

Livestock
Ross Plasto
0428 636 289

Property Management
Emma Cenzato
0418 636 254

Raine and Horne

Rural Properties
Ross Plasto
0428 636 289

Residential
Gary Francis
0428 459 830

No. 206

Wellington & District LEADER

Covering news and views from within the Wellington, Euchareena, Geurie, Goolma, Gollan, Mumbil, Stuart Town, Wongarbon and Yeoval districts.

Established August, 2021

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 2025 ISSN 2653-2026 Inc GST

\$2.50

WELLINGTON RACE CLUB
Just the day for your Christmas Party
Leave Catering to us
0437 778 451
Sunday 16 November

Scabbing Flat Bridge saga just gets sillier - P7

A new short story from local artist Eris Fleming starts today - P14

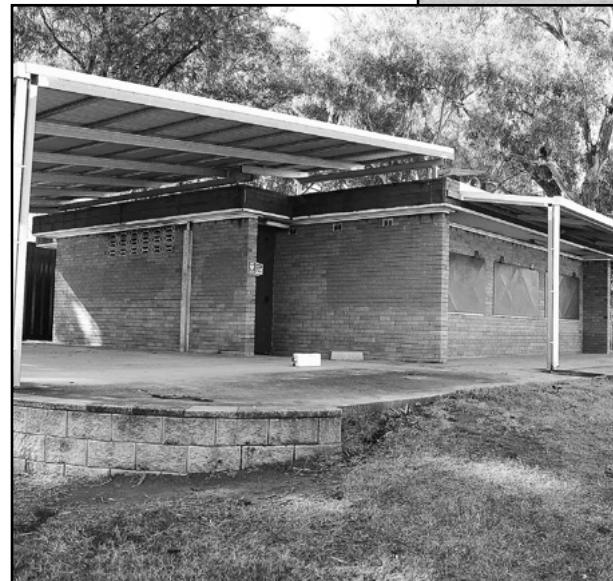
Storm doesn't stop swim club's pointscore night - P15

Amenities block taking shape

PIONEER PARK sporting fraternity eagerly await the finished construction of the park's amenities block which has taken nearly two years to get to this stage.

Council has used local companies and tradies with Welbuilt Constructions the project manager and builder with local plumbers and roofers getting ready to cover the block.

One sporting organisation champing at the bit for the block's completion is Wellington Warriors Football Club who have had a lot of misfortune at the site, losing their container in the 2022 floods, then all their gear in the New Year fire in 2023.



Wellington Arts Centre Inc presents...

ART MARKET WEEKEND
SHOWCASING 12 LOCAL ARTISTS



QUALITY ART SALES - REFRESH YOUR ART (RETURN AND EARN) -
WATCH AS ART IS CREATED ON SITE - *win \$1000

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th October 10am to 3pm

On the grounds of Kinrock Studio, 130 Gisborne Street Wellington

*enter our cost of living Chrissy bonus raffle - you could win \$1000

Get in quick for free compost - time's running out

THIS WEEKEND is the last of the calendar month to collect your compost during our giveaway.

So far we've had:

* 85 collections from Wellington Waste Transfer Station

* 286 collections from Whylandra Waste and Recycling Facility

Collect compost for your household from Dubbo or Wellington Tips until Friday, October 31.

Supporting small business matters

October is Small Business Month and a great reminder to support small business in our region.

Did you know when you spend \$100 at a small business that is owned and operated by a local resident \$71.25 remains in the local economy.

If the same spend is made at a locally operated franchise, \$52.65 of that \$100

remains in the community.

Compared with when \$100 is spent at an online business only \$4.30 remains in the local community.

Shopping locally matters. This ensures we are investing in our region, our people and our future.

HSC study space at the Library

Good luck to our region's year 12 students who are sitting for the HSC exams.

If you are looking for a study space throughout the exam period, the Macquarie Regional Library in Wellington has designated spaces for students to use.

You can access free wifi and the extensive range of HSC resources for students including course notes, topic tests and prescribed texts.

The Wellington Library is open: 10am to 5pm during weekdays and 9.30am to 12pm on Saturdays

Outcomes from the October Standing Committee Meetings

These decisions need to be ratified at the October Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 October:

* Councillors endorsed consent of the closure of a section of part of an unformed road located outside 1 Lay Street, Montefiores.

* Draft Public Amenity Strategy

Councillors endorsed the Public Amenity Strategy. It was also noted that Council investigates strategies to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the Church Street amenity facility and that Council modifies the Cameron Park amenity facility to create additional public toilets for the community with the original supplier of the facility.

* Outcome of public exhibition for riverside reserves plan of management.

Councillors endorsed Council adopt the Riverside Reserves Plan of Management.

The Riverside Reserves Plan of Management will be placed on Council's website to make it publicly available once endorsed at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

* Management Policy – Homeless people in public places

Councillors endorsed the Homelessness in Public Spaces Management Policy to guide staff responses to individuals experiencing homelessness on Council-owned spaces.

* Water Safety Report

Councillors noted the engagement of third-party specialists to conduct a risk assessment of Council's formal inland waterway access points.

Councillors also endorsed the action being taken to promote the availability of existing water safety programs from professional service providers.

Josh Black

Government study rejects need for koala park

NEW RESEARCH has debunked the state government's justification for shutting down the timber industry, revealing the establishment of the Great Koala National Park will do nothing to protect koala populations.

The latest Natural Resources Commission study reinforces previous scientific data showing "selective harvesting had no significant effect on male koala density".

NSW Nationals Leader Dugald Saunders said the Government has deliberately ignored its own research to put an election commitment above people's lives.

"It's an absolute disgrace the Premier and the Environment Minister have made the decision to push ahead with the park despite having this information on hand, and it shows it was nothing more than a political move," Mr Saunders said.

Shadow Minister for the North Coast Gurmesh Singh said the two year consultation process clearly didn't mean anything.

"It's hard to believe the government has been secretly withholding this information that proves what we've known all along – that timber and koalas can and do happily coexist," Mr Singh said.

Member for Clarence Richie Williamson said Labor's lies are stopping people from being able to put food on the table.

"This research funded by Penny Sharpe's own department completely unravels Labor's reasoning for the stop work orders, but it's clear the only people she and Chris Minns care about are themselves."

Member for Oxley Michael Kemp said it was never about environmental outcomes.

"The Great Koala National Park completely disregards the fact the NSW timber industry is among the most sustainable and tightly regulated in the world," he said.

Death Notice

James Barrington (Barry) Warren

Late of Toronto, Newcastle
formerly of Wellington

Passed away 16 October 2025

Brother to Jeune, Bruce (Dec), and
Tony (Dec)
Father of Paul (Dec), David and
Michelle Mideley.

Landmark motorcycle safety reforms

THE MOST significant motorcycle safety reforms in nearly 20 years have been introduced by the stage government.

The reforms include targeted, evidence-based measures to protect novice riders and save lives, while complementing the government's broader efforts to improve road safety infrastructure across NSW.

Coinciding with Motorcycle Awareness Month, the reforms to the Motorcycle Graduated Licensing Scheme (MGLS) form a cornerstone of the Government's 2026 Road Safety Action Plan – with the long-term vision of zero deaths and serious injuries on NSW roads by 2050.

The reforms follow extensive consultation, including via the 2025 NSW Motorcycle Safety Round-table, which brought together more than 70 riders, trainers and safety experts.

Their recommendations, captured in an independent Insights Report, have directly informed these reforms.

The Insights Report found overwhelming support for better rider training and education, protective gear standards and enhanced road infrastructure.

Key reforms include: Mandatory protective gloves for all learner and provisional riders; High-visibility vests for learner riders to improve visibility and awareness on the road; Extended pre-learner course, increasing training with experienced riding instructors, allowing for more and improved learning outcomes and skill development; New online learning modules and knowledge testing, to expand theory requirements; and Group on-road coaching and assessment, bringing NSW into line with best practice in other states.

The Insights Report highlighted the growing trauma burden among motorcyclists.

In 2024, 68 riders and passengers were killed on NSW roads, a 34 per cent increase from the previous year. Motorcyclists remain 34-times more likely to die in a crash than other road users.

While motorcycles make up just 3.8pc of registered vehicles, they account for almost 20pc of road deaths.

Learner and provisional riders face the highest risk on NSW roads, with crash data revealing that learner riders are more than seven times as likely to be killed in a crash compared to fully licensed riders.

The evidence is clear: as riders progress through their licence stages, the risk of fatality falls, demonstrating that structured training and on-road experience save lives.

These changes strengthen that pathway, giving riders more time and support to build safe, confident habits from day one.

The landmark reforms complement the government's investments in road safety infrastructure that helps to keep motorcyclists safe, including rub rails on barriers, improved shoulders, safer line markings and targeted road upgrades.

The Government acknowledges that these reforms may place additional demands on riders.

However, NSW's motorcycle training pathway is subsidised to support high-quality training for riders and will remain one of the most affordable in Australia.

The rollout of these reforms will be staged over multiple years to allow for detailed program design, industry-wide communication and preparation of training providers to deliver the enhanced training.

Obituaries of our loved ones are welcomed for publication in the 'Leader'. Contact: mark@wdleader.news

Did you know

82% of people say

PRINT ADS

are STILL the most trusted form of advertising for making purchasing decisions

Make sure print ads form part of your business marketing in 2025

Talk to Sharon

0407 935 998

sharon@wdleader.news

Wellington & District LEADER

In Memory of Beryl O'Brien

Covering news and views particularly from within the Wellington region, which now runs from Euchareena to Elong Elong within Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area.

Wellington & District Leader is independently published locally by Mark Griggs and Sharon Wilson trading as Wellington District Leader, 14 Nancarrow Lane, Wellington, NSW, 2820, ABN: 26847723165 and printed by Gilgandra Newspapers, another independent and both members of CPNSW.

Editor: Mark Griggs

0456 940 999

email: mark@wdleader.news

Advertising Manager

Sharon Wilson

0407 935 998

email: sharon@wdleader.news

Community input and feedback is welcomed. Story leads, prepared articles and photographs can be forwarded to the publisher.

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Australia Day Awards nominations open and close early

COUNCIL (DRC) is seeking nominations to recognise outstanding citizens living in our community ahead of the 2026 Australia Day awards.

Mayor Josh Black said it was a great opportunity to recognise community members who had contributed significantly to the region.

"This region has a lot of outstanding community members who deserve to be recognised for their hard work, and what better way to acknowledge that work than to honour them with a nomination for an Australia Day Award," he said.

