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No. 200

# Wellington & District **LEADER**

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

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# 200th edition

**Wellington & District  
LEADER**

## Mayoral Column

# Region's Sports Awards nominations now open

NOMINATIONS ARE now open for the 2025 Dubbo Regional Sports Awards, which recognise the outstanding achievements of sportspeople, coaches and administrators from Wellington and Dubbo.

The awards are a great opportunity to recognise both individuals and teams in our community who have excelled in their chosen sporting field.

The Sports Awards are a joint initiative of the Dubbo Regional Council, Dubbo Regional Sports Council and Federal Member, Jamie Chaffey.

Nominations are open for three different categories:

\* Individual or Team Achievements: such as national or state representation of your association as a player, coach, referee, umpire, or official. This may include NSW Country / NSW State / National Competition success or high-level single performance such as Australian or State record.

\* Individual Contribution to Sport: by an individual, including coaches, referees, umpires and administrators with a

minimum of five years of service; and \* Community Contribution to Sport: by an organisation, media organisation, or sponsor to a particular sporting event, facility, or continuous support over a minimum of five years.

Last year over 75 athletes were recognised in various sports for their achievements at State or National level.

Nominations close on Friday 19 September 2025. The presentation of Awards will be held in November.

Nominations forms are available at [www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting Dubbo Regional Council's Recreation Coordinator Tracey Whillock on 6801 4000.

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### Wellington Caves hosts international cave conference

Last week Wellington Caves hosted the Australasian Caves and Karst Managers Association (ACKMA) Guide School and Conference.

Fifty representatives from across the country including NSW, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia attended as well as five participants making the trek from New Zealand. Wellington Caves team members Paul West and Rebecca Pedemont presented at the conference.

The Thursday morning saw a fitting tribute to Dr Mike Augee, with his decades-long contribution to science in the Wellington area highlighted.

This conference presented a valuable opportunity for cave managers, staff, and guides to connect, exchange knowledge, and explore current challenges and innovations shaping the future of the industry. It was also a fantastic opportunity to showcase the unique natural and cultural assets of the local region, with a special focus on Wellington Caves.

As one of the region's iconic attractions, Wellington Caves offers an amazing example of geotourism in action, blending conservation, education, and visitor experience.

### Wellington NAIDOC Week

Wellington NAIDOC Week has been a great success with numerous community-led activities.

The NAIDOC Ball was a fantastic event with everyone having a great time, including Playschool-famous MC Luke Carroll.

The flag raising and cake cutting on Monday at the Council building were well attended, with a heartfelt speech from Wellington High School captain Mason Hill.

Friday's Community Day in Cameron Park runs from 10am-2pm with all welcome to attend.

\*\*\*

### Tipping vouchers

Don't forget to use a tipping voucher to remove any unwanted items that can't be resold, rehomed or recycled.

Tipping vouchers are available to download online for this financial year. To find out more or to download your voucher, head to: <https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/tippingvouchers>

**Josh Black**

## Letters to the editor

### Dear Editor

I WRITE in response to Robert Moore's letter in last week's Leader.

There is misunderstanding in the community about the intention behind Council's decision to hold the Australia Day Ceremony on 25 January - the eve of Australia Day.

The decision is certainly not a soft step toward "changing the date".

On the contrary, the intention is to help make the community recognise that 26 January is probably the most important day on our national calendar.

However, in doing that, we as a community must recognise that this very significant day is significant for different groups within our community for different reasons.

For most of us it marks the foundation of our present enviable society – our democracy, constitution, judicial and legal systems.

These are all a direct result of the British settlement of our country with Governor Phillip and the first settlers on 26 January 1788 (not Captain Cook he was many years earlier!).

But let us not pretend that the day doesn't also mark an important happening for first nations people and their descendants.

On 26 January 1788 their societal structure and occupation of this country which had existed

relatively undisturbed for tens of thousands of years, effectively came to an end.

Think about it. Yes, it was inevitable, but this doesn't detract from its significance. If I were a member of the first nations community, I would always want our country to recognise and remember that date.

Surely it is possible for our community to recognise the date for different reasons.

Yes, it marked the end of an era for the early inhabitants of our country but very importantly it laid the foundation for the fantastic society that is modern day Australia – involving first nation descendants, early European settlers and subsequent migrants from the four corners of the world. This recognition is not unlike ANZAC Day - where we observe the horror and gut-wrenching sacrifice at morning services and in the afternoon go to the pub, have too much to drink and play two up!

Moving the ceremony to the eve of Australia Day is in part, an attempt to allow people to recognise the day how they wish, but with the overarching view that we in this country have so much to be thankful for and despite different and understandable perspectives, the next day, 26 January, is a day for all of us.

**Richard Ivey**

Contributing to this are excessive migration levels and in the 2023 financial year 6576 homes, valued at \$8 billion, were purchased by foreign investors and between July and September 2024 homes valued at \$1.3 billion were purchased by foreigners.

Huge increases in Cost of Living has been a very dissatisfying factor in the last few years and when you see during the 2023-4 financial year Tax Revenue hiked by \$801.7 billion, whilst a record number of businesses went into liquidation, many with multi-million-dollar debts, there have been and continue to be some serious dissatisfaction contributions.

Today with declining productivity, record Government spending, and 82pc of new jobs created in the Government Sector, with suggestions of new taxes on such things as "cashflow" dissatisfaction can only increase.

**Roger Everett**

## Fairer, faster, overhauls of road recategorisation

A NEW data-driven system to ensure NSW roads are categorised, funded and maintained by the right authority is to be introduced ending years of delay and broken promises by the former government, according to a recent government media release.

The New Approach to Road Recategorisation will replace the outdated, ad-hoc review system with an 'always open' process, giving local councils and road managers the ability to apply for category changes at any time.

An example of when recategorisation is necessary is when a previously semi-rural area becomes urbanised, or experiences a significant increase in freight volumes.

The new approach to road categorisation delivers a system that is fair, transparent and evidence-based. This will strengthen the partnership between state and local government in managing the local, regional and state road network.

Consultation earlier this year saw 57 submissions from councils, industry groups and other stakeholders.

Feedback strongly supported a system that is fairer, faster and more

transparent.

This reform is being delivered within existing Transport for NSW funding, supported by a new online self-assessment tool and data portal that will give councils clear, consis-

tent criteria to build proposals.

Implementation of the New Approach will roll out in the coming months, with Transport for NSW keeping councils updated every step of the way.

**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.

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

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Panellists at the inaugural Merino Project Wool and Merino industry forum Bonnie Skinner, CEO, Sheep Producers Australia; Don Macdonald, AWI director and Macdonald Wool principal; Simon Riddle, Sheep Producers director and Toland stud, Violet Town, Vic; and Dr Paul Swan, wool scientist and industry advocate.

## The Merino Project forum attracts 120 industry enthusiasts

AN INNOVATIVE Merino sheep and wool promotional evening on the back of the annual 12-Mile Merino Stud tour, attracted 120 wool and sheep enthusiasts to The Grand Hotel on Tuesday night to listen to five

industry leaders discuss the pros and cons of the Merino and wool production industry.

The forum panel comprised of Sheep Producers Australia CEO, Bonnie Skinner; Wool broker and Australian

Wool Innovation director Don Macdonald of MacWool; Victorian Toland stud and flock breeder from Violet Town, Simon Riddle, and wool scientist and sheep industry advocate, Dr Paul Swan.

Special guest speaker

was AWI's Program Manager, Kelly McAvoy, who detailed the many styles of wool use from sports gear to casual shoes.

Full story next week.

## Junior Cricketers set sights on 2025/26 season

CRICKET SEASON is just around the corner, and Wellington Junior Cricket is swinging into gear for what promises to be a fun and exciting 2025/26 campaign.

The club will once again be competing in the Dubbo District Cricket Association (DDCA) competition and is now calling for interested players to register.

Open to boys and girls of all skill levels, junior cricket is a fantastic way for kids to stay active, make friends, and learn valuable teamwork and sportsmanship skills – all while having a blast on the field.

Whether your child is picking up a bat for the first time or has already notched a few seasons, the club welcomes everyone aged 5 to 16 to get involved.

Season Details  
\* Competition: Dubbo District Cricket Association Junior Competition

\* Start Date: First round scheduled for mid-October 2025

\* Training: Dates and

times to be confirmed (TBA)  
\* Who Can Join: Boys and girls aged 5–16  
\* Skill Level: All experience levels welcome

Registration is now open at a cost of \$130 per player, which includes a club playing shirt and cap.

It's an affordable way for kids to be part of a team, learn the game, and represent their community with pride.

To register, visit the Wellington District Cricket Association Facebook page, where you'll find the registration link.

You can also send a direct message to the page for further details or help with signing up.

Wellington Junior Cricket Club prides

itself on being a welcoming, community-focused club where kids can grow their confidence and have fun in a supportive environment.

With passionate volunteer coaches, a strong connection to the local cricket scene, and a history of developing talent, the club is a great place to get involved in grassroots sport.

Whether you're dreaming of hitting sixes, taking wickets, or just keen to give cricket a go – now's the time to register and be part of the action this summer.

Join the team, make mates, and love the game. Wellington Junior Cricket wants you!

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## High school ag team success

IN WEEK 4, Wellington High School stage 5, Certificate I Agriculture students attended the 2025 NSW School Merino Wether Challenge at the Dubbo Showground.

The challenge involved almost 70 schools, each with two teams of three Merino wethers all sourced from the one mob bred at Egelabra, Warren, and distributed to schools in late February, with students tasked with breaking-in and caring for the sheep over that time.

The stage 5 class took the lead on this project along with help from Year 7 Ag classes and our senior Primary Industries class.

At the show, the sheep were scanned for GR fat and EMD, judged on restocker value, shorn,

fleeces valued, then finally judged on carcass merit wool off.

At the conclusion of the show, the sheep were all consigned to Fletchers International in Dubbo for processing.

While the team didn't win any awards this year with the sheep, students gained a lot from the experience of raising and showing the wethers.

The trade and career workshops were also an important aspect of the show, providing industry input and relevance to the wether project.

The school congratulates Year 9 student Piper on placing third in the highly competitive Merino Young Judges competition in her very first attempt at judging Merinos.



**tech  
talk**

## with Mathew Dickerson, Axxis Comworld



WHY ARE governments suddenly so keen to keep kids off parts of the internet?

Mounting evidence shows that social media's engagement-at-all-costs design can fuel anxiety, poor sleep and harmful content exposure - and that simply asking parents to manage it hasn't worked at scale.

Australia has now drawn a solid line: from 10 December 2025, both social media platforms and pornography websites will be required to stop under-16s creating or maintaining accounts.

Companies that fail face penalties up to \$49.5 million. The aim is simple: reduce the pressure on kids to stay online and limit the chance they are exposed to content that harms wellbeing.

The rules target mainstream social apps - TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, X, Facebook and others - alongside pornography sites and adult-rated platforms.

Messaging services and classroom tools are not in scope. Responsibility sits with the platforms, not parents or teens, under the Online Safety Act. This isn't a government ID database; it's a duty on platforms

to prevent under-age access and prove they tried.

