round.

A spokesperson for Bungwahl Public School said the school community was delighted by the announcement.

"Our staff, school community and P&C are thrilled with the news," the spokesperson said.

<https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/about/local-initiatives/black-spot-program>

Long-awaited Tuncurry Slipway set for mid-2027 completion

By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

The long-awaited Tuncurry Slipway project is progressing towards a mid-2027 delivery, with Member for Myall Lakes Tanya Thompson welcoming confirmation of the project's timeframe through NSW Budget Estimates.

The NSW Government has confirmed \$12.2 million in funding for the project, with an additional \$1.6 million allocated to address contaminated land at the site.

Mrs Thompson said the funding and timeframe provided much-needed clarity for the local community, which has been waiting for progress on the slipway.

"Locals have been waiting a long time to see progress on the Tuncurry Slipway, so I was pleased to get some clear answers through Budget Estimates," Mrs Thompson said.

"The slipway is an important piece of infrastructure, supporting local boat owners, marine businesses, and our local economy."

"With the funding confirmed and planning underway, the focus now needs to be on getting the work done and keeping the project on track for mid-2027."

Mrs Thompson said she would continue monitoring the project and keep the community informed as it moved from planning into delivery.

The project has been strongly supported by the Wallis Lake Fishermen's Co-op, which has highlighted the slipway's importance to the wider Forster-Tuncurry community and the NSW maritime industry.



Image of Proposed design.

In November 2025, Co-op General Manager Suzie McEnallie described the new slipway as one of the highest necessities for the town and for NSW, pointing to its role as the only emergency slipway between Newcastle and Coffs Harbour.

Ms McEnallie said the facility was particularly important for protecting Wallis Lake and surrounding waters in the event of a vessel sinking. She also noted that the Forster-Tuncurry area has the highest number of boat registrations per capita in NSW.

The original Tuncurry slipway was used predominantly by recreational boaters, with around 90% of its users understood to be recreational fishers and 10% commercial fishermen.

The Wallis Lake Fishermen's Co-op will continue to hold the licence to operate the new Tuncurry Slipway, which will be available to local vessels.

The redevelopment will involve the removal of the existing slipway infrastructure and the installation of a 75-tonne boat travel lift. The new facility will accommodate vessels up to six metres in beam, 20 metres in length overall and 2.7 metres in draft.

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GLFM: From humble beginnings to Hall of Fame

By Belinda Bouras – Great Lakes FM

On Saturday, 22nd August, 101.5 Great Lakes FM celebrated 40 years in community broadcasting with a 'Back to the 80s' night at the Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club.

Back in 1986 the radio station was officially granted the community broadcasting license for the Great Lakes area. Prior to going "live" there was a lot of community consultation, construction of a broadcasting tower and setting up of the studio where test broadcasts took place in readiness. From their broadcasting tower at Cabbage Tree Mountain, Bulahdelah their signal reaches between

Taree and Newcastle. The station then known as 2GLA FM was originally located in the old Chamber of Commerce building in Forster and managed by Mr Rod Marks who led a start-up team of 32 volunteers that covered all tasks associated with admin, sponsorship sales, technical and production, presenting programs and fundraising events.

In January 2000 the station relocated to their current studios at 16 Douglas Ave, Tuncurry where the current team of 46 volunteers is led by Station Manager, Andy Harris.

Great Lakes FM is an incorporated association run by a management committee. The current

committee President is Shayne McBride who has been the station's Technical Project Manager since 1998. Their longest serving Presenter, Ian "Greenie" Green has been "Keeping it Country" since 1989.

In 2025 Great Lakes FM opened their Myall Studio in Bulahdelah

and now broadcasts some programs from there to engage with the wider Great Lakes community.

The station is a non-profit community organisation supported by local business sponsors, members, supporters and occasional Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) grants. These and the proceeds of their own fundraising efforts go towards ongoing operational costs including equipment maintenance and upgrades to keep them on the airwaves.

In 2024 a CBF grant contributed to the installation of a generator at the Tuncurry premises guaranteeing transmission is maintained during a local emergency.

Recently Great Lakes FM became a Finalist in the Outstanding Community Organisation category at the 2026 Mid Coast Business Awards and is proud to have also been awarded the

Left: GLFM's 40th Anniversary celebrations.

Right: GLFM station in Douglas Ave, Tuncurry. Photos supplied.



Above: (L-R) Deputy Mayor Jeremy Miller presenting Belinda Bouras, Tony Jackson and Andy Harris from Great Lakes FM with the 2026 Hall of Fame Award - Voice of the Community.

Hall of Fame Award for being the "Voice of the Community".

Great Lakes FM broadcasts 24/7 providing musical entertainment covering all genres from the 50's to current hits, national and local news, sports and weather and reports on local sea and bar conditions. The station's main purpose is to support community organisations by providing the opportunity to promote their services and fundraisers, engaging with the community at local events and promoting local entertainment.



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Eight years of keeping Forster parkrun moving



(L-R) Daryl and Chris Newell at Forster parkrun.

By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

Forster resident Chris Newell has been recognised in the NSW Parliament for eight years of dedicated service as Event Director of Forster parkrun.

The recognition was made earlier this year by Tanya Thompson MP, who acknowledged Mrs Newell’s contribution to the weekly community event and the important role volunteers play in keeping local activities running.

In her Community Recognition Statement, Ms Thompson highlighted Chris’s consistent leadership in overseeing weekly operations, coordinating volunteers and ensuring the event runs safely and reliably each Saturday.

“Mrs Newell’s contribution demonstrates commitment, organisation and reliability, and reflects the important role volunteers play in sustaining participation in local community activities across the region,” the statement said.

For Chris, much of the role takes place behind the scenes.

“It’s basically behind the scenes, answering emails, jumping on official parkrun chat groups

to keep updated with anything that’s happening with parkrun,” she said.

“I basically oversee the Run Director team, just to ensure that parkrun’s running smoothly for the community.”

Chris and her partner, Daryl Newell, are familiar faces at Forster parkrun on Saturday mornings. While the regular participants

are an important part of the event, Chris particularly enjoys meeting visitors from other parts of Australia and hearing about their parkrun travels.

The couple have also incorporated parkrun into their own travels, visiting other events and exchanging ideas with fellow volunteers.

“We do swap ideas. You learn something, they learn something, and it’s just a great feeling wherever you go to a parkrun.”

Over her eight years as Event Director, Chris has seen changes in the way people participate at Forster parkrun. One of the most noticeable has been the growing number of people who choose to walk the course.

“More people of all ages are coming to just walk which is great. We get little kids who start off in their pram, then the next minute they’re four years old, able to register and they’re out walking.”

The event also relies heavily on volunteers, and Chris says the Forster community has increasingly embraced that role.

“We’re now finding we’re getting a lot more volunteers and you don’t have to do lots of call outs to fill spots. Someone will always step in.”

Volunteers are essential to the event’s operation, with participants regularly showing their appreciation as they complete the third and last lap of the Forster parkrun course.

Chris and Daryl have even developed their own tradition of thanking marshals, with Daryl jokingly ordering a “flat white and a long black” as they pass the last marshal.

The Run Director team has also continued to grow. Chris recalls asking Mike Driver, who moved to the area from Queensland after previously volunteering at Kedron parkrun, to join the Run Director team.

“I felt he would be a good Run Director. So I asked him and he’s now doing it and he’s brilliant.”

Chris is equally quick to acknowledge Daryl’s contribution.

“Daryl’s encouraging, he’s my backbone. He does a lot for me behind the scenes.”

The couple’s involvement with parkrun has also encouraged them to volunteer at other running events. Chris and Daryl are members of the core volunteer team for Runfest, travelling to events in Port Macquarie, South West Rocks and Forster, with the Central Coast event in September also on their calendar.

“We like giving back to the community after all our years of competitive sports,” Chris said.

As Tanya Thompson MP noted in her parliamentary recognition: “Congratulations Mrs Newell on your 8-year anniversary running the Forster parkrun and thank you for helping keep our community active and healthy.”

Forster parkrun is a free 5km three-lap course event that starts at the Pebbly Beach playground off Head Street Forster at 8am every Saturday. A race briefing for newcomers is at 7:50am.

Register for free at: www.parkrun.com.au

Tanya's Community Update

What a busy couple of weeks!

I was thrilled to announce that funding for the Tuncurry Slipway has been secured, with the project set for delivery in 2027. This is a great outcome for our community and one many have awaited.

This weekend, I joined Federal Member for Lyne Alison Penfold at the Tread on Trafficking fun run in Taree. It was wonderful to see our community raising funds to protect vulnerable children and support survivors to rebuild their lives.

Thank you to the Saltwater Malibu Club for inviting me to its Big 3-0 Competition and Community Day at Saltwater Point. It was a fantastic celebration of 30 years, bringing together surfers, families and supporters for competition and community spirit. Congratulations to everyone who has made the club what it is today.

I also wish Rosita’s Florist Forster a happy 50th birthday! Denise and your team, we are grateful to have such a fabulous business in our region.

I’m in the middle of my Village Visits and loving every minute. It is an honour to travel across the Myall Lakes, listen to our communities and visit so many beautiful towns, with more to come. The full schedule is on page 5.

As always, if there is anything I can assist with, contact my office. My team and I are here to help.

Tanya Thompson MP - Member for Myall Lakes



I'll be visiting
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Authorised by Tanya Thompson MP, 1-9 Manning Street, Tuncurry NSW 2428, funded using Parliamentary Entitlements August 2026.

VILLAGE VISITS

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday 19th August	10:00am	MONDROOK Mondrook Hall
	11:15am	TINONEE Tinonee Hall
	1:15pm	BURRELL CREEK Burrell Creek Hall
Thursday 20th August	10:00am	KILLABAKH Killabakh Town Hall
	12:00pm	MOORAL CREEK Moorall Creek Hall
Friday 21st August	9:30am	WINGHAM Wingham Memorial Hall
	11:30am	CAFFREYS FLAT Caffreys Flat Hall
	1:00pm	MOUNT GEORGE Mount George Hall
Tuesday 25th August	10:00am	WHERROL FLAT Wherrol Flat Hall
	11:35am	MARLEE Marlee Hall
	1:30pm	BOBIN Bobin Hall
Wednesday 26th August	11:30am	LANSDOWNE Lansdowne Hall
	1:00pm	UPPER LANSDOWNE Upper Lansdowne Hall
Thursday 27th August	10:00am	WOOTTON Wootton Hall
	11:30am	BULAHDELAH Bulahdelah Bowling Club
	1:15pm	NERONG Nerong Community Hall
Monday 31st August	10:00am	BUNYAH Bunyah Community Hall
	11:30am	NABIAC The Artisan Farmer
	1:30pm	KRAMBACH Commercial Hotel
Tuesday 1st September	10:00am	TAREE Taree Universities Campus
	11:30am	CUNDLETOWN Cundletown Hall
	1:00pm	CROKI Croki Reserve
Wednesday 2nd September	9:30am	DIAMOND BEACH Bronte Belo
	11:00am	TALLWOODS Tallwoods Golf Club
Thursday 3rd September	10:00am	SMITHS LAKE Frothy Coffee Boatshed
	11:30am	SEAL ROCKS Number One Beach Reserve
	1:00pm	BUNGWAHL Bungwahl Hall
Friday 4th September	10:00am	COOMBA PARK Coomba Aquatic Club
	11:45am	PACIFIC PALMS The Recky
	1:30pm	GREEN POINT Green Point Fire Brigade
Monday 7th September	12:30pm	OLD BAR Old Bar Tavern
Thursday 10th September	10:00am	OXLEY ISLAND Oxley Island Community Hall
	11:30am	MITCHELLS ISLAND Mitchell's Island Hall
	1:15pm	MANNING POINT Club Manning Point
Friday 11th September	10:00am	FORSTER Forster Surf Lifesaving Club
	11:45am	FAILFORD The Hut on Failford
	1:15pm	RAINBOW FLAT Riding for the Disabled

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

Rueben Carr
Fri 4th September

Thursday
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Happy Hour 3pm to 5pm
Ribs Night \$25

Soul Station
Fri 11th September

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Sunday
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Community News

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Be the voice behind the response: RFS Communications Volunteers needed

By Wendy Burdekin - Midcoast South Communications

As another fire season approaches, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) is preparing for the busy months ahead — and our Communications team needs more volunteers to help keep the signal strong when it matters most.