"There are several categories aimed at ensuring people are recognised across all areas of the region."

Award nominations for Wellington are Citizen of the Year; Senior Citizen of the Year; Young Citizen of the Year; Sportsperson; Young Sports-person; Community Event of the Year; Services to Sport Award and Community Service/Achievement Awards

Residents are encouraged to submit nominations as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Nominations will close at 9am on Monday 8 December 2025.

Nomination forms can be found online: www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/community-groups/community-awards-and-tours/community-recognition-and-awards

Recipients will be announced at the Australia Day event in Wellington.

Editor's Note.

Looks like the bureaucrats in council have got their way once more.

In Wellington before amalgamation, the Australia Day committee received nominations up to the second week in January, and still could get everything organised for the January 26

ceremony.

Dubbo staff must not be able to work like Wellingtonians did.

Also, members of the Wellington Australia Day used to leave nomination forms at many of the local businesses, but again, the Dubbo council website is the new norm.

No thought of the oldies who don't use internet.



ALL WELCOME

Join us for Sunday Service

Sunday 9:30am, Pastor Rudolph Kock

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36A Gisborne Street, Wellington

RESIDENTIAL COMPOST GIVEAWAY

Dubbo Regional Council is offering residents the opportunity to access compost for **free** from the Wellington Waste Transfer Station and Whyandra Waste and Recycling Facility during October.

The compost giveaway is for domestic use only and any household in the Local Government Area is welcome to access the giveaway.

Each household is entitled to take the equivalent of one cubic metre of compost. Residents must load the compost themselves into a ute, trailer or bags. A shovel will be provided at the location.



Government study rejects need for koala park

NEW RESEARCH has debunked the state government's justification for shutting down the timber industry, revealing the establishment of the Great Koala National Park will do nothing to protect koala populations.

The latest Natural Resources Commission study reinforces previous scientific data showing "selective harvesting had no significant effect on male koala density".

NSW Nationals Leader Dugald Saunders said the Government has deliberately ignored its own research to put an election commitment above people's lives.

"It's an absolute disgrace the Premier and the Environment have made the decision to push ahead with the park despite having this information on hand, and it shows it was nothing more than a political move," Mr Saunders said.

"Not only is it completely negligent but it's also a bitter betrayal to the more than 5500 dedicated regional workers on the North Coast who have had their entire livelihoods destroyed overnight."

Shadow Minister for the North Coast Gurmesh Singh said the two year consultation process clearly didn't mean anything.

"It's hard to believe the government has been secretly withholding this information that proves what we've known all along – that timber and koalas can and do happily coexist," Mr Singh said.

"It's yet another blow to the people who have been saying for years there could have been a positive way forward with a smaller footprint that would have meant they didn't have to lose everything."

Member for Clarence Richie Williamson said Labor's lies are stopping people from being able to put food on the table.

"It's been more than a month since the moratorium on timber harvesting was announced and thousands of Dads were told on Father's Day they may no longer have a job to go to," Mr Williamson said.

"This research funded by Penny Sharpe's own department completely unravels Labor's reasoning for the stop work orders, but it's clear the only people she and Chris Minns care about are themselves."

Member for Oxley Michael Kemp said it was never about environmental outcomes.

"The Great Koala National Park completely disregards the fact the NSW timber industry is among the most sustainable and tightly regulated in the world," he said.

Unlike the myths by activists, it is the gold standard – renewable, recyclable, and essential in so many ways," Mr Kemp said.

"Yet what we're seeing here is Labor bending over backwards to pander to people's emotions and ignore the science, it's not based on any kind of evidence or logic and it's silencing the voices of our regional communities."

Member for Myall Lakes Tanya Thompson said the minimal compensation package won't help struggling families in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis.

"The \$100,000 currently on offer is fake support that will do little more than tick a box when you consider some of these businesses are being obliterated and will continue to be impacted for years to come," Mrs Thompson said.

"The feeling on the ground is once again that people have been completely let down because the Minns Labor Government has again underestimated the scale of the devastation it has caused."

A Shout-Out to Country Women's Association – Champions of the Central West

IT WAS an honour to stand up in Parliament earlier this month to pay tribute to the Country Women's Association (CWA) and the remarkable women who make it such a vital, impactful, and indispensable organisation—not just here in the Central West, but across New South Wales and our country.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of meeting with many CWA branches throughout the Central West.

No matter the issue - be it road safety, children's health, improved radiotherapy services, the need for a 24-hour rescue helicopter, or the establishment of the Charles Sturt University (CSU) medical school - the CWA has always been there. Fierce, determined, and deeply connected to their communities, they consistently advocate for the needs of country people.

Last week, I had the honour of addressing the CWA's Central West Group Annual General Meeting in Bathurst, where I once again thanked members for their extraordinary service and tireless contribution to our communities.

One of the many inspiring women I had the pleasure of acknowledging was Audrey Hardman OAM, from the Carcoar-Mandurama branch, who was attending her 66th consecutive group AGM.

Audrey's leadership during the campaign to establish the CSU medical school stands out as a shining example of the CWA's strength.

When government and medical bodies hesitated, it was Audrey and the CWA who stood up and backed the vision.

In just a few weeks, the first cohort of doctors will graduate from CSU - a powerful reminder of what this organisation can achieve.

As staunch defenders and passionate advocates for rural communities, the CWA and its members are truly unsurpassed.

We extend our deepest thanks and admiration to every member of the CWA for the incredible work they do every day.

Work of Art Regional Women's Bursary 2025

Applications for the Work of Art Regional Women's Bursary 2025 close at midnight on 31 October 2025.

This bursary of \$5,000 (GST exclusive) is open to female artists or collectives residing in regional



The Gee Report
Andrew Gee
Federal Member for Calare

NSW.

The funding can support a wide range of creative activities including professional development, new work, costs of practice or collaborations.

Project period runs from December 2025 to December 2026. Successful applicants will be announced in late November 2025.

If you're applying and would like a letter of support, please contact my office.

To apply or for more information, visit <https://regionalartsnsw.com.au/woa-regional-womens-bursary-25>

Regional Arts Australia – Quick response grants

Quick Response Grants are available on a monthly basis from February to November, with all applications being competitively assessed at the end of each month.

The grant amounts vary, with individuals able to apply for up to \$3000 and organisations up to \$5000, though there is no minimum grant amount.

It's important to note that there is a limited funding pool, so accurate budgeting is crucial to ensure you are only applying for the amount you truly need.

More information is available here <https://regionalarts.com.au>

2025 Start Strong Community Preschools

The Start Strong for Community Preschools program provides funding to deliver affordable quality preschool education for 3 to 5 year-old children enrolled in eligible community and mobile preschools in NSW.

More information is available here <https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood.education>

It's a proven fact - newspaper advertisements get results



with Mathew Dickerson, Axxis Comworld



LISTS OF famous Star Wars quotes have been compiled since the very first film hit cinemas back in 1977, and one line that always makes the cut isn't even spoken by a human.

The astromech droid R2-D2 doesn't utter a word of English, yet it delivers one of the most iconic moments in cinematic history: Princess Leia's desperate holographic plea, "Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope."

That scene didn't just define a franchise – it defined an entire generation's idea of the future.

From that moment on, we imagined holograms would soon be a part of daily life. Mum might be away for the weekend but her shimmering image would pop up in the kitchen reminding us to clean our rooms.

The boss could be interstate, yet still materialise in the back office to make sure we're working hard.

One holographic image I never expected to see, though, was a police officer.

Yet that's exactly what's now happening

in South Korea.

Take a stroll through Seoul's Judong No. 3 Park at night and you will see a life-size holographic police officer flickering to life.

It politely warns park-goers that CCTV cameras are monitoring the area and reassures them that real officers will respond "in real time" if needed.

The initiative – developed by local tech company Hologrammica as part of a "Safe Park" program – has had a measurable impact, with a 22 per cent reduction in crime since installation.

In the dark, it looks surprisingly convincing. Some locals say it makes them feel safer; others liken it to a sci-fi ghost keeping watch.

Despite appearances, it's not quite the floating, free-space projection Star Wars led us to believe in.

The Seoul hologram is actually projected onto a transparent acrylic panel – a near-invisible screen – using high-brightness projectors and a reflective film that makes the image appear suspended in air.

Careful control of light and background contrast helps create depth, giving the illusion of a solid, three-dimensional figure.

During daylight hours, when the system is switched off, the setup blends into the park's surroundings. There's a slim housing for the projector, some control electronics, and that transparent panel.

It's a clever blend of optics and psychology: people instinctively keep their distance from what their brains interpret as a physical presence.

And that psychological trick might be the real success story here.

"Although it was clear upon closer inspection that the person wasn't real, the mere perception of police presence had a significant deterrent effect," police said in a statement.

It's not a replacement for real officers, but rather a projection of authority.

South Korea has long embraced experimental technology for public use.

The nation already employs facial

recognition in schools, AI assistants in train stations, and delivery robots on footpaths.

A holographic cop fits neatly into that ecosystem – a mix of deterrence, visibility, and futuristic flair.

Meanwhile, holograms are appearing in many other fields. Musicians have returned to the stage years after their passing. Teachers in London have delivered live lectures to classrooms in Singapore. Japanese companies are even experimenting with holographic companions to greet people when they arrive home – though that might be one innovation too far.

The next leap will be true volumetric holography, where lasers can create visible light points directly in mid-air. That would mean holograms that genuinely float, without any screens or panels – exactly as Hollywood imagined.

For now, Seoul's glowing police officer stands as a fascinating reminder that the future we dreamed of in a galaxy far, far away may not be so far away after all.

Wellington Museum highlights

William Suey Ling: 1877-1936 - pioneer of Wellington's history and a great man

WILLIAM WAS a native of Victoria, born in Melbourne and educated at Melbourne Grammar, where he was a brilliant scholar and mathematician.

He was aged about 19 years when he arrived in Wellington and entered the business of Kum Yoon Fong, owned by his uncle, Hong Wong who opened a general store in 1879, a grand two-story building.

The foundation of Chinese business in the Wellington region began.

In 1896, Kum Yoon Fong left his business to his nephew William Suey Ling.

The business now called Fong Lee & Co under William's guidance expanded, employing local Chinese people, and offered a large selection of goods from China, Europe and Australia.

The store was a wonderland of goods stored high to the ceiling.

A staple in Wellington's retail landscape.

Fong Lee & Co, meaning, is good harvest for the farming community, good rains for the Bell and Macquarie Rivers and good luck and prosperity for the Wellington Community.