That immediately raises practical questions. What if you are in your 30s and want to browse freely - will you suddenly hit endless digital checkpoints?

Adults who are clearly over 18 should be able to pass through with lightweight checks. But the technology is far from perfect, which means some adults may be flagged incorrectly. Imagine being 35 and having an automated system tell you that you look 15: perhaps a nice compliment but frustrating and a barrier to using lawful services. Appeals and secondary verification are meant to fix that, but it will add friction for legitimate users.

And what if you are 15 today with thousands of followers? The rules are clear: once enforcement begins, you should not be able to keep that account until you turn 16. Platforms will be expected to either suspend or block profiles from posting. That could mean an abrupt end to a social media presence many young teens have carefully built.

So how do you prove age online without creating a surveillance machine? There's no single fix. The government trialled several "age assurance" approaches. The most talked about is selfie-based age estimation, where an image or short video is analysed to guess if someone is above a threshold

. It's quick and avoids ID documents, but accuracy dips right where it matters - around 16 - and error rates can be higher for certain groups. That means a 14-year-old might slip through while a 17-year-old is locked out.

The obvious back-up is document-based verification. That raises familiar risks - data breaches, storage, and honeypots for hackers - so the emphasis is on privacy-by-design. Australia's new Digital ID Act creates a regulated framework to prove attributes like "over 16" without passing documents to every platform.

This could reduce risk but won't help users without ID. Other methods include an analysis of behaviour and metadata to infer age. Again, not ideal.

Looking overseas shows the challenges.

In the UK, porn sites must now use "highly effective" age checks, and social platforms face phased-in obligations under the Online Safety Act. France has mandated detailed standards for porn checks with privacy-preserving options. The US presents a patchwork: attempts to impose universal social media age-gates have hit constitutional roadblocks.

For Australians, the next year means more "prove your age" moments and some false starts. The likely formula: quick, private age estimation for most users; fall-back ID checks when the AI is unsure; clear appeal routes when it gets it wrong; and strict penalties for platforms that don't take the job seriously.

Stay tuned - this discussion is far from finished.

\*\*\*

I am feeling generous this year! Send a question or comment about this article to [ask@techtalk.digital](mailto:ask@techtalk.digital) and the first twenty e-mails will receive a FREE Tech Talk compilation book! Get curious, get involved, get a freebie!

## Supporting our seniors with vital home care packages

MOST PEOPLE in our communities know how important home care is to our seniors and the difference that it makes to people's lives.

However, I believe everyone was shocked when the Government decided to delay the release of new home-care packages.

Here in the Central West, I heard from many families who are struggling to access home care. The message was clear: these packages needed to be released without delay to help our seniors with their amenity of life and the support that they need.

Last week in Parliament, the Government finally announced it would release 20,000 of these much-needed home-care packages.

This is a vital step forward for our nation, and for the thousands of older Australians who are waiting far too long for the support they need to live independently and with dignity.

While the Government's announcement was a welcome development, there are still about 121,000 people being assessed and 109,000 people waiting for packages.

So, this issue has not gone away. We, as a nation, must do much better to support our seniors and those in need.

I want to acknowledge the strong advocacy of my crossbench colleagues, particularly Senator David Pocock, for helping to bring this issue to the fore and push for real action. The crossbench has been very vocal on this issue. It's an issue that is close to the hearts of many Australians.

We owe it to our seniors to ensure they are supported with the care, respect, and quality of life they deserve.

\*\*\*

### Grants Update – Closing dates fast approaching!

#### *The Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships*

The Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships offer targeted financial support to first-year apprentices in NSW who are experiencing financial hardship.

Valued at \$5000 per year for up to three years (maximum of \$15,000), the scholarship aims to help apprentices successfully complete their training by easing financial barriers.

Open to both school-based and metropolitan or regional apprentices, applicants must be employed by a NSW based employer and hold Australian citizenship or permanent residency.

Applications close 19th September. For further information go to the NSW Department of Education website.



## The Gee Report

**Andrew Gee  
Federal Member for Calare**

### *Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize*

Women working in scientific research, clinical medicine, public health, or pharmaceutical development across Australia are encouraged to apply for the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize. The award recognises excellence across Innovation, Impact, and Leadership, offering:

\* \$50,000 AUD for the winner

\* \$5000 AUD each for seven finalist

\* Entry into a national alumni network

\* Invitation to an Award Event & Oration at Parliament House, Canberra on 25 November 2025

Applications close 28 September 2025, 5pm go to: [www.novonordisk.com.au/marie-krogh-prize](http://www.novonordisk.com.au/marie-krogh-prize)

### *National Science Week Grants Now Open – Up to \$20,000 Available*

Community groups, councils, schools, libraries, and not-for-profit organisations in the Calare region are encouraged to apply for the National Science Week Grants 2026.

Grants from \$2000 to \$20,000 are available to support science-themed events and activities taking place during National Science Week (15–23 August 2026).

Projects could include workshops, science fairs, pop-up displays, online programs, or hands-on community events, anything that helps bring science to life in your community.

Applications close 29 September 2025, go to [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au)

### *Illegal Dumping Prevention Grant Round 3 – Stream 4*

This collaborative grant, administered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), offers up to \$200,000 over 12–24 months to support strategic, multi-organisation projects that prevent illegal dumping across public land tenures in NSW.

Expressions of Interest due by 30 September 2025, go to: [www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding](http://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding)

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# 200th edition

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## Bill shock for farmers on renewables

NSW FARMERS is calling for urgent protections for farmers who host renewables after the former Energy Infrastructure Commissioner warned farmers could be on the hook for millions in the future.

In an interview published on Wednesday, former Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Andrew Dyer warned farmers could be left "on the hook" for the costs of decommissioning old renewable installations on their farms, if contracts were unclear on "who pays what".

"It might cost you more to decommission the turbines left on your property than the revenue you earn over the next 25 years," The Daily Telegraph reported.

NSW Farmers' Energy Taskforce Chair Reg Kidd said energy developers should be required to pay a bond to cover the costs of decommissioning the projects they had built, so farmers were not left to pay millions in project clean-up costs.

"Farmers are being told they need to bear the burden of powering our future, the very least

government can do is guarantee they won't be bankrupted as a result," Mr Kidd said.

"These comments from Andrew Dyer are really alarming, farmers could be left with a clean-up bill in the millions for some of the projects being built on their farms – and that will simply cripple them."

"Many landholders have been pressured into signing contracts that are unclear as to who must remove this infrastructure at the end of its life, and if developers disappear or run out of cash, then farmers could also be left high and dry with huge bills to pay."

With media reports claiming the costs of decommissioning some of NSW's largest wind developments could be as much as \$50 million, Mr Kidd said there must be swift reassurances and legal protections from government to protect farmers.

"We've got one of our top energy experts in the nation telling us that farmers could be left with a bill that's more than 25 years' worth of their income to clean up the mess that these re-



Wind turbines in the Wellington district.

newable projects leave," Mr Kidd said.

"So we're expected to feed people, clothe people, power their homes, and in 25 years' time we might be relying on the goodness of some foreign multinational not to leave us high and dry."

"This race to renewables is a government priority, so if they care about the farmers and communities that host these developments, the very least they can do is guarantee we won't foot the bill."

## Yeoval Central School report

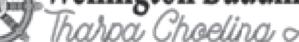
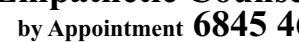
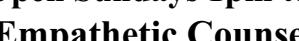
### YEAR 7 TRANSITION DAY 2

Wednesday 3 September

The 2026 and 2027 Year 7 cohorts participated in a variety of classes and activities during their second transition day. The day commenced with a double period of FYI (Future Yeoval Innovators) with Mrs Blatch, where students participated in brainstorming, planning, teamwork and creative and critical thinking activities. Following this, students took part in a sport session with Mrs George, engaging in physical activities designed to promote teamwork, fitness and school spirit.

One highlight was a practical cooking session in Technology Mandatory with Mrs Tremain, where students prepared their own lunch of spaghetti bolognese.

Later in the day, students attended PDHPE led by Mrs Beetsom-Clark where they learnt about health promotion, which Stage 4 have been studying this term. Students investigated the promotion of various health issues. Overall, day two of the transition program provided students with a comprehensive insight into high school life, helping them build confidence and enthusiasm for their next educational stage.



## Public Notice

**WELLINGTON MULTI SERVICE CENTRE INC.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday 25 September 2025**  
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## Teens on a Mission – Trivia fundraiser on September 20 for Nepal mission

LOCAL HIGH School students planning their humanitarian mission to Nepal in November are planning a big night of brain-busting questions.

As well, bidding wars, belly laughs and down-right fun – and everyone is invited.

The Teens on a Mission Trivia night will be held at Wellington Soldiers Club on Saturday, September 20 with doors opening from 5.30pm for a 6.30pm start.

The quiz will be conducted in five rounds and in between there will be raffles and auctions with some fantastic prizes.

This will make up for loads of laughs, bragging rights, and just full-on community spirited fun.

Food platters will be available from the Club and be pre-ordered.

As it is a fundraiser tickets cost \$20 a head and tables of 10 can be pre-booked through Wellington Rotary Club by phoning 0419 441 901.

Once tickets are booked, money can be dropped off in an envelope to Maranatha Gunyah or to the Office at Wellington High School, suitably labelled with name, contact number, team name, list of attendees, platters ordered and \$ amount enclosed.

Wellington Rotary is helping four amazing local students take part in a humanitarian mission to Nepal.

All funds raised go directly towards their journey to make a real difference in the lives of others. Every donation, big or small, helps them on their way as they become global changemakers.

## Around the electorate with our State Member Dugald Saunders



### Tournament of Minds champs

Well done to Connor, Kiah, Emme, Rosie, Charlee, Zoe and Jax from Wellington Public School on their recent win at the regional area Tournament of Minds competition in Orange.

The team will now be heading to Sydney this weekend to compete at the state final, which will be held at the University of NSW. Congratulations and good luck!

### Dubbo Superstar

I WAS delighted to present a Community Recognition Statement to Dubbo's Kayleb Alese last week.

Kayleb has just wrapped up his professional theatre debut in Sydney's six-month long run of the Broadway production MJ the Musical.

He was stoked to stop by my office to check out a copy of the Statement I presented to Parliament on June 3 and to tell me about his experience.

Despite only taking up dancing at Stepping Out Dance Factory in 2024 Kayleb's talent is clear, and at nine-years-old, he is the youngest to ever be cast in the MJ the Musical internationally.

Kayleb's keen to get back on stage and was excited to head down south last week so he could start rehearsals for MJ the Musical's Melbourne run, which starts on September 9. Well done Kayleb - I can't wait to see where your talent takes you!

### BRING back Business Connect

An elected Liberal and Nationals Coalition Government will reinstate the popular Business Connect program, which is to be axed by the Minns Labor Government on September 30.

Last week my colleague and Leader of the NSW Opposition, Mark Speakman, committed to bringing back this free advisory service, which has helped 60,000 small businesses and created more than 40,000 jobs in NSW since established by in 2017.