When an emergency unfolds, there is a lot happening behind the scenes. From the fireground to control centres, Communications volunteers help keep information moving, crews coordinated and vital messages getting through.

For Captain Richard Pratten, who has volunteered with the Gloucester Great Lakes Communications Brigade for the past 17 years, being part of the team has been a rewarding experience.

"Firefighters on the ground cannot operate without radio communication, and knowing

that I help to make this possible is not only helping keep my community safe, but it is also very satisfying," Richard says.

"Radio communication is not only essential for controlling a fire, but also in severe fire situations, for helping to alert communities when evacuations are necessary."

Our Communications volunteers operate radios, track firefighting resources and help manage important information during incidents. They are the link between those working on the frontline and the people coordinating the response.

But to do that job effectively, we need enough people to share the load.

Our regular Communications crew needs six people on duty, yet our team currently consists of just ten volunteers. That makes rostering particularly challenging, especially as we head into what can be a demanding fire season.

More volunteers would mean a stronger team, greater flexibility and less pressure on the people already giving their time.

You don't need to be an experienced firefighter or know how to operate a radio before you join. Full training is provided by the RFS, and you'll learn the skills you need while becoming part of a team that plays an important role in supporting emergency response.

If you enjoy working as part of a team, want to learn new skills and would like to make a practical difference in your local community, this could be your opportunity to get involved.



Be the voice behind the response. Join the RFS Communications team and help us be ready for the fire season.

To find out more or to join your local RFS Communications team, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer or contact Captain Richard Pratten on 0407 807 007.



Diamond Beach RFS in action.

Black Head Bazaar is back and so are we!

NSW RFS - Diamond Beach

The Black Head Bazaar is back next Sunday, 6th September, and Diamond Beach RFS will be there with a focus on something that affects every one of us — being ready for fire season.

Prepare your home & protect your community

We'll be sharing simple, practical tips on how you can

prepare your home and property to reduce the risk of bushfire, ember attack and home fires turning into something devastating.

You don't need to do everything at once. Small jobs around your home can make a big difference when fire threatens.

Live overrun demonstrations

Come and see our emergency overrun demonstrations at 9:15am, 10:15am and 11:15am (an overrun is when a fast-moving bushfire overtakes a firefighting vehicle).

These demonstrations show some of the most extreme emergency safety measures available to firefighters. They are rarely needed in real incidents — but RFS volunteers train for these

situations regularly so they know what to do if the worst happens.

Volunteering with the RFS is safer than ever, thanks to training, equipment, procedures and technology designed to protect our firefighters.

Find us at Wyllie Breckenridge Park on the first Sunday of every month.

Come and have a chat, ask questions, climb through a fire truck and find out what you can do to prepare, protect and preserve what matters most.

Many local Fire stations will be open for the Get Ready Weekend on 19 and 20 September. More details to come in the next Forster Fortnightly edition.

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Community News

www.forsterfortnightly.com.au

Page 8

Teen charged



Image credit: Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service.

By Sophia McCaughan - Forster Fortnightly

A 17-year-old boy has been charged following an assault in Forster over the weekend.

At about 8.30PM on Saturday August 29, emergency services were called to One Mile Beach, Forster, following reports of an assault.

Officers attached to the Manning/Great Lakes Police District attended the scene.

Police were told a large piece of timber had allegedly been thrown towards a group of teenagers, striking a 16-year-old girl and causing her to lose consciousness.

NSW Ambulance paramedics attended the scene, treating the girl for head injuries, before she was airlifted to John Hunter Hospital in a serious condition.

A crime scene was established at One Mile Beach and police commenced an investigation into the incident.

Following the investigation, at about 2.15PM on Sunday, August 30, a 17-year-old boy was arrested at Forster Police Station.

The teenage boy - who cannot be identified for legal reasons - was charged with reckless grievous bodily harm.

He was granted conditional bail to appear at a Children's Court on Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

Buy a badge this Legacy Week & support local families of veterans



Forster Tuncurry Legacy

Forster Tuncurry Legacy is calling upon the local community to buy a badge this Legacy Week – Sunday 30th August to Saturday 5th September 2026.

For over a century, Legacy has kept the promise to thousands of veterans' families – helping provide financial and social support during times of hardship and grief. Times of hardship are appearing more and more in our current financial climate, and we do need the help of our communities, both financially and by way of volunteers, to ensure we can keep our promise.

As the needs of veterans' families continue to evolve in complexity, Legacy remains committed to meeting these changes with compassion and care. We are adapting our services to provide personalised support that recognises each family's unique circumstances and challenges. Every veteran's family deserves care that honours their journey and meets their distinct needs.

Division Chairman, Trevor Jones, said that "Every dollar raised in our area stays in our area to help and support our Beneficiaries".

Forster Tuncurry Legacy currently looks after 200 beneficiaries, providing services like home care visits, financial support, education support, access and support to

attend Youth, Adult and Family Legacy holiday accommodation.

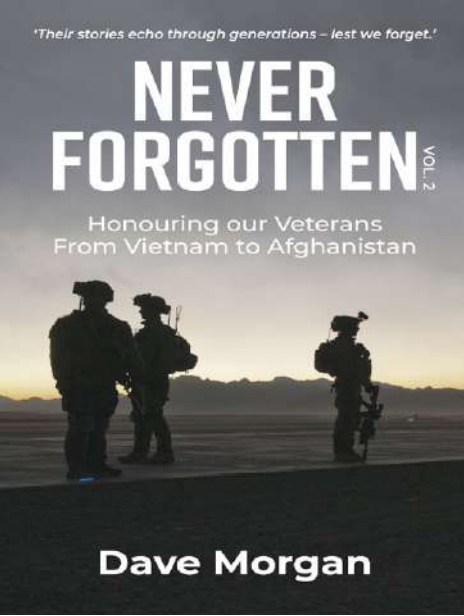
Legacy merchandise, including badges, pens, key-rings, carry bags and other new items will be available at our Club during Legacy week, as well as fund raising areas set up throughout our area. Look for the banners and come and have a chat, and, if you can, support our work by either buying some merchandise or giving a donation.

We highly respect people's privacy, but privacy restrictions do have certain handicaps. Legacy is no longer directly notified of the passing of Veterans in their area, which means we may not be aware of a family who was lost a loved one and therefore cannot reach out to them. If you know of a widow who is not on our beneficiary list, would you please either let us know or encourage them to contact us. Even if it is only advice, we can surely provide something.

To find out more about Legacy, visit www.legacy.com.au or call Forster Tuncurry Legacy on 0478 076 774 or email forstertuncurrydivision@tareelegacy.com.au

On Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September, you will find Legatees and Volunteers selling Badges and merchandise in various places in Forster, Tuncurry, Forster Keys, Black Head & Nahiab.

Never Forgotten



In this powerful second edition of Never Forgotten, Vietnam veteran Dave Morgan continues his mission to preserve the lived experiences of Australia's servicemen and women – from Vietnam to Afghanistan and beyond, in a compelling collection of short, easy-to-read stories.

Forster resident Derek Hinde is one of thirty veterans featured in Never Forgotten. Derek served as a National Serviceman in the Royal Australian Artillery and deployed to Vietnam from 1 July 1968 to 14 May 1969.

Never Forgotten Vol. 2 was published by Big Sky Publishing in April this year.

All proceeds from this book support Legacy Australia.

Community News

www.forsterfortnightly.com.au

Page 9

Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service 18th August 2026

Below is the speech given by Derek Hinde, President of Great Lakes Vietnam Veterans Association Sub-Branch.

"On behalf of the Great Lakes Vietnam Veterans Association Sub-Branch, we welcome all and the dignitaries to today's Memorial Service, being the 60th Anniversary of the "Battle of Long Tan", in South Vietnam which took place on the 18th August 1966.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this Land on which we assemble. It has been very pleasing to see a number of Veterans from all Australian Military conflicts and Defence personnel, and their families attend here today and attend our past Services held here at Forster War Memorial and lay Wreaths. All are welcome.

The Australian Defence Forces fought in many actions in Vietnam during the years 1966 - 1971. Including NAVY, AIR FORCE and ARMY.

We gather together on this day the 18th August to Honour and Remember those 18 Army soldiers who were killed in action in the Long Tan plantation in South Vietnam this day 60 years ago 1966.

An isolated Australian Infantry company of 108 men were cut off and outnumbered by the enemy by at least 10 to 1. They withstood the attacking Viet Cong 275th Regiment soldiers attacks for around 3 hours. Delta Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, called for artillery support as the monsoon rain arrived reducing visibility. They suffered the heaviest Australian casualties in a single engagement in Vietnam and prevailed against the odds. The RAAF helicopters and New Zealand artillery provided fire support.



Above and left: A Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service was held at 11am on the 18th of August at Belton Park on Little Street, Forster. Photos by Geordie Yule.

The Royal Australian Navy was also active during the Vietnam War, with action in North Vietnamese waters providing offshore fire support to many battles for both the Australian and United States military.

Today we also Honour and Remember those Defence personnel who have all served our great Nation and all those who have since passed away. I would like to give thanks to Forster RSL, Padre Daryl Moran, the School Bugler, and all assistants for your support."

Right: A graveside vigil was conducted by President Derek Hinde at 11am on Saturday 29 August for Peter Bramble who was killed in action in Vietnam, May 1969. Three of Peter Bramble's relatives and Peter McTiernan attended. Photo supplied.



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✔ Foreign Affairs and Trade

✔ Defence



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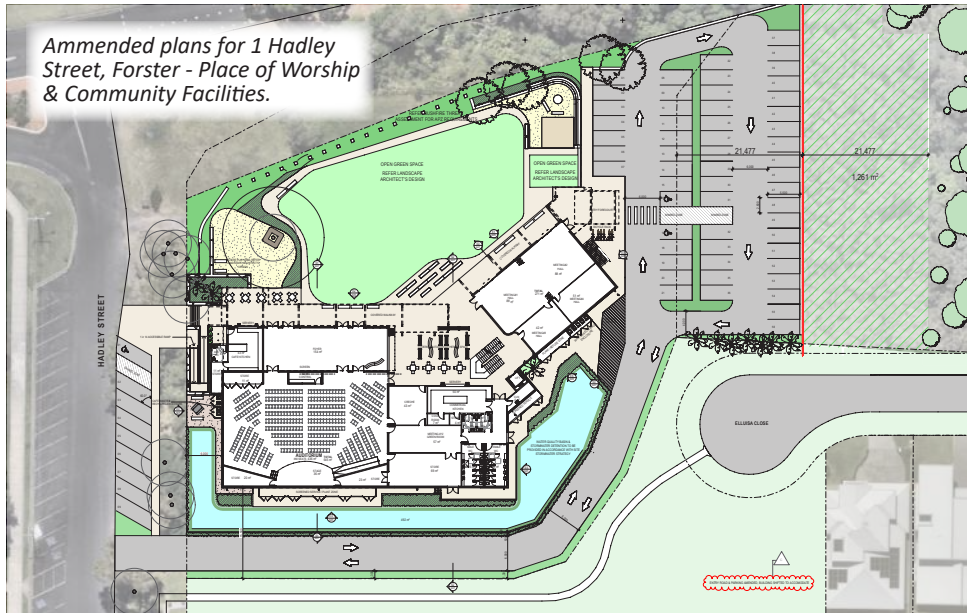
TAREE OFFICE

(02) 6557 8910
144 Victoria Street, Taree NSW 2430

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

Hadley Street Development



By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

The development proposed for 1 Hadley Street, Forster, is back on the agenda.