William was a generous spirited man, known for his charitable disposition, he was connected to every community committee in town, including the Trotting and Jockey Clubs, the Wellington District Hospital Committee

and P.A & H society.

He was also a great support and advisor to the Chinese community of Wellington where played a key role in bridging the divide between the Chinese and wider Australian local community.

William had a deep love for Wellington, and he was always looking at ways to improve the interests of the local community.

His story though is not just about business, but of family values, community engagement and service, and the capacity to adapt in changing social, cultural and economic times.

When William became unwell in 1936 the citizens of Wellington decided to recognise his great service to the town by holding a public meeting where he was presented with a wallet of notes and a gold pen.

Fong Lee & Co at the time of closing in 1936, following William's death, was the longest continuous operating store in Australia.

William was associated with Fong Lee & Co for more than 40 years.

William, a Chinese pioneer of Wellington left an enduring legacy on the town's history. He was responsible for introducing irrigation of the Bell and Macquarie River flats and he extended credit to families who could not afford to pay for goods, supporting them through hard times.

Wellington Museum has many everyday objects donated by the Ling Family from their personal collection and from merchandise stocked at Fong Lee and Co's store.

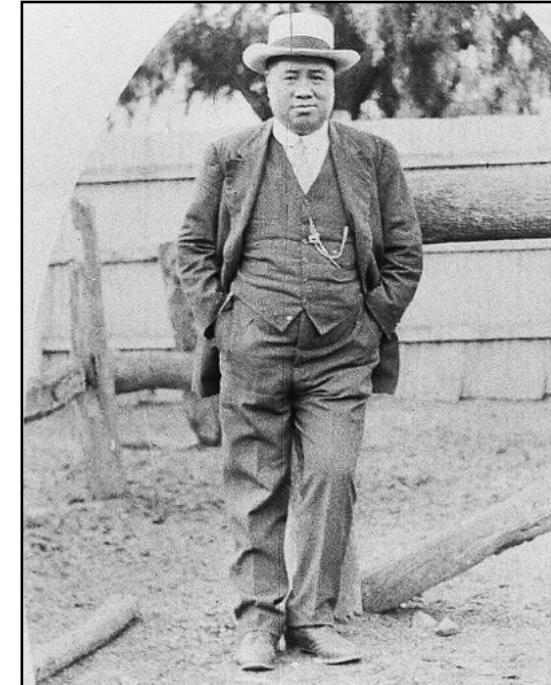
These objects represent practical aspects and encapsulate artistic and spiritual elements of the late 19 and early 20 century Chinese traditions.

Have an interesting story, or information about the women and men in your family or local community or about a place or event lost in time that would make a great story? Contact Wellington Museum on 68452325, or wellingtommuseumnsw@gmail.com ***

Do you have a love of history, a fascination with the past or are passionate about your district? Wellington Museum has many interesting volunteer roles that can be undertaken either remotely or at the Museum.

Roles include family, community and cultural research, promotion, supervising the museum during opening hours, cataloguing and photographing exhibits, preserving artefacts and exhibits, coordinating theme displays within the museum and community, administrative duties, and participating in working bees.

Interested? Come in and have a chat, we are open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 2pm.



Himalayan Breathing & Stretching Techniques for Meditation Practice with Master Ven. Loppon Lama Chewang

Sunday, 2 November
10am to 12 noon - 6845 4661

 Wellington Buddhist Centre
Tharpa Choeing Australia



WELLINGTON
MEN'S SHED

Join us for friendship or fabrication or both

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

SHED OPEN

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
from 8:30 – 12:00pm

Give us a call on 6845 2070



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Simone McManus

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36-42 Swift St
Wellington

02 6845 1976



Edith Osborne celebrated her 99th birthday with close friend Gwen Ireland, plus family and friends at Wellington Soldiers Club last Friday.

LEFT: Sharon and Mark Griggs are grandparents again with the birth of Gracie Veenbaas, the third daughter of Abby and Jack at Wodonga on October 14.

Gracie (3300grams, 47cm) joins her sisters Mila (3) and Daisy (2).



BATNIGHT

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN IN DUBBO AND HELP US SEARCH FOR THE CREATURES OF THE NIGHT!

HOSTED BY LAZY RIVER ESTATE

-  Prizes for best dressed
-  Guided bat walks along the river.

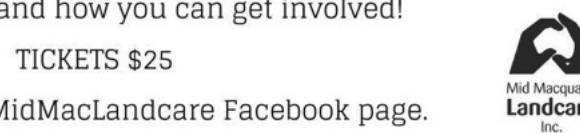
Learn about our local bats, the challenges they face, what's being done to conserve them and how you can get involved!

TICKETS \$25



RSVP via QR or @MidMacLandcare Facebook page.

THURSDAY 30th OCT 2025 | 6 - 9PM | DINNER PROVIDED



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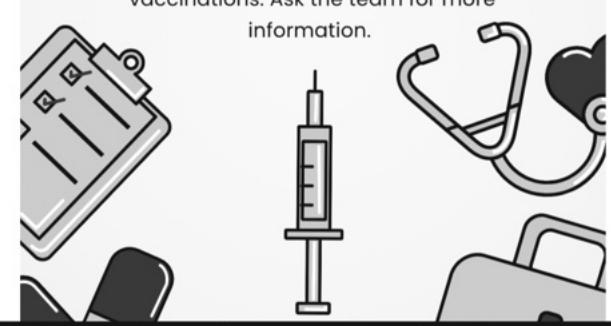


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Did you know we offer an immunisation service at Keirles Pharmacy?

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Public Notice

Binjang Community Radio Annual General Meeting Thursday 27, November 7pm
Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club All welcome

Please tell advertisers you saw it in the
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Wellington
Rotary



ENTRIES CLOSE
Thursday 27th October
JUDGING DATE:
Wednesday 29 October
Presentation Date TBA

Entry forms
can be emailed to
beth.hattenfels@bigpond.com

Also available at Wellington Library or fill-in this form and phone Beth - 0428 988 185

2025 Garden Competition

- Please indicate category/s
- Best Town Garden
- Best Country Garden
- Best Rose Garden
- Prettiest Garden Bed
- Best Non-Residential Garden
- Best Small Space / Undercover or Patio
- Best Garden Established under 5 yrs
- Best Edible / Kitchen Garden
- Best Water-Wise/ Drought Smart Garden
- Best 'Kids Patch' or School Garden- cared for by a child or group of children
- Best Scary Scarecrow

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS - ENTRY IS FREE

Please note: By entering, you consent to having photos taken of your garden, these may be shared on Facebook or media. Your name & address is never shared without further permission.

The 2025 Rotary Club of Wellington Garden Competition

Name.....
Address

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Phone:
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Wellington & District
LEADER

Public Notice

Wellington Race Club Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 5 November 6pm Wellington Soldiers Club

Water Delivery

Domestic Water Deliveries Servicing Wellington Region

Fiona: 0427 463 441 Ken: 0427 463 442

Church Services

Anglican Parish of Wellington

WELLINGTON – St John the Baptist Church Sunday 9am Sunday 5pm - The Gathering

MARANATHA 11am on 2nd & 4th Friday of month.

Wellington Baptist Church

77 Swift Street 9:30am Sunday mornings 6pm Evening Service

Wellington Uniting Church

Sunday at 9.30am

St Patrick's Catholic Parish

Saturday 6pm – Mass, St Patrick's Church, Wellington 8.30am - Stuart Town

Sunday

8am – Our Lady's Church, Yeoval first, third and fifth Sundays of the month 10am – Our Lady's Church, Yeoval second and fourth Sundays of the month 10am – St Patrick's Church, Wellington first, third and fifth Sundays of the month 8am – St Patrick's Church, Wellington second and fourth Sundays of the month

Weekday mass
Please check parish bulletin

In Christ Chapel

2pm Sunday

Riverside Church Inc.

170 Thornton Street Sunday: 10.00am Service Thursday: Bible Study for Men and Women 10.30 am

Everyone looks at the classifieds.

Promote your Annual General Meetings, Social Club Events,

Birthday Parties

Homes and Flats to rent or wanted to rent

Lost and Found

Garage Sale

Memorium

Public Notice

Raffle prize winners

We'll fit any size
Phone 0407 935 998

Around the electorate with our State Member Dugald Saunders



Christmas Card reminder

THERE'S STILL time for the kids of the Dubbo Electorate to help me design my Christmas card for 2025!

This year's theme is 'Your Ultimate Christmas Feast', so I want to see how the kids of the electorate imagine their Christmas celebrations – whether it's a big family banquet, backyard BBQ or picnic spread under the tree.

The winning entry will receive a \$200 gift voucher to the store of the student's choice, second place will receive a \$100 gift voucher, with a \$50 voucher for third.

Entries are open to all primary school students who reside in the Dubbo Electorate, which includes the Narromine Shire, Dubbo, Wellington, Gulgong and Mudgee regions. All entries must be A4 in size with no cotton, glitter or anything stuck to the page, must not be folded, and the artist's name, age and primary school should be clearly marked on the back of each entry.

Entries close at 5pm on Friday 31 October 2025 and can be sent via post to Dugald Saunders MP, PO Box 1327, Dubbo NSW 2830, or dropped into my Electorate Office

at 1/18 Talbragar Street, Dubbo.

Tourism Award finalists

Finalists for next month's NSW Tourism Awards have been revealed, with some familiar attractions and businesses from the Dubbo Electorate included amongst the final contenders for the 27 November gala event: * Mudgee Ale Trail; * Old Dubbo Gaol; * Taronga Western Plains Zoo; * Shawwood Estate; * Sierra Escape. The awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of the state's tourism industry, and forms part of the prestigious Australian Tourism Awards.

Congratulations to all finalists and best of luck to the contenders from our region.

Battery consultation

Public consultation is underway until 14 November on regulations to address dangerous battery handling and disposal.

NSW aims to be the first state to move to regulate batteries with the government seeking to ensure that battery brand owners take greater responsibility for the environmental and safety impacts of their products.

Battery fires are a growing threat to human health and the environment, driven by the poor design, management, handling and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and products powered by them.

The main purpose of the proposed regulation is to increase the safe collection of end-of-life batteries, reducing the risk of their improper disposal and fires.

For more information and to have your say, visit:
<https://yoursay.epa.nsw.gov.au/draft-product-lifecycle-responsibility-regulation>

Changes to Scabbing Flat Bridge

Transport for NSW has confirmed load limits on the historic Scabbing Flat Bridge have returned to 42.5 tonnes as peak harvest season begins.