The Labor Government's decision to axe Business Connect comes at a time when our small businesses are grappling with soaring costs, weak consumer confidence, economic uncertainty and record insolvencies.

An independent review into the program – which was commissioned by NSW Treasury – even found that for every \$1 spent on

Business Connect, it actually brought back \$1.50 to NSW and led to fewer businesses failing.

It is beggars' belief that the Labor Government has remained firm on this decision, after so much backlash from the community.

The reality is that the majority of local enterprises in regional NSW are small businesses: they're family-run, owner-operated and deeply connected to the community.

They deserve to be supported, and I am proud to back the NSW Opposition Leader on this commitment.

\*\*\*

### Community consultation

You're invited to join me and the Federal Member for Parkes, Jamie Chaffey MP, at the Dubbo Farmers Markets on Saturday, September 20.

We'll be there from 8am to 10.30am, ready to chat about what matters to you.

\*\*\*

### New classrooms officially open

Five new classrooms and additional learning spaces were officially opened at Dubbo South Public School earlier this week.

These new spaces replace the demount-

able buildings that have been on site since the 2021 fire which destroyed four classrooms.

It's wonderful to see this project finally completed and the staff and students enjoying the flexible, collaborative and innovative environment.

\*\*\*

### Changes ahead for better Return and Earn

Wine and spirit bottles and larger drink containers are set to be accepted into an expanded NSW Return and Earn container deposit scheme by late-2027.

The expansion program will also include cordial and juice concentrate containers and larger containers of beverages already in the scheme up to three litres, including flavoured milk and juices.

Plain milk and health tonic containers will continue to be excluded from the scheme.

Return and earners are encouraged not to take wine bottles to local refund machines just yet, as time is needed to get collection points and systems ready for the new containers by mid-2027. Watch this space!

\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

# Andrew GEE MP

## INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CALARE

### RUNS ON THE BOARD FOR WELLINGTON

- ✓ Introduced Bill into Parliament to ban foreign buying of residential property for two years. The Coalition and the Labor Party voted against it and then they both announced it as their policy!
- ✓ Backed Independents' Bill to reduce dominance of big supermarkets. All major parties voted against it and then Coalition announced it as their policy!
- ✓ \$50 million for storm and flood recovery in the Central West
- ✓ Secured the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Disaster Response of Insurers
- ✓ \$2 billion for Great Western Highway upgrade
- ✓ \$2.02 million for replacing the Terrabella, Burrendong and Gundu Creek Bridges
- ✓ \$738,000 for the Cameron Park footbridge
- ✓ 60 mobile phone towers and base stations for Calare

- ✓ \$560,000 for Stuart Town water security project
- ✓ Secured upgrade of Wellington Hospital Emergency Department
- ✓ \$1.5 million for the intergenerational childcare facility at Wellington's Maranatha House
- ✓ \$1.1 million for Ponto Falls Road upgrade
- ✓ \$26,700 for the Driver Reviver site at the Wellington Information Centre

- ✓ \$1.176 million for improvements at Wellington Caves
- ✓ \$1.2 million for security CCTV in Wellington and Calare communities
- ✓ \$650,000 for upgrades at Wellington Christian School
- ✓ \$200,000 for improvements at Kennard Park
- ✓ \$46,454 for Geurie Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Revitalisation Project Stage Two
- ✓ \$50,000 for Wellington Library's outdoor reading room
- ✓ Video link for Wellington Court House

## THE 161<sup>st</sup> MOLONG SHOW – YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT A COUNTRY SHOW!

### The 161<sup>st</sup> Molong Show was spectacular!

A huge crowd came out to enjoy the spring sunshine and the many attractions and exhibits! Congratulations to Show Society President Helen Crisp and her hard-working team for making it such an outstanding success! Rural Woman of the Year, Kirsty Evans, fittingly had the honour of officially opening the show and I had the honour of sashing young Carter for

winning the Best Dressed Boy Under 7! Nice work Carter!

I also got to wish Molong's Kathy Burns a very happy 93rd birthday! She was having a great day!

The inaugural ute section drew a big fleet of sweet rides and my old XK Falcon managed a third place in the Classic Fords!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported, sponsored, and contributed to the 161<sup>st</sup> Molong Show.

You just can't beat a country show!



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION

The Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters has launched an inquiry into all aspects of the conduct of the 2025 federal election.

The inquiry will examine:

- Reports of increased incidents of aggressive conduct, obstruction, or intimidation towards voters, volunteers, political participants and election staff;
- Potential reforms to improve safety and security during elections;
- The accessibility of voting for all Australians; and

- Whether the current authorisation framework for political communications remains appropriate.

The Committee will travel across Australia to gather evidence and hear directly from the public.

If you had an experience at a polling place during the election that you believe the Committee should be aware of, you are encouraged to make a submission.

Submissions can be lodged at:

[www.aph.gov.au/2025federalelection](http://www.aph.gov.au/2025federalelection)

This is an important opportunity to help shape a voting process that is safe, fair and accessible for all Australians.

## GOVERNMENT AND TELCOS MUST DO MORE

In supporting the Telecommunications Amendment (Enhancing Consumer Safeguards) Bill 2025, I took the opportunity in Parliament to raise the ongoing frustrations many of our Central West communities are facing with mobile phone coverage.

From Oberon and Black Springs to Lithgow, Mookerawa, and Rylstone, residents continue to deal with black spots and patchy reception that affect everything from business and

tourism to emergency response. While the bill makes a step forward in holding telcos to account, it's clear to me that the Mobile Black Spot Program is no longer delivering the results our regions need.

Telstra and other providers must do better, and I'm calling on the federal government to overhaul the program so that it works for country communities.

Mobile connectivity is a basic service, and it's time regional Australians received the same access city residents take for granted.

## SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS WITH VITAL HOME CARE

I recently spoke in Parliament in support of the release of 20,000 much-needed home care packages.

This is a vital step forward for our nation, and for the thousands of older Australians who are waiting far too long for the support they need to live independently and with dignity.

Here in the Central West, I've heard from many families who are struggling to access home care. The message is clear: these packages need to be released without delay.

While this is a welcome development, there are still over 100,000 Australians on the waiting list. We must do better as a nation. I want to acknowledge the strong advocacy of my crossbench colleagues, particularly Senator David Pocock, for helping to bring this issue to the fore and push for real action.

We owe it to our seniors to ensure they are supported with the care, respect, and quality of life they deserve.

## GREAT NEWS FOR OUR LOCAL FARMERS

In 2018, I secured the decentralisation of the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) to Orange, since that time it's been providing essential financial support to farmers in times of drought and natural disasters.

The future of the RIC has been under review, and I lobbied the previous Agriculture minister to keep it going. I am pleased that the government has committed another billion dollars to the RIC which secures its future in Orange, and for farmers around our country.

I believe the government should consider introducing interest free periods for these loans. This funding is great news for our local farmers.



### ORANGE ELECTORATE OFFICE

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

Authorised by Andrew Gee MP, Suite 1/179a Anson Street Orange NSW 2800

For regular updates and news, follow me on Facebook and Instagram @andrewgeecalare





**6.00** Morning Programs. **11.35** If You're Listening. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Silent Witness. **1.55** The Piano. **2.55** Anh's Brush With Fame. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.15** Long Lost Family: Born Without A Trace. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** Spicks And Specks. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** **7.30**. **8.00** Back Roads. **8.30** Grand Designs New Zealand. **9.15** The Family Next Door. **10.05** ABC Late News. **10.20** The Business. **10.35** Grand Designs. **11.25** 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.

**900 Entertains** **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.35** Richard Osman's House Of Games. **4.05** QI. **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** George Clarke's Old House, New Home. **6.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** Richard Osman's House Of Games. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.35** Hard Quiz. **9.05** Gruen. **9.45** Late Programs.



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**6.00** Rage Charts. **7.00** Weekend Breakfast. **9.00** Rage. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **12.25** Beyond Paradise. **1.25** Professor T. **2.10** I, Jack Wright. **2.55** The Larks. **4.35** Would I Lie To You? **5.00** Take 5 With Zan Rowe. **5.30** Landline. **6.00** Australian Story. **6.30** Back Roads. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** Beyond Paradise. **8.30** Midsomer Murders. **10.00** The Family Next Door. **10.50** I, Jack Wright. **11.40** Rage.

**7two** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** The Great Australian Doorstep. **2.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **4.00** The Yorkshire Vet. **5.00** Horse Racing. Crown Makybe Diva Stakes Day and The Run To The Rose Day. **5.30** RSPCA Animal Rescue. **6.00** Dog Patrol. **6.30** The Yorkshire Vet. **8.30** Escape To The Country. **11.30** Late Programs.

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No. 356

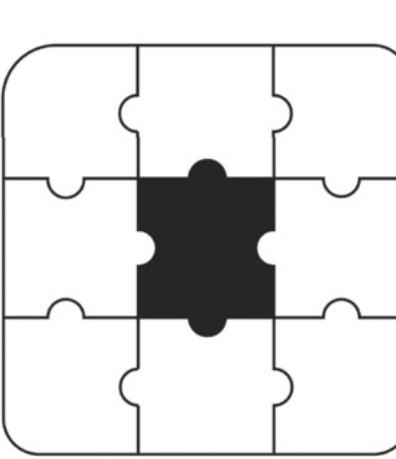
Insert the missing letters to make 10 words - five reading across the grid and five reading down.

S		A		S
	A		A	
A		O		E
O		A		
K		E		T

Edgeword

Place each of the tiles of letters into the blank jigsaw below to create four six-letter words going across and down.

PO		SE	
OW		I	Z
TA		D	E
ED		C	H



There may be more than one possible answer.



**6.00** Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.00** MOVIE: Secrets In The Snow. (2020) **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** Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK. **9.30** Why Trains Crash. **10.40** What The Killer Did Next. **11.40** Kick Ons. **12.10** Life. **1.10** Travel Oz. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

**7mate** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Highway Patrol. **3.00** Talking W. **3.30** The Force: Behind The Line. **4.00** Swamp People: Serpent Invasion. **5.00** American Restoration. **5.30** Storage Wars. **6.00** American Pickers. **7.00** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Family Guy. Return. **8.30** American Dad! Return. **9.30** MOVIE: Hancock. (2008) **11.30** Late Programs.

**7flix** **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Flushed. **8.30** Beat Bugs. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.30** House Rules: High Stakes. **12.00** Second Chance. **3.00** A Moveable Feast. **3.30** Grand Crew. **4.00** First Dates UK. **5.00** Bondi Vet. **7.00** Judge Judy. **7.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. **9.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares. **11.30** Late Programs.

<b



# 200th edition

*Wellington & District  
LEADER*

## Thank you for buying and reading the ‘Leader’

THE PRICE is just \$2.50, half the price of an espresso coffee, but guarantees the future of local news publishing, whether in the local newspaper or online.

The *Wellington & District Leader* is celebrating its 200th edition this week – 200 locally produced newspapers printed in the Orana region each week except over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

This paper is not one of the numerous newsheets published by multi-national news corporations chasing the almighty dollar and who are quickly moving out of newsprint, but one of 46 mastheads in NSW who are members of the Country Press Association, and produced mainly by “mum and dad” operations who love their communities and give each edition as a service to those local communities without making multi-millions, but mainly just covering costs.