In November last year, the Forster Fortnightly published two letters—one supporting and one opposing a development application (DA) for a facility proposed by Coast Evangelical Church (CoastEV).

The application is for a facility containing an auditorium, meeting and breakout rooms, a kitchen, café, staff office facilities and amenities, together with designated car parking.

At the time, the Elluisa Close & District Residential Group stated: “The development is of a scale that is totally inappropriate for the site [and we are concerned about the] impact this development is likely to have on a quiet residential part of Forster.”

Lead Pastor Chris Ekins of CoastEV responded: “We need to build our own facility to house our

ministries [and] it’s not at all uncommon for churches to be located in or beside residential areas, just like the vast majority of churches in Forster-Tuncurry area.”

Since then, CoastEV has submitted an amended application to MidCoast Council.

One significant change is the proposed access to the car park. The entrance is now proposed from Hadley Street, opposite Forster Public School, rather than through Elluisa Close.

MidCoast Council has confirmed that it has received an amended application for 1 Hadley Street Forster and has stated that the applicant, CoastEV, suggests that the issues raised by residents during the original exhibition period have now been resolved.

Residents and other interested parties can view the amended application and make a submission through the NSW Government Planning Portal using DA number DA2025/0624 by 12 September 2026.

Farewell to our Tuncurry Post Office legends



Above: Postmistress Judy Thompson in front of the post office on the corner of Manning and South Street, circa 1980. The post office first occupied this site in 1926. Photo from Great Lakes Museum.

Office of Tanya Thompson MP

After decades behind the counter at Tuncurry Post Office, Bruce, Warrick and David Thompson are officially calling time!

The Thompson family has been part of the Tuncurry Post Office since 1972, and over the years the boys have made it much more than just a place to collect the mail. For so many locals, a trip to the Post Office has meant a friendly face, plenty of banter and, of course, some truly unforgettable shirts! After more

than 50 years of the Thompson family serving our community, it really is the end of an era.

Thank you for your years of service, friendship and laughs, Bruce, Warrick and David. You will certainly be missed, and I wish you all the very best for a very well-earned retirement!

And a very warm welcome to Adam Thomas and Erin Tian who are taking over Tuncurry Post Office. I wish you every success as you begin this new chapter and look forward to seeing another local family behind the counter!



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Start of a new chapter



For first buyers Brad and Jan Daniels, the move from Brisbane to Blueys Beach marks the start of a new chapter.

Advertorial

Ingenia Lifestyle Kokomo

Construction is powering ahead at Ingenia Lifestyle Kokomo as the vision for the Blueys Beach over-55 community quickly takes shape.

A total of 22 homes are now under construction as well as a community clubhouse, which is expected to be completed in early 2027. In addition, three new display homes are now open, giving prospective buyers their first opportunity to tour the community and see the progress.

Following MidCoast Council approval, Ingenia Communities is contributing to significant infrastructure upgrades, including road improvements and a new pedestrian pathway connecting the area to the beach and Blueys Beach township.

Ingenia Communities Head of Development NSW and Victoria, Simon Burk, said the pace of progress reflected strong demand for high-quality over 55s living on the Mid North Coast.

"We're seeing steady interest in Ingenia Lifestyle Kokomo, with buyers really connecting with the lifestyle offering and the unique coastal location," he said.

"The road upgrades are also an important milestone, not just for the community itself but for the wider area. These improvements will enhance connectivity and accessibility for residents and locals alike."

Upon completion, Ingenia Lifestyle Kokomo will offer 133 new homes as well as first-class amenities within a modern clubhouse precinct, including a resort-style pool, barbecue dining area, putting green, games room, pickleball court, gym and sauna.

A haven for wellbeing, residents will enjoy an active lifestyle surrounded by the beauty of nature, with golden sands and crystal-clear waters just a short stroll from their doorstep.

To make an appointment to tour the display homes please call 1800 135 010 or visit the Ingenia Lifestyle Kokomo website: <https://ingenialifestyle.com.au/communities/nsw/mid-north-coast/kokomo-blueys-beach>

Council meeting summary: 19 August 2026

Development Activity

MidCoast Council recorded the highest number of development applications assessed among regional NSW councils. There were 252 applications and modifications determined. The average time fell from 77 to 59 days.

Economic destination and development

The MidCoast entered the top five for capital city migration for the first time for the 12-month period up to March 2026.

The economy has remained stable with an increase in gross regional product from \$5.09 billion to \$5.20 billion.

Muldoon Street contamination

Unexpected waste material was discovered during construction work on the site which is used by several emergency service groups.

Council has already allocated about \$1.68 million to the project and another \$821,178 from the Waste Remediation Reserve will now be added.

The contract for the work was awarded to CUB Projects and is expected to take about 45 weeks to complete.

Flood recovery update

The estimated value of Council's May 2025 flood recovery transport program has increased to approximately \$333 million, including:

- \$33.3 million in emergency works
- \$8.6 million in Immediate reconstruction works
- \$282 million in major reconstruction works.

The major challenge remains obtaining NSW Reconstruction Authority approval so permanent reconstruction can proceed.

Council has identified 760 roads and 4,738 damage sites as eligible for disaster recovery funding and has submitted 31 major reconstruction submissions worth more than \$156 million.

Design of The Bight Bridge replacement and the Tiri Bridge replacement has reached the 80 percent mark. The estimated cost for The Bight Bridge is about \$48 million and be 175 metres long. The Tiri Bridge will be about 100 metres long and about 2.5 metres higher.

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

The next Council meeting is 2pm on Wednesday 2 September.

Water main upgrade for Charlotte Bay and Smiths Lake

MidCoast Council

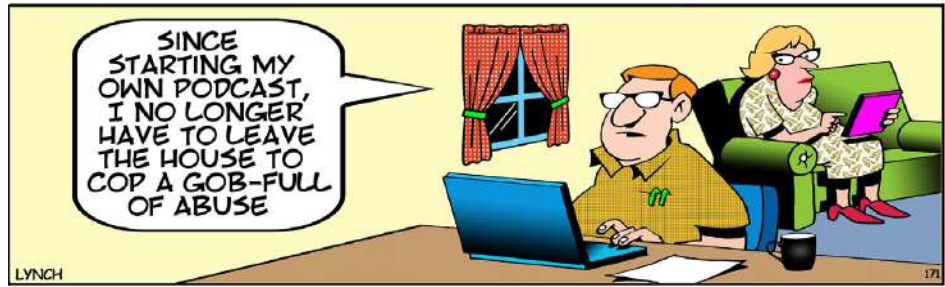
Beginning in late August, contractors working for MidCoast Council will replace around five kilometres of water main along the eastern side of The Lakes Way between Boomerang Drive at Pacific Palms and Macwood Road at Smiths Lake.

Traffic control will be in place from early to mid-September, with both The Lakes Way and the impacted section of Macwood Road reduced to a single lane while the project is underway.

The project is expected to be completed by April 2027.

Puzzles Page

The Grin Bin

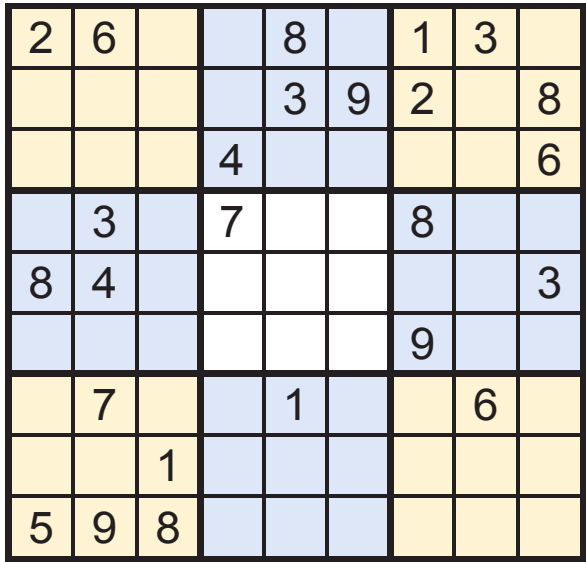


Doodley Squat



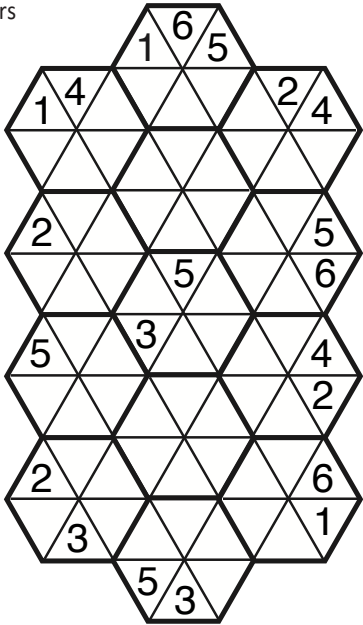
Sudoku

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

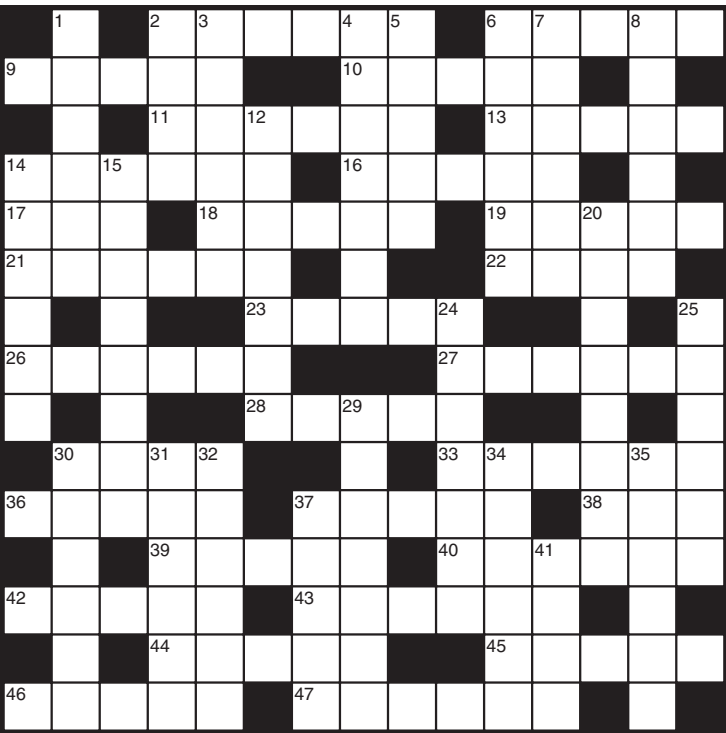


Quick Workout

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



Crossword



ACROSS

- 2 Playing cards
- 6 Kind of wheat
- 9 Lowest point
- 10 French composer
- 11 Autocrat
- 13 Grows light
- 14 Most recent
- 16 Furniture item
- 17 Consumed
- 18 Organic poison
- 19 Himalayan state
- 21 Seller
- 22 Agitate
- 23 Metal casting
- 26 Country
- 27 Hire
- 28 Stares open-mouthed
- 30 Becomes firm
- 33 Small drums
- 36 Put on

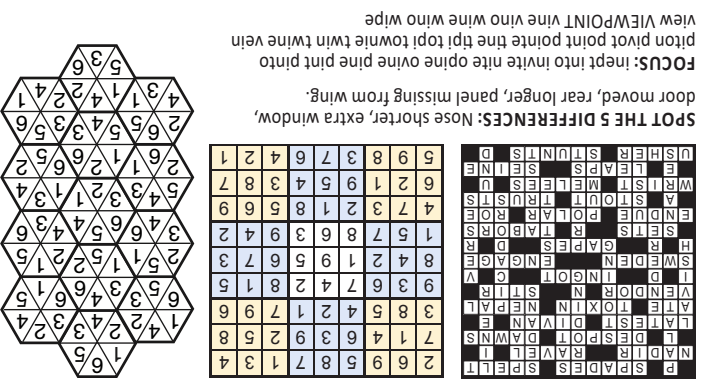
DOWN

- 1 Roof of the mouth
- 2 Flank
- 3 Quickly (mus)
- 4 Wearing away
- 5 Glossy fabric
- 6 Saloon cars
- 7 Heavenly body
- 8 Extended in a line
- 12 Putting away