A width restriction of 3.4 metres and a speed limit of 20km/h while crossing the bridge remain in place due to the Bailey bridge structure remaining on the bridge deck to support the trusses as crews continue work.

For project details visit:
<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/scab>

bing-flat-bridge

Children's Week

This week is Children's Week - a week where we celebrate the joy, creativity, and strength children bring to our communities.

In NSW there are more than 2.1 million children and young people aged 0–18, with over 700,000 growing up in regional and rural areas.

This year's theme is "Everyone should know about Children's Rights", which is based on Article 42 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Every child has rights, and every child deserves to be heard, valued, and supported to reach their potential no matter where they are from.

Children's Week reminds us that every step we take to raise awareness of rights is a step towards making NSW a safer, fairer and more inclusive place for children and young people.

For further information, visit: <https://childrensweek.org.au/>

Until next time, Dugald

Scabbing Flat Bridge silliness continues

Scabbing Flat Action Group chair, Michelle Tomkins replies to minister's media release

I READ the media release with bemusement at the announcement and the back slapping congratulations carried out by the politicians.

I found it very interesting the level of importance that they placed on this bridge and how critical it is to the area.

If it is so critical, why preserve a 100+ year old bridge that cannot meet today's or our future transport needs and is more suited for the horse and cart era.

It further demonstrates their lack of understanding of what is required to meet the current transport demands of the area and that all other bridges in the area have been upgraded to meet those demands.

I also found it interesting that Mayor Josh Black is the only person on the media release who has demonstrated his support in our efforts for a new bridge.

Minister Aitchison and Labor Duty for Dubbo MLC Stephen Lawrence have not engaged with the community even though we have made multiple efforts and requests to encourage them to do so.

So maybe we should look at who the Minns Government

should be really thanking.

How about, just to name a few;

* The businesses who provide services and products to the area and who have had to deal with additional travel time and cost.

* The farmers who have to get their products out so they can help feed Australia even though it is costing them up to an additional 33% in freight costs.

* The Australian tax payer who is footing the bill for the maintenance of this bridge and because it is heritage classified is paying significantly more than they should because of the heritage ruling.

* The emergency services that have had to deal with accidents as a result of the traffic that is being directed to these routes that are not suitable for large transport vehicles.

* The families who have had their family interactions determined when and if the bridge is open.

* The Geurie businesses who for the last 2 years have lost business from the southern side of the bridge due to bridge closures.

* The Geurie community that has come together and gave up

their time to keep the pressure on to ensure we made Transport for NSW accountable for the delivery of their promises.

The ultimate result is higher costs, lower productivity and an impact on social welfare and safety.

It is the local businesses and the community that has had to wear these costs, as there is no compensation on the table.

The community has been significantly impacted over the past two years but no mention of thanks.

The impact on the back-slapping politicians and senior bureaucrats is nil.

They still get their tax payer's funded salaries and tell each other how wonderful they are.

As they claim they are 'party of the bush' the Minns Labor Government have a lot more in front of them.

The job is not done by a long shot.

Heritage needs to be removed from Scabbing Flat Bridge and that is the next step to enable us to achieve the ultimate objective of a fit for purpose new bridge.

The fight continues!

The media release that's got Geurie and others bemused

Released by Minister Aitchison last Friday.

The Minns Labor Government continues to deliver for regional NSW, today announcing that the full 42.5-tonne load limit on the Scabbing Flat Bridge at Geurie will be reinstated just in time for the 2025 summer harvest season.

The historic timber truss bridge is a key freight and farming route in the state's Central West and the Minns Government has been carrying out essential repair and strengthening works to restore the bridge to its full load capacity and improve safety for all road users.

Over 15 months of work, repair crews have replaced ageing timber, repaired bridge piers and installed a temporary Bailey bridge to support the structure while truss restoration work continues.

The progression of the strengthening works means local farmers and freight operators will be able to move their produce across the bridge safely and efficiently this harvest season.

From noon today (17 October), the 42.5-tonne limit will be reinstated. Some temporary traffic conditions will remain in place, including a 20 km/h speed limit and 3.4-metre lane width restriction while final truss repairs continue.

Wider vehicles will still need to use approved detours via Wellington or Dubbo, and occasional closures of up to 15 minutes may be needed to allow crews to work safely.

Once the truss work is complete later this year, the Bailey Bridge will be removed and normal traffic conditions will return.



Federal member for Calare Andrew Gee with members of the Scabbing Flat Action Group committee.

Scabbing Flat Bridge saga continues

This week Federal Independent member for Calare (which includes Wellington and Geurie) Andrew Gee, met with community advocate, Michelle Tomkins, to discuss the Scabbing Flat Bridge saga.

"The NSW Government has whacked a heritage order on the bridge which means it can't take the loads that farmers need it to in order for them to get their produce to market," he said.

"This is despite an identical bridge at Rawsonville, near Dubbo, not

being the subject of a heritage order. How does this happen?

"To complete this bureaucratic masterpiece, the NSW Government has just spent big \$\$\$ on Scabbing Flat Bridge work knowing full well that the trucks that farmers need won't be able to use it.

That work was completed today.

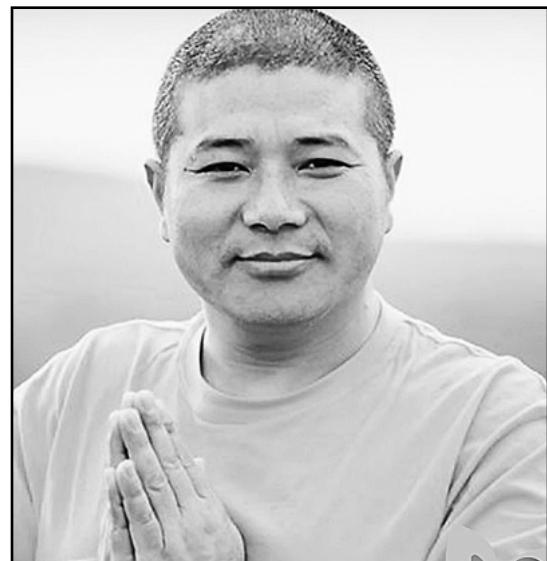
"Michelle and the Geurie community are determined that this craziness will not stand.

"I'm with them."



RIGHT: Doug Ney celebrated his 70th birthday with family and friends at The Lion of Waterloo Hotel last Saturday evening, and during the reminiscing, someone produced this photo of him on his beloved Yamaha 650 (which he still owns). Doug was in his late teens back then and was giving his niece a ride.

Breathing techniques with meditation at Buddhist Centre



HIMALAYAN BREATHING and stretching techniques for meditation practice will be the feature of a special workshop at the Wellington Buddhist Centre on Sunday, November 2.

The workshop will be conducted by visiting Buddhist monk, Master Ven. Lama Chewang starting at 10am through to 12 midday followed by lunch and then chanting.

Wellington Tharpa Choeling Centre welcomes all to attend. Phone 6845 4661 for more details.

6.00 Morning Programs. **10.00** I Was Actually There. **10.30** End Game With Tony Armstrong. **11.30** Mother And Son. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Silent Witness. **2.00** Restoration Australia. **2.55** Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.15** Long Lost Family. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** QI. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30**. **8.00** Grand Designs Australia. **9.00** Long Lost Family. **9.45** Mystery Road: Origin. **10.40** ABC Late News. **10.55** The Business. **11.15** Grand Designs. **12.00** Late Programs.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Escape To The Country. **2.00** South Aussie With Cosi. **2.30** Air Crash Investigations. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue. **4.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Father Brown. **8.30** Line Of Duty. **11.10** Murdoch Mysteries. **12.10** Late Programs.

9Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** Richard Osman's House Of Games. **4.05** QI. **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** Richard Osman's House Of Games Night. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.35** Hard Quiz. **9.05** Gruen. **9.45** Late Programs.

6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.10** Blankety Blank. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News @ 6:30. **7.00** Home And Away. **8.30** Jim Jefferies And Friends. **9.30** First Dates UK. **10.30** Australia's Most Dangerous Prisoners. **11.30** Gatecrashers. **12.30** Life. **1.30** Harry's Practice. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** Talking W. **3.30** Mountain Men. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Family Guy. **8.30** American Dad! **9.30** MOVIE: Land Of The Lost. (2009) Will Ferrell, Danny McBride. **11.35** Late Programs.

9Family **6.00** Kids' Programs. **5.30** Peter Rabbit. **6.05** PJ Masks Power Heroes. **6.25** The Adventures Of Paddington. **6.45** Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom. **7.05** Rocket Club. **7.35** NinjaGo: Dragons Rising. **8.00** Operation Ouch! **8.35** Secrets Of The Zoo. **9.20** Amazing Animal Friends. **10.05** The Mysterious Benedict Society. **10.40** Late Programs.

6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** Budget Battlers. **1.00** Great Australian Detour. **1.30** My Way. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** RBT. **8.30** RPA. **9.30** A+T After Dark. **10.30** 9News Late. **11.00** Chicago Med. **11.50** Tipping Point. **12.40** Pointless. **1.30** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **2.30** Global Shop. **3.00** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **4.00** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** Morning Programs. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.00** Holistic Living. **10.30** House Rules. **12.00** The Rookie. **3.00** Grand Crew. **3.30** House Of Wellness. **4.30** Bondi Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** Ramsay's Costa Del Nightmares. **8.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares. **9.30** Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back. **11.30** Late Programs.

9NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** ABC News Afternoons. **4.00** Afternoon Briefing. **5.00** ABC News With Joe O'Brien. **6.00** ABC News Hour. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30**. **8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.45** The Business. **9.00** The World. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** The Pacific. Final. **11.00** ABC Late News. **11.30** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **10.00** Ent. Tonight. **10.20** Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **11.30** Judge Judy. **12.00** Everyday Gourmet. **12.30** Family Feud. **1.00** News. **2.00** Wheel Of Fortune. **2.30** Lingo. **3.30** News. **4.00** Neighbours. **4.30** The Bold And The Beautiful. **5.00** 10 News. **6.00** 10 News+. **7.00** Deal Or No Deal. **7.30** Gogglebox Australia. **8.30** The Celebrity Trailors UK. **9.30** The Office Australia. Final. **10.20** 10's Late News. **10.45** The Cheap Seats. **11.45** Late Programs.