The ‘Leader’ began on Thursday, August 26, 2021, after Mark and Sharon Griggs heard the strong call from locals asking for another local newspaper after the iconic *Wellington Times* with a 150-year history of local publishing was shutdown among hundreds of others during the Covid period.

Since that first edition the ‘Leader’ has been at the forefront in local news and industry awards, especially for photography.

The first award was the Best Human Interest Photograph of Zahra and DJ Kemp playing with a ball at a local Touch football game taken by photographer extraordinaire, Jo Ivey, who has supported the ‘Leader’

from day-one.

The award was at the October 2022 NSW Country Press conference, just 13 months after our first edition. That year the ‘Leader’ also gained a Highly Commended for the Best Newspaper Advertisement.

At the 2023 Awards the ‘Leader’ gained four gongs – Best News Photo taken by Mark Griggs of Phillip Bowes inspecting his quince entries at Yeoval Show; a Highly Commended sports photo taken by Carmen Gain of two Under 8s rugby players fighting for the ball; a Highly Commended human interest photo taken by Jo Ivey of a budding soccer star in her tutu lining up a ball; and a Highly Commended advertisement for the Fong Lees Lane Festival.

Last year, Mark Griggs took out Best News Photo for the second year running (taken from the inside looking out through the smashed front window of the Maliyan Café in Cameron Park towards Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council members Billy Stanely, Barry Smith and Lance Kerr).

As well, Mark won the Best Human Interest Photo of four pre-schoolers about to lay a wreath during Anzac Day, titled ‘The Spirit of Anzac’.

Acknowledging the transformation of news towards online digital production, the Griggs’ are currently constructing their own *Wellington & District Leader* website after benefitting from a State Government Regional Media Fund grant provided by the Department of Regional Development.

The website and continued use of social



Mark and Sharon Griggs with their first edition published on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

media will enhance our readership through the digital sphere to include readers of any age who prefer online communication.

Keep an eye out for our website “WELLINGTON DISTRICT LEADER”

where you can subscribe directly online as well as read news and views.

Don’t forget that our news is your news, so, here’s to our 200th edition and the many more to come.

## “Keeping connected with local news”

**- Dugald Saunders, Member for the Dubbo State Electorate**

I WOULD like to extend my wholehearted congratulations to the *Wellington & District Leader* on its momentous 200th edition.

Over the past four years, the *Wellington & District Leader* truly has become more than just a newspaper.

It has evolved into a reliable companion that has kept us connected with local news, events, and stories, and it continues to play a crucial role in bringing our community together, to highlight the achievements of our residents, and to shed light on the issues that matter most to us.

In an era of a continually changing media landscape, the newspaper’s consistent presence and commitment to journalistic integrity are not only commendable, but also greatly appreciated by all who read it week in and week out.

I extend my gratitude to Mark and Sharon, who have both demonstrated a remarkable passion for capturing the essence of our community through the pages of the *Wellington & District Leader*.

Your dedication and hard work has



Dugald Saunders.

certainly not gone unnoticed! Congratulations once again on this remarkable milestone.

May the *Wellington & District Leader* continue to flourish, innovate, and bring us stories that inspire, inform, and unite us as a community for many more editions to come!



Gilgandra Newspapers proudly prints the *Wellington & District Leader* each week and has been since the first edition. Snapped when producing the 100th edition back in August 31, 2023, are machinist Ronnie Weaver, owner Lucie Peart and print manager Phil Mackie.

# Our news- is your news



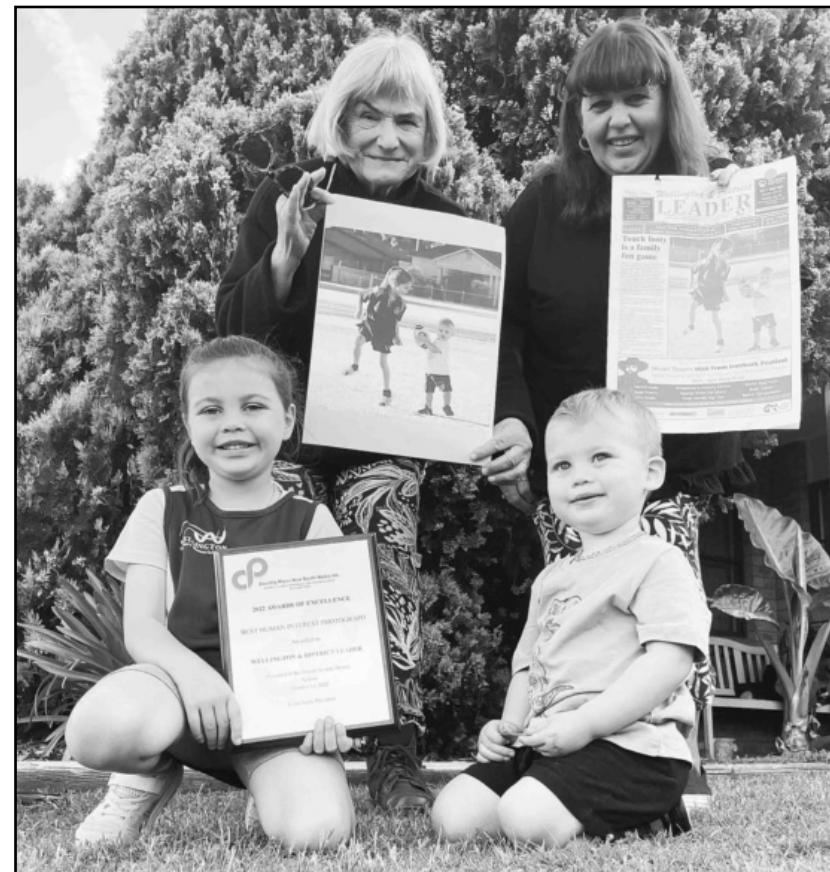
# 200th edition

Wellington & District  
LEADER

## Chuffed by industry awards



Our four award plaques for photography excellence from Mark Griggs and Jo Ivey.



Back in 2022 The 'Leader' was awarded Best Human Interest Photo at the annual Country Press Awards. Zahra and DJ Kemp were snapped by Jo Ivey (top left holding the photo) at a local touch football match as they played on the sideline. With them is Sharon Wilson the publisher of the Wellington & District Leader.



**Congratulations on your 200th edition**

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# 200th edition

Wellington & District  
LEADER

## Congratulations to the Wellington & District Leader on your 200th edition!

IT'S A great pleasure to congratulate Sharon, Mark and the entire *Wellington & District Leader* team on reaching your 200th edition.

Since your first edition on 26 August 2021, the '*Leader*' has become a trusted and valued voice for the Wellington district and a vital part of our local media landscape.

Born out of community demand during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis, your paper has stepped up, and you've done so with heart, dedication and independence.

Publishing 49 weeks of the year is no small feat, and the consistency, reliability and fairness of your reporting speaks volumes about your commitment to our community.

Local journalism matters. It keeps our towns connected, informed and heard.

In an age of constant change and media consolidation, the success of the '*Leader*' is a credit to your determination and to the support of the Wellington community.

Congratulations once again on this terrific



Andrew Gee, Federal Independent Member for Calare

milestone. Two hundred not out! Here's to many more editions to come!



Sharon and Mark the the 200th edition front page as they printed this week off the Gilgandra Newspapers press.

***Mark and Sharon:  
“Congratulations” and  
“Thanks” -  
both due in equal measure!***

***Congratulations on  
bringing out 200 editions –  
that is no mean feat.***

***And thanks for your blood,  
sweat and tears that have  
resulted in the Leader becoming  
a community institution.***

***Richard and Jo Ivey.***



In 2023 this photo of Phillip Blowes inspecting his winning quinces at the 2023 Yeoval Show won the Best News Photo award of the 2023 Country Press annual publishing awards for the '*Leader*'s editor, Mark Griggs. BELOW: Sharon, Mark and Edwina Bartholemew.



## Local news the canary in the coal mine



Damian  
Morgan

This week, I step up as President of Country Press Australia (CPA), ostensibly to represent the best interests of independent regional newspaper publishers. But the responsibility is far greater than that. The future of regional news publishing is inextricably linked to whether regional communities will continue to have a say in shaping the future of regional Australia.

In fact, regional newspapers are the metaphorical canary in the coal mine - their health signals the health of the voice of the communities they serve.

And both are under threat.

The toxic combination of ever-expanding corporations and surging city populations dominating our politics is reducing regional communities to branch office status, with their futures determined by powerful elites in our CBDs.

With every small business that's bought out and "rolled up" into a corporate machine - or shut down to make way for a big-box competitor - a local business owner is replaced by a corporate manager. The profits are siphoned off in the first electronic transfer back to the city, and a small part of the soul of our communities dies.

As our capital cities grow, the weight of our democracy and decision-making drifts further away from the regions - away from where much of our nation's wealth is generated, by the way.

Even local government is losing its voice.

Many locally elected councillors now fear speaking out on behalf of their communities, worried they'll be reported by bureaucratic staff to increasingly powerful, city-based governance bodies. When this happens, our democracy is weakened.

Regional news publishers are among the last lines of defence against these forces. At our best, we rally and amplify the collective voice of our communities. We stand up to power and fight for a fair go.

There's a saying that the squeaky wheel gets the grease - but in regional Australia, it's mostly the silent, hardworking wheels that keep the whole country moving.

“  
**...too many Australians are unaware of the growing danger of letting corporatism control our communities.**  
”

That's why regional newspapers promote local communities and give those doing the heavy lifting a voice.

We unapologetically champion independent regional businesses - the ones who make, grow, and fix things. The ones who only sell what they believe in and are proud of.

We're also here for the bush cops and single-teacher schools, the nurses and doctors who are always on duty, and the junior sports coaches who drive the bus three hours each way so kids can get a game on the weekend.

We're up for the fight. But it's getting harder.

A decade ago, regional newspapers were thriving. Classifieds, display ads, and community notices funded large local newsrooms filled with trained journalists. But the landscape has changed.

When news went online - and we're online too - global tech giants like Facebook quickly came to dominate the advertising market, using their monopolistic power to take an overwhelming share of digital ad revenue.

Yet these platforms don't produce news. They don't employ journalists.

And they certainly don't hire anyone in regional communities where they glean

enormous profits from the attention of local people while contributing nothing back to local newsrooms or communities.

In fact, they profit from our content, created by local journalists, without paying fairly for it - undermining the very business model that sustains local news.

And big box retail corporations making huge profits from our regional communities are now choosing to advertise with these global tech giants, not with local publishers.

Like frogs in warming water, too many Australians are unaware of the growing danger of letting corporatism control our communities - and the new media platforms and AI systems that (mis)inform them.

My top priority as President of CPA is to fight for the publishers who, in turn, are fighting for their communities.

We'll be wearing out the boot leather lobbying governments to protect our people from exploitation by tech platforms that profit from harmful content and put our children and democracy at risk.

We'll push back against bureaucracy that strips power from local leaders.