- 37 Opposite in character
- 38 Fish eggs
- 39 Bulky in figure
- 40 Gives credit to
- 42 Joint
- 43 Confused fights
- 44 Jumps
- 45 French river
- 46 Show to seats
- 47 Showy deeds
- 14 Bestowing in abundance
- 15 Offered
- 20 Bullfighters
- 24 Having left a will
- 25 Stanzas
- 29 Express objection
- 30 Traps
- 31 Sharp struggle
- 32 Hunting dog
- 34 Apprehend
- 35 Rounded
- 37 Dancers shoes
- 41 Puts to a purpose

Solutions

Puzzles and pagination supplied by Auspac Media



September 2 - 8

September 9 - 15

ABC TV	SBS	SEVEN	NBN	TEN	
6.00 Morning Programs. 1.35 Media Watch. 2.00 Parliament. 3.00 Fake Or Fortune? 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 Hard Quiz. 8.30 Spicks And Specks. 9.00 Small Town Scandal. 9.50 Planet America. 10.25 News. 10.40 The Business. 10.55 The Cage. 11.45 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.30 Long Lost Family. 1.20 Parliament. 2.20 Rage. 2.40 Gardening Aust. 3.40 Love Your Garden. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 7.30.	6.00 Morning Programs. 12.30 France 24. 10.00 PBS News. 2.00 Dateline. 2.30 Insight. 3.30 The Cook Up. 4.05 Jeopardy! 4.30 Letters And Numbers. 5.00 Cycling. UCI World Tour. La Vuelta. Highlights. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Alone Australia. 8.40 The Airport Chaplain. 9.40 James May: Our Man In India. 10.40 SBS News. 11.10 The Congregation. 12.05 A Body That Works. 2.15 The Good Ship Murder. 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 Bridge Of Lies: Celebrity Specials. 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 Unfiled. (PG) 10.00 The Agenda Setters. 11.00 The Fall And Rise Of Reggie Dinik. 11.30 Stumble. 12.00 The Fear Index. 1.15 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 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 The Block. 8.45 70 Years Of Television. 10.00 9News Late. 10.30 Freddy And The Eighth. 11.25 Accused: Guilty Or Innocent? 12.20 Tipping Point. 1.10 Destination WA. 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 Ling. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.30 The Traitors Australia. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. 1.00 News. 2.00 Deal Or No Deal. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Ling. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. (PG) 7.30 The Traitors Australia. (PG) 9.00 Boston Bie. (M) 10.00 News. 11.00 Cheap Seats. (M) 12.00 Shopping.	WEDNESDAY
6.00 Morning Programs. 11.00 Small Town Scandal. 12.00 News. 1.00 Falling. 2.00 Parliament. 3.00 Fake Or Fortune? 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 Take 5. 9.00 Amanda & Alan's Italian Job. 9.30 The Cage. 10.20 News. 10.35 The Business. 10.55 Frankie Drake. 11.40 Long Lost Family. 12.30 Parliament. 1.30 Rage. 2.40 Gardening Aust. 3.40 Love Your Garden. 4.30 Antiques Roadshow. 5.30 7.30.	6.00 Morning Programs. 3.00 The Cook Up. 3.35 Jeopardy! 4.00 Letters And Numbers. 4.30 Plating Locally. 5.00 Cycling. UCI World Tour. La Vuelta. Highlights. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Alone Australia Reunion. 8.40 9/11: One Day In America. 9.35 Say Nothing. 10.25 SBS News. 10.55 Reyka. 11.50 Prisoner. 2.10 Vikings: The Lost Kingdom. 3.50 Hitler And The Reichstag Fire. 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 Time Is Money. 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 Hell The Mighty Rear: Brisbane Lions. (PG) 10.50 Kick Ons. 11.20 Australia's Most Dangerous Prisoners. (MA15+) 12.20 Mr Robot. 1.20 Harry's Practice. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Morning Programs. 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. Roosters v Canterbury Bulldogs. 9.45 9News Late. 10.15 Ski Rescue Down Under. 11.15 Social Media Murders: The Murder Of Oilly Stephens. 12.05 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 Ling. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Ent. Tonight. 10.30 The Traitors Australia. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. 1.00 News. 2.00 Deal Or No Deal. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Ling. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. (PG) 7.30 Dog House Aust. (PG) 8.30 NCIS: Sydney. (M) 9.30 News. 10.30 Two And A Half Men. (PG) 12.00 Shopping.	THURSDAY
6.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 News. 10.00 Amanda & Alan's Italian Job. 10.30 Take 5. 11.00 Austin. 12.00 News. 1.00 Portrait Artist Of The Year. 1.50 The Cage. 2.35 Poh's Kitchen. 3.00 Fake Or Fortune? 4.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 4.45 Long Lost Family. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 Gardening Aust. 8.20 Death Valley. (M) 9.05 Portrait Artist Of The Year. (PG) 9.55 Spicks And Specks. (M) 10.30 News. 10.45 Would I Lie To You? 11.15 Murdoch Mysteries. 12.00 Rage New Music. 5.00 Rager.	6.00 Morning Programs. 3.00 Nula. 3.30 The Cook Up. 4.05 Jeopardy! 4.30 Letters And Numbers. 5.00 Cycling. UCI World Tour. La Vuelta. Highlights. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 The Good Ship Murder. 8.30 WWII With Tom Hanks. 10.00 SBS News. 10.40 Sp/Master. 11.40 Darkness: Those Who Kill. 1.30 Australia Uncovered: The Department. 3.10 Hitler And The Reichstag Fire. 4.10 Bamay. 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 Late Programs.	6.00 NBC Today. 9.00 NFL Pre-Game. 10.00 NFL Melbourne Game. Los Angeles Rams v San Francisco 49ers. 2.30 Border Security: Int. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Aust. 6.00 7News Local. 6.30 7News @ 6.30. 7.00 Better Homes And Gardens. 7.30 Football. AFL Finals. Semi-final. 10.30 AFL Post-Game Show. 11.15 NFL. Melbourne Game. Los Angeles Rams v San Francisco 49ers. Highlights. 12.25 Get On Extra. 12.45 Eyewitness. (MA15+) 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: Mr Passively Perfect. (2023) 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. Finals. First qualifying final. 9.45 NRL Finals Footy Post-Match. 10.45 MOVIE: Lethal Weapon. (1987) (M) 1.00 Next Stop. (PG) 1.30 TV Shop. 4.00 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 Ling. 9.00 The Finish Line. 10.00 Farm To Fork. 10.30 Ent. Tonight. 10.50 Gogglebox Aust. 12.00 Everyday Gourmet. 12.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. 1.00 News. 2.00 Deal Or No Deal. 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.30 Ling. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.30 Deal Or No Deal. 7.00 Millionaire Hot Seat. 7.30 Love It Or List It Aust. 11.30 The Traitors Australia. 12.00 Pooches At Play. 13.00 Everyday Gourmet. 2.00 Deal Or No Deal: Celebrity Jackpot. 2.00 Deal Or No Deal: 2.30 The Finish Line. 3.00 Ling. 4.00 Ling. 5.00 News. 6.30 Gogglebox Aust. 7.30 Selling Houses Aust. (PG) 9.30 Love It Or List It UK: Brilliant Buildings. (PG) 10.30 Watson. (M) 11.30 FBI. 12.30 Shopping. 5.00 Hour Of Power.	FRIDAY
6.00 Rage Charts. 7.00 Wknd Brekky. 9.00 Rage. 10.30 Rage Vault Guest Programmer. 12.00 News. 12.30 Grand Prix. 1.15 Father Brown. 2.00 Valtieri's Valley. 3.15 Grits. 4.15 Australian Rant. 5.10 The Cage. 6.10 The Turning Point. 7.10 The Cage. 8.10 The Turning Point. 9.10 The Cage. 10.10 The Turning Point. 11.10 The Cage. 12.10 The Turning Point. 1.10 The Cage. 2.10 The Cage. 3.10 The Cage. 4.10 The Cage. 5.10 The Cage. 6.10 The Cage. 7.10 The Cage. 8.10 The Cage. 9.10 The Cage. 10.10 The Cage. 11.10 The Cage. 12.10 The Cage. 1.10 The Cage. 2.10 The Cage. 3.10 The Cage. 4.10 The Cage. 5.10 The Cage. 6.10 The Cage. 7.10 The Cage. 8.10 The Cage. 9.10 The Cage. 10.10 The Cage. 11.10 The Cage. 12.10 The Cage. 1.10 The Cage. 2.10 The Cage. 3.10 The Cage. 4.10 The Cage. 5.10 The Cage. 6.10 The Cage. 7.10 The Cage. 8.10 The Cage. 9.10 The Cage. 10.10 The Cage. 11.10 The Cage. 12.10 The Cage. 1.10 The Cage. 2.10 The Cage. 3.10 The Cage. 4.10 The Cage. 5.10 The Cage. 6.10 The Cage. 7.10 The 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Neighbourly

Strata



Managing properties between Harrington and Hawks Nest

Our team of local experienced Strata Managers are ready to assist with your strata property

Reach out to one of our team today for a fee proposal!

Kirsty Deal, Phoebe Bird & Kellie Richardson

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Proudly Supporting our local communities
Professional. Reliable. Neighbourly.

We're here to help.

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.

September

Sat 5 Sept - Real Food Market
8am -11am Pacific Palms Community Centre.
Enquiries: Sue Williams 0438 433 063.



Sun 6 Sept - Black Head Bazaar
8am to 1pm Wylie Breckenridge Park.
Check their Facebook if wet weather:
www.facebook.com/blackheadbazaar

Sun 6 Sept - Hallidays Point Car Boot Sale
7am to 12pm Hallidays Point Shopping Village
Enquiries: 0403 042 088

Until 13 Sept - Winter Vibes Exhibition
Open Sat & Sun 10am to 2pm or when flags
flying at Forster Gallery, 34 Lake St Forster.

Sun 13 Sept - Forster Town Park Market
8am to 1pm, Town Park, Oyster Pde Forster.
Search Forster Town Park Market on Facebook.

Sat 19 Sept - Forster Farmers Market
8am to 12pm in the grounds next door to
Forster Court House on Little St.
Enquiries: Linda 0421 347 273

Sat 26 Sept - Tuncurry Market
8am to 1pm at John Wright Park, Tuncurry.
Enquiries: Anne 0417 400 994

Sun 27 Sept - Pacific Palms Market
9am to 1pm Pacific Palms Community Centre.
Community Library Stall open in hall.
Enquiries: Jennifer Doyle 0401 968 516

Luck of the Irish - prelude to Gold Cup

By Julie Manning – Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club

Monday 24 August was an historic day for the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club, with the running of our very first Prelude Race Meeting – Luck of the Irish Day.

The meeting introduced two exciting new races, with the winners gaining automatic exemption from the ballot for our major Gold Cup meeting on 11 September.

House Of Cards took out the McQuillan Mile, securing a ballot exemption for the Hahn Gold Cup, while Grassburn was the winner of the Evermore Pearl Bracelet, earning exemption from the ballot for the Evermore Pearl on 11 September.

The two feature races on Gold Cup Day will carry prize money of \$100,000 for the Hahn Gold Cup and \$50,000 for the Evermore Pearl, making the Luck of the Irish victories

particularly significant for the connections of both horses.

The Gold Cup also provides an exciting pathway for country-trained horses, with the winner gaining entry into the \$3 million The Big Dance at Randwick in November. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the quality of country racing and put Tuncurry Forster firmly on the racing map.