10drama **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** Escape Fishing With ET. **9.00** The Living Room. **10.00** JAG. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.45** The Young And The Restless. **1.30** Numb3rs. **2.30** JAG. **4.30** The Living Room. **5.30** JAG. **7.30** NCIS. **10.20** Evil. **11.20** Numb3rs. **12.20** Home Shopping.

9Gem **6.00** Morning Programs. **11.30** My Favorite Martian. **12.00** Poirot. **1.00** Midsomer Murders. **3.10** Antiques Roadshow. **3.40** MOVIE: Tonight's The Night. (1954) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Fawlty Towers. **9.50** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.00** Poirot. **12.20** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** WorldWatch. **2.00** The Idea Of Australia. **3.00** Bollywed. **3.30** The Cook Up With Adam Liaw. **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? **5.05** Jeopardy! **5.30** Letters And Numbers. **6.00** Mastermind Australia. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.30** Eva Longoria: Searching For Spain. New. **8.20** Scandinavia With Simon Reeve. **9.30** Blue Lights. **10.35** SBS World News Late. **11.05** Davos 1917. **12.00** The Head. **1.50** Heritage Rescue. **3.30** Outside: Beyond The Lens. **4.00** Late Programs.

10comedy **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Ridiculousness. **2.00** Ghosts. **2.30** Becker. **3.00** Frasier. **4.00** Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield. **4.30** Ghosts. **5.00** Becker. **5.30** Frasier. **6.30** Neighbours. **7.00** Friends. **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.30** Becker. **10.00** Frasier. **11.00** Ghosts. **11.30** Late Programs.

VICELAND **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.25** Bamay. **3.00** Insight. **4.05** WorldWatch. **6.00** Our Medicine. **6.40** Jeopardy! **7.35** 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. **8.30** The Curse Of Oak Island. **10.10** The UnXplained With William Shatner. **11.00** Homicide: Life On The Street. **1.35** Conversations With Friends. **2.10** Somewhere Boy. **2.40** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **10.30** The Pacific. Final. **11.00** The Following Events Are Based On A Pack Of Lies. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Mystery Road: Origin. **1.55** Grand Designs Australia. **2.55** Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.15** Long Lost Family. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** QI. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** Gardening Australia. **8.30** Professor T. **9.20** Hard Quiz. **9.50** Mother And Son. **10.15** The Assembly. **11.00** ABC Late News. **11.20** Silent Witness. **12.15** Late Programs.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** DVine Living. **1.30** Sydney Weekender. **2.00** House Of Wellness. **3.00** The Great Australian Doorstep. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue. **4.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Renters. **8.30** Escape To The Country. **11.30** Late Programs.

9Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** Richard Osman's House Of Games. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** House Of Games. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.40** MOVIE: Mulholland Drive. (2001) **11.00** Late Programs.

6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.10** Blankety Blank. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies: Celebrity Specials. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News @ 6:30. **7.00** Better Homes And Gardens. **8.30** MOVIE: The Bourne Supremacy. (2004) Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Brian Cox. **10.45** Motorway Patrol. **11.15** GetOn Extra. **11.45** Border Security: Australia's Front Line. **12.15** Healthy, Wealthy & Wise. **1.15** Late Programs.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Nature Gone Wild. **3.00** Timbersports. **3.30** Mountain Men. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Football. AFL Women's Round 11. Adelaide v Port Adelaide. **9.45** MOVIE: Terminator Salvation. (2009) Christian Bale. **12.05** Late Programs.

9Family **6.00** Kids' Programs. **5.30** Peter Rabbit. **6.05** PJ Masks Power Heroes. **6.25** The Adventures Of Paddington. **6.45** Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom. **7.05** Gardening Australia Junior. **7.35** Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. **8.00** Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **8.30** Hard Quiz Kids. **9.00** Robot Wars. **10.00** Merlin. **10.45** Late Programs.

6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** MOVIE: Hint Of Love. (2020) **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** David Attenborough's Asia. **8.40** MOVIE: John Wick. (2014) Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Willem Dafoe. **10.40** Race To The Melbourne Cup Carnival. **11.40** Law & Order: Organized Crime. **12.30** Tipping Point. **1.30** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **2.00** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** Holistic Living. **10.30** House Rules. **12.00** The Rookie. **3.00** Grand Crew. **3.30** First Dates UK. **4.25** MOVIE: The Smurfs 2. (2013) **6.40** MOVIE: Mr. Bean's Holiday. (2007) **8.30** MOVIE: Julie & Julia. (2009) Amy Adams, Meryl Streep, Chris Messina. **11.10** MOVIE: Antlers. (2021) **1.10** Late Programs.

9NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** News. **4.00** Afternoon Briefing. **5.00** ABC News With Joe O'Brien. **6.00** ABC News Hour. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30** The Pacific. Final. **8.00** Planet America: Weekend Edition. **8.45** ABC News Tonight. **9.00** The World. **9.30** Close Of Business. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **10.00** Ent. Tonight. **10.20** Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **11.30** Judge Judy. **12.00** Everyday Gourmet. **12.30** Family Feud. **1.00** News. **2.00** Wheel Of Fortune. **2.30** Lingo. **3.30** News. **4.00** House Hunters Australia. **4.30** The Bold And The Beautiful. **5.00** 10 News. **6.00** 10 News+. **7.00** Deal Or No Deal. **7.30** The Dog House. **8.30** House Hunters Australia. **9.30** The Graham Norton Show. **10.30** 10's Late News. **10.55** 10 News+. **11.55** Late Programs.

10drama **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** Escape Fishing With ET. **9.00** The Living Room. **10.00** JAG. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.45** The Young And The Restless. **1.30** Numb3rs. **2.30** JAG. **4.30** The Living Room. **5.30** JAG. **7.30** NCIS. **10.20** Evil. **11.20** Blue Bloods. **12.15** Numb3rs. **1.15** Home Shopping.

9Gem **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.20** Blackadder Goes Forth. **3.20** MOVIE: The Third Man. (1949) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Secret Life Of The Auction House. **8.30** MOVIE: Three Men And A Baby. (1987) Tom Selleck. **10.30** MOVIE: Cadillac Man. (1990) **12.30** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** WorldWatch. **2.00** The Past Ended On Mango Street. **3.00** NITV News: Nula. **3.30** The Cook Up With Adam Liaw. **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? **5.05** Jeopardy! **5.30** Letters And Numbers. **6.00** Mastermind Australia. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.35** Ben Fogle's Endurance: Race For The Nile. New. **9.25** Lost Treasures Of Egypt. **10.20** SBS World News Late. **10.50** Sisi. **11.50** Rogue Heroes. **2.05** Heritage Rescue. **3.50** Late Programs.

10comedy **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.00** The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. **1.00** Ridiculousness. **2.00** Ghosts. **2.30** Becker. **3.00** Frasier. **4.00** Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield. **4.30** Ghosts. **5.00** Becker. **5.30** Frasier. **6.30** Friends. **7.30** MOVIE: Cast Away. (2000) Tom Hanks. **10.10** Becker. **10.35** Frasier. **11.30** Late Programs.

VICELAND **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.25** A Fork In Australia. **3.35** WorldWatch. **5.35** If You Are The One. **6.40** Jeopardy! **7.35** 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. **8.30** Women Who Rock. **9.35** Sex Unlimited. **10.30** Adam Hills: The Last Leg. **11.25** Homeland



6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Landline. **2.00** Parliament Question Time. **2.55** Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.10** Long Lost Family. **4.55** Antiques Roadshow. **5.55** QI. **6.25** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** **7.80** Australian Story. **8.30** Four Corners. **9.25** Media Watch. **9.40** Planet America. **10.15** I Was Actually There. **10.45** ABC Late News. **11.00** The Business. **11.15** Creative Types With Virginia Trioli. **11.45** Late Programs.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.30** The Great Australian Doorstep. **2.00** Weekender. **2.30** Hornby: A Model Empire. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue. **4.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Doc Martin. **8.30** Endeavour. **10.30** Air Crash Investigations: The Accident Files. **11.30** Late Programs.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Supercars C'ship. Gold Coast 500. H'lights. **3.30** Supercars C'ship. Gold Coast 500. H'lights. **4.30** American Resto. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Outback Crystal Hunters. **8.30** Aussie Gold Hunters. **9.30** Aussie Salvage Squad. **10.30** Late Programs.

7NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** A Bite To Eat. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.35** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** House Of Games. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.35** Penn & Teller: Fool Us. **9.20** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **9.40** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** The Following Events Are Based On A Pack Of Lies. **2.00** Parliament Question Time. **2.55** Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.10** Long Lost Family. **4.55** Antiques Roadshow. **5.55** QI. **6.25** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** **7.80** I Was Actually There. **8.30** End Game With Tony Armstrong. **9.20** The Art Of. **9.55** The Assembly. **10.35** Media Watch. **10.55** ABC Late News. **11.10** The Business. **11.25** Late Programs.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.30** The Great Australian Doorstep. **2.00** Creek To Coast. **2.30** Hornby: A Model Empire. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue. **4.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Call The Midwife. **8.45** Judge John Deed. **10.45** The Yorkshire Vet. **11.45** Late Programs.

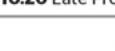
7NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** Richard Osman's House Of Games. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** House Of Games. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.40** Austin. **9.35** Spooks. **10.30** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** News. **12.30** National Press Club Address. **1.35** Media Watch. **2.00** Parliament Question Time. **2.55** Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.10** Long Lost Family. **4.55** Antiques Roadshow. **5.55** QI. **6.25** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** **7.80** Hard Quiz. **8.30** Mother And Son. Final. **9.00** The Assembly. Final. **9.45** Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (NZ) **10.30** If You're Listening. **10.50** ABC Late News. **11.05** The Business. **11.20** Late Programs.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Sydney Weekender. **2.30** House Of Wellness. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue. **4.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Heartbeat. **8.45** Inspector George Gently. **10.45** Air Crash Investigations. **11.45** Late Programs.

7NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** Richard Osman's House Of Games. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.35** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** House Of Games. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.35** Unforgotten. **9.25** Spooks. **10.20** Late Programs.



6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.10** Blankety Blank. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** **7News Local**. **6.30** 7News @ 6:30. **7.00** Home And Away. **7.30** My Kitchen Rules. **9.05** The Rookie. **10.05** Alert: Missing Persons Unit. **11.05** S.W.A.T. **12.05** Girlfriends' Guide To Divorce. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Supercars C'ship. Gold Coast 500. H'lights. **3.30** Supercars C'ship. Gold Coast 500. H'lights. **4.30** American Resto. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Outback Crystal Hunters. **8.30** Aussie Gold Hunters. **9.30** Aussie Salvage Squad. **10.30** Late Programs.