We'll shine a light on the creeping reach of corporatism.

We're proud to take on these battles.

All we ask in return is that you keep buying your local paper - or subscribe online - and support the local businesses that advertise with us.

**Damian Morgan is a regional news publisher and Country Press Australia president.**

## Stoney Creek – Farnham

DOWN A country lane, deep with gullies, where the silence is tranquil, Stoney Creek gently flows through the community of Farnham.

Old buildings and evidence of past gold diggings are visible and give a glimpse of the past, of what Stoney Creek may have been like, when gold fever was at its height.

The district of Stoney Creek was noted for its quartz reefs.

There were about 1200 people along Stoney Creek for miles each side. Stoney Creek had a good hotel, several houses, and a considerable number of tents, the creek was often dry which hindered the discovery of gold, and the diggings were often at a standstill.

Despite this, Stoney Creek area had very rich gold fields with that many miners being successful, by employing themselves in surface digging, and finding nuggets, varying in weight from a few pennyweights to 12 or 48 ounces.

The holes which were doing best were about 12 to 15 feet deep. A great drawback was that there is no permanent water within nine miles of Stoney Creek.

Settlements like Stoney Creek had no sanitation and with tents only a few feet apart, disease spread quickly.

Fleas, bed bugs and dysentery were regular visitors to goldfields. Typhoid occasionally made deadly ravages. During summer, there was a chronic shortage of water for both working and drinking.

These conditions may provide an under-

standing of why the infant and child mortality statistics for Stoney Creek, were high. Waterborne diseases like gastroenteritis and cholera could sweep through a gold field mining community because of poor hygiene. Influenza and even common colds could develop into secondary infections like pneumonia.

In the early days, there was a lack of variety of food, and it was expensive because of the difficulty of getting supplies through to isolated areas.

Most gold miners lived on mutton, tea, sugar and flour, which they used to make damper. Life in the gold fields exposed single miners and families to loneliness and homesickness, isolation and physical danger and even death.

More than anything, gold mining was hard work. Fortune might be right around the corner, but so too were many failures.

Alcohol abuse was a common problem among gold miners, who used cheaply made spirits to mask the difficult living and working conditions. This alcohol was highly potent.

Women were often involved in the transport and provision of grog on the gold fields. The tin belly, the size of a family bible, was originally designed to be filled with hot water and applied to the chest for treatment of lung infections. Instead, it was filled with grog, serves costing a shilling each.

Music and dancing were some of the pastimes that gold miners and their families indulged in, when not mining. They often



**Two old cottages in the Farnham district. Wellington Museum is now featuring the Gold Rush era in its 'Gold Room' for public viewing Friday to Sunday each week.**

made musical instruments created out of locally found objects, such as penny tin-whistles, dish-bottom drums and even a primitive set of triangles fashioned from a meat-hook, a horseshoe and a spoon.

On the roads to the diggings, all classes of people travelled with their belongings. There was an atmosphere of excitement and impending wealth.

In 1855, one couple, James and Elizabeth Giddins, were lured by gold fever and travelled to Golden Gully, Stoney Creek where James became a gold miner.

James was 25 years of age and Elizabeth just 19 years; they had no relatives in the colony, after arriving 14 August 1853 from Plymouth, England on the Maidstone.

Neither could read or write and their religion was listed as Church of England. James and Elizabeth made their home at Golden Gully, Stoney Creek, having 14 children together.

Records show that on 28 November 1866, James was convicted for stealing a saddle. No further records were found until 26 May 1873, 4pm, James was working with

his son on a visible reef, "the blow and the recent rains made the earth rotten and it slipped on him and his son" the son was saved but James killed on the spot.

James was aged 45 years when he died. Following his death Elizabeth married John Giddings and had two further children until her death in 1881, aged 47 years.

James and Elizabeth are buried at Stoney Creek, Farnham Cemetery the only two visible headstones in a privately owned property.

\*\*\*

Join us at Wellington Museum to visit the new Gold Room display with the theme "they came to a valley", telling the story of the gold fields in the Wellington area and the influence of Chinese miners who later became merchants and business owners.

If you have an interesting story, artifacts or information about the areas' goldfields, or the women and men in your family or community who tried their luck as prospectors please contact Wellington Museum on 026845 2325.



**6.00** Morning Programs. **10.30** The World This Week. **11.00** Compass. **11.30** Songs Of Praise. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **12.30** Landline. **1.30** Gardening Australia. **2.30** David Attenborough's Galapagos. **3.25** Grand Designs New Zealand. **4.10** Martin Clunes: Islands Of The Pacific. Final. **5.15** Antiques Roadshow. **6.10** Britain's Great Cathedrals. New. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** Austin. Final. **8.00** The Family Next Door. Final. **8.50** I, Jack Wright. **9.40** MOVIE: Goldstone. (2016) Aaron Pedersen. **11.30** Late Programs.

**7two** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** South Aussie With Cosi. **2.30** The Great Australian Doorstep. **3.00** Your Money & Your Life. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** Escape To The Country. **7.00** Greatest Escapes To The Country. **7.45** Mrs Brown's Boys. **8.30** Vera. **10.30** The Pembrokeshire Murders. **11.35** Late Programs.

**900 Entertains** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.15** ER. **2.55** Heartbreak High. **3.45** A Bite To Eat. **4.10** Would I Lie To You? **4.45** MythBusters. **5.25** George Clarke's Old House, New Home. **6.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** Spicks And Specks. **7.35** QI. **8.05** The Piano UK. **9.05** Planet America: Wknd Ed. **9.50** Late Programs.

**6.00** NBC Today. **7.00** Weekend Sunrise. **10.00** The Morning Show: Weekend. **12.00** Behind Behati. **1.00** To Be Advised. **4.30** Border Security: International. **5.00** Seven News At 5. **5.30** Sydney Weekender. **6.00** Seven News. **7.00** The Voice. **9.00** 7NEWS Spotlight. **10.00** 24 Hours In Police Custody. **11.00** Crime Investigation Australia: Most Infamous. **12.15** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. AirTouch 500 At The Bend. Highlights. **2.30** Home Shopping. **3.30** Late Programs.

**7mate** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Fishy Business. **2.30** Al McGlashan's Fish'n With Mates. **3.00** Air Crash Investigations. **4.00** Mt Hutt Rescue. **5.00** Counting Cars. **6.00** Border Security: International. **7.00** Border Security: Australia's Front Line. **8.30** MOVIE: Armageddon. (1998) Bruce Willis. **11.30** Late Programs.

**900 Family** **6.00** Kids' Programs. **5.05** Zog And The Flying Doctors. **6.30** The Adventures Of Paddington. **6.50** Andy And The Band. **7.05** Do Not Watch This Show. **7.35** The Mysterious Benedict Society. Final. **8.25** Fresh Off The Boat. **9.05** Abbott Elementary. **9.50** Speechless. **10.10** Merlin. **10.55** Late Programs.

**6.00** Morning Programs. **11.00** NRL Sunday Footy Show. **12.00** Rugby League. NRL Women's Premiership. Round 11. Wests Tigers v New Zealand Warriors. **1.45** Rugby League. NRL Women's Premiership. Round 11. Newcastle Knights v St George Illawarra Dragons. **3.30** Rugby League. NRL First qualifying final. Canberra Raiders v Brisbane Broncos. **6.00** 9News Sunday. **7.00** The Block. **8.40** 60 Minutes. **9.40** Athletics. World Championships. Day 2. **11.30** Late Programs.

**7flix** **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Beat Bugs. **8.30** Flushed. **10.15** My France With Manu. **11.15** Starstruck. **12.45** Home And Away. **3.30** The Voice. **5.30** Gold Coast Ocean Rescue. **6.30** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly. **7.30** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. **8.30** Law & Order: SVU. **10.30** Bones. **12.30** Quantico. **3.00** Burn Notice.

**900 NEWS** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** News. **2.30** Aust Story. **3.00** News. **3.30** Offsiders. **4.00** Landline. **5.00** ABC News With Auslan. **5.30** News Regional. **6.00** Evening News. **6.30** Foreign Correspondent. **7.00** National News. **7.30** Insiders. **8.40** If You're Listening. **9.00** Nightly News. **9.30** Aust Story. **10.00** Late Programs.

**6.00** Mass. **6.30** Key Of David. **7.00** Joseph Prince. **7.30** Freshly Picked. **8.00** Roads Less Travelled. **8.30** Exploring Off The Grid. **9.30** Everyday Gourmet. **10.00** GCBC. **10.30** The Brighter Side. **11.00** Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **1.30** Location, Location, Location Australia. **2.30** House Hunters Aust. **3.00** Australia By Design: Architecture. **3.30** Wheel Of Fortune. **4.00** Lingo. **5.00** 10 News. **6.00** 10 News+. **7.00** The Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **8.30** Watson. **9.30** FBI. **11.30** Late Programs.

**10 drama** **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** All 4 Adventure. **9.00** Real Action. **9.30** What's Up Down Under. **10.00** Pat Callinan's 4x4 Adventures. **11.00** Navigating The World. **12.00** JAG. **4.00** Pooches At Play. **4.30** Bondi Rescue. **5.00** IFISH. **5.30** JAG. **7.30** NCIS. **10.20** Blue Bloods. **11.15** Nancy Drew. **12.15** Home Shopping.

**900 Gem** **6.00** Morning Programs. **8.00** Beyond Today. **8.30** Innovation Nation. **8.50** Athletics. World Championships. Day 2. **1.05** Getaway. **1.35** Dad's Army. **2.15** Edgar Wallace Mysteries. **3.30** MOVIE: Alexander The Great. (1956) **6.30** M\*A\*S\*H. **7.30** Athletics. World Championships. Day 2. **9.40** To Be Advised. **12.10** Late Programs.

**6.00** Morning Programs. **12.00** WorldWatch. **12.30** PBS Washington Week. **1.00** Speedweek. **3.00** Preparing To Give. **4.00** Dylan Alcott Interviews. **4.30** Cycling. UCI World Tour. La Vuelta. **H'lights. 5.30** WW2 End Game. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.30** Titanic: Secrets Of The Shipwreck. **8.25** Titanic Revisited. **9.30** Athletics. World Championships. Day 2. Evening session. **11.30** Monster: The Mystery Of Loch Ness. **12.30** Hatting Peter Tatchell. **2.15** Women Who Rock. **3.15** Late Programs.

**10 comedy** **6.00** Deal Or No Deal. **8.00** Frasier. **10.00** Ridiculousness. **11.00** The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. **2.00** Ridiculousness. **3.00** Frasier. **4.00** Friends. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory. **9.35** Frasier. **10.30** Ridiculousness. **11.30** South Park. **12.30** Home Shopping. **1.30** South Park. **2.30** Home Shopping.

**900 VICELAND** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.50** Jeopardy! **4.50** WorldWatch. **5.20** PBS Washington Week With The Atlantic. **5.50** Alone Sweden. **6.40** Athletics. World Championships. Day 2. Evening session. **11.30** Abandoned Engineering. **12.30** Cycling. UCI World Tour. La Vuelta. Stage 21. **4.20** NHK World English News. **5.00** Al Jazeera NewsHour.



**6.00** News Breakfast. **9.00** ABC News Mornings. **10.00** Teenage Boss: Next Level. **10.30** Midsumner Murders. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Landline. **2.00** The Piano. Final. **3.00** Anh's Brush With Fame. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.15** Long Lost Family. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** Spicks And Specks. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** **7.30**. **8.00** Australian Story. **8.30** Four Corners. **9.15** Media Watch. **9.35** Planet America. **10.05** ABC Late News. **10.20** The Business. **10.35** A Life In Ten Pictures. **11.30** Late Programs.

**7two** **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.30** The Great Australian Doorstep. **2.00** Weekender. **2.30** Impossible Builds. **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.

**900 Entertains** **6.00** Morning Programs. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** George Clarke's Old House, New Home. **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** Penn & Teller: Fool Us. **9.20** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **9.45** Late Programs.

**6.00** Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.00** To Be Advised. **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. **9.00** Hooten & The Lady. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

**7mate** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Supercars C'ship. **H'lights. 3.00** Supercars C'ship, AirTouch 500 At The Bend. **H'lights. 4.00** Swamp People: Serpent Invasion. **5.00** American Resto. **5.30** Storage Wars. **6.00** American Pickers. **7.00** Pawn Stars. **8.00** Outback Crystal Hunters. **9.00** Aussie Gold Hunters. **10.00** Late Programs.

**900 Family** **6.00** Kids' Programs. **3.00** Play School. **4.10** Andy's Aquatic Adventures. **4.25** Mecha Builders. **5.20** Mojo Swoptops. **5.45** Kangaroo Beach. **7.05** Piripenguins. **7.35** Ninja. Dragons Rising. **8.00** Dr Ann's Secret Lives. **8.35** Contraption Masters. **9.20** The Crystal Maze. **10.05** Merlin. **10.50** Late Programs.

**6.00** Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** The Block. **1.30** Young Sheldon. **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 Block. **8.40** 100% Footy. **9.40** Athletics. World Championships. Day 3. **11.30** Murder In The Family. **12.30** Footy Classified. **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** Kitty Is Not A Cat. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.30** House Rules: High Stakes. **12.00** 9-11. **3.00** Gold Coast Ocean Rescue. **3.30** My Kitchen Rules. **5.00** Bondi Vet. **7.00** Judge Judy. **7.30** Law & Order: SVU. **9.30** Law & Order. **10.30** Bones. **12.30** Quantico. **3.00** 9-11.

**900 NEWS** **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** ABC 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** **7.30**. **8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.45** The Business. **9.00** The World. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** Planet America. **11.00** ABC Late News. **11.30** Late Programs.

**6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** Judge Judy. **10.30** Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **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** The Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **8.40** Have You Been Paying Attention? **9.40** Anne Edmonds: Why Is My Bag All Wet? **11.10** 10's Late News. **11.35** Late Programs.

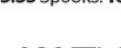
**10 drama** **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** IFISH. **8.30** Everyday Gourmet With Justice Schofield. **9.00** The Living Room. **10.00** JAG. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.45** The Young And The Restless. **1.30** FBI: International. **2.30** JAG. **4.30** The Living Room. **5.30** JAG. **7.30** NCIS. **10.20** FBI: International. **11.15** CSI: Vegas. **12.15** Home Shopping.

**900 Gem** **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** Antiques Downunder. **3.30** MOVIE: Raising The Wind. (1961) **5.30** Yorkshire Auction House. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Death In Paradise. **8.30** Athletics. World Championships. Day 3. **9.40** Shakespeare And Hathaway. **10.40** Whitstable Pearl. **11.40** Late Programs.

**6.00** Morning Programs. **12.10** WorldWatch. **2.00** World's Most Scenic River Journeys. **2.55** Garage Dreams. **3.35** The Cook Up With Adam Liaw. **4.05** Jeopardy! **4.30** Letters And Numbers. **5.00** Cycling. UCI World Tour. La Vuelta. **H'lights. 6.00** Mastermind Australia. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.30** Robson Green's Weekend Escapes. **8.35** Portillo In The Pyrenees. **9.30** Into South America With Nick Knowles. **10.20** SBS World News Late. **10.50** Classified. **11.40** Tokyo Vice. **1.50** Blackport. **2.50** Late Programs.

**10 comedy** **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Ghosts. **1.30** Ridiculousness. **2.00** The King Of Queens. **2.30** Becker. **3.00** Frasier. **4.00** Everyday Gourmet With Justice Schofield. **4.30** The King Of Queens. **5.00** Becker. **5.30** Frasier. **6.30** Neighbours. **7.00** Friends. **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** Becker. **10.30** Frasier. **11.30** Late Programs.

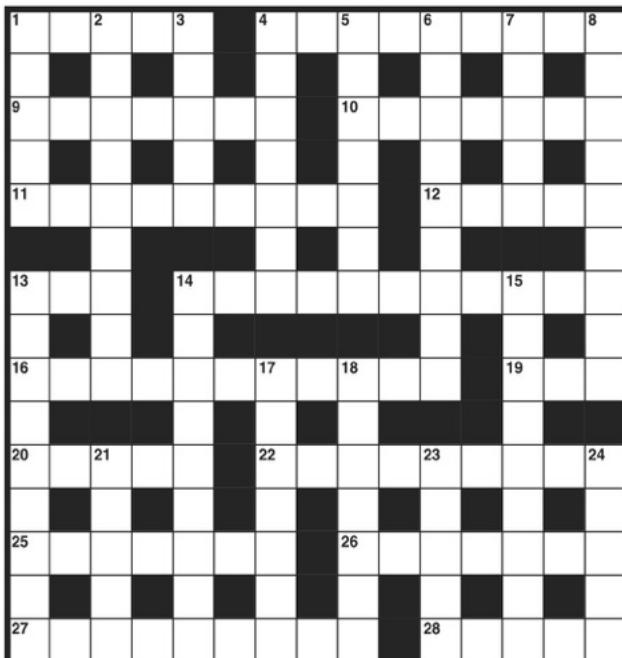
**900 VICELAND** **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.20** Small Business Secrets. **2.50** Wine Lovers' Guide. **3.20** History's Crazy Rich Ancients. **3.45** WorldWatch. **5.40** The Food That Built The World. **6.35** Jeopardy! **7.30** Athletics. World Championships. Day 3. Evening session. **11.30** Big Backyard Quiz. **12.30** Late Programs.



**6.00** Morning Programs. **11.15** Britain's Great Cathedrals. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** I, Jack Wright. **1.55** Grand Designs Australia. **2.55** Anh's Brush With Fame. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.10** Long Lost Family. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** Spicks And Spe

# PUZZLES

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Feudal workers (5)  
4 Assumes the worst (9)  
9 Awe-inspiring (7)  
10 Progress (7)  
11 Yellowish-green colour (4,5)  
12 Body of troops (5)
- 13 Film special effects (acronym) (1,1,1)  
14 Insect before butterfly (11)  
16 Agreement (11)  
19 Type of fish (3)  
20 Former US president (5)  
22 Man-made (9)

### 9-LETTER

No. 139

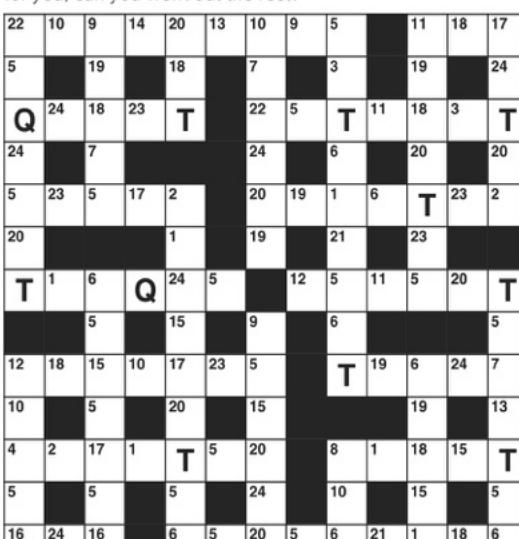
Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



Today's Aim:  
14 words: Good  
21 words: Very good  
29 words: Excellent

## CODEWORD

Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SOLUTIONS: 1=Q, 2=Y, 3=X, 4=Z, 5=E, 6=R, 7=M, 8=J, 9=C, 10=A, 11=W, 12=F, 13=P, 14=K, 15=N, 16=D, 17=G, 18=L, 19=H, 20=S, 21=V, 22=B, 23=L, 24=U, 25=O, 26=T

No. 089

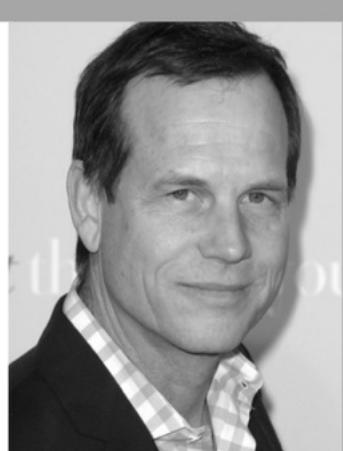
## SUDOKU

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3x3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



## QUICK QUIZ

- Which king of Great Britain changed the name of the royal house to Windsor?
- Where on a bird would you find the alula?
- Where was actor Nicole Kidman born?
- The word 'morocco' describes a fine leather made from goatskins tanned with what?
- Which is heavier, gold or lead?
- What is the capital of Myanmar?
- Who co-founded Ms. magazine: Germaine Greer, Gloria Steinem or Betty Friedan?
- Which famous Australian rock band is named after a song by Neil Young?
- True or false: Twister star Bill Paxton (pictured) has been killed on film by a predator, an alien and a terminator?
- Beginning with 'p', what is another word for thumb?



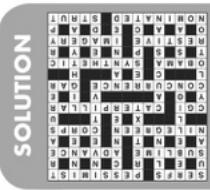
No. 139

## WORDFIT

- 25** Refractory (7)  
**26** Visuals (7)  
**27** Named for office (9)  
**28** Support (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Actress, – Sarandon (5)  
2 Armed resistance to authority (9)  
3 Throw (5)  
4 Ostensible reason (7)  
5 Reading or copying machine (7)  
6 Insulting (9)  
7 Central (5)  
8 Bursar (9)  
13 Particle accelerator (9)  
14 Person of European descent (9)  
15 Distance in space (9)  
17 Esteem (7)  
18 Cared for (7)  
21 Indian state (5)  
23 Not tails (5)  
24 Subterranean chamber (5)

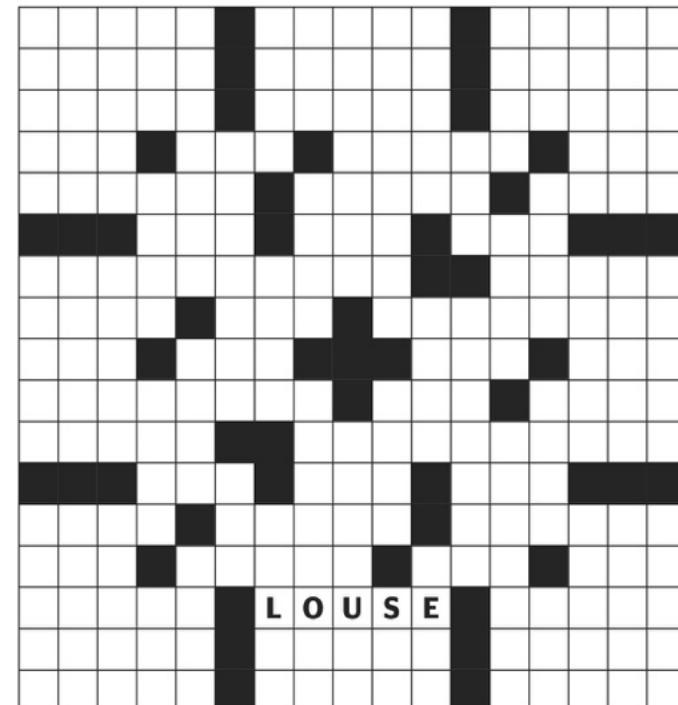


- 3 LETTERS** HYMN

- ALE LAYS  
AVO LIVE  
BAN RIDE  
BOA RISE  
CHI SEWS  
DAM STUD  
EKE TANK  
ERA WOKE  
EVE

### 5 LETTERS

- FIR ABUSE  
GAG ADMIT  
GET ADORE  
GUY ICE  
ICE ALLAH  
ILL ALPHA  
LEE AMISS  
NIP ARROW  
OKS BRAGS  
ONE COMET  
PER DENIM  
REV DIGIT  
SEC EASED  
SHE EASES  
SOD EDGED  
TEE ENEMA  
WAR ENSUE  
FORUM GIRTH  
GIRT HEEDS  
CLAN HELMS  
EARL HOURS  
ELSE KARAT  
GEAR LADLE  
GEED LEAVE  
GELD LIVID  
GERM LOUSE  
GNAT NEARS



OLIVE

UNIFY

8 LETTERS

EVERMORE

GARGOYLE

VENTILATED

SEC

URINE

9 LETTERS

BRASSIERES

SEC

SEC

VENTILATED

SEC

SEC

MISTRESS

SAFARIED

### 4 LETTERS

- SPASM

- ERASURE

### 5 LETTERS

- SPADS

- EVASIVE

### 6 LETTERS

- SPADS

- FATIGUE

### 7 LETTERS

- SPADS

- HOLIDAY

### 8 LETTERS

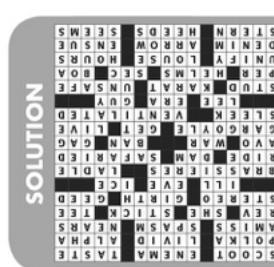
- SPADS

- LUNCHES

### 9 LETTERS

- SPADS

- TASSELS



PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

## SOLUTIONS

### EASY

1	4	9	2	3	6	5	8
6	5	7	1	9	8	2	4
2	3	8	4	7	5	6	1
8	9	2	5	4	3	1	7
5	7	3	9	8	2	3	9
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#### AGT Seeds

Did you know you are now able to legally trade seed of all agt clearfield varieties to other growers using the AGT grower portal. To thank you for your support of this new initiative agt will send a \$100 gift card to both the seller and the recipient when the AGT grower portal is used to complete a valid seed sharing transaction.  
\*\*\*

**Parasitoid** wasps emerge as canola crop guardians. Green peach aphid has developed resistance to multiple broad-spectrum insecticides used in canola. Integrated pest management, including the use of beneficial insects is gaining importance for sustainable control. New field research is identifying the most effective parasitoid wasp species, release timing and numbers for aphid suppression. Watch this space.  
\*\*\*

#### Grain Marketing when and how to sell?

This is the advice I gave to clients. Firstly, you must calculate your cost of production per tonne of grain (not guess but accurately work out the cost) this becomes the plimsoll line. Then sell in 25% or 33% lots. The first sale around Sept to Oct when you are sure of a crop. This should cover your growing cost.

The next sale is at harvest time and the next sale just after harvest has finished around Easter. Then if you are selling in four lots punt it into winter. This method guarantees you the market average.  
\*\*\*

#### Grain market

No change, everything lower weighed down by large harvests and plentiful supplies and only routine demand. No change in sentiment, local markets are under pressure and susceptible to a lift in grower selling.  
\*\*\*

#### Markets at a glance

**Wool..** The EMI closed at 1291c/kg clean, up 30c with 29,594 bales a rise of 290 including 1195 from NZ. Sydney - double digit price rises across all MPG's with high clearance rates. Merino skirtings gained momentum, crossbred, the 28 and 30 microns closed up 18 and 30c respectively, cardings up 15c. NRI 1323c/kg clean up 26c. Sydney 1.6% passed-in rate with 76 bales withdrawn.

**Cattle..** DBO 4th. 5846, down 324. Few weaners, grown steers and heifers well supplied, heavy bullocks limited. Weaner steers reached 616c, heifers 500c/kg . Feeder steers 12c to 18c stronger, 466c to 576c/kg. Trade steers 480c to 522c, heifers 470c to 210c/kg. Grown steers and bullocks 15c to 20c dearer, 470c to 519c, heavy heifers 460c to 490c/kg. Cows 20 to 25c better, heavy 3 and 4 score 384c to 428c, lighter 2 score 280c to 395c/kg.

**Sheep..** DBO 8th. sheep 11,520, up 3534; lambs 31,695, up 7597. New season store lambs to \$230, firm. Trade weights \$3 stronger, \$282 to \$300, Heavy up \$8, \$281 to \$315. Light 2score Merinos sold \$93 to \$192. Trade lambs \$214 to \$285. Heavy lambs \$350 to \$364, extra heavy to \$406. Heavy Merinos to \$338. Best hoggets to \$320. Mutton lightweights firm. heavy cross-bred ewes to \$284, wethers \$298.  
\*\*\*

#### STOCK CLEARANCE

All merchandise stock must go

# Rural

**Plasto  
& Company** Livestock and Property  
Pty Limited

## Stock report by Ross Plasto

**DUBBO CATTLE** yarded 5846. Numbers eased slightly, quality good, good numbers of trade and feeder cattle with condition. Market sold to stronger trends. Weaner steers to 616c, heifers 500c/kg. Feeder steers 12c to 18c stronger, 466c to 576c/kg for most medium, heavies to 550c/kg. Feeder heifers up 15c to 20c, bulk 450c to 509c/kg. Trade steers 480c to 522, heifers 470c to 510c/kg. Grown steers and bullocks 15c to 20c dearer, 470c to 529, heavy grown heifers 460c to 490c/kg. Cows up 20c to 25c, heavy 3 and 4 score 384c to 428c, leaner 2 score cows 320c to 395c/kg.

**Store sale Friday.** Numbers increased and quality mixed. Market sold to a stronger trend. Weaner steers 550c to 600c/kg for fresher lines, plainer and dryer weaners 500c to 560c/kg. Light Angus weaners 140kg to \$960, medium to \$1360, heavy to \$1810 for just over 300kg. Heavy Santa Gertrudis weaner heifers to \$1450, bulk of medium weights \$730 to \$1180, ranged from 370c to 450c/kg. Light weights under 200kg \$400 to \$820. Angus yearling steers to \$1940 or 550c/kg. Euro/Santa-cross cows with first calf to \$2550/unit, older cows with calf 1800 to \$2500. Best PTIC cows to \$1750.

**DUBBO SHEEP and Lambs.** 31,695 yarded. Still a lot of well finished trade and heavy lambs but few new season lambs. Market overall stronger. New season store lambs firm to \$230, trade weights \$3 stronger, \$243 to \$300, ave 1170c, heavy up \$8, \$281 to \$315., ave 1130c to 1180c/kg cwt. Light 2-score Merinos \$93 to \$192, ave 950c to

1000c/kg cwt. Trade lambs \$211 to \$285, ave 1060c, but neater trade 1140c and dearer. Heavy lambs \$258 to \$364, ave 1160c/kg cwt, extra heavy to \$406. Heavy Merinos to \$338, best hoggets to \$320.

Mutton numbers lifted, quality mixed, prices stronger on heavy weights, medium ewes eased, light weights firm. Heavy crossbred ewes to \$284, wethers \$298, Merinos ewes to \$275, most mutton ranged from 730c to 780c/kg cwt.

**WOOL.** Market continuing to rise. EMI climbed 30 cents and closed at levels to May 2023. This also equated to a 24-cent increase in US dollars. NRI opened strongly to close at 18-cents dearer, followed by further rises Wednesday adding another 8-cents. All categories enjoyed buyer support throughout the week including the crossbred and Merino Carding types. Supply concerns appear to have finally crept into market with weekly national offering's consistently around 30,000 bales. The fall in production started to gather a head of steam in August with AWTA testing figures showing a 24.8% decline in the weight of wool tested nationally bringing the combined total July/August decline in at 18.2%. This fall in production does not marry up with AWEX auction figures only showing a 6.8% decline. This can only mean that the seven-week rise in the market has flushed wool held in stores across the country onto the market, and the market has absorbed this without blinking an eye. 27,538 bales were sold nationally last week with 2.9% passed-in.

**Around the tracks  
with Col Hodges**

## Racing at Mendooran

THE BIGGEST crowd at a Mendooran meeting for at least the past 50 years, cheered home the favourite Mean Girls, on Saturday, in the 1200 metres McGirr & Associates-Mendooran Cup.

Trained by Kieren Hazelton for the Gilgandra Jockey Club president Jason Tate and ridden by Jake Pracey-Holmes, Mean Girls after sharing the lead with track record holder Castlebar Road, broke clear at the top of the straight.

Power Bank (Kath Bell-Pitomac, \$4) finished strongly, however Mean Girls (\$2.80 favourite) held on to win by a short neck with over two lengths to the third placed Loud (Jacob Stiff, \$11).

Racing in career best form, the six-year-old mare Mean Girls had been a last-start winner at Narromine after placings at Coonabarabran, Wellington and Gilgandra.

Kieren Hazelton had earlier won with Dao Sun which was very well ridden by apprentice Nick Hyde in the 1000m Benchmark 45 Handicap.

Dao Sun (\$4) had a charmed run behind the leaders and eventually scored by a half-length from Adviser (Billy Cray, \$2.80 fav) and Barcoo River (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$5).

Former international rugby league star Terry Fahey is now a trainer at Dubbo and he was a popular winner of the 120m Fitzgerald Cup Maiden Handicap with Ternini.

Trailing Capricious Belle and Firefinch in to the straight, Ternini (\$3.40) under strong riding from Andrew Banks won by a short head from French Harp (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$3.50) while Firefinch (Izzy Neale, \$2.30 to \$2.10 fav) made it 10 placings from 17 starts when a long-neck away third.

The powerful riding of Andrew Banks was also an important factor when Spicy Margherita won the 1500m Greenhalgh Cup Maiden Plate.

Trained at Coonabarabran by Graeme Brooker, Spicy Margherita (\$4 equal fav) overhauled I Am Smiling (Izzy Neale, \$4 equal fav) to get home by a short head with Conversations (Zoe Hunt, \$7.50) finishing third.

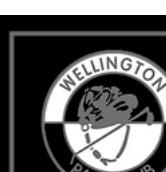
The lightly raced four-year-old gelding Chicken Legs has now won three races from four starts after taking out the 800m Class 2 Handicap for Armidale trainer Jane Clement.

Put in a handy position by Billy Cray, Chicken Legs (\$4 fav) finished best to beat the leader Smart 'N' Ritzy (Andrew Banks, \$7.50) and Zillions (Ken Dunbar, \$4.80).

Punters went home happy when the heavily backed Akauwheo from the Geoff O'Brien stable at Quirindi, won the final event, the 1500m McGirr Family Hotels-JJ McGirr Silver Horse-shoe Class 2 Handicap.

Akauwheo (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$2.10 to \$1.80 fav) led by three lengths going down the back and lasted to win in a close finish from Shamister (Jacob Stiff, \$4.20) coming from last, and Satashi (Kath Bell-Pitomac, \$17).  
\*\*\*

Racing at Geurie Picnics and Collarenebri on Saturday while the Bathurst Cup and Panorama Sprint are the feature races on Sunday at Bathurst.



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## Supply squeeze continues to push market

WE ARE now into our seventh consecutive week of a rising market, prompting report authors to dig through the archives for historical comparisons. The last time the EMI posted seven straight weekly gains was in 2011, and you'd have to go all the way back to 1979 to find a new season that began with seven consecutive selling weeks of gains. With the latest AWTA data for YTD confirming the gloomy outlook predicted by the recent Wool Production Forecasts, wool tested in July and August is down by a staggering 18.3 per cent, equating to a 7million kilogram drop. If the current trajectory continues, the forecast total of just 251.5 million kilograms by year end could become a sobering reality. For early-stage processors this is particularly alarming. Many are already struggling with challenging trading conditions, and a significant reduction in wool could further strain operations.

Despite the national downturn, some regions are experiencing a more favourable season. In our area, bale testing over the past two months has shown a promising 14pc increase,

offering a rare bright spot. However, this is not the case everywhere. There's been increased discussion about the increasing demand for certified non-mulesed wool, namely RWS. A joint statement by the Exporters, Brokers and Wool Producers Australia calling for greater transparency of market signals. Australian Council of Wool Exporters and Processors President Josh Lamb stated, "As exporters we see an undeniable and accelerating shift from global brands and retailers who are increasingly committing to non-mulesed wool, often certified under standards like RWS". This joint statement has been seen in some quarters as inflammatory and controversial, causing concern that this is a call to end mulesing, which it isn't. Josh Lamb was very clear that this wasn't a call to end mulesing but a call for growers to be fully aware of market signals so they can make informed decisions about how they manage their flocks.

In a national offering of 28,500 bales, Macwool and Carmichael wool will have close to 1000 this week.

**YOUR WOOL IN SAFE HANDS**



# Wellington Public School

## Father's Day Breakfast



## Warriors write new chapter

WELLINGTON WARRIORS Soccer wrote a new chapter in the club's history last weekend, with all three senior grades qualifying for their respective Grand Finals.

Third Grade men were the first in, winning their major semi-final last week and going straight through to the grand final, while the Mens First Grade and the Womens teams took the long route to qualification via the sudden death preliminary final, but both prevailed in tight matches, coming away with the same 2-1 win in each case. First grade mens - Wellington Warriors V Macquarie United

Warriors have pulled off a stunning underdog victory, taking down minor premiers Macquarie United 2-1 in an enthralling preliminary final.

It was a physical but free-flowing match between the two sides in an even first half. Midway through the first half, the Warriors had a small period of sustained pressure resulting in a corner which led to the opening goal.

A failed clearance from the MUFC defence from the corner landed at the feet of Dias Kautsari who unleashed a powerful shot back past the keeper for a 1-0 lead.

MUFC would equalise 10 minutes later after a solid low strike of their own.

Wellington started to create more scoring opportunities in the second half.

Striker Kwena Matlou looked very dangerous despite being marked by two men and captain Robbie Adams was having a strong game controlling the midfield.

The main talking point from the match came from another corner, resulting in what was ultimately the match winning

goal for Wellington.

Following a deflection from a number of players from the corner, it seemed unclear whether the ball had crossed the goal line.

After a brief delay, the referee awarded the goal to the cheers of the travelling crowd and jeers from the home crowd.

Upon review of a spectator's video of the incident after the match, the ball was clearly over the line and the correct decision was made.

The Warriors continued to press in search of a third goal but just couldn't find the finishing touch, despite a number of chances. There were a few nervy moments in the final 10 minutes.

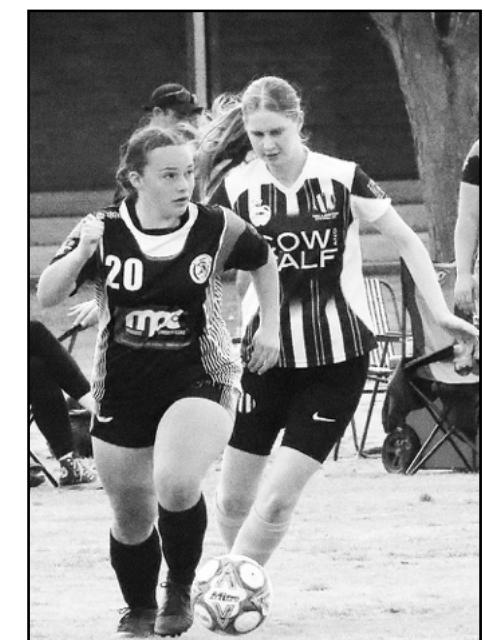
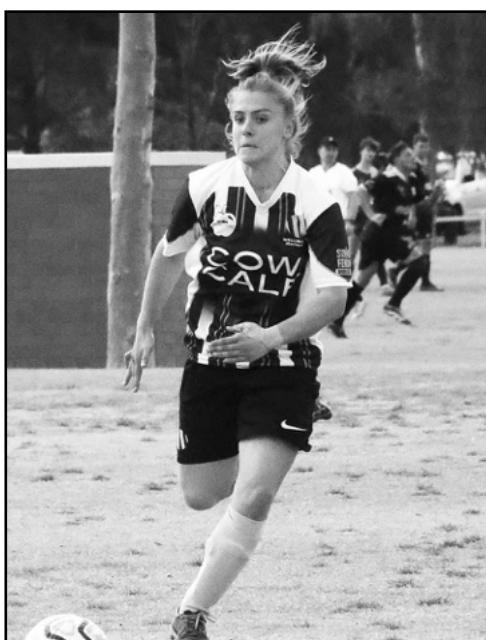


The sky blues continued to fight all the way until the final whistle, but it wasn't enough. Some desperate defence ensured that the Wellington Warriors held on for a 2-1 win.

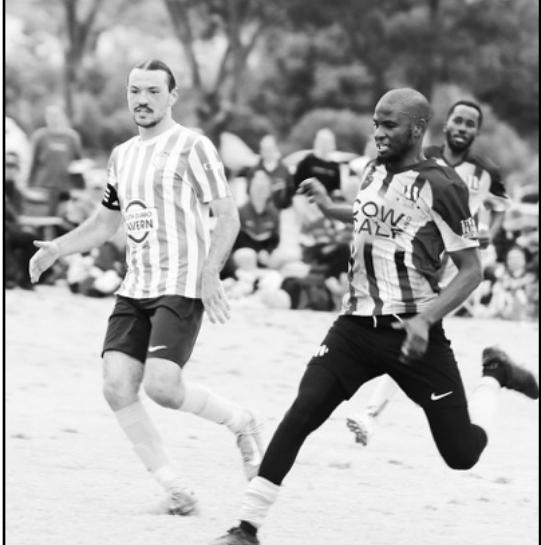
Wellington will now play Dubbo Bulls FC in the grand final next Saturday.

An amazing turn of events considering these two teams were originally slated to play in the minor semi-final last week.

**Brandon Carter**



## Warriors - Jo Ivey photos





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## Golfing News Monthly medals distributed

CUSACK'S BUTCHERY Men's Foursomes are set down for this Sunday, nominations close at 8pm on Friday night. Tees are open from 9am to 11am.

The Iberdrola Twilight Thursday 9-hole competition will be running again once daylight savings starts, for more information you can ask Gary McCarroll or Rod Pedron as they are the men in the know.

Last Saturday's events were the September Monthly Medal plus the George Hollow Putting Competition.

A grade Medal winner was John Gersbach who conquered the course on a perfect day for golf, his final score was 69nett.

Runner-up prize went to Mitchell Cusack who finished with a 71nett.

B grade Medal winner on a countback was Paul Hannelly who always says if you keep trying, sooner or later you will succeed; his final score was 73nett.

Runner-up was Ron Cowan who just keeps on going, final score was also 73nett.

Prize winners were Josh Bullock 72net; Nathan Stewart, Rod McMahon, Ashley Bullock 73; David Ryan, Brent Eather, Peter Payne, Marie Cornish, David Naveau, Michael Brindle from PGA Golf Club 74; Patrick Slack-Smith, Gary McCarroll 75; Liam Conn 77nett on a c/b.

Nearest the pins on 3rd Joe Ryan, 8th Noel Stanford, 14th Mitchell Cusack, 16th Michael Keeffe.

Club sponsored NTP in two-shots on the 10th was taken out by Mitchell Cusack.

Jespresso Cafe longest drives were played for but somehow not recorded.

Brent Eather Encouragement award was taken out by

David Wilson who reintroduced himself to his clubs, which in turn went out and punished him severely to finish with a 97nett, what a welcome back.

\*\*\*

Wednesday's Ladies day and Monthly Medal was won by Marie Cornish who put together a decent round to finish with 74nett.

Runne-up was Wendy Slack-Smith who just keeps on getting into the placings each week, her final score was 75nett.

Prize winner were Pauline Potts 76nett and Kim Gersbach 77nett.

Nearest the pins went to Marie Cornish and Gae Drew. Putting Competition was taken out by Marie Cornish with 28putts.

Thursday's Individual Stableford was won by Peter Holden who celebrated hard after his win with 35pts.

Runner-up was Brock Naden on a countback with 34pts.

Prize winners were Rod Irwin, Mitchell Cusack, Drew Strong all with 34pts.

Diggers Golf results had Barry Bowman and Hugh Cluff clean up the field with 45pts to get the win.

Runners-up were Malcolm Payne and Archie McMaster who finished with 42pts.

Get those Fees paid as it would be regrettable to miss out on the Club Championships.

This Saturday's events are a 4BBB in conjunction with an Individual Stableford.

The new Handicap system is coming into effect at the end of September.

**19th Hole**

All three Warriors teams in soccer grand finals



ALL THREE Wellington Warriors senior teams are now in grand final contention after both the First grade and Ladies sides won their semi-final matches last Sunday.

From start to finish every game was a battle, however the Warriors rose to the challenge.

Club officials are now waiting on dates and venues for the three grand final games which includes the club's Third grade side who advanced as the major semi-final winner the weekend prior. ..More photos on P 18, 19.

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