The Luck of the Irish Day couldn't have gone better. The weather was kind to us, the track was rated a Soft 7 and raced beautifully, and just under 1,000 people came through the gates to enjoy what was a fantastic day of racing and entertainment.

There was a wonderful atmosphere around the course, with everyone getting into the spirit of our Luck of the Irish theme. It was a terrific day for the Club, our sponsors, our volunteers and, most importantly, our local community.



Above: Tuncurry Forster Jockey Committee (L-R) Mel Payne, Michele Brown (Best Dressed patron at Luck of the Irish Day), Julie Manning and Mick Summers.

Photos by Geordie Yule. More on p26.

We are extremely proud of how the inaugural Prelude meeting came together and are now looking forward to building on the momentum as we head towards our big Gold Cup meeting on 11 September.

"It was certainly a day that showed just how exciting country racing can be, and we hope the community will get behind us again for what promises to be a very special Gold Cup Day."

(See advertisement below)

What's on around town & beyond!

Inspired by Folk - 40 years of Song

Manning Valley Choral Society

This year, under the Musical Direction of Paul McDonnell, with Cameron Waugh as accompanist, the MVCS will present a program of traditional and adapted folk songs, folk music, and contemporary ballads, celebrating the evolution and joy of these time-honoured pieces of Australian and global culture. Part-work, unison and a cappella singing will feature, whilst piano and instrumental percussion accompaniment will enhance the presentations.

Songs include: "Blowin' in the Wind", "Down by the Riverside", "Flower of Scotland", "The House of the Rising Sun", Waltzing Matilda, "Black Velvet Band", "To Her Door", "Where have all the Flowers Gone", "Red Red Rose", "Turn, Turn, Turn", and many more.

Renamed the Manning Valley Choral Society in 1996, the choir began sponsoring the 16 Years and Under Champion at the Taree and District Eisteddfod in 1998, encouraging young performers - a commitment that continues today.

From 2000, MVCS broadened its repertoire to include contemporary composers, tributes to global music and innovative productions such as Black Coffee, featuring Irving Berlin's songs. Since 2010, popular music, themed programs and tributes - including the Beatles, the 1960s and animation - have expanded its appeal.

In 2026, MVCS returns to its vocal roots with folk singing. Performing across the Manning Valley in venues large and small, the inclusive choir continues to share its love of singing with the community.

Our 2026 concerts "Inspired by Folk" will be held at 2pm on Saturday September 26th at the Tuncurry Bowling Club and Sunday September 27th at the Flett Studio at the Manning Entertainment Centre.

(See advertisement right)



Celebrating 40 years of the Manning Valley Choral Society, 1986 - 2026

Manning Valley Choral Society Presents
Inspired by Folk - 40 Years of Song

26 September – 2pm at Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club, Tuncurry
Tickets available at Tuncurry Bowling Club or at the door.

27 September – 2pm at Flett Studio, Manning Entertainment Centre, Taree
Book at: mec.midcoast.nsw.gov.au or ring 02 7955 7073

Tickets: Adults \$25 | Concession \$20 | Children (up to 12yrs) \$5

Join us on our Wallis Lake Peninsula for

The Moorings LAKEHOUSE

WEDDING OPEN DAY

Sunday, 20th September, 2026.
2:00PM – 5:30PM

ONLY 3½ HOURS DRIVE NORTH OF SYDNEY

20 local wedding suppliers exhibiting
caterers, florists, entertainers, mobile bar, photographers etc

Book your free tickets
www.themooringslakehouse.com/weddings

Halloween with Heart – come as whatever you want... just make sure you come!

Halloween with Heart Committee

Halloween is the one night of the year where you can be whatever you want.

Come as a lifesaver, a schoolteacher, a chef, a witch, a warlock, Dracula, a superhero, a hotdog... or anything in between! There are no rules when it comes to Halloween, so get creative, have some fun, and most importantly just make sure you come.

Halloween with Heart is more than just a dress-up party. It's a community coming together to raise money in the fight against cancer – a heartbreaking disease that has touched every one of us in one way or another. Whether it's a family member, a friend, a neighbour or a colleague, cancer has impacted so many lives, and together we can make a difference.

Join us on Friday 30th October from 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm at the Forster Surf Life Saving Club for a fun-filled evening of great company, live music from DJ Junior Hash, delicious grazing by The Farmers Patch, a complimentary drink on arrival, and prizes for the best dressed.

This event would not be possible without the incredible support of our local community.



We would like to sincerely thank our generous sponsors for getting behind Halloween with Heart and helping us raise vital funds for this important cause: Beach Bums, Fortify Gym, Manning Shoes, Yarad's Menswear, Saltwater Wine Surf Wear, Xtyles Hair Salon, SWIG Nutrition, Ballistic Chix Women's Fashion, Forster Surf & Sport, The Farmers Patch, DJ Junior Hash, and Forster Surf Life Saving Club.

So grab your friends, choose your costume, and join us for a night of laughter, community spirit and giving back. Let's show what our community can do when we come together with a little fright and a whole lot of heart. We can't wait to see you there!

(See advertisement right)

AN ADULTS-ONLY HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

HALLOWEEN WITH Heart

A LITTLE FRIGHT. A LOT OF LOVE.

RAISING FUNDS FOR CANCER SUPPORT & RESEARCH

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER
6:00PM – 10:00PM
FORSTER SURF CLUB

ENTRY **\$50** PER PERSON

COSTUMES GET CREATIVE! | MUSIC GREAT TUNES | FREE DRINK ON ARRIVAL | GRAZING TABLE by The Farmers Patch | DANCING HIT THE FLOOR! | BEST DRESSED PRIZES!

Together, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS! Scan the QR code or visit: events.humanitix.com/halloween-with-heart

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! GRAB YOURS TODAY AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT YOU WON'T FORGET.

The JOCKEY CLUB TUNCURRY-FORSTER

HAHN GOLD CUP

FRI 11 SEPTEMBER

Sponsored by **Professionals Forster Real Estate**

GATES OPEN AT 11:30AM
FREE BUSES RUNNING
www.tuncurryforsterjockeyclub.com.au

Fashions ON THE Field
SPONSORED BY **SAILS APARTMENTS**

evermore Pearl
1200m sprint race
SPONSORED BY **Broken Bay Pearls**

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



Photo of a creative mural in Forster by Roberta Pearce.

Book Review



Book Review by John King - Pacific Palms Librarian

Murder in Paris '68 – A True Story of Death and Glamour

Every actor knows that to be convincing, one has to be the person. But, what if the actor becomes that person in real life? This theme runs as a question mark throughout Edward Chisholm's book *Murder in Paris '68 – A True Story of Death and Glamour*. Maybe, the person murdered is simply threatening to reveal the life behind the act, behind the public idol, of links with the underworld? Of a friendship based on silence. As the Corsican saying goes 'la silence est d'o' – silence is golden and to break that is to break the code and result in death? Or, maybe, the person murdered has overstepped the mark, taking advantage of his benefactor and reaped the consequences.

It is a story of the paranoia of being owned, of being so dependent upon another powerful person that one cannot turn away from the magnetism, the life, and the society, but ultimately able to be discarded. It covers a life in the milieu, French for the shadows between dark and light, day and night when Paris comes alive and shows another side of itself – a world of clubs, the rich, the gangsters, and the powerful – Paris, Marseilles, a natural habitat for those back from Algeria after its independence from France, and Belgrade with its export of 'heavies', seeking power and riches.

It is a murder mystery: who did it, and why, even the how, not so much in terms of the weapon, but that the victim, Delon's alter ego, appears not to fight his death, his execution. Is it a matter of honour, Corsican style that he accepts?

The French newspapers love scandal as do the Italian paparazzi, especially if it involves public figures – in this case Alain Delon, the hero of French cinema, and the only French actor to make it in Hollywood. The French Prime Minister, Georges Pompidou, and his wife, Claude, do not escape the character assassination, quite possibly politically motivated.

There is insight into police interrogations lasting perhaps 35 hours. There is a hole, however, in the account. When the victim steps into a taxi – the last he is seen, it does not say where the taxi went. We do know the taxi driver is afraid to formally recognize his passengers.

The book moves forward from post-war years, illegal immigrants from Yugoslavia seeking the high life of Paris obtained by whatever means,

'Reads like a tremendous thriller: fascinating, disturbing and shrewdly compelling.'
William Boyd

Murder in Paris '68

A True Story of Death and Glamour



Edward Chisholm

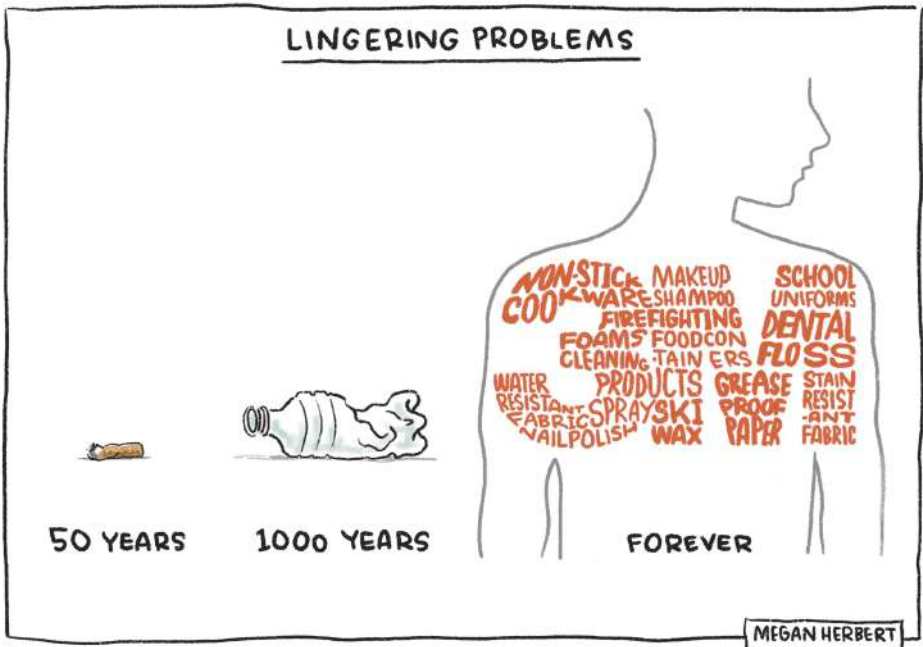
Author of *A Waiter In Paris*

to the sailor returned from the French fiasco in Vietnam – Delon. His wife is from Morocco, reinventing herself and leaving former husband and daughter behind. She is as hard and beautiful as Delon but he is magnetic for women and overawes men with an underlying menace in his silences and smile.

Chisholm provides context, a changing France, street riots starting with students but then drawing in factory workers. It shows de Gaulle and the old guard clinging to power. Despite the character assassination, Georges Pompidou does succeed de Gaulle as President. It is a country in ferment. De Gaulle has withdrawn from NATO – he does not trust the Americans – and has France develop its own nuclear weapons, its Force de Frappe.

Then in 1977, there is another Delon film. Is the murder scene simply art or revealing real life and death? Just maybe film reveals more than it says. It is a truly fascinating book.

Pacific Palms Community Library is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to noon, and at the Pacific Palms Market Sundays (last Sunday of month) 9am to 1pm.



Trump takes break from losing wars to help spread preventable diseases

The Shovel

POLITICAL SATIRE: US President Donald Trump has taken a well-earned break from his ongoing efforts to lose wars in the Middle East, announcing a new campaign to help spread a range of preventable diseases among American children.

Trump signed an executive order this week that will implement un-called for changes to the childhood vaccination schedule, including reducing the number of routinely recommended vaccines and unnecessarily separating the MMR vaccine into three individual shots.

It comes after a strenuous five-month stint in which the President has worked tirelessly to weaken America's military standing, waste billions of dollars and f**k up everything in Iran.