7NEWS **6.00** Kids' Programs. **4.10** Andy's Prehistoric Adventures. **4.25** Super Monsters. **5.20** Mojo Swoptops. **5.55** Octonauts. **6.45** Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom. **7.05** Rocket Club. **7.35** Ninjago: Dragons Rising. **8.00** Operation Ouch! **8.35** Gladiators UK. **9.35** The Crystal Maze. **10.20** Merlin. **11.05** Late Programs.



6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.10** Blankety Blank. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** **7News Local**. **6.30** 7News @ 6:30. **7.00** Home And Away. **7.30** My Kitchen Rules. **9.05** Murder In A Small Town. **10.05** Ron Iddles: The Good Cop. **11.05** Grosse Pointe Garden Society. **12.05** Pretty Hard Cases. **1.05** Travel Oz. **1.35** Harry's Practice. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.30** Pawn Stars. **1.30** Outback Crystal Hunters. **2.30** Aussie Gold Hunters. **3.30** Mountain Men. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Outback Truckers. **9.30** Outback Pilots. **10.30** Ice Road Truckers. **11.30** Late Programs.

7NEWS **6.00** Kids' Programs. **4.10** Andy's Prehistoric Adventures. **4.25** Super Monsters. **5.20** Mojo Swoptops. **5.55** Octonauts. **6.45** Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom. **7.05** Rocket Club. **7.35** Ninjago: Dragons Rising. **8.00** Operation Ouch! **8.35** Deadly 60. **9.05** Shark With Steve Backshall. **9.55** Merlin. **10.40** Late Programs.



6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.10** Blankety Blank. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** **7News Local**. **6.30** 7News @ 6:30. **7.00** Home And Away. **7.30** My Kitchen Rules. **9.05** Off The Grid With Colin And Manu. **9.30** House Of Wellness. **10.30** Chicago Fire. **11.30** The Amazing Race. **1.00** Imposters. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.30** Pawn Stars. **1.30** Outback Truckers. **2.30** Mountain Men. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Highway Patrol. **8.30** The Force: Behind The Line. **9.30** Caught On Dashcam. **10.30** World's Wildest Police Videos. **11.30** Late Programs.

7NEWS **6.00** Kids' Programs. **5.20** Mojo Swoptops. **5.45** Kangaroo Beach. **6.40** Super Monsters Save Halloween. **7.05** Rocket Club. **7.35** Ninjago: Dragons Rising. **8.00** Operation Ouch! **8.35** To Be Advised. **9.20** Teen Titans Go! **9.55** PokéMon: Diamond And Pearl. **10.15** Fresh Off The Boat. **10.40** Late Programs.



6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** The Block. Final. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** The Golden Bachelor. **9.10** Love Island Australia. Return. **10.30** 9News Late. **11.00** The Equalizer. **11.50** Transplant. **12.40** Tipping Point. **1.30** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **2.30** Global Shop. **3.00** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **4.00** Believer's Voice Of Victory. **4.30** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Get Clever. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.00** Malaysia Kitchen. **10.30** House Rules. **12.00** The Rookie. **2.00** The Blacklist. **3.00** My Kitchen Rules. **4.30** Bondi Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. **8.30** Law & Order: SVU. **9.30** Law & Order. **10.30** Bones. **12.30** Late Programs.

7NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Parliament. **3.10** ABC News Afternoons. **4.00** Afternoon Briefing. **5.00** ABC News With Joe O'Brien. **6.00** ABC News Hour. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30** **7.80**. **8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.45** The Business. **9.00** The World. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** Planet America. **11.00** Late Programs.



6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** The Golden Bachelor. **1.45** Talking Honey. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** The Golden Bachelor. **8.55** Love Island Australia. **10.10** 9News Late. **10.40** Wild Cards. **11.35** Black Widow: The Killing Of David Jackson. **12.30** Tipping Point. **1.30** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **2.30** Skippy The Bush Kangaroo. **3.00** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Get Clever. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.00** Malaysia Kitchen. **10.30** House Rules. **12.00** The Blacklist. **3.00** My Kitchen Rules. **4.30** Bondi Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **9.30** CSI: Miami. **11.30** NCIS. **12.30** White Collar. **3.00** Quantum Leap. **5.00** Roswell.

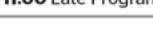
7NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Parliament Question Time. **3.10** ABC News Afternoons. **4.00** Afternoon Briefing. **5.00** ABC News With Joe O'Brien. **6.00** ABC News Hour. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30** **7.80**. **8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.45** The Business. **9.00** The World. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** Australian Story. **11.00** Late Programs.



6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** The Golden Bachelor. **1.30** Getaway. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** The Golden Bachelor. **8.40** Love Island Australia. **9.55** To Be Advised. **10.55** 9News Late. **11.25** Resident Alien. **12.10** Tipping Point. **1.05** Let's Eat With George. **1.30** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **2.30** Global Shop. **3.00** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **4.00** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Get Clever. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.00** Malaysia Kitchen. **10.30** House Rules. **12.00** The Blacklist. **3.00** Grand Crew. **3.30** First Dates UK. **4.30** Bondi Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** NCIS. **9.30** NCIS: Los Angeles. **11.30** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **1.30** First Dates UK. **5.30** Grand Crew.

7NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Parliament. **3.10** ABC News Afternoons. **4.00** Afternoon Briefing. **5.00** ABC News With Joe O'Brien. **6.00** ABC News Hour. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30** **7.80**. **8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.45** The Business. **9.00** The World. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** Australian Story. **11.00** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **8.00** Bold. **8.30** Deal Or No Deal. **9.00** Lingo. <

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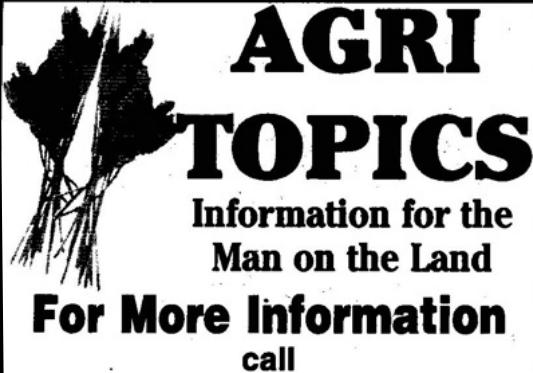
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FORECAST FOR the next week - tops of 28 degrees most days, lows of 10. Rain Monday, 27 cloudy most days. Last week's rain totalled 8mm.***

A plan to manufacture aviation fuel from Australian canola is well underway. Australian farmers could soon be fuelling jets with a low-carbon liquid fuel made from canola.

Aviation accounts for about 2.5 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions and is difficult to decarbonise. A push to replace fossil fuel with sustainable aviation fuels is raising the prospect of a new market for Australian-grown oilseed.

Canola is harvested in grain growing regions around the country, with the majority exported to Europe for biofuel production.

Australian owned fuel company Ampol, publicly listed GrainCorp and industry super fund IFM investors are working on a plan to refine canola in Australia for use in the aviation industry.

Subject to a feasibility study, GrainCorp expects to establish a canola crush with capacity to process one million tonnes a year, almost doubling its existing crush at Numurkah in northern Victoria.

It hasn't identified a site for the prospective crush yet, but WA or NSW are the most likely options.

Canola meal would be extracted for use as livestock feed and the oil transported to Ampol's Brisbane refinery to be manufactured into a renewable diesel and processed into Safe Aviation Fuel (SAF).

I believe WELLINGTON is an ideal spot for GrainCorp's crushing plant and the district should be pushing for it.

Markets at a glance

WOOL 16th. EMI 1456c/kg clean, 37,919 bales including 2569 bales from NZ. Sydney Merino fleece made double digit losses across all MPG's on both days with finer (16.5 and 17.5 micron) least affected high pass in rates both days. M skirtings slipped up to 130c. dipped 35c to 60c. Oddments and cardings unchanged. NRI 1497c/kg clean, down 57cent. Sydney's passed-in 26.6% with 822 bales withdrawn.

CATTLE DBO 16th. 6845 head, down 145. Young cattle to processors 12c cheaper, vealers and yearlings 380c to 475c/kg. Heavy feeder steers firm on average, steers and heifers 5c to 10c cheaper. Steers 369c to 497c, heifers 380c to 457c/kg. Young cattle to restockers and backgrounders up to 40c cheaper, steers to 526c/kg, heifers 425c to 442c/kg. Grown steers and heifers firm to 4c cheaper, steers 428c to 470c/kg, heifers 410c to 450c/kg. Cows 3c to 9c cheaper, 3-scores to processors 314c to 368c/kg. Heavy cows 370c to 400c, ave 386c/kg. Cows to restockers 294c to 334c/kg, bulls to 350c/kg.

GRAINS: Local markets unchanged to lower on limited selling. Buyers happy to wait and assess impact of the change coming across Australia. The forecast is looking better for a significant rain event across the south, rain will help later crops but the Western Riverina and Southwest Murray lands and SA/VIC mallee the rain will be too late to boost yield but may help fill heads and limit amount of pinched grain. Harvest is picking up pace in QLD with prompt SFW markets becoming a little hit and miss, wheat with the occasional bids around \$325/t delivered Downs ***

CLEARANCE SALE continues, Give me a call.

Rural



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WEEKLY MARKET REPORT
Week ending October 17, 2025
AWEX Northern Micron Indices Comparison

AWEX INDEX	This Week S16/25	This Week M16/25	Last Sale S15/25	Sydney Change	Last Year Sydney	Sydney Yearly Change
17	2038	2088	2172	-89	1692	+346
18	1932	1940	2028	-96	1537	+395
19	1751	1771	1851	-100	1426	+325
20	1672	1688	1752	-80	1314	+358
21	-	1668	-	-	-	-
26	845n	875	905n	-60	-	-
28	645n	670	680n	-35	380n	+265
MC	829n	771	829n	0	705n	+125

Have we found the new price level?

THE SENTIMENT from the previous week was still evident with the wool market losing ground again, mainly in Merino fleece indicators. Falls occurred on both selling days in much the same quantities for several micron groups including cross-breds. There was some consolidation towards the end of selling with stronger pricing support in the last two catalogues giving thought to the market finding a landing point to work from. The offering just under the predicted 41,000 bales at just under 38,000, and interestingly almost 25% was passed-in. This highlights grower expectations of the bullish market of two weeks ago, when passed-in rates were under 5% of 30,000 bales. When you do the math we are selling the same amount as those buoyant weeks, just doing it a different way. When reflecting on the roller coaster run over the past four weeks, it looks very much like that was driven by the Chinese fear of missing out (FOMO). Once the market started to run, all of the early-stage processors were keen to place orders of good

quantities, however exporters were unable to offer out due to fear of a correction, which turned up a week later. Now that the market has softened, it has been hard to get interest on wools that were in demand, even 150 cents cheaper. The good that has come out of this rally is that at the close of selling last week it felt like we will be starting at a new base, and when you compare figures of where the rise started and finished, we have kept the increase of the first week at the close of selling on Wednesday pretty much on all micron indicators. Discussion on the future of Yennora is topical once again. With the lease of the area that is used by the industry coming up for renewal next year, it is understood that the price will rise substantially, and by 2030 not be available due to change of direction. Goulburn looks like it will be developed into the show floor and auction rooms for the North, although nothing has been determined as of yet. A small catalogue for Macwool and Carmichael wool of 750 bales, on Tuesday with 40,000 bales nationally.

YOUR WOOL IN SAFE HANDS

Fresh fight for right to repair

NSW FARMERS has welcomed calls from the Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury Andrew Leigh to introduce a legislated right to repair for agricultural machinery.

Last Friday, Minister Leigh told the Australian Repair Summit the lack of this right to repair was weakening regional economies and stifling "fairness, efficiency and resilience" on Australian farms.

As the 2025 winter harvest season commenced, NSW Farmers president Xavier Martin said real commitment to legislate this right was long overdue.

"Right now, much of our modern farm machinery can only be fixed by an 'authorised repairer', but this often costs a fortune and there's always the likelihood of costly delays," Mr Martin said.

"We can choose who fixes our cars and trucks, but we can't choose who fixes the ag machines that help us feed and clothe the nation – and that's costing our industry time, money and productivity."

"Farmers should be able to choose to use and support a qualified local repairer or do repairs and maintenance work themselves if they're

qualified, so they can get their machinery fixed without huge costs or wait times."

According to the Productivity Commission, legislating a right to repair agricultural machinery would boost agricultural productivity by \$97 million annually.

Swift action to open the repairs market for farm machinery was common sense, Mr Martin said, with the Federal Government urged to expand the Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Information Sharing Scheme to include agriculture as soon as possible.

"We need our tractors, headers and other machines to be fixed efficiently if we're to keep putting clothes on backs and food on tables," Mr Martin said.

"Farmers in countries like Canada have had this right for years – as so has our automotive industry here in Australia – and it's simply time we corrected this. The recognition of this problem today has been very encouraging, and we need the Federal Government to act now to remove the barriers restricting the open repairs market for farm machinery – and we're ready and willing to work with them on this."

**Around the tracks
with Col Hodges**

Racing at Narromine

SPRING RACING fever is catching and a very good crowd was at Narromine on Saturday to see Danish Hussar win the 1600 metres QUBE Agri-Dandy Cup.

Trained at Yass by Allan McRae, the 10-year-old chestnut gelding Danish Hussar, a last start Wagga Wagga winner, started the \$4.80 favourite and with Dubbo jockey Clayton Gallagher in the saddle, led most of the way to beat Firestorm Boy (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$9) and Winged (Leeshelle Small, \$5).

Combining again in the following race, the 800m Flogger & Lois Walsh Memorial - Pom Mates Day Out Benchmark 58 Handicap, Allan McRae and Clayton Gallagher won with Bold Offa.

Managing to fend off joint leader Brummagen (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$3.70 to \$3.30 fav) in the run home, Bold Offa (\$10) scored by over a length with Takanakuy (Izzy Neale, \$6.50) in third place.

For Clayton Gallagher it was a big day as he also won the opening race, the 1100m Three Rivers Machinery Maiden Plate on Elderberry Wine for Orange trainer Alison Smith.

After tracking the leaders Miss Rovillea and Summer Sonata, Elderberry Wine (\$2.35 fav) broke clear at the top of the straight and eventually won by a half-length from Bindaree Lass (Mikayla Weir, \$17) and Bold Rosie (Ashleigh Stanley, \$3.90).

There was sadness accompanying the win of grey mare Ultra White at Narromine as the owner Maree Leszcynski from Wellington passed away recently.

Given a charmed run on the fence behind the leading pack by Kath Bell-Pitomac, the Dar Lunn trained Ultra White (\$7) hit the front then held off Miss Karis (Izzy Neale, \$3.40 fav) and Pyromania (Clayton Gallagher, \$4.20) in the 1100m Benabilla Auctions Benchmark 50 Handicap.

Following the win by Slush Fund at Coonamble last week, Dubbo trainer Clint Lundholm and his apprentice Zoe Hunt were in the winner's circle again when Dervinia upset more fancied rivals in the 1300m JR Richards & Sons Maiden Plate.

Owned by Rodger and Nerida Atkinson, the \$26 outsider Dervinia came from midfield for a decisive win by over two lengths from Nortoko (Wendy Peel, \$5.50) and Spirit Of Saintly (Clayton Gallagher, \$6.50).

A typically aggressive ride by Jake Pracey-Holmes saw the Brett Thompson trained Hard To Impress (\$4.40 to \$4 fav) taking the early lead and thereafter not headed when beating Dig Bee (Mikayla Weir, \$7.50) and Bushwalker (Jordan Quince, \$26) in the Narromine USMC Class 1 Handicap.

Racing at Mudgee on Saturday and Coonabarabran Cup on Sunday.

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**Wellington Race Club
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 5 November
6pm
Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club**



Wellington Public School

Music in Me at WPS

Kindergarten students had an engaging and fun start to the term learning about musical instruments and participating in a variety of activities designed to get them listening, moving to and creating music!



Staff at Wellington Public School engaged in Music Professional Learning on our Term 4 Staff Development Day delivered by Jacqui Shaw from the Arts Unit and were keen to put their new learning into practice right away.

The Body Snatchers

Another short-story by local artist and writer, Eris Fleming.

**Pickwick Lane — Duke —
God's chosen one — Bill Darcy
and Henry McLeod roga mortus.**

PICKWICK LANE, right at the edge of town, is where the Tuckers had lived for 41 years.

Their home was a modest weatherboard about five minutes from the R.S.L. - even less to St. Patricks.

All those years together had been quiet and happy ones but, with no progeny forthcoming, in the end their family amounted to two terriers called Slim and Dusty and a cat called Duke.

The terriers' mother, a few doors down the lane, had lived free and easy for a brief time and then had found herself pregnant.

The Tuckers, for a few dollars, had chosen what seemed to them the two pups with most promise. Both grew up to be ugly, useless and a bit stupid.

On the other hand, Duke was a smart looking ginger chap with an almost film star presence. He'd first appeared on Pickwick Lane one Sunday afternoon when a clapped-out Austin puttered by, stopped briefly and, with the sound of a door slamming, sped off.

Within minutes, all bruised and sore, one furry little animal found its way to the Tuckers' back door. And with a mice plague in the offing, any cat was welcome.

They called him Duke after Mick's hero, John Wayne - Mick just loved John Wayne. Duke, as things turned out, was an easy-going, friendly chap and so, in no time, he and the two terriers were as brothers, playing together for hours on end and sharing everything.

Life, for all three, was one long party.

In just months though, Duke grew to be big and strong and its then things began to unravel.

Strange sensations were happening; disturbing thoughts plagued his mind.

There were odd, very odd dreams too.

And now and then, when some sweet little pussy sauntered by, rubbing herself up against the back fence and giving out all sorts of enticing messages, his mind was in tatters.

All this torment got him and it's then it came to him, slowly at first, then in a rush, that the whole sorry mess, all his troubles, his skew-whiff thinking, etcetera was down to one, single fact: he was one of God's chosen ones — a tomcat — a big, handsome one too.

And tomcats, especially handsome ginger ones, it now came to him were there, in the first instance, to serve God.

There was no questioning it.

He had no choice but to get out there and do his bit. And so, most nights he was gone, staggering home in the early hours, often bloodied and sore but, at the same time happy, because he'd played his part in God's big plan.

He had to work hard, get it right every time - and question nothing.

By bringing more ginger cats into the world, he was doing God's work.

His two smelly terrier friends though, neutered in earlier times by the vet, were clueless, had no idea of God and his plans. It was one big mystery.

Mick Tucker, like most men in their twilight years, was determined to take it easy, just read the paper, finish the crossword, and when done with that, potter in his garden.

And, just occasionally, dabble with some

watercolours. And, most days, that's how it was.

However, this particular Saturday, things didn't go so smoothly. Mick, having risen early, had had a quick breakfast and then had slogged away in the garden, pushing himself hard and pausing only briefly for a quick bite at about one.

He'd raked up leaves, pruned roses, watered this and that and manoeuvred the wheelbarrow here and there. By sundown he was exhausted, when his head hit the pillow, he'd drop off, be dead to the world for the whole night.

But, for some odd reason, it didn't go that way - he hardly slept a wink, tossing and turning for hours on end.

In the early morning, he was lying there, only half awake and feeling lousy.

Staring at the ceiling and feeling more than a bit sorry for himself, his mind wandered. He was thinking about nothing much at all when, out of the blue, it came to him he should forget the garden and pruning the roses etcetera and instead take a leaf out of the cat's book and, for once, have some fun.

He lay there thinking it through, his hands behind his head, his eyes on the ceiling and cast his mind back, doing his damndest to remember how long it had been.

But it was all a blur. There was nothing — maybe, he was beginning to think, it had never happened and that would explain why there'd been no children.

Anyway, once he got to thinking about it, how he'd been missing out big time, he couldn't help but feel more than a bit piqued that the cat was having one hell of a time of it night after night after night while guess what? — he wasn't.

Then it all came flooding back as he relived those times in his youth when he'd limped home at sunup with lots of buttons missing, a smirk on his face and his mind a cesspit.

Remembering everything now, he became quite excited. "Why, for Christ's sake," he was thinking, "should a bloody tomcat be the only one having fun in this house?"

"Surely, if I put my mind to it, I can remember how it goes." Still with his eyes on the ceiling he smiled a half-evil smile, then, just seconds later with sheer panic in both eyes, everything stopped dead.

"What if, he was thinking, Maureen's forgotten? — can't remember how it goes."

What if he has to chat her up, explain everything from go to wo — it could take months — what then?

He could be dead before he got there.

He couldn't help but think it would be a lot easier, a sure thing, if he was either a tomcat — or John Wayne.