In a statement, the White House said Trump was excited to switch focus. "Being humiliated

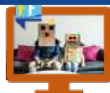
by a minor military regime and losing control of a global trade route has been fun, but it's time to turn our attention to losing control of public health," the statement said.



Trump posted that what he was proposing had never been done before. "America used to have measles, and then we got rid of it. Very sad. Now we're bringing it back. Nobody has done that before".

The President said he was unphased by reports that viruses could cause mass casualties, pointing out that he could just do a deal with measles if required.

Screen Reviews



TV Show Reviews by Leon Batman - Forster

Song Sung Blue - Netflix movie, released 2025, 132 minutes

This is an excellent movie biographical musical drama about the Neil Diamond tribute band Lighting and Thunder. It's a feel good movie interspersed with drama and is a pleasure to watch as the movie goes through the band's formation and success before disaster hits and a band member is severely injured in an accident. It takes a long time for the band member to get over their injuries, and the band has success a second time round. Definitely a movie to watch.



Justified - Prime 6 seasons, first released 2010

The series revolves around a US Marshall operating in eastern Kentucky who enforces his own brand of justice in an area he grew up in and thought he had escaped for good making him an enemy of criminals and a problem child for his supervisor. An interesting series to watch as this US Marshall goes around Kentucky with his own problems yet still enforcing his unique justice style.

Hunting Wives - Netflix, released July 2025, 2 Seasons (3rd season in development)

A New England family moves to Texas and the husband's new boss invites him and his wife to a fundraiser. The wife has an unexpected and unusual first meeting with the new boss's wife and that is where the fun, games and drama start. A warning about this show: it has nudity, language, sex scenes, grisly murders and suicide scenes as the plot unfolds. If you have a broad mind the series is well worth watching as you try to work out who the killer is.



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FORSTER-TUNCURRY

PACIFIC PALMS COMMUNITY CENTRE
The Pacific Palms Community Centre AGM will be held 7 September 2026 at 1pm at the Pacific Palms Community Centre, Elizabeth Beach, adjacent to the Recky.

ff
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Community News

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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 Prewett 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 Scrabble Club

Tuesday from 10.00am
Club Forster, Tanks Cafe
Contact Noel 0421 767 231

Forster Shores Combined Probus Club

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: jipatchwood@gmail.com

Hallidays Point Combined Probus Club

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 Moorrooba 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

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

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

Community News

www.forsterfortnightly.com.au

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Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

**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

Pebbley 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

Join us for a regen morning at Forster Community Garden

Karuah & Great Lakes Landcare

Join Barray Alliance Worimi Rangers and Community Volunteers on Friday 4th September as we continue our regeneration efforts along Pennington Creek, around and upstream of the Forster Community Garden site.

We'll be following up and expanding environmental weed work and tending our recent planting areas - BYO favourite tools or use our spare toolbelts.

Morning tea will be provided.

Check out the progress of new work underway on Forster Neighbourhood Centre's project to reinstate the Forster Community Garden, with water, power and foundations already underway for a multi-purpose community shelter shed on the old site.



See you there - meeting at the Community Garden site at the end of West St, Forster at 8.30am on Friday 4 September.

For more information, please contact Joël at greatlakes@midcoast2tops.org.au

Our Local wildlife



By Kym Kilpatrick – FAWNA Hallidays Point

Flannel Flower

Although not directly fauna, but nevertheless a stunning feature of our coastal ecosystems—and an important symbol of hope, resilience and regeneration, is the Flannel Flower (*Actinotus helianthi*).

Recently the Science division of ABC conducted a public survey to identify Australia's most distinctive and popular native flower and the Flannel Flower rocked it in (in second place was the Flying Duck Orchid). It is also Mental Health Australia's symbol and emblem for mental health awareness.

There are many reasons why the Flannel Flower scored first place. It is not only beautiful but feels good too (in the wild it is also protected so please don't pick it or handle it too much).

It's silvery green leaves and stems are covered with fine, velvety soft hairs which feels like the fabric, flannel – hence the name. Although they look like a kind of daisy, the obvious white 'petals' are really modified leaves called bracts. The true flowers are the small structures clustered in the centre. While the bracts are always white, the centre flowers can either be cream or a soft yellow or even pink (*Actinotus forsythii*).

There are about 18 species of Flannel Flower, all found in Australia with one exception which is indigenous to New Zealand. And a fun fact – the genus or family name 'Actinotus' means "furnished with rays" derived from Greek word meaning ray or sunbeam. So, they are essentially named rays of sunshine.

In many ways the Flannel Flower is the quintessential little Aussie battler. Despite its fragile appearance, it is tough and well adapted to our often dry and harsh environment. It thrives in the nutritionally poor sandy soils of the heathlands and woodlands of our coastal regions. Those tiny velvety hairs are an important adaptation because they help protect the plant from intense sunlight and reduce moisture loss. And they are well adapted to bushfires.

When everything else appears blighted, dead and devastated from bushfires is when Flannel Flowers particularly come into their own. Bushfires will burn them, but they literally rise from the ashes as their seeds regenerate and they quickly bloom. And they will bloom in their millions. After the devastating 2020 Black Summer bushfires for example, many parts of Eastern Australia were carpeted with fields of Flannel Flowers, including in places they hadn't been seen in decades.



This mass flowering allows for the recovery of several insect species of pollinators including native bees, beetles, flies, wasps and butterflies. This in turn allows for the recovery of insectivore birds such as wagtails, fairy wrens, weebills, robins and even tawny frogmouths. There are several lizard species that are also insect eaters including blue-tongues, skinks and eastern dragons. And of course, the pollinators themselves will ensure that the Flannel Flowers and other plants are able to set their next generation of seeds for the seasons to come.

With the wet winter we have had, and the warmer spring weather approaching, Flannel Flowers will be blooming forth. In my opinion it is worth taking a few moments to appreciate this uniquely Australian floral emblem of resiliency and survival. This may be even more important as the dreaded avian influenza H5N1 creeps closer with the potential of causing so much devastation to our iconic waterbirds and raptors. Perhaps more than ever it is worth hanging onto everything the Flannel Flower symbolizes about our Australian resiliency.

Australian Brush Turkeys: Tips for living with them

Information sourced from NSW Environment and Heritage

Over the past 15 years or so, brush turkeys have become increasingly common across NSW and Queensland. During the Great Depression, however, populations declined dramatically as the birds were hunted and their eggs collected. Brush turkeys were locally extinct in Sydney for more than 80 years before making a rare recovery.

Brush turkeys are now protected under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act. They are one of only three megapode species still found in Australia - ground birds that build nest-mounds from decomposing soil and vegetation to incubate their eggs.

Avoid hand feeding

- Don't feed brush turkeys: Hand feeding disrupts their natural foraging behaviour and can lead to poor nutrition, health problems and dependency on people.

- Brush turkeys naturally forage for insects, seeds and fruit, which provide the nutrients they need.

- Human food can cause nutritional imbalances and disease, while feeding can also increase aggression, territorial disputes and unnatural concentrations of birds.

- Birds that become accustomed to human food may become bolder, increasing conflicts in gardens and public spaces.

Managing brush turkeys in your garden

- Act early: Around June or July, males begin building or refreshing nest-mounds by gathering soil and leaf litter. This can damage gardens and create debris on paths and stairs.



- The breeding season generally runs from July to December, although it can extend during cooler or wetter conditions.

- To prevent a mound being established in a sensitive area, use deterrents before construction begins. Once a mound has been built and visited by females, it is illegal to interfere with it.

- Consider encouraging a male to build in a less sensitive part of the garden. Males are territorial and may prevent others from building nearby.

- Protect vulnerable plants with plant guards and consider major planting projects between February and June, before nest-building activity begins.

- Brush turkeys can also benefit gardens by raking leaf litter, reducing fuel loads and helping control some pests and weeds.

For further information and ethical deterrence methods, visit the NSW Environment and Heritage website on <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/birds/australian-brush-turkey>

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Local Identity: Donna Ballard

Interview by Vanda Gooley

Donna Ballard from Wingham, was born in Taree. She is a well-known community leader on the Mid North Coast, particularly in the areas of regional education, arts, and community events. She is regarded as a key cultural and community figure in Wingham and the Manning Valley. At the Ronald McDonald House Family Retreat Forster International Women's Day Luncheon, Donna was presented with the 2026 Myall Lakes Woman of the Year Award.

Donna is CEO of Taree Universities Campus, a regional university centre that has transformed access to higher education on the Mid Coast. Because of Donna's leadership, local students no longer have to leave their families, their support networks or their community to pursue a university degree. She has opened doors, created opportunity and given so many young people and mature-age students the confidence to chase their dreams close to home. That impact will be felt for generations.

She is also the co-founder and coordinator of the Wingham Akoostik Music Festival, an event which started in 2007 has grown into a major regional music festival featuring prominent Australian musicians, and showcasing local artists. It is now a celebration of Community, connection and resilience.

When devastating floods hit our region last year, Donna didn't hesitate. The festival was reignited as a Flood Recovery Celebration, offering free tickets to those affected and donating the funds raised, back into the community to support recovery efforts.

Donna leads with her heart. She sees potential where others see barriers. She steps up when others step back. She puts community at the centre of everything she does.

Donna graduated from Moorland Primary school in 1975. At Moorland primary school, shoes weren't compulsory – and there was gymnastics every lunch time – it was a small 2 teacher school that Donna attended with 52 other students.

For Donna, the transition to Chatham High school and its 1000 plus students was quite daunting. But she did continue through to year 12 and graduated in 1981.



Above: At the Ronald McDonald House Family Retreat Forster International Women's Day Luncheon, Donna was presented with the 2026 Myall Lakes Woman of the Year Award.

Donna was married in 1983. The problem back in 1983 at that stage of Donna's life was that she had to make a choice between being married and staying local or going to university. Her husband, Kevin, was a dairy farmer on his dad's farm so had responsibilities, and they had to stay. Donna's teachers had expected that she would go to university. Her highest marks were in economics, which she loved, and geography. Donna had early entry to Macquarie to study Law, a fact she was reminded of in recent years when cleaning out her Mum's house and discovered the letter of offer. Donna had



wiped this offer from her mind as it just didn't feel like something she could even work a way to achieve.

Donna had no relatives in Sydney, no options for accommodation, and no support from her parents as money was tight. "I had just no idea how to make that jump from country living to city study."

Donna needed money and earning a wage was a bigger priority so that she could buy and pay off her car - a Datsun 180B - and start saving towards setting up their own home. So, she took a retail counter job at Taree Photographics. "In 1983, I shouldn't have had to choose between work and study and marriage."

Donna's parents Merv and Gwen McKay were dairy farmers and then beef farmers in Moorland. She has one brother Colin McKay and one sister Gloria Buttsworth both older than her. Donna's childhood was spent on the farm on Coralville Road, with her pet dogs, and spent many weekends and school holidays at Diamond Head.

Donna and Kevin have a daughter, Elsie, married to Mitchell and a son Andrew married to Emily. "I am very proud that both Andrew and Elsie have University degree qualifications, I am probably prouder of this than they are – as it means a lot to me that we were able to make university study a reality for them."

In 1985 while working full time, Donna studied at the Taree TAFE. She studied for an accounting certificate, 2 to 3 nights a week. She then continued to get her diploma in accounting with her mum and dad babysitting Elsie, while Kevin taught guitar lessons in the evenings

Donna continued to work in the areas of accounting and finance. When she fell pregnant with their son, Donna was accountant and then General Manager at Hot Tuna clothing company. It was an incredible place to work in the 90's when surf clothing and culture was at its peak. Hot Tuna was the 3rd biggest selling surf label to Billabong and Quiksilver nationally. Hot Tuna was exporting to the US, the UK, Spain, Italy, France and New Zealand.

Taree as a whole, was really buzzing with manufacturing at the time. Donna worked up to the day Andrew was born – "I had planned a 2-week break before he came along but he came early on a Friday morning, which was to be my last work day." Six weeks later Donna took him back to work with her because she was still breast feeding and wanted to do that for as long as she could. Donna said, "I am not proud that I returned to work early ... there wasn't any maternity leave and interest rates had been extremely high just before this time so everyone our age was stressing about their mortgage and I had to still have an income to assist to meet our repayments."

In the early 1990's, Donna discovered a friend was studying through Charles Sturt Uni at Bathurst and Donna thought that might be a good suit. She completed a couple of units in a Business Degree while the kids were toddlers, but she felt it was going to be impossible to complete the course because of essential prac components down south at Wagga.

Donna would have had to use her annual leave on her study and she felt this seemed very selfish when family holidays would have had to be sacrificed. Also, it would mean being away out west from her little kids. So, Donna opted out of study at that time with the hope to return to it later.

In the late 90's whilst Donna and Kevin's kids were in primary school, they wanted to give Sydney a go. It was all the hype of the Sydney Olympics that attracted them there. Donna scored a fabulous job with Boral with great corporate professional development. When their children were about to start high school in Sydney's western suburbs, they made the decision to move back to country living in Wingham, as they missed the connection to

their community and the sense of reassurance that provides.

Donna continued travelling backwards and forwards to her job at Boral for about three years because she loved it. She would travel down to Sydney at 4am on Monday, return home to Wingham on a Wednesday night and work the remainder of the week from home.

Around 2004 Donna returned to work locally in Taree and then chose her time to re-start her Business degree with UNE. "When I achieved my degree in 2013 and walked across the podium, I felt I finally had achieved what so many thought I should've done in 1983. It just took me 20 years to get there - 20 rich years of family living."

Donna's biggest passion has been assisting to create is the Wingham Akoostik Music Festival – "that is a passion project." "We have been presenting the festival since 2007 with nothing much more than a lot of dedicated people and a handful of government grants and the incredible support of the local community that assist us greatly to make it happen."

<https://winghammusicfest.com.au/gallery>

Since 2025, the Wingham Akoostik Music Festival has been paused. Donna and the committee are hoping a younger group will step in to take over the running of this much-loved annual event.

Asked who has been Donna's biggest inspirations or role models, she said, "People in the community around me that have time for conversations and dreaming up ideas and solutions that create local impact and improvements."

What does Donna love about the Mid North Coast? "That there are so many familiar faces and you ALWAYS see people to have a chat and a hug when you are out and about."

Narelle Campbell - Board Member, Taree Universities Campus said this of Donna...

"As CEO of the Taree Universities Campus, Donna has played a key role in improving access to higher education across the MidCoast. Her leadership has enabled local residents of all ages, to earn university qualifications close to home, staying connected to family, work and vital support networks.

Under Donna's leadership, the Taree Universities Campus team has broadened access to education, opened new opportunities, and improved outcomes for individuals and local families. They actively support students to reach their goals and provide genuine encouragement and advice at every step.

In addition to her role as CEO Donna works tirelessly in the community: Donna is the co-founder and coordinator of the Wingham Music Festival—an event that has become a vibrant celebration of community, arts and culture, strengthening connection and pride across the MidCoast.

After the 2025 floods, Donna led with compassion and clear, practical action. She reshaped the festival into a Flood Recovery Celebration, providing free tickets for affected community members and directing proceeds to local recovery—showing her talent for uniting people and turning goodwill into real support.

When I tune into local social media, radio or television, I see Donna quietly assisting or coordinating behind the scenes. She supports so many community groups.

Donna leads with integrity, generosity and vision. She consistently opens doors for others, strengthens the fabric of our community, and inspires those around her through her dedication and positiveness. We feel very fortunate to have Donna as our CEO, and imagine what a community would achieve if there were more people like her.

I'm also proud to call Donna a friend."

Liz Jarvis, Business Strategist and Facilitator Owner of CSI Business Solutions said this...

"I have attended the Wingham Akoostik festival each year since it started. Firstly, I went to support the brave and ambitious vision of Donna and Kevin Ballard and their team. Over the years I have watched how the festival nurtures those with the gifts to entertain and those with the gifts to produce the platform on which they do it – the sound, the lighting, the infrastructure and many other things that are invisible to the crowd as well as how it brings people together from various community groups in the Valley."

30th Birthday Celebration Performance



Above, right & below: A standing ovation was given when Company of Voices celebrated 30 years with a special concert at the Tuncurry Memorial Hall on 22 August. Profits from this event were donated to the Tuncurry WW1 Memorial Hall. Photos by Georgie Yule.



Company of Voices

What do you call an event that had a full house and finished with a standing ovation? Probably a reasonable success?

The singers of Company of Voices were extremely happy with the responses to their performances in their 30th Birthday Celebration Concert on Saturday 22nd August.

"We have been rehearsing intensely for months on the repertoire," said Director and founder, Leigh Vaughan OAM. "It was really gratifying to see that the audience so appreciated and enjoyed the beautiful music."

"Feedback I have been getting has been fantastic, ...very professional" said alto Annie.

The string players from Sinfonia - our community orchestra who joined us for some songs, were all equally enthusiastic.

"It was an honour to be invited to play with you and I enjoyed myself enormously" said Vicki, double bass.

Carmel, Violin and Leader of Sinfonia, said, "It is a privilege to be part of such a beautiful local concert and playing with some of my Sinfonia friends is always special."

Robyn Ryan OAM music director and educator, came from Port Macquarie for the performance, wrote afterwards: "What can I

say - it was a simply wonderful concert with joyous voices celebrating a special milestone. A delightfully varied program sung with great conviction and heartfelt emotion...just wow."

Special thanks to Georgie Yule for the great photographs.

The concert was professionally sound recorded by Different Drum Studios and filmed by Patrick McKendry. The finished DVD or thumb drive will be available for purchase.

If you missed this fabulous music event, then there is a chance to catch some more!

Sunday 20th September at 2pm in our historic Tuncurry WW1 Memorial Hall, Company of Voices is preparing a MUSICALE - invited choirs and selected instrumental items, with a program of varied music to suit all tastes.



History of Nabiac

Great Lakes Museum

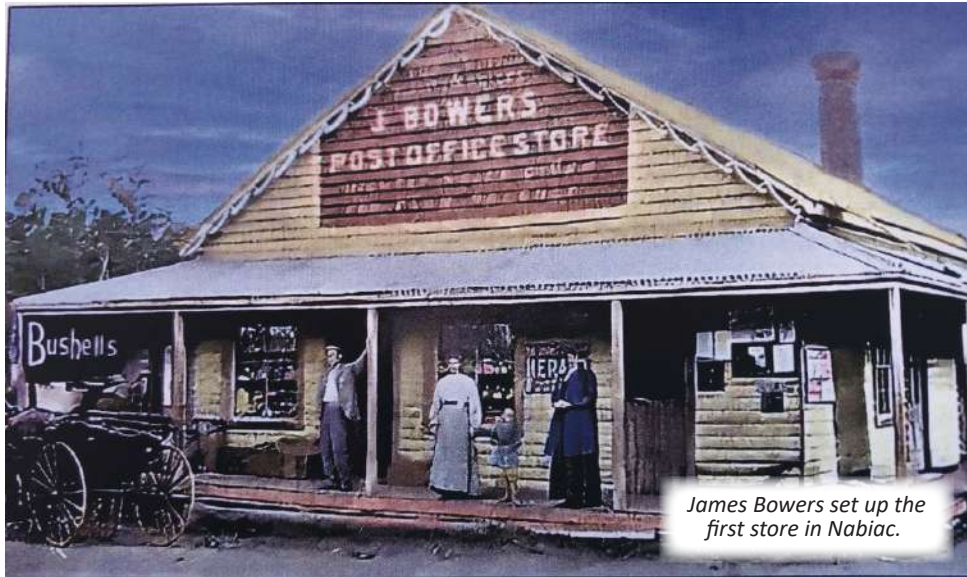
Nabiac: The name is derived from the local aboriginal term for 'place of the wild fig.'

The area was originally included in the Australian Agricultural Company grant but returned to Crown Land after a report by Sir Edward Parry as not being suitable for sheep. The first land grant in the Nabiac area was 115 acres on the northern side of the river, purchased by Henry Carmichael at a sale at Dungog, July 1855. In 1857 William McClymont bought two blocks of land totalling 139 acres. After the Sir John Robertson Act of 1861, other settlers followed along Wollombar River (Wallamba by local use) and became known as the Cape Hawke Settlement. It was described as a small agricultural and timber cutting settlement and in 1890 the village of Wollombar was proclaimed.

Post Office: In March 1869 the settlers along the Wallamba River sent a petition to the authorities asking for a post office. The request was that the Post Office be established near the crossing-place of the government road on the Wallamba River at Clarkson's crossing. A postal inspector made a comprehensive survey of the location, travelling the proposed route ensuring that it was suitable for heavily laden pack horses carrying mail bags. The result was the first Post Office opened in May 1870 and was called Cape Hawke Post Office. Charles Smith, teacher appointed to the two half time schools, the Upper Wallamba and the Lower Wallamba became the first Postmaster. In 1880 the name was changed to Clarkson's Crossing and on June 1st 1894 was changed again to become Nabiac Post Office.

First Hotel: Henry and Annie Beisler came from Germany and lived at Wang Wauk with Henry working for John Booth the timber man. Henry, whilst riding noticed an outcrop of red soil around the area and thought it would be suitable for vineyards. In 1879 he took up the land, planted over 200 grapevines and named the selection "Fern Hill." Around 1882 the Beislars took out a wine licence and opened a shop and later obtained a hotel licence. This being Nabiac's first hotel named the "Fern Hill Hotel."

First Shops: In the earliest times on the river, the nearest



James Bowers set up the first store in Nabiac.

shops were at Tinonee and settlers made the long journey there. The position improved somewhat when Albert Ehlefeldt began running his dealer's boat up the river, heralding his arrival by means of a bullock horn. Hugh Breckenridge also had a store boat on the river. The first store in Nabiac was commenced by James Bowers in connection with the Post Office. John Breckenridge's Burnside Store was run by James Miles between about 1882-1888 and in 1887 Charles Wooster's store was in operation, running a cart in conjunction with the store.

Health Services: In the district the sick and injured were first nursed by the members of the community with some knowledge of healing. In 1903 William Parramore came to Nabiac

as the first resident doctor and in 1910 the "Doctor's House" was erected in Showground Lane. The first hospital was opened in 1909 by Mrs Jane Bidner (Nurse Nixon) and in 1915 she also opened the new hospital which became the Wallamba District War Memorial Hospital. The certified nurse at the Wallamba was Louisa Jane Newell. During the pneumonic influenza epidemic in 1919, the school, School of Arts, Agricultural Hall and Maybury's place were all converted into emergency hospitals as Mrs Bidner's hospital was overcrowded.

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



Nabiac Hospital.



Pacific Palms Market

On one of the last days of winter the market was enjoyed by people of all ages in glorious sunny weather. The Pacific Palms Market is on the last Sunday of each month plus extras in the holidays. Photos taken on Sunday 30 August by Matilda Yule.





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Young athletes excel at Primary Schools State Championships



By Lee McDonald – Forster Tuncurry Athletics Club

Two young local athletes Hudson Keegan and Chelsea McDonald have represented their local schools Tuncurry and Hallidays Point Primary Schools along with the Forster Tuncurry Athletics Club at the recent NSW Primary Schools State Championships at Olympic Park Sydney with distinction on 15 and 16 August. A recent addition to the newly formed NSW Athletics organisation, this event is designed to provide high end athletics competition in usually a 'winter sport dominated landscape' to prepare for the school representative season.

Over the course of two days these young athletes took on athletes from around the state to cement their spots amongst the best in the business.

After an eventful day 1, in which mother nature provided four seasons in moments of each other, both athletes took on a gruelling schedule of 3 events. Success didn't elude either athlete with Hudson placing 9th in the 100m and Chelsea Taking 1st in the 100m.

Hudson rounded off the meet with a 15th in the 400m and 10th in the Long Jump. Chelsea also capped off a successful day with 4th in both 400m and high jump events.

Day 2 provided a welcome relief with a clear sunny day and hot competition to boot. Chelsea, tackling her last event of the program, capped off the highly successful meet with a 2nd in the 200m to add silver to her gold from the previous day and a number of personal bests (PBs).

For both athletes success doesn't come without hard work. Former local sprint champion Tarli Black through her small but increasingly growing FastTrack PT business has provided local athletes like Hudson and Chelsea a

program to reach their potential. With the start to the summer athletics season around the corner and school regional and state competitions also near, these athletes and many more have found a messiah of sorts in Tarli who has filled a void in this area with access to quality athletics coaching.



Chelsea McDonald



Luck of the Irish

"The Luck of the Irish Day couldn't have gone better. The weather was kind to us, the track was rated a Soft 7 and raced beautifully, and just under 1,000 people came through the gates to enjoy what was a fantastic day of racing and entertainment," said Julie Manning, Vice President/Secretary of the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club.

Photos from Monday 24 August by Georgie Yule.



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Junior Cricket is gearing up



By Trevor McBride - Great Lakes Junior Cricket Club

Great Lakes Junior Cricket Club is gearing up for an exciting new season, and organisers say it's shaping up to be the club's best yet — with fun, friendship and fair play front and centre.

The first ball will be bowled on 17th October, with registrations opening 1st September for junior cricketers across the Great Lakes area. The competition welcomes players across four age groups this season: Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16, giving kids of all ages and skill levels a chance to get involved.

Club President Jake McCarthy says junior cricket is about much more than just runs and wickets.

"It's about kids getting outdoors, making new friends, and being part of a team," Mr McCarthy said. "Win or lose, every child walks

away from a game with a smile on their face and a story to tell. That's what community cricket is all about."

The club is known for its welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere, with parents and volunteers regularly turning out to support the players and build a strong sense of community around the sport.

Whether your child is a seasoned all-rounder or picking up a bat for the very first time, all are encouraged to come along and give it a go.

With registrations opening soon, families are encouraged to get in early to secure their spot for the new season. For more information or to register, contact Club President Jake McCarthy on 0422 466 459, or follow the Great Lakes Junior Cricket Facebook page for the latest updates.

Learn to Paddle

Great Lakes Pearl Dragons

Great Lakes Pearl Dragons is holding its annual Learn to Paddle program starting on 19th September. The program runs over five consecutive Saturday mornings from 19th September through to 17th October 2026. We welcome all over the age of 12 years and of every ability who would like to give Dragon Boating a go. Under qualified coaches you will learn dragon boating basics, paddling technique and teamwork. Gain Fun, Friendship and Fitness through dragon boating.

The first 'Come and Try' day on the 19th September is free and will be held at Little Street Baths, Forster from 7.30am to 10.00am. Thereafter if you wish to continue with the L2P program, there is a charge of \$50.00 which will be deducted from your membership if you choose to join the club.

Please wear comfortable clothing that you exercise in and enclosed footwear all of which

can get wet. Bring a hat and cap and a water bottle, as well as something warm to wear after paddling.

We look forward to meeting you.

Contact us through our website, email dragons2428@hotmail.com or 0412 420 905.

(See advertisement below)

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Week 1 19th Sep

Seeking help tp grow local youth basketball program

By Aaron Dodds - Get Into Basketball

I'm really excited to share what we've achieved through Get Into Basketball at the Great Lakes Aquatic Centre over the past two terms.

We now consistently have over 30 young people (girls and boys 9 years to 14 years) attending every week, and watching their confidence, friendships, connection and passion for basketball grow has been pretty amazing.

The young people are now telling us they want more — and we have enough interest to start building a regular junior basketball competition in the Great Lakes.



We're hoping to run a trial competition later this term, with the goal of building this into Term 4 and beyond.

Now we need our community to help us make it happen.

We're looking for people who would like to be part of a Junior Basketball Steering Committee, as well as local businesses, organisations, parents, coaches and community members who are interested in investing in and helping basketball grow and thrive across our region.

You don't need to have a specific role in mind. If you're passionate about young people, basketball and building something positive in our community, we'd love to hear from you.

This has grown well beyond what we first imagined, and I'm incredibly proud of what the young people have created. Now let's see how far we can take it.

If you're interested in being involved, please contact Aaron Dodds and Josie Valenti on 1300 552 085 or 0473 245 367. Email: admin@intothewild.net.au

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"Love our winter swimming community"



By Mary Yule – Forster Fortnightly

Winter swimming is proving increasingly popular in the Forster Tuncurry area, with local swimmers of all ages coming together for friendly competition in an outdoor setting followed by a good breakfast.

The fourth Quinlivan Memorial Winter Relay Swim was held on Sunday, 16 August, at the Black Head 30m outdoor pool. Hosted by the Forster Tuncurry Mudcrabs, the event honours former Mudcrab member Dave Quinlivan.

More than 60 swimmers from the Mudcrabs, Forster Turtles and Black Head Surf Club took part in mixed relay events, with the winning team earning the chance to choose a local

charity to receive a \$1,000 donation. The event finished with a big communal BBQ breakfast.

"The day was a huge success, fantastic weather. We much appreciate the other clubs for coming along and supporting the day," said Tim Cusack, President of the Forster Tuncurry Mudcrabs.

"We swim out there to raise money for the Black Head Pool. It was in amazing condition. A big thank you to the community members who maintain it."

Club Captain Matt Manning put the relay teams together, mixing swimmers of different ages and abilities.

"We mix everybody up. Some are boys and girls, some are male and female swimmers, there's also some juniors," Tim said.

The winning team was captained by Liliana Guiscardo, alongside Janet Litwin and junior swimmers Adele Fleming and Grace Ralston. The team chose the Great Lakes Women's Shelter as the recipient of the \$1,000 donation.

The Mudcrabs continued their winter swimming activities two weeks later, taking a team to Merewether Ocean Baths in Newcastle to swim with the Merewether Mackerels as part of an inter-club meet.

Tim said Mudcrab member Natalie Cusack won the final of the day.

The club also entered two 10-person teams in the nominated-time relay against three Mackerels teams and another Mudcrabs team. One of the Mudcrabs teams finished just 3.75 seconds off its nominated time to take out the event.

Tim believes the popularity of outdoor winter swimming is continuing to grow.

"I think it's massive. Our club has grown exponentially because we are one of the more inclusive clubs. We encourage everybody - males, females, juniors, seniors, everybody to be involved."

The Mudcrabs create a welcoming atmosphere every Sunday morning at the Forster Bullring outdoor pool, with the winter season running from May through to September. The club will hold its championships in the second-last week of September, followed by a final wrap-up swim on the last Sunday of September.

"We encourage anybody who wants to swim and meet new people, be more social, to come and join us," Tim said.

And there's an added incentive after the swim, with members preparing a hot breakfast for the group every Sunday morning.

<https://www.wsainc.com/forstertuncurry-mudcrabs.html>

Perc Drury Memorial



(L-R) Christine Barnes, Brett Bartholomew & Darren Peeters.

By David Blanchard - Forster Mens Vets Golf

On Monday 17 August, 75 players teed off on a rainy morning at the Tuncurry Championship course to compete for the annual Perc Drury Memorial Trophy.

Played over 18 holes the trophy was won by new member Brett Bartholomew with a great score of 41 points played in difficult conditions. The day was sponsored by Darren Peeters from 1st National Real Estate Tuncurry and his support for the Forster Mens Vets Golf is very much appreciated.

Before the mega raffle and prize presentation our esteemed member John Chadban spoke greatly about the legacy Perc Drury had with the Vets and Golf Club overall and was very well received by all members, both new and old. Perc's daughter Christine travelled from Sydney for the day and spoke dearly to the members about her father during the Trophy presentation.

Once again a great BBQ lunch was provided by our terrific volunteer ladies, providing the best hamburger you could eat. Our General Manager Karen Butler was also on hand for the day to help with proceedings and took many photographs of everyone with all their smiles.

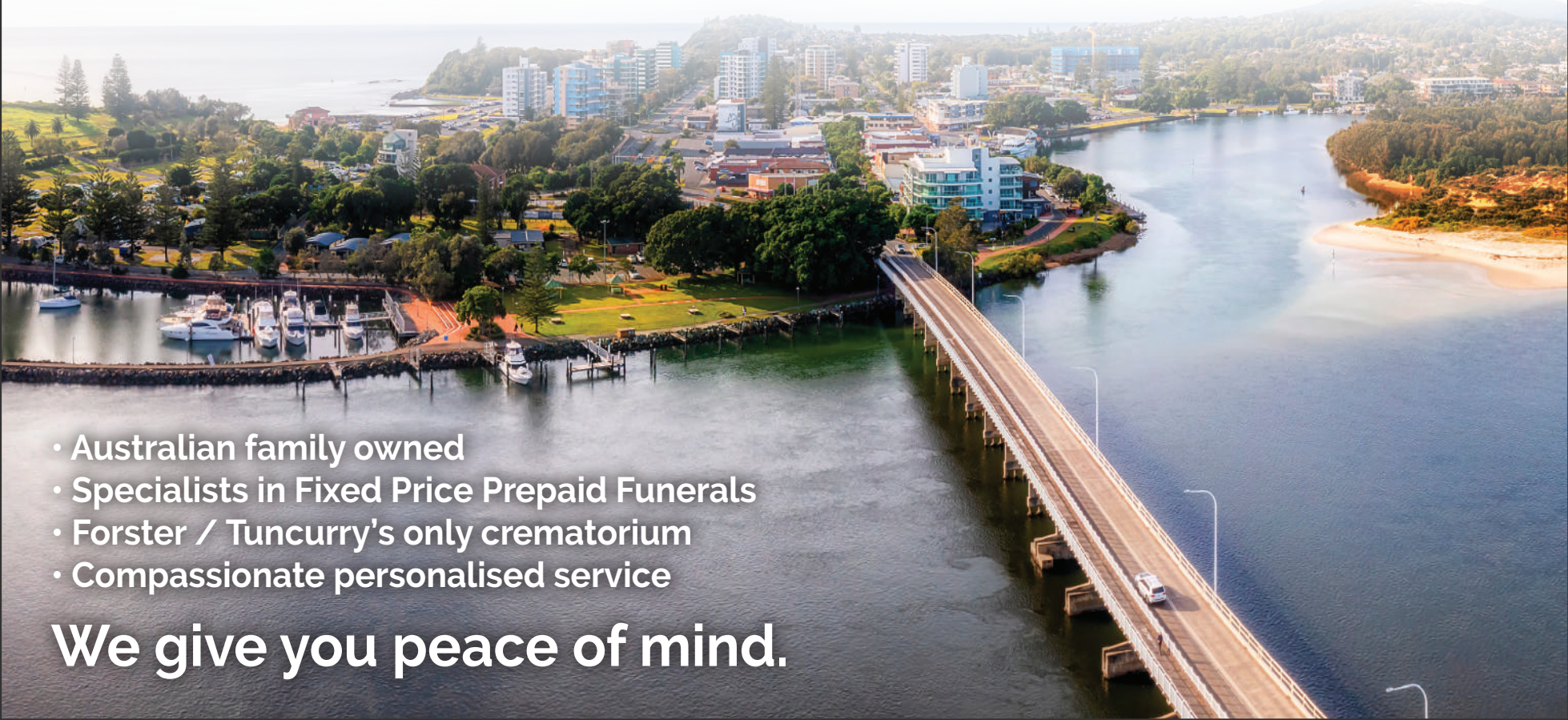
We had two new members play on the day and our membership is growing. Anyone wishing to come and have some fun please contact the Forster Clubhouse.

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