He lay there, agonising for a few minutes before deciding it was do or die time - he'd risk it - go for broke. Ever so gently he moved his right hand from under his head, slid it under the sheets and began feeling here and there.

A few long nervous minutes. He was still hopeful. He made contact - her knee? — maybe? — yep, I think so - now, take it easy pal, go very gently. Don't rush it.

His hand was sneaking up inch by inch, exploring here and there.

Pretty soon he'd be there. He had to take it easy. Just get there. Don't panic. Take it easy. His heart was hammering away; all systems were firing up; he was beginning to feel big and strong like he used to all those years ago when he'd lost all those buttons.

He thought of John Wayne, how he would manage things - then of the cat out in the laneway scoring night after night.

He smiled a curious smile and reminded himself: a faint heart never won a fair lady.

He kept telling himself: you can do it Mick - go for it Pal! He was getting a wind now. It hit him then: it really was do or die time - one supreme effort was coming up.

Taking a deep breath, he was all set to blast off when out the back Dusty and Slim began barking madly, making a dreadful racket as if to say, "Stop it! Immediately!

"Don't do that Mick! - you evil old bastard! Keep your hands to yourself. Don't even think like that! - be more like us - just slummock around, maybe smell a bit, and bark now and then.

"Don't forget Mick, you're old and arthritic. Think of your heart - you might overdo it. It might kill Maureen too - could kill both of you. Let's face it mate, you're past it - forget it, ditch all those disgusting thoughts - do the decent thing - lay back, relax, and say the rosary."

Mick's right hand was hovering just inches from the holy grail.

"Will I or wont?"

Then, in a second of mad panic, swearing under his breath, his left hand grabbed his right hand tight and dragged it back to safety.

After another minute lying perfectly still and collecting his thoughts, Mick crawled out of bed, sat on the edge for a full minute then, rubbing his eyes hard, was about to head off to investigate the fuss in the back yard when Maureen who, as it turned out, wasn't quite as out to it as he'd thought, rolled over and with a shine in both eyes and a rather coquettish smile, murmured, "Must you go dear? What's the big rush?"

A sort of near-death experience happened: Mick's heart stopped beating for five, maybe more, seconds. His vision failed - then his sight returned - now he could see all his dead friends.

They were laughing and waving to him. A loud ringing in both ears. He could see angels - they were singing God Save the Queen.

Everything turned dark. Now the devil, with bloodied hands, smiled and, gesturing with one finger, said, "This is your big chance Mick - go for it pal - don't forget, you only live once."

The man leapt up and not looking back, rushed off down the hallway, out the back door, past the canary cage and into the garden where both dogs were hovering over the cat and barking non-stop.

Duke, a bloodied mess, was flat out on the ground. Mick knelt down beside the cat.

It looked bad. Blood was dribbling from the cat's mouth and ears; flies were swarming all about while ants explored every orifice.

Mick poked the cat gently. No response.

It was dead for sure - had been for some time. For weeks there'd been talk of some vile cat hater tossing baits all about.

He knew now it wasn't just idle chit-chat - it was the real thing. The dogs were still yapping.

In another minute Bill Darcy, a good friend, and a staunch alcoholic, also in his pyjamas, hobbled across the street to find Mick stooped over his dead cat and immediately offered Mick a drink to help him cope with his grieving.

Two doors down on the same side of the lane, Henry McLeod was sipping coffee at his favourite window. Henry, at 73 was the peeping tom par excellence for that end of town.

Sundays were bad days - always disappointing. It was rare to catch anything worthwhile on a Sunday with

everyone readying for church, searching for rosary beads or saying morning prayers.

Saturdays, though, were a very different story. The previous night had been an excellent night. Mondays and Wednesdays he rated a waste of time.

Anyway, on the morning in question, he'd already been at his window for an hour or more and had scored just the once when Mrs Carmody, wearing only a bra while doing the washing, blew him a big, long kiss.

Then nothing. It was right on 8.15 and Henry was about to give up and grab some breakfast when, on running his glass along the lane, he could see Mick and Bill Darcy chatting away and pointing at something on the ground behind the tree and so he decided to forget breakfast, and instead, head down and have some man talk and find out just what was going on.

Henry, after a quick hullo and a snort from Bill's bottle, said, "What the hell's going on here Mick?"

Mick, pointing at the cat said, "See for yourself Henry."

Henry took a closer look and said, "Good God! Poor bugger's dead."

Mick agreed - then added, "It's that cat hating bastard with his baits - it's gotta be."

Henry bent over the body once more, studied things closely, then pulling a face at the flies and the blood, said in a very matter-of-fact voice, "He's dead alright Mick - is well and truly stuffed."

Then, glancing up at the sun he added, "Hate ta say it Mick, but it's a hot day comin' up mate and with all them flies buzzin' round in no time he's gunna be all maggots and stink like hell. If I were you mate, I'd dig a hole and put him under quick smart."

While Henry is holding forth the cat's whole body convulsed several times, a bloody vomit oozing from its mouth.

Several more spasms happened. Again, Duke was still.

"That's roga mortus comin' on Mick."

"What's this mortus thing?"

"It's ancient Greek. Means awful smell. It's complicated - goes back to the time them Greek people invaded England in 1066. My advice Mick - dig a hole and damned quick about it. I tellya mate, when that roga mortus gets a go-on, the smell's bad, real bad - he'll probably go all stiff too."

Mick, at this point, was on the verge of tears.

"Duke, you know," he said to his two friends, "was an excellent mouser - was the best in the street! Was good with rats too - and he'd been great mates with Slim and Dusty. Their favourite thing was stretching out in front of the fire where they'd sleep for hours on end.

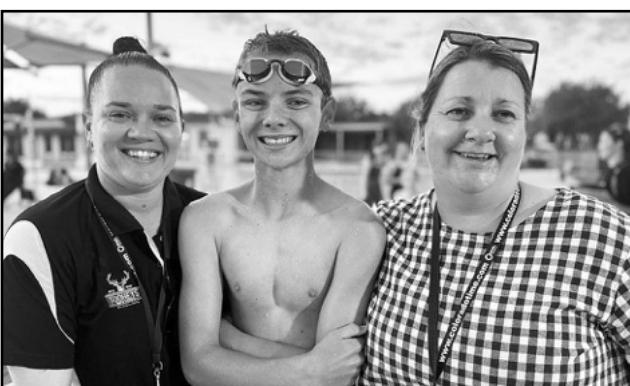
"They just loved the fire. It was their favourite spot. Sometimes, when the dogs were sprawled out and maybe a little dirty and messed up, Duke would lick them both clean, in no time had them looking and smelling like a hundred dollar note."

"And when Duke went off hunting, which he did most days, he'd most times arrive home with a rabbit or something for his two mates. He was a generous cat. That's the kind of cat he was."

All this time Slim and Dusty were barking and whining as if it was the end of the world; they just wouldn't shut up.

**To be continued next week.
Don't miss out.
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First Swim Pointscores - Carmen Gain photos



Pointscores is back

STORMS WERE circling around Wellington, but they passed just in time for the first week of Wellington Amateur Swimming Club's Pointscores evening at the Wellington pool.

It was fantastic to see so many new families join in the fun, with plenty of excitement and energy around the pool. Swimmers were eager to dive in and have a go, while proud parents cheered from the sidelines.

It's shaping up to be a great season ahead for the swimming club with registrations still open – go along and be part of the action.

Carmen Gain



Wellington & District LEADER sport

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Golfing News

David Hyde Saturday's golf winner

WELLINGTON HOSTED the first round of the Central West Veterans Tournament plus our weekly Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday's club golfing. The Iberdrola, Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club Twilight Thursday 9-hole competition is up to Round 3 this afternoon. Round 2 was played last week.

Last Saturday's event was an Individual Stableford. This Saturday will probably be the same.

Winner last Saturday was David Hyde who enjoyed himself so much that he even smiled at the conclusion of his round, final score 40pts.

Runner up was Patrick Slack-Smith who also enjoyed himself on the course to finish with 39pts.

Prize winners were David Naveau 38pts; John Donnelly, Norm Royal, Malcolm Payne, Elton Keeffe 37pts; Fletcher Ivey, Mitchell Cusack, Denise Haesler, Rob Parnell, Drew Stone 36pts; Jamie Robertson 35pts on a countback.

Brent Eather Encouragement award was taken out by John Southwell who compiled a hard-fought 24pts, and yes they were hard fought for.

Wednesday's ladies day included the October Monthly Medal with Cathy Loo-Shui the winner with a great score of 66nett.

Runner-up was Marg Hollow who finish with a 70nett. No scores were available for the Iberdrola, Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club 9-hole Round 2 last week.

Front nine holes to be played this week.

There will be no mystery hole prize this year, but we have a raffle running every Thursday, so your support in the raffle will help provide a better presentation night which will be held on the Friday Night after the final round of competition.



GSOH golfers venturing to Maitland for a week of serious golf. A great time was had by all.

Nominations are now open for the Wellington Mowers and Chainsaws Summer Competition with the only change, a team co-ordinator with phone number must be nominated.

Get those teams in so a draw can be organised. The Wellington Physiotherapy Club Championships gradings are A 0 to 9, B 10 to 17, C 18 plus.
19th Hole

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW
\$3,300
TUESDAY, FRIDAY & SUNDAY NIGHTS
CASH FEVER DRAW
\$3,700
FRIDAY & SUNDAY NIGHTS

LIVE MUSIC
UNDER THE RADAR Duo
SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER FROM 7.30PM

TJ SIMPSON
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER HALLOWEEN PARTY
COME DRESSED IN YOUR FAVOURITE HALLOWEEN COSTUME
DJ, SINGING, KARAOKE
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SAM COON
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ARTHUR STREET, WELLINGTON | INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUEST



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TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2025
LUCKY DOOR PRIZE
PRIZE FOR BEST LADIES HAT | BEST DRESS COUPLE | BEST DRESS
TABLE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
WATCH THE RACE FROM THE BIG SCREENS
HAPPY HOUR FROM 1 TILL 5
COME ALONG AND ENJOY LUNCH AND A FUN AFTERNOON

LIVE MUSIC
TRACIE, MICK AND DEB
FROM 7.30PM
SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

LIVE MUSIC
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BINGO
TUESDAY 11:30AM START
WEDNESDAY 11:30AM START
THURSDAY 7:00 PM START
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20 x Games Line Games
Under Cover Games Free Book Raffles for all days
BINGO HIGH ROLLERS
WIN BIG!!
LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH