

Livestock
Ross Plasto
0428 636 289

Property Management
Emma Cenzato
0418 636 254

Raine and Horne

Rural Properties
Ross Plasto
0428 636 289

Residential
Gary Francis
0428 459 830

Wellington & District LEADER

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

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Sunday 16 November

Feathers ruffled, mayor and local member - P2, 4

Marie Hoffman laments Arthur St home - P5

Garden competition entry form - P6

Wellington's unsung heroes need some extra hands

WE TEND to think of them only when we need them most.

Most times they're out in mind.

But there has been many dozens of volunteer firefighters protecting us since before the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The present Arthur Street station has been local headquarters of the NSW Fire Brigade – now known as NSW Fire and Rescue – after construction and commissioning in 1924. (See further story Page 13 and advertisement Page 5).

The Wellington Brigade continues, but several members have retired and the ranks need to be topped-up.

The brigade currently has six vacancies at the station and has to rely on firefighters coming from neighbouring towns to help staff the station and keep Wellington safe.

Fire and Rescue is currently recruiting for local everyday men and women between the ages of 18 and 65 who live and work within a reasonable distance from the Fire Station who can respond to an incidents or fire calls.

Daytime availability is essential and they would be required to leave their main employment if an incident call came in.

The impact on an employer is minimal with most towns only receiving a call a week for less than one hour.

The benefits to an employer having an On Call Fire Fighter (OCFF) on their staff far out way the minimal impact on their business.

Their staff member would have training and knowledge in emergency, risk and safety management and first aid, creating a safer workplace.

Wellington Fire Station responded to 211 calls last financial year of which only 30 per cent (63) of calls were during business hours.

The average call duration was 45 minutes. An on-call Fire Station is not staffed 24/7 and firefighters only respond when a call comes in.

They are alerted by their mobile phone and a pager to attend the station immediately to respond.

On-call firefighters are paid an hourly rate with annual leave, sick leave and long



FLASHBACK to 1999 when Wellington Fireies were the champions for the North West Zone 4 firefighting championships at Bourke. Holding some of their trophies and awards are John Hunt, Mark Moroney, Neal McCabe, Doug Morley and Mike Hayes. The Wellington team is now calling on interested people to join one of the best brigades in the Central West.

service leave entitlements.

They can choose hours that suit their schedule however will need to be available for at least 24 hours per week.

To become a Firefighter, you will attend eight days of face-to-face and 36 hours of online training, all paid, and commit to attending drill nights and incidents/call outs.

The benefits to becoming an OCFF is learning and developing skills in team work, technology, radio comms, CPR and first aid, electrical safety and handling

hazardous materials.

Skills and training are maintained by regular drill nights that are held fortnightly as well as additional training provided by Fire and Rescue's Education and Training team either onsite at the station or one of the training centres throughout NSW.

An OCFF responds to various emergencies including building fires, grass and bushfires, flood emergencies, assist ambulance, car accidents and animal rescue.

It's a great opportunity for people to contribute to their local community and

work around other commitments like primary work and family.

The station is inviting interested candidates to their next Drill night on Monday, October 13 from 6pm.

The crew will be there to show you around the station and answer all your questions.

For more information or to apply go to our FRNSW careers page:

<https://careers.fire.nsw.gov.au/on-call-fire-fighting> or contact Captain Mark Moroney at the Wellington Fire Station.

Inside this week

Michelle Tomkins pulls no punches on Scabbing Flat Bridge - P14

Nanima Update #2 – Illegal waste dumping

LAST WEEK in Part #1 I briefly addressed some of the claims made by Federal Member for Calare, Mr Andrew Gee, in his criticism of Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) for delays in the Roads To Home Project at Nanima Village.

This week I'll address Mr Gee's comments on the illegal waste dumping that has been occurring on the Nanima Village Road just past the Wellington Tip.

Let's start with a point with which everyone agrees – the people doing the illegal rubbish dumping are grubs who are committing numerous offences.

There's no excuse for driving right past the tip in order to dump rubbish in the bush on private land.

It's criminal, it's selfish, it's a costly problem to rectify, it shows a lack of regard for fellow Wellington/Nanima residents, and it is effectively stealing from ratepayers.

There are a number of ways for people to legally dispose of their rubbish, including using the free tip voucher, booking in a

bulky rubbish collection, putting the rubbish through the red lid bin over a number of weeks, or paying from \$13 to tip sorted, mixed waste in the tip.

However, in what has become Andrew Gee's 'style', Council and Councillors find out about Andrew's activism through the media/social media, rather than through a collaborative approach.

This occurred in October 2024 with a media blast regarding the illegal dumping, followed up with a letter to myself on 5 November 2024.

Good for Andrew's profile maybe, but not necessarily the best way to solve the problem. I guess it depends on what outcome Mr Gee is hoping to secure.

My reply letter on 25 November 2024 informed Andrew that five cameras had been installed in the area and more frequent patrols of the area by Council staff were being made, that Council had recently applied for a grant from the NSW Environment Protection Authority to fund fencing

of the land, additional cameras and to help with clean-up of the land.

However, this grant application was ultimately refused as the Wellington Town Common is not land that is owned by a NSW Government Agency.

I also noted that land owners and regulators would benefit from a Federal Policy position around the importance of the issue and the need for assistance. This could be in the form of direct financial assistance to Land Councils and Indigenous Groups and/or local Councils to provide grants for the purposes of fencing infrastructure and for such clean ups.

Andrew didn't directly reference any actions he has taken in assisting in promoting the need for Federal Government action in respect of these issues.

This brings us to September 2025 when Mr Gee makes a reappearance in the media on the issue of illegal dumping.

The land at Nanima Village Road, which is owned by the Wellington Local Aboriginal

Land Council and the Wellington Town Common is private land.

In respect of illegal dumping, Council doesn't have a policy setting for the cleanup of private lands and the very real challenge is if we do it for one private landholder why don't we do it for all.

The current Budget includes a total of \$40,000 for illegal dumping activities on public land across the whole Local Government Area. A recent quote for the cleanup at Nanima was in excess of \$25,000, with that money coming out of other projects such as mowing of parks.

Thanks to Dubbo Yard Maintenance and Renovations for volunteering their resources to clean up the mess for free. I know Jeff Amatto's group have also cleaned up out at the mission.

Hopefully Andrew Gee can stop blaming Council for illegal dumping, as I'm sure a collaborative approach would yield better results.

Josh Black

Reporting crime made easier

Whether its crimes like trespassing and illegal hunting, theft, physical assault or online crimes, such as child abuse or unwanted contact, cyberbullying and scams, Crime Stoppers and NSW Police are urging the community to report what they know.

Crime Stoppers provides a simple gateway for the community to report this information and ensure the information is shared with police. Crime Stoppers CEO Peter Price AM said we often see people were willing to share information online, such as through online community groups, so neighbours and the local community were aware of what's happening in their neighbourhood.

"And while that information can help, be aware of suspicious activity, sharing that information with Crime Stoppers ensures it's passed on to police so the appropriate action can be taken.

"Our website makes it easier for the community to report information, in a safe and secure way."

Community members are Crime Stoppers eyes and ears and provide vital information that can help solve a crime.

Even small details like a suspicious vehicle or unusual activity can lead to recovering stolen property and bringing someone before the courts.

Crime Stoppers is that vital link between the community and police and people are encouraged to continue to work together to make their communities safer.

It's your community, it's your call. Reporting what you know can make a difference.

There are many different ways the community can report crime in their area including PAL, their local police station, Crime Stoppers and Triple Zero for emergencies.

Report any theft, any time, to PAL on 131 444 - and report suspicious or actual criminal information to Crime Stoppers at <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/> or call 1800 333 000.

Man's best friend

By Roger Everett

OUR SON'S old Blue Heeler dog has moved in with us in Wellington and he stumbles about (not unlike me) due to an old shoulder injury and is always under my feet seeking attention (not unlike me with my wife).

He has taken full authority and attacks those he doesn't know who get in the gate, whilst being friendly to passing preschoolers who reach in and pat him without any threat.

The bearded gas delivery man, a heavily tattooed tradesman, and an electricity meter reader came in the gate and he attacked to emphasise his authority, and older kids and adults running past, particularly those with hoody's, really fire him up.

There is a cat that each afternoon just sits over the road and stares teasing the dog, and he fires up and attacks the fence, which the cat seems to relish and this reminds me of a girl I once knew "a temptress but out of reach".

The reaction to people just seems a case of The Good, The Bad and The Ugly but a friend suggested he only seems to attack those who will send you a bill.

On the upside on a few occasions in the recent past we were woken to see concerning individuals hovering outside, all at around 3am in the

morning, and having been broken into and lost valuables and tools on our second night in the house his presence is reassuring.

A downside, every morning after directing us to his breakfast, he has a sniff around the boundary and cocks his leg on anything unusual, usually between five and 20 times. Additionally, all day he seems to sniff and piss on anything and everything.

The smell and extensive coverage of all this urine provoked us to engage "Google" to find a deterrent, which we found, and we have used it and now smile as we watch him trying to find an unsprayed place to cock his leg and thinking we have successfully repossessed portions of our property.

All we need now is a full-time gatekeeper to advise the dog on who can come in and who can't, and our new life in town with "man's best friend" will be reassuring and complete.

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.

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**Editor: Mark Griggs
0456 940 999**

email: mark@wdleader.news

**Advertising Manager
Sharon Wilson
0407 935 998**

email: sharon@wdleader.news

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Rebacks juniors have been hard at work recycling cans and bottles to raise funds for their Armidale tour. If you have any bottles or cans you'd like to donate, they'd love your support. The junior players have started collecting at the recycling area from 9am to 10.30am from this Tuesday, and they say thanks in advance for helping.

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

Waste 2 Art regional showcase

THE BEST of 2025 regional Waste 2 Art is showcasing at the Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCC) in Dubbo until November 2.

The regional showcase will feature some 140 artworks from Waste 2 Art competitions held by the 16 participating Councils across the NetWaste region.

Mayor Josh Black said this year's competition

theme was toys, and it was great to see so many people take up the challenge and create artworks out of materials that might otherwise be thrown away.

"The Waste 2 Art Regional Showcase is a great opportunity to see some of the winning entries from Council areas that participate in the annual art competition," Cr Black said.

Waste 2 Art is an

annual community art exhibition that allows community members from participating Council areas to create artworks made from reused and recyclable waste materials.

The results are imaginative and thought-provoking with the artworks showcasing recycling and sustainable living.

WPCC curator Kent Buchanan said that

Waste 2 Art was always a popular exhibition as visitors enjoy seeing how creative people are with items that would have potentially been sent to landfill.

The WPCC will host workshops featuring artist Jaq Davies, during school holidays and on Sunday, October 19.

Workshops are free however, participant numbers are limited,

bookings are essential. Jaq Davies is an Orange-based artist who will guide workshop participants to creatively combine materials channelling their imagination into works of art.



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Parents urged to check nappies (new and used) for khapra beetle or larvae

PARENTS AND carers who've purchased imported nappies are urged to check for khapra beetles after the federal government confirmed the beetle larvae was found in nappies sold at Woolworths in NSW during September.

NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin said the incident had come as a stark warning of the need to increase Australian biosecurity controls, funding and activity.

"This detection is the wakeup call our government needs to get serious on biosecurity," Mr Martin said.

"This is a pest that would have the same impact as a foot and mouth animal disease (FMD) outbreak in Australia, and it's the number one threat to our grains industry.

"Governments have to do everything in their power to contain and eradicate this pest, or the damage will be beyond our worst nightmare."

The khapra beetle is a destructive pest and poses

a significant biosecurity and market access risk to Australia's grain industry.

"The beetle is found in at least 75 countries throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and can spread through vectors such as imported grain, foodstuffs, machinery, cargo, mail and travellers. More broadly we appear to be losing the biosecurity battle one pest at a time, with the shared responsibility approach not working as clearly evidenced by this incursion."

Editor's Note: Members of the public who have purchased Little One's Nappy Pants or any goods with signs of insect or pest activity must not use the goods and should not dispose of the goods or their packaging.

Where possible, the goods and their packaging should be sealed in a bag to prevent any pest spread. Authorities should then be contacted on 1800 798 636 for further instructions.

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RESIDENTIAL COMPOST GIVEAWAY

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

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

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



Don't green light Narrabri gas

POLITICIANS HAVE been warned not to destroy prime agricultural land and water resources to appease powerful lobbyists.

NSW Farmers' President Xavier Martin said recent talk of "pulling the trigger" on the incredibly dangerous Narrabri Gas Project would see short-term political gain prioritised over farmers, communities and the environment.

On Monday Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King said it was "only fair" the Australian Government conducted a review to ensure Australians could access cheap gas.

And NSW Premier Chris Minns recently said it was time to "pull the trigger" and start work on the Narrabri Gas Project.

Mr Martin said this reckless approach was incredibly dangerous, with food security and vital groundwater to be put at critical risk if the project was to proceed.

"NSW Farmers does not, and cannot, support the Narrabri Gas Project, we believe it would come at an unconscionable cost to the state,"

Mr Martin said.

"This project poses an unacceptable risk to the groundwater these farms and communities rely on, not to mention soil and air quality, and local food and fibre production."

"There is clear evidence to prove it, with nearby CSG mistakes fresh in the minds of the community."

"The north west of NSW is this state's food bowl, producing healthy food and fibre, and governments must recognise this and protect our food and water security."

"They should look for energy solutions elsewhere."

While politicians pointed to coal seam gas as an alternative to coal, Mr Martin said there was a shocking double standard on display.

"What we're really talking about is destroying the environment to protect the environment, it's just a nonsense," he said. "Our most precious resources are our clean air, water and landscape. Narrabri CSG simply cannot go ahead if politicians truly care about our future, our food security and our people."

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Wellington & District
LEADER



In Their Sights

Fashions Mount Rifle Club results of Saturday, October 4.

600 Yards: D. Hough 112.6; L. Hough 112.4; S. King 104.4; S. Barnes 97.6; J. Pirie 95.2.

Next shoot October 18 at 500 yards.

The Rifleman

**tech
talk**

with Mathew Dickerson, Axxis Comworld



ACM Tech Talk Column 478 - 04102025
WHEN I was a kid, weekends often smelt of two-stroke.

Growing up in a family obsessed with motorbikes meant I couldn't just pick a two-stroke from a four-stroke by sound alone but I could usually pick the brand as well.

Some of my earliest memories are of standing at the end of our driveway, waiting for my eldest brother to roar home from uni on his latest two-wheeled machine. By seven, I was racing motorbikes, and the idea of life without motorbikes seemed as strange as toast without Vegemite.

That passion has carried through to adulthood. I've spent more Sundays than I care to admit glued to MotoGP, watching titans like Márquez and Rossi and Aussie legends like Doohan and Gardner and Stoner throw bikes into corners at physics-defying angles.

The onboard cameras have become so good you feel like you're tucked in behind the screen yourself, racing elbow-to-elbow down a straight. More than once I've

caught myself leaning into corners on the couch - though, as my family likes to remind me, that doesn't actually do anything to help the rider on screen.

Until now.

The simple little Apple AirPods that we mostly use for listening to music are now able to be used as a full-blown motion controller.

There is only one game available at this stage – RidePods – which lets you steer a motorbike in heavy traffic simply by moving your head. Lean left, the bike leans left. Tilt right, and you weave around a truck.

For someone who grew up believing your body should follow the bike, it feels oddly natural.

The trick lies in Apple's Spatial Audio feature. Most people think of it as a fancy way of making music sound like it's coming from around you, but inside those AirPods are a tiny accelerometer and gyroscope that track your head movements in real time.

Normally, that's just so a guitar solo stays

anchored in the "stage" as you move your head. But developers have cleverly tapped into that data stream and turned it into a controller.

Suddenly, your earbuds double as a joystick.

It is early days. RidePods itself isn't exactly Gran Turismo on two wheels. The graphics have the occasional hiccup, and the road is more like the world's longest straight stretch than a winding mountain pass.

But as a proof of concept, it's compelling. The responsiveness is better than you'd expect and it isn't just about leaning side to side – move your head forward and back to control braking and acceleration.

What's more intriguing than the game itself is the potential. For years we've been strapping on bulky headsets and controllers to make virtual reality work. But here, with nothing more than a pair of lightweight earbuds, you can already glimpse a future where head gestures could become a mainstream control method.

Imagine playing a game of Tetris with a

quick tilt to the left or right. Or navigating a map on your phone hands-free while carrying groceries. Fitness apps might start measuring head posture as well as your steps or people with limited mobility may be able to control devices more easily.

Technology often sneaks up on us like this. One moment it's "just headphones," the next it's a whole new interface for interacting with the digital world.

RidePods may not win Game of the Year, but it does highlight something exciting: the gadgets we already own may hold hidden abilities waiting to be unlocked.

As for me, I'll keep watching MotoGP and leaning into the corners from the couch. Who knows – it might be good training for my gaming future!

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

Infrastructure work at Nanim



**The
Gee
Report**

**Andrew Gee
Federal Member for Calare**

on nearby land. It's happening because Nanim Village is located near the Council waste facility.

While I accept that Council has made some attempts in the past to deal with the issue, these efforts have not been sustained and they have definitely not been effective.

We know this because the dumping continues. This is plain for all to see.

If this dumping was occurring in the middle of Dubbo it would be cleaned up in a New York minute.

Did Council Apply for the Grant?

All I did at Nanim recently was to ask the councillors and Dubbo Regional Council to work with the Indigenous owners to apply for a NSW grant to clean up the mess and get some fencing done.

There's no use continually complaining about a grant you didn't get in the past.

Look to the future.

These latest grants closed on September 30th. So, after all of this carry on, did the Council actually get an application in?

Did it work with the Indigenous owners on it? Nobody from the Council seems to be saying. It would be very concerning if it did not.

And what exactly is Council's long-term plan to deal with this issue?

As it turns out, after reading about this disgraceful situation, a local business has stepped up to help with the clean-up.

This is called being proactive and is much appreciated.

But sadly, without a long-term plan, this issue looks set to continue (along with the disappointing, personal, responses from Council which you have been reading in these pages).

See You at Nanim

I look forward to seeing Council representatives at our next Nanim meeting where we'll once again be taking a good hard look at what is (and what is not) happening there.

It's a proven fact - newspaper advertisements get results

Still creating and still connecting

WE ARE busy behind the scenes renovating our 'New' gallery space and even though we don't have a physical address at the moment, we want to make sure you can participate in these local events Wellington Arts is making happen in our community soon.

Wellington Arts - ART MARKET – Saturday, October 25 and Sunday 26, 10am to 3pm coinciding with the Maranatha House Fun Fete and Open Day.

* Artworks from eight local artists - buy local.

* Refresh your Art - bring in your Art - priced to sell by us - then you buy new Artworks!!

* Live painting by Chris O'Leary

*Live music

* Coffee Van

* Win \$1000 chance - Chrissy Bonus Raffle - only \$5 a ticket.

All happening on the beautiful flowering grounds of 'Kinrock Studio', 130 Gisborne Street.

We would love to have our community come and say 'hi' again to the friendly Wellington Arts team and enjoy this great event presented by Wellington Arts for you all to enjoy.

Community Mural workshop
Wellington Arts collaborates with ArtClub-Dub to deliver a community mural in Wellington.

These hands-on workshops are more than just painting sessions, they're an opportunity for the community to come together, learn about the mural-making process and experience the joy of co-creating public art.

The mural will be painted on the southern wall of the Kitch & Sons building, located on the corner of Maughan and Percy Streets.

The design of the mural workshop was on September 28. Now the mural will be painted in November with the date to be confirmed.

This is exciting for our town to have a mural created by locals.

Remember - ART IN THE GARDEN
Markets Weekend of October 25/26 from 10am to - 3pm.

Look for the flags and come on in!!!
The happy volunteer



Marie Hoffman laments her Arthur/Bank streets home

THE ROY Evans Grocery – General Store at 59 Arthur, on the corner of Arthur and Bank Streets was the home of Marie Hoffman, the daughter of the proprietors Roy and Dorrie Evans who married Terry Hoffman and ran the Parkside Jewellers for many decades.

Marie spent her childhood and former years until her marriage at the 'shop' with some wonderful memories of her father and customers over the years.

In her self-published book 'Wellington's Treasures', a chapter is devoted to her father who had many titles from racehorse trainer, billiard room proprietor, grocer and SP bookmaker on the side. There's a photo of Marie as a very young girl outside the shop which ad an awning until a Sweet's Sweets delivery truck struck the awning which had to be removed.

In later years Marie sold the building to Leo Atherton who had Doug AhSee pain a mural on the front wall.

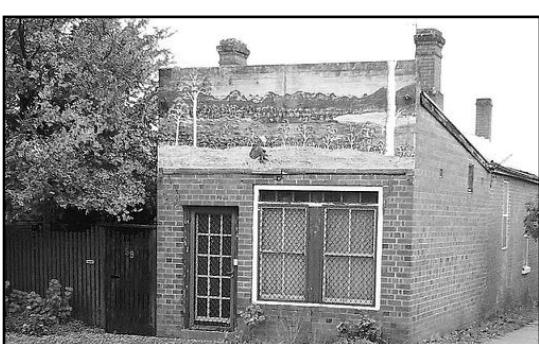
Recently, the building had some foundation problems and then covered and now has a fresh lick of cream paint.



Number 59 Arthur Street - the former R Evans Grocer's General Store, home of Marie Hoffman where she spent her childhood and teenage years.



The shop after the awning was removed.



The top front mural painted by Doug AhSee.

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is half the price
of a coffee

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Dorrie, Marie and Roy Evans at the front gate of their general store on the corner of Arthur and Bank Streets.

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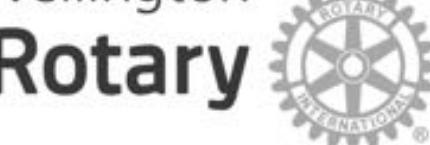

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Public Notice

Friends of Burrendong Arboretum
 wish to announce the Winner of our Raffle: -
 7 days accommodation at the Blue Beach
 House, Hawkes Nest.
Winning Ticket is No 430,
Mr. Paul Wormell
Thank you to all who supported the raffle



2025 Garden Competition

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

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS - ENTRY IS FREE

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

The 2025 Rotary Club of Wellington Garden Competition

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Around the electorate

with our State Member Dugald Saunders



Small Business Shout out

THIS WEEK I was delighted to give a shout out to Vita Felice's, Andie and Tina, as they opened their new café in Geurie over the weekend.

Thank you to the team at the Buckenbah Collective for helping me recognise Andie and Tina's hard work this Small Business Month.

They've been getting a lot of love on social media, and I can't wait to see what they've got cooking up at the Lemon Tree Café!

If there's a small business in the Dubbo Electorate that you think deserves recognition this month, I'd love to know who they are and why you love them at dubbo@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Orana Volunteer Awards

Organisations from across the region came together last week to recognise the outstanding efforts of local volunteers at the Orana Volunteer of the Year Awards.

From emergency services, social support and healthcare to the sporting fields and the arts – Orana's volunteers are diverse and

dedicated to their communities.

A huge congratulations once again to our regional winners:

- * Young Volunteer - Peal Blackburn (Cobar)
- * Adult Volunteer - Ramesh Sharma (Dubbo)
- * Senior Volunteer - Kerry Frost (Dubbo)
- * Emergency Volunteer - Christopher Milne (North Yeoval)
- * Volunteer Team - NALAG NSW (Dubbo)

Held in 24 regions across the state, the Volunteer of the Year Awards are an annual celebration of volunteering in NSW.

The awards program is now in its 19th year and has grown to become one of the largest celebrations of volunteering in Australia.

Well done to all nominees in the Orana region for 2025 and good luck to our regional winners as they head to the State Awards Ceremony later in the year!

New Mental Health Centre opens

Residents of the Dubbo Electorate and surrounds now have access to walk-in mental

health support, after the opening of the Dubbo Medicare Mental Health Care Centre last week.

In a joint Federal and State Government initiative, this new centre offers free support and care for people in distress, without the need for an appointment, referral or mental health treatment plan.

I was pleased to join Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, the Hon Emma McBride MP, Federal Member for Parkes, Jamie Chaffey MP, and other representatives to celebrate the official opening, and to meet members of the multidisciplinary team at the Centre.

People seeking information or support can connect with Medicare Mental Health by calling 1800 595 212 or by attending the Dubbo Centre in person at 106 Talbragar Street (Monday to Friday, 11am to 7pm; Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, 4pm to 8pm).

Be a Friend, Tell a Friend

This Breast Cancer Awareness Month,

BreastScreen NSW is encouraging people to 'Be a Friend, Tell a Friend' by talking to their loved ones about the importance of regular breast screening.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women who live in NSW, and the scary thing is that nine out of 10 women diagnosed have no family history of the disease.

The two biggest risk factors for developing breast cancer are simply being born female and getting older.

If you're aged 40 or older, a breast screen every two years is the best way to detect breast cancer before symptoms start to become noticeable.

Whether you've recently had a breast screen or are passionate about spreading the word, sharing this information will spark conversations that can save lives. A breast screen takes just 20 minutes and 2 minutes to book by calling 13 20 50 or visiting: <https://www.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au/>

Until next time,
Dugald

Everyone looks at the classifieds.

Promote your Annual General Meetings, Social Club Events,

Birthday Parties

Homes and Flats to rent or wanted to rent

Lost and Found

Garage Sale

Memorium

Public Notice

Raffle prize winners

We'll fit any size
 Phone 0407 935 998

Andrew GEE MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CALARE

Your True Country
Independent



RUNS ON THE BOARD FOR WELLINGTON

- introduced Bill into Parliament to ban fracking saying it's considered priority 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 sentences of big corporations, all major parties voted against it and then (double government) has been policy!
- \$60 million for roads and flood recovery in the Central West
- Secured the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Bassline
- Reserves of \$100 million to build the Great Western Highway upgrade
- \$1.3 million for replacing the Penobello, Barrington and Bandy Creek Bridges
- \$100,000 for the Camerton Park footbridge
- 5G mobile phone towers and base stations for Calare
- \$100,000 for Street Town safety project
- Secured upgrade of Wellington Hospital Emergency Room block
- \$1.1 million for the new geosensory stimulus facility at Wellington's Precious House (a centre for Perinatal Mental Health)
- \$20,000 for the Shire Recovery site of the Wellington Precious House
- \$1.2 million for improvements at Wellington Library
- \$1.2 million for security CCTV in Wellington and Calare communities
- \$600,000 for upgrade at Wellington Christian School
- \$200,000 for improvements at Rosedale Park
- \$400,000 for General Recreation and Recreation Reserve Rehabilitation Project Stage Two
- \$60,000 for Wellington Library's outdoor reading room
- \$100,000 for Wellington Precious House

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Monday 20th September marked National Police Remembrance Day when we honoured and remembered those police officers who've lost their lives in the line of duty.

I attended the Chifley Police District Service of Remembrance which was held at All Saints Cathedral in Bathurst.

I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the family of Senior Constable Kelly Foster '03 (2020) who lost her own life attempting to save that of another.

It was a reminder to the community of just how difficult and dangerous police work is and the toll it takes on officers and their families.

The men and women holding that thin blue line serve a cause greater than themselves - often at enormous and tragic cost. Some give everything and we owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE 2025 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.

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/jsc/electoralselection

THE CHILDREN'S VOICES CENTRE OPENS AT CSU

Last Wednesday I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the Children's Voices Centre at Charles Sturt University's Bathurst campus.

The Centre is dedicated to ensuring that children's voices are heard, valued, and included in research and decision-making that affects their lives.

Thank you to everyone involved for creating such a welcoming and inclusive space for children and families.



LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS GRANTS OPEN!

Are you a young athlete aged 12 to 18 or a coach or official? This program supports our young sporting stars' journey to state, national and international championships.

Funding available: \$5000-\$7500, with extra support for travel and those from remote areas.

Applications close 21 October 2025. A great opportunity to support our local sporting talent as they chase their goals.

More information go to: www.esportsgov.ausports.vic.gov.au

ORANGE ELECTORATE OFFICE

1/1796 Anson Street
PO Box 673 Orange NSW 2800
(02) 6386 7103
www.andrewgee.com.au

For regular updates and news,
follow me on Facebook and
Instagram (@andrewgeeorange).



001 TV

6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Silent Witness. **2.00** Parliament Question Time. **2.55** Anni's Brush With Fame. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.35** Long Lost Family. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** Spicks And Specks. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** **7.30** Back Roads. Final. **8.30** Grand Designs New Zealand. Final. **9.30** Mystery Road: Origin. **10.30** Take 5 With Zan Rows. **10.35** ABC Late News. **10.50** The Business. **11.00** Grand Designs. **11.55** Late Programs.

7 TWO **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Escape To The Country. **2.00** South Aussie With Cost. **2.30** Ani's 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. **9.30** Murdoch Mysteries. **12.30** Late Programs.

803 Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** Richard Gere's House Of Games. **4.05** A Bit To Eat. **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.35** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** House Of Games. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.40** Hard Quiz. **9.30** Gruen. **9.45** Late Programs.

001 TV

6.00 News-Breakfast. **9.00** ABC News Mornings. **10.00** Take 5 With Zan Rows. **10.30** The Pacific. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Mystery Road: Origin. **1.30** Restoration Australia. **2.55** Anni's Brush With Fame. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.35** Long Lost Family. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** Spicks And Specks. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** Gardening Australia. **8.30** Professor T. **9.35** Hard Quiz. **9.50** Mother And Son. **10.35** The Assembly. **11.00** ABC Late News. **11.15** Silent Witness. **11.35** Radio New Music. **12.00** Radio.

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

803 Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** Richard Gere's House Of Games. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.30** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** House Of Games. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.40** MOVIE: Ransom. **9.35** Late Programs.

001 TV

6.00 Radio Charts. **7.00** Weekend Breakfast. **8.00** Radio. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **12.30** Beyond Paradise. **1.30** Professor T. **2.35** The Assembly. **3.00** The Larkers. Final. **3.50** Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery. **4.20** The Assembly. **5.00** Take 5 With Zan Rows. **5.30** Landline. **6.00** Australian Story. **6.30** Back Roads. Final. **7.05** ABC News. **7.30** Beyond Paradise. **8.30** Return To Paradise. **9.25** Mystery Road: Origin. **10.20** The Following Events Are Based On A Pack Of Lies. **11.20** Radio.

7 TWO **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **10.00** The Yorkshire Vet. **11.00** Harry's Practice. **11.30** GetOn Extra. **12.00** Horse Racing. Caulfield Guineas And Hill Stakes Day. **4.00** Dog Patrol. **6.30** The Yorkshire Vet. **8.30** Escape To The Country. **9.30** The Yorkshire Vet. **11.30** The Great Australian Doosie. **2.00** Late Programs.

803 Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** A Bit To Eat. **4.00** House Of Games. **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **7.05** Spicks And Specks. **7.40** QI. **8.30** Live At The Apollo. **8.55** The Stand Up Sketch Show. **9.30** Ab Fab. **9.50** Late Programs.

6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.30** Stanley Bank. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News @ 6.30. **7.00** Home And Away. **8.30** Jim Jefferies And Friends. **9.30** The Amazing Race. **9.45** Gatecrashers. **12.00** Life. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7 THREE **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** Talking W. **2.30** Mountain Men. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Family Guy. **8.30** American Dad. **9.30** MOVIE: Role Models. (2008) Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott. **11.35** Late Programs.

8 FAMILY **6.00** Kids' Programs. **4.00** Andy's Pretendee Adventures. **4.25** Super Monsters. **5.20** Mojo Swappers. **5.45** Kangaroo Beach. **7.05** Pinguinigos. **7.35** Ninjago. Dragons Rising. **8.00** Operation Overdrive. **8.35** Secrets Of The Zoo. **9.20** Amazing Animal Friends. **10.05** The Mysterious Benedict Society. **10.55** Late Programs.

10 THREE **6.00** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Bathurst 1000. Day 1. Practice session. **12.00** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Bathurst 1000. Day 1. Practice session and support races. **6.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News @ 6.30. **7.00** Better Homes And Gardens. **8.30** MOVIE: Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris. (2022) Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert, Lambert Wilson. **10.00** Motorway Patrol. **11.30** GetOn Extra. **12.00** Late Programs.

7 THREE **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Nature Gone Wild. **3.00** Timbersports. **3.30** Mountain Men. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.00** Football. AFL. Women's. Round 9. Western Bulldogs v Essendon. **9.35** MOVIE: Empire Of The State. (1996) **12.00** Late Programs.

8 FAMILY **6.00** Kids' Programs. **2.50** Gardening Australia Junior. **3.05** Play School. **4.00** Andy's Pretendee Adventures. **4.25** Super Monsters. **5.20** Mojo Swappers. **5.45** Kangaroo Beach. **7.05** Gardening Australia Junior. **7.35** Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. **8.00** Star Wars: Jedi Adventures. **8.30** It's A Bit Advised. **8.30** Hard Quiz Kids. **9.00** Robot Wars. **10.00** Merlin. **10.45** Late Programs.

10 THREE **6.00** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Bathurst 1000. Day 2. Practice session. **12.00** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Bathurst 1000. Day 2. Practice session and support races. **6.30** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Bathurst 1000. Day 2. Top 10 Shootout. **6.00** Seven News. **7.00** Healthy Wealthy & Wise. **8.00** MOVIE: Die Hard: With A Vengeance. (1995) Bruce Willis. **10.30** MOVIE: Ambulance. (2022) Ludi Lin. **12.00** Late Programs.

7 THREE **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.30** Clipper's Destinations. **2.00** Rides Down Under. Workshop Wars. **3.00** Football. AFL. Women's. Round 9. Geelong v GWS Giants. **5.00** Counting Cars. **6.00** Pawn Stars. **7.00** Football. AFL. Women's. Round 9. Richmond v North Melbourne. **9.15** MOVIE: Spider-Man 3. (2007) Tobey Maguire. **12.30** Late Programs.

8 FAMILY **6.00** Kids' Programs. **5.30** PJ Masks. **6.30** The Adventures Of Paddington. **6.45** Andy And The Band. **7.05** Do Not Watch This Show. **7.30** Hard Quiz Kids. **8.00** Kids' BBQ Championship. **8.40** Chopped Junior. **9.30** Fresh Off The Boat. **10.05** Abbott Elementary. **10.25** Speechless. **10.45** Late Programs.

10 THREE **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** 7.00 News. **2.30** Hot Stupid. **3.00** News. **3.30** Expensive. **4.00** Everywhere Man. **4.30** News. **4.45** Planet Americas. **5.00** News. **5.30** Asia News Week. **6.00** Evening News. **6.30** Aust Story. **7.00** National News. **7.30** Back Roads. **8.00** News Tonight. **8.35** Four Corners. **9.00** Nightly News. **9.30** Play On. **10.00** Late Programs.

11:30

6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** Seven Morning. **12.00** The Block. **1.00** Journey To Europe. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News @ 6.30. **7.00** Home And Away. **8.30** Jim Jefferies And Friends. **9.30** The Amazing Race. **9.45** Gatecrashers. **12.00** Life. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise.

7 THREE **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.00** Rebel Wilson's Pooch Perfect. **2.30** JustJabs Movie School Holiday Special. **3.00** Intolerant Cooks. **3.30** House Of Wellness. **4.30** Blend Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** Ramsey's Costa Del Nightmare. **8.30** Ramsey's Kitchen Nightmares. **9.30** Ramsey's 24 Hours To Hell And Back. **11.30** Late Programs.

10 THREE **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** Rebel Wilson's Pooch Perfect. **3.00** Intolerant Cooks. **3.30** House Of Wellness. **4.30** Blend Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** Ramsey's Costa Del Nightmare. **8.30** Ramsey's Kitchen Nightmares. **9.30** Ramsey's 24 Hours To Hell And Back. **11.30** Late Programs.

11:30 **12.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** Real Action. **9.00** The Living Room. **10.00** JAG. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.45** The Young And The Restless. **1.30** The Dog House. **2.30** JAG. **4.30** The Living Room. **5.30** NCIS. **10.20** The Real CSI Miami. **11.35** A Million Little Things. **12.35** Home Shopping.

12.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

13.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

14.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

15.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

16.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

17.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

18.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

19.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

20.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders. **12.00** Late Programs.

21.00 **1.00** Muriyah. **2.00** As Time Goes By. **3.20** Antiques Roadshow. **3.45** MOVIE: Hoe And Cry. (1947) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Clarkson's Farm. **8.30** Findlay Towers. **10.00** Blackadder Goes Forth. **11.20** French And Saunders

6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** News. **12.30** Landline. **1.30** Gardening Australia. **2.30** David Attenborough's Conquest Of The Skies. **3.30** Grand Designs New Zealand. **4.30** Bill Bailey's Wild West Australia. Final. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** Pilgrimage: The Road Through The Ages. Final. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** The Assembly. **8.35** Mystery Road: Origin. **9.30** The Following Events Are Based On A Pack Of Lies. **10.30** Mother And Son. **10.35** Take 5 With Sam Rowe. **11.05** Late Programs.

7.15W **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** House Of Wellness. **11.00** Healthy, Wealth & Wise. **12.00** Escape To The Country. **2.00** South Aussie With Cost. **3.30** Escape To The Country. **3.30** The World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys. **4.30** Escape To The Country. **5.30** Mr Bates Vs The Post Office. **6.30** Vera. **10.30** Flesh And Blood. **11.30** Late Programs.

10.30 Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** A Bit To Eat. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.45** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.20** Phil Spencer Secret Agent. **7.05** Spooks. **7.35** QI. **8.35** Sharon And Dizzy O'Dowd. **9.30** Planet America. **Weekend Edition:** **9.55** Late Programs.

6.00 NBC Today. **7.00** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Bathurst 1000. Day 2. Support races and warm up. **10.00** Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Bathurst 1000. Day 2. Build Up and Race. **6.00** Seven News. **7.00** The Voice. **8.45** The Rise And Fall Of Kings Cross. News. **10.25** 24 Hours In Police Custody. **9.25** Crime Investigation Australia: Most Infamous. **12.40** Miniseries: The Victim. **2.00** Home Shopping. **3.30** Million Dollar Minute. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Late Programs.

7.15M **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Football: AFL. **Winters:** Round 9. Sydney v Carlton. **3.00** Duck Dynasty. **4.00** Full-Custom Garage. **5.00** Counting Cars. **6.00** Border Security USA. **7.00** Border Security: Australian Front Line. **8.30** MOVIE: Jurassic Park III. (2001) Sam Neill, William H. Macy. **10.30** MINIS: Zombieland. (2009) **12.30** Late Programs.

10.30 Family **6.00** Kids' Programs. **5.30** PJ Masks: Power Heroes. **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. **8.15** Crongton. **8.40** Fresh Off The Boat. **9.20** ALVIN&THE ELIMINATOR. **10.05** Speechless. **10.25** Merlin. **11.30** Late Programs.

6.00 Hello SA. **6.30** A Current Affair. **7.00** Weekend Today. **10.00** Wide World Of Sports. **11.00** Cross Court. Return. **11.30** Drive Driving Value. News. **12.00** Explore. **12.35** The Block. **1.30** Rugby League. Women's Exhibition Match. Papua New Guinea Orchids v Prime Minister's XIII. **3.30** Rugby League. Men's Exhibition Match. Papua New Guinea Kumuls v Prime Minister's XIII. **6.00** Seven Sunday. **7.00** The Block. **8.45**-**9.00** Minutes. **9.45** 9Views Late. **10.35** A Killer Makes A Call. **11.35** Mobsters. **12.30** Late Programs.

7.15F **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Get Clever. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Jabor's Movies School Holiday Special. **10.30** Australia's Got Talent. **12.00** Man's American Road Trip. **1.30** Home And Away. **4.00** The Voice. **5.40** Bondi Vet. **6.30** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly. **7.30** Law & Order. **8.30** Law & Order: SVU. **10.30** Bones. **11.30** Late Programs.

10.30 NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** News. **2.30** And More. **3.00** News. **3.30** Officers. **4.00** Landline. **5.00** ABC News With Austin. **5.30** ABC News Regional. **6.00** ABC Evening News. **6.30** Stateline. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30** Insiders. **8.30** ABC News Tonight. **9.00** ABC Nightly News. **9.30** Australian 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 Traveled. **8.30** Exploring Off The Grid. **9.30** The Chef's Garden. **10.00** Frugal Foodie. **10.30** The Brighter Side. **11.00** Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **1.30** Lingo. **2.30** Basketball. **NBL**. Round 4. New Zealand Breakers v South East Melbourne Phoenix. **4.30** Deal Or No Deal. **5.00** 10 News. **6.00** 10 News. **7.00** The Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **8.30** Wilson. **9.30** Matlock. **10.30** 10 News. **12.30** Late Programs.

10.30 drama **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** All 4 Adventure. **9.00** Real Action. **9.30** What's Up Down Under. **10.00** Navigating The World. **11.00** JAG. **4.00** IT'SH. **4.30** Basketball. **NBL**. Round 4. Melbourne United v Cairns Taipans. **6.30** JAG. **7.30** NCIS. **10.30** The Real Cbs Miami. **11.15** Nancy Drew. **12.35** Home Shopping.

10.30 Gem **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** My Favorite Martian. **10.30** Getaway. **11.00** MOVIE: Cage Of Gold. (1990) **12.45** MOVIE: A Run For Your Money. (1991) **2.30** MOVIE: Passport To Potosi. (1994) **4.35** MOVIE: Yours, Mine And Ours. (1968) **6.30** MAFIA! **8.30** 10 To Be Advised. **11.00** Major Crimes. **12.00** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** Worldwatch. **12.30** PBS Washington Week. **1.30** Speedweek. **3.00** Sailing. **5.00** Grand Prix. **8.00** FIFA World Cup 2010. Our South Africa. **5.05** Going Places With Ernie Diego. **5.30** Trainz At War. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.35** Seven Wonders Of The Ancient World. News. **8.30** King And Conqueror. News. **9.30** Dan Snow's Greatest Discoveries. **9.25** The Wonders Of Europe. **11.25** The Real Mo Farah. **12.35** Gloriaville: New Zealand's Secret Cuff. **2.30** Tough Trainz. **3.30** Late Programs.

10.30 comedy **6.00** Deal Or No Deal. **8.00** Frasier. **9.00** Ridiculousness. **10.00** The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. **2.30** Ridiculousness. **3.00** Frasier. **4.00** Friends. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory. **8.35** Frasier. **10.30** Ridiculousness. **11.30** South Park. **12.30** Home Shopping. **1.30** South Park. **2.30** Home Shopping.

10.30 VICELAND **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Sunday. **2.45** Jeopardy! **4.50** Worldwatch. **5.20** PBS Washington Week. **5.50** History's Greatest Heists With Pierce Brosnan. **6.40** Abandoned Engineering. **8.30** Suzanne Jones Investigating Witch Trials. News. **9.30** Uncanny. **10.40** Hudson & Rex. **11.30** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Landline. **2.00** Restoration Australia. **2.55** Anny'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**-**8.00** I Was Actually There. **8.35** Seven Sins With Sam Rowe. Final. **9.00** Sharon And Dizzy O'Dowd. **10.00** You Can't Ask That. **10.35** Media Watch. **10.50** ABC Late News. **11.05** The Business. **11.30** Late Programs.

7.15W **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Weekend. **2.30** Hornby: A Model Empire. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue. **4.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Doc Martin. **8.30** Endeavour. **9.30** Air Crash Investigations: The Accident Files. **11.30** Late Programs.

10.30 Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** A Bit To Eat. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.45** MythBusters. **5.30** Amazing Spaces. **6.20** Phil Spencer Secret Agent. **7.05** Spooks. **7.35** QI. **8.05** Would I Lie To You? **8.40** Penn & Teller: Fool Us. **9.20** House Of Cards. **11.05** Late Programs.

6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** Seven's National News At Noon. **1.00** Blankety Blank. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News (@ 6.30). **7.00** Home And Away. **7.30** My Kitchen Rules. **8.00** The Rookie. **9.00** Alert: Missing Persons Unit. **11.00** S.W.A.T. **12.00** Girlfriends' Guide To Divorce. News. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7.15M **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.30** Rides Down Under. Workshop Wars. **2.30** Motor MythBusters. **3.30** Mountain Men. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **6.45** Outback Truckers. **10.30** Outback Pilots. **11.00** Big Rig Bounty Hunters. **11.30** Late Programs.

10.30 Family **6.00** Kids' Programs. **2.85** Kids' Programs. **3.40** Fizzi And Sods. **4.10** Andy's Prehistoric Adventures. **4.25** Super Monsters. **5.20** Mojo Swaptops. **5.45** Octonauts. **7.00** Rocket Club. **7.35** Ninjago: Dragons Rising. **8.00** Operation Ouch! **8.35** Gladiator. **9.35** The Crystal Maze. **10.25** Merlin. **11.05** Late Programs.

6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** Seven's Morning. **12.00** The Block. **1.45** My Way. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** Seven's Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** 7News News. **6.00** Seven's Late. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** The Block. **8.45** Murder (Down Under). **9.45** Seven's Late. **10.35** The Equalizer. **11.35** Transplant. **12.05** Tipping Point. **1.00** Hello SA. **1.30** TV Shop. **2.30** Home Shopping. **3.00** Global Shop. **3.30** TV Shop. **4.00** Home Shopping. **4.30** Home & Order. **5.00** Seven's Late. **5.30** Seven's Late. **6.00** Seven's Late. **7.00** Seven's Late. **8.00** Seven's Late. **9.00** Seven's Late. **10.00** Seven's Late. **11.00** Seven's Late. **12.00** Seven's Late.

7.15F **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Get Clever. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.00** Gold Coast Ocean Rescue. **11.30** House Rules. **12.00** The Rookie. **1.00** My Kitchen Rules. **4.30** Bondi Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **8.30** NCIS. **9.30** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. **10.30** Law & Order: SVU. **11.30** Bones. **12.00** The Ex-Wife. **1.00** Seven's Late. **2.30** CSI: NY. **3.00** Seven's Late. **3.30** Late Programs.

10.30 NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** 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**-**8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.45** The Business. **9.00** The World. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **11.00** ABC Late News. **11.30** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **10.00** Judge Judy. **11.30** 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** Seven's Late. **7.00** Deal Or No Deal. **7.30** The Amazing Race Australia: Celebrity Edition. **8.40** Sam Pang. **9.30** 10 News. **10.30** Late Programs.

10.30 drama **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** Neighbors. **9.00** The Living Room. **10.00** JAG. **11.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.00** The Young And The Restless. **1.30** The Dog House. **2.30** JAG. **4.30** The Living Room. **5.30** NCIS. **9.25** NCIS. **11.30** The Ex-Wife. **12.35** Home Shopping.

10.30 Gem **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** MAFIA/H. **2.00** Keeping Up Appearances. **3.30** Antiques Roadshow. **3.40** MOVIE: The Gentle Gunman. (1992) **5.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Death In Paradise. **8.40** Shakespeare And Hathaway. **10.40** Whitstable Pearl. **11.40** Late Programs.

6.00 Morning Programs. **8.00** Bold. **8.30** Deal Or No Deal. **9.00** Lingo. **10.00** Exit. **Tonight:** **10.30** Today. **11.30** Judge Judy. **12.00** Everyday Gourmet. **12.30** Family Feud. **1.00** News. **2.00** Wheel Of Fortune. **2.30** Lingo. **3.30** News. **4.00** Neighbors. **4.30** The Bold And The Beautiful. **5.00** 10 News. **6.00** 10 News+. **7.00** 10 News. **8.00** Deal Or No Deal. **9.30** Today. **10.30** NCIS. **11.30** The Ex-Wife. **12.35** Home Shopping.

10.30 VICELAND **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Sunday. **2.45** Jeopardy!. **3.00** Worldwatch. **5.50** The Food That Built The World. **6.40** Jeopardy! **7.35** It Out Of 10. **Cars Does Countdown:** **8.30** Alone. **9.40** Hoarders. **11.25** Captain Razors Edge. **12.35** The Nine Lives Of Jim Stone. **Cold Takes On America:** **1.00** Late Programs.

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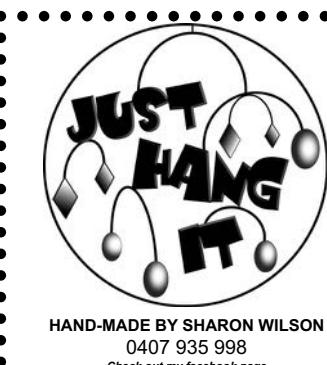
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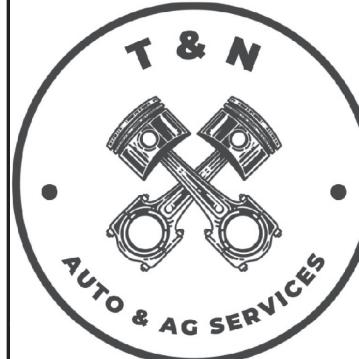
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Rain to fall Thursday, Friday and a good steady fall of say 60mm would help the seed set ability of our winter crops tremendously.

The wool market continues to rise - key players Pendleton Woolen Mills (USA); American Woolen Co (USA); B Black & Sons (USA); Faribault Woolen Mill (USA); Canada Wool (Canada); Johnstons (UK); Holland and Sherin (UK); Moon & Sons (UK); Reda (Italy); Nanshan Group (China); NZ Merino Co (NZ); Woolyarns Ltd (NZ); Jiangau Sunshine Group (China); Stucken & Co (South Africa); BKB Ltd (SA); Cape Wools (SA); Lesotho Wool Centre (Lesotho); Omar Wool (Morocco); Escorial (Argentina); Josephine Osthoff Design (Brazil); Fuentechica (Uruguay); Textiliplia (Argentina); Crespi Bonsai (Chile)

The wool types competing for market share against wool are mohair, angora, cashmere, and alpaca.

Polyester, acrylic and nylon compete with the wool market. Synthetic fibres are cheaper, easier to maintain, and generally perform better, which appeals to some consumers.

To overcome these competitors the wool industry is emphasizing the unique qualities and benefits of wool such as its natural and sustainable attributes to differentiate itself from synthetics.

Barley harvest has started in Qld with prompt demand quickly filling and demand subdued with the current discount to wheat too narrow to encourage feedlots to switch to barley for the summer months.

With little forward sold, very weak chickpea prices and cereals not much better, those with reasonable cash flow and equity will store crops this year across the northern cropping region, says Richard Kosh. In the south it's a different story. Crops across northern cropping areas of SA, VIC and through the NSW South West and Riverina are going backwards.]

Markets at a Glance

WOOL: EMI 1565 c/kg clean, up 112c. 34,579 bales including 1877 NZ bales. 40,904 bales rostered for this week,

Sydney Merino fleece triple digit price rises across all MPG'S. Merino skirtings gained up to 200c for finer lots, then on day 2 by rising a further up to 50c Lots containing heaver fault unchanged, crossbred gains of 40c across limited selection. Oddments style and vm impacted prices with bulking, combing length lots keenly sought. Cardings rose 15c. NRI 1607c/kg clean arise of 114c. Sydney's pass-in 2.2% with 273 bales withdrawn.

CATTLE DBO 2nd. 7920 (+1274). Young trade cattle 20c cheaper, vealers and yearlings 380c to 491c/kg. Feeder cattle firm, most 25c cheaper and more in places, steers 450c to 548c/kg, heifers 360c to 490c/kg. Young cattle to restockers cheaper, steers to 600c, heifers to 478c/kg. Heavy grown steers 3c cheaper. lighter steers and grown heifers 5c to 20c/kg cheaper. Grown steers 455c to 508c, heifers 430c to 478c/kg. Cows 20c to 30c cheaper, 2 & 3 scores to processors 255c to 385c/kg. Heavy cows 355c to 410c/kg. Cows to restockers 255c to 358c/kg. Heavy bulls cheaper to 416c/kg. Sheep Monday no sale

Stock clearance
AG chem, fungicides, dips, drenches, poly pipe, fencing, small packs, seed and antiques.

Rural

"Weevil Kinevil" could be answer to a wicked weed problem

A TEAM of world-leading researchers from CSIRO, are exploring if a small insect, the stem-boring weevil, *Lixus caudiger*, could hold the key to tackling flaxleaf fleabane; one of the most invasive and costly weeds in Australian grain production.

The research, an investment by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), aims to deliver biological control solutions for fleabane, a weed that costs Australian growers significantly each year in lost yields and control costs.

CSIRO is working closely with international collaborators in Brazil and France to identify and test fleabane's natural enemies, and the weevil which is native to South America has shown promising results from early trials.

This specific weevil feeds on fleabane leaves and stems, while its larvae burrow inside the stem tissue, hollowing out plant structures and weakening them until they collapse.

The internal feeding often prevents the weed from flowering and setting seed, cutting into the weed's ability to spread. The colony of weevils, housed in CSIRO's quarantine facilities, is undergoing further testing, with researchers carefully monitoring feeding, mating, egg-laying and larval development across a wide range of test plants.

If the insect proves safe and effective, CSIRO will prepare submissions for regulatory approval before any potential field release.

The weevil is the focus of CSIRO

entomologist Dr Michelle Rafter's research and is one of several new potential weed biological controls unveiled by Dr Ben Gooden in a keynote presentation at the South Australian Weeds & Pests Conference.

Dr Gooden said the weevil research was part of a broader push to expand weed control options as part of GRDC's weed management investigations. "The weevil is just one of four promising fleabane bio-control candidates, but it's shaping up as potentially one of the most impactful," Dr Gooden said.

CSIRO Principal Research Scientist, Dr Michelle Rafter said her team researching the weevil was witnessing promising signs that *Lixus caudiger* is highly specialised to fleabane, while not causing any damage to the crops themselves.

"So far, our testing shows the weevil is restricted to fleabane and its close relatives," Dr Rafter said.

"That's exactly what we want in a biocontrol agent, something that hones in on the target weed without threatening native plants or crops."

Flaxleaf fleabane (*Erigeron bonariensis*) has become a headache for farmers across the northern, southern and western grain growing regions where it flourishes in non-cropped areas like fence lines and roadsides, sending clouds of wind-borne seed back into cropping paddocks.

While it may take several years before the weevil could be released into paddocks, the CSIRO research team is optimistic.

Around the tracks with Col Hodges

Racing at Mungery Picnics

A STRONG finishing fourth in the recent \$50,000 Picnic Championship over 1400 metres at Dubbo, the Connie Greig trained Allande stepped up to 1750m when winning the QUBE AGRI - Mungery Picnic Cup before a big crowd on Sunday.

Leandro Ribeiro who on Friday had landed a double including the Cup winner Loveofmylife at Lockhart Picnics, was aboard Allende, the third leg of a winning treble for Ribeiro and Connie Greig at Mungery.

Overhauling Blackfish and Encyclopedia in the straight, Allende (\$2.30 to \$1.80 favourite) won by two lengths from Bandolero (Paul Zerafa, \$4) and Blackfish (Arthur Pollock, \$6).

At the 101st annual race meeting at Mungery, Connie Greig and Leandro Ribeiro kicked off the day with Beaunified (\$3) which joined the lead three wide on the final turn then broke clear to beat Zillions (Ashley Boyd, \$2.20 fav) and Anaisa (Ricky Blewitt, \$3) in the 80m Hendersons Mechanical/Gallagher Class 3 Trophy Handicap.

Formerly trained at Albury, Notleanormean (Leandro Ribeiro, \$4.60) was first up for Connie Greig when coming from midfield the win the 1000m Don Barling Memorial Open Trophy Handicap from the leader Brea Ex (Arthur Pollock, \$5.50) and Firestorm Boy (Paul Zerafa, \$4.60).

From her stables at Scone, Nicki Pollock has become a prominent trainer on the Picnic circuit with her double at Mungery, Shades Of Truth and One Command both being ridden by her son Arthur Pollock.

Shades Of Truth (\$1.80 fav) challenged for the lead in the straight and pulled away from The Hoff (Zara Lewis, \$3.80) and Western Eagle (Leandro Ribeiro, \$4) in the 1000m AWB Class B Handicap.

One Command (Arthur Pollock, \$2.30) then took the lead over the closing stages of the 1200m Listers Machinery Conditional Open Handicap to score in a close finish from stablemate Vinlago (Ricky Blewitt, \$1.80 fav) and Geewhiz Johnny (Tamsin Gough, \$3.50).

Carrying the red with yellow stars colours of the Orbell family and trained by Brett Robb for Guy Orbell, Gamolina (Ricky Blewitt, \$1.60 fav) shot around the field at the halfway point and then cruised home over four lengths ahead of Sun Beauty (Leandro Ribeiro, \$7) and Long Pass (Zara Lewis, \$13) in the 1200m Simpson Williamson Memorial Maiden Plate.

Racing scheduled for Orange today, Forbes on Saturday, Young Picnics Saturday and Coonamble Cup Sunday.



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Hold your breath

IT WAS another wild ride last week as exporters and processors scrambled to outbid each other for the 34,500 bales which was close to 5000 bales above the previous week. The 11th consecutive weekly rise is reaching historic levels gaining 358 cents on the EMI and 587 cents for the 17-micron MPG since July 1. is the largest unbroken rise in the EMI since 1979. This sudden large rise has flushed out more wool, with this week's offering tipped to be close to 41,000 bales and maybe an expected market correction maybe of close to par or back 30-40 cents. Either way we are not fearing a collapse back to levels of two weeks ago but a steady- ing of the pace as the pipeline tries to digest the price increases. Last week in China we were told Topmakers may only be able to pass on about 80% of first increase as spinners, weavers and knitters watch to see if it's sustained. They were hoping for a less dramatic rise to make this job easier, but it seems after the inevitable settling period end they will be able to move these increases along the pipeline. Speakers at Nanjing

Wool Conference openly declared a combination of lower stocks, the micro economic cycle being at a low point and Chinese uniform orders (albeit with a lower wool component) about to be placed augured well for a "new cycle of price increases with a few hiccups" to quote one major processor. Another speaker spoke about the range of challenges confronting trade over the past few months which would normally be spread over several years. Just days prior to the conference President Trump and Xi Jinping held their first meeting and this was viewed positively. Over the past year exports of wool from China had increased by 2.3% with the nearby ASEAN countries increasing by 45%, mainly Vietnam and Bangladesh. It doesn't seem likely that early-stage processing is going to relocate anytime soon but certainly further along where the labour component increases, countries like Vietnam have become attractive.

Macwool and Carmichael wool offered some 1200 bales today.

YOUR WOOL IN SAFE HANDS

Arthur Street fire station 100 years on

WELLINGTON'S NEW FIRE STATION
Wellington Times, Thursday 18 December,
1924.

WELLINGTON FIRE Brigade was formed in 1901 and officially acknowledged by the NSW Fire Brigade when it was commissioned by the NSW Fire Brigade Act of 1910.

THE FIRST Wellington Fire Station was erected in Nanova Crescent in 1901 in today's Cameron Park.

By July that year the first volunteer brigade was formed.

Following much discussion during 1923 a new site for the important service was decided - Warne Street, facing Arthur Street.

As the town of Wellington had grown so rapidly of late years the need of a more up-to-date station and fire-fighting appliances was realised, and a movement was set going and the Board of Fire Commissioners were urged to consider the scheme of a new station for Wellington.

This they promised to do.

Then the question arose as to which would be a suitable site for it: some favoured the position where the old station is, arguing that it was most central, especially for businesspeople, being in the heart of the town.

But there were others to be considered as well. There was a portion of land near the Warne Street railway crossing which was owned by Mr. M McLeod and which was used as a camping ground, while the other portion was part of Arthur Street belonging to Council.

This site was considered to be most suitable, as the Council were willing to give their portion of the street, and Mr McLeod was willing to sell his piece of land.

There was no question as to the suitability of the site, and the Board of Commissioners recognised this and it was during the time that Dr. Wade held the position of Mayor that the Board visited Wellington to consider the matter and also view the site in question.

After a short period, tenders were called for the erection of the building, the result being a fine brick building which is a credit to the Commissioners and an acquisition to the town.

Mr McNiven was the architect and Messrs S W and R.C. Porter were the builders, and they have all performed their part of the work in a most worthy manner.

The new station, which as stated before, is situated in Warne Street, near the railway crossing, is of brick, the walls being cemented throughout, and faithfully finished off, there being plenty of ventilation and light right through the whole of the building while every convenience possible has been thought of and put in the construction of the building, which is a two-storied one, the upper portion being the living part of the house for the lucky one who is in charge.

The two rooms upstairs facing the street are 12ft x 16ft., one being a bedroom and the other a dining room, both having doors leading out on to a large verandah, which is not only cool, but also enables one to have a fine view of the surrounding district.

On the landing there is a phone connected from downstairs. There is also a fine bathroom with shower and all conveniences.

In the back portion there is another bedroom and sitting room, both of which are finished off with every comfort.

The kitchen contains a fine gas stove and is large and airy, with a large pantry close by.

At the back of this again there is a fine big linen press and a spare room, the latter being closed in by sliding windows, and exceptionally well lighted.

The whole of the ceilings are of Wunderlich, and are lit up with the latest globes.

The upper part of the building is indeed very comfortable. There is a side entrance on the ground floor with washhouse, 2000-gallon tank, which is connected to the wash tubs, and one can get either tank or town water.

There is also a lumber room, while another spare bedroom is downstairs for the use of a single man who may be on the premises. The recreation room is a very large one, well ventilated, while a fine large stove will keep the members warm on winter nights.

There is also a store-room for the station goods, while the watch room, which is in the front shows different parts of the town, and the indicator shows in which part of the town the fire has occurred.

It is very neat and clean and one can see oneself in the polished floor. The engine room has plenty of space and contains a Garford Hale engine, a description of which appeared in a recent issue, being the very latest in fire fighting appliances and arrived for the official opening on Wednesday, December 17, 1924.

The whole of the accoutrements of the men are hung ready at hand. In this room is a tablet which reads as follows:- '1924. Erected by the Board of Fire Commissioners of N.S.W.; R.E.B Harkness, C.M.G., President; Ald. J. Baker, J.P., Ald. T. Cullen, J.P., T.S. Douglas, J.F. Bestwick, F. Jackson (Chief Officer), H.M. Webb, (secretary), W. McNiven, architect; S.W. and R.C. Porter, builders.'

On the railway side of the building is erected the fire bell, the tower being much higher than the old one.

On this tower there are also pulleys on which the various lines of hose can be pulled up for drying purposes.

The Convict Bell which was at the old station was transferred to the tower.

The whole building and outfit is now quite in keeping with a town of such importance as Wellington.

With such a fire-fighting appliance and a fire brigade of smart young men, together with a water supply unequalled by any other inland town, property owners should feel safe from the danger of any big fires in the future.

Mr. C.A. McCarthy, of the Sydney Headquarters Station, has been in Wellington since the first of the present month, and has been instructing the members in their drill and the working of the engine.

He found the local members eager to learn, and we now have a most efficient staff and equipment to combat any conflagration that may take place in this town.

The present staff of the brigade is as follows: Messrs C. Payne (Capt.), T. Corcoran (engine keeper), Fred Jordan, Frank Crowe, P. Jewell, E. Hickey, Ted Willock, F. Naveau, H. Masterson, Arthur Baker.



Wellington Fire Station in all its splendour officially opened Wednesday, December 17 1924.
Photo by Craig Davis.



Wellington Fire Brigade squad of the early 1990s with another annual championships win trophy. Back row: Howard Lay, David Taylor, Don Jackson, Paul Kelly, Trevor Rich, John Berry, Mark Moroney. Front row: Ritchie Thomas, Don Masterton, Darrell Logue, Mike Hayes and Neal McCabe.



The brigade's 1936 engine.



The 1961 Bedford engine.



ABOVE RIGHT: The original Wellington Fire Station in Cameron Park 1901. Look closely and some scallywag has superimposed former fireman Terry Melhiush into the photos. Terry retired some four years ago.

Scabbing Flat Bridge Update

Report to the Wellington & District Leader from
Michelle Tomkins, Chair Scabbing Flat Bridge
Committee

Current Status

The bridge is scheduled to be reopened mid-October and will remain open over the harvest period.

The load capacity will return to 42.5 tonne however the width restriction will remain at 3.4 metres whilst the bailey bridge remains.

It is thought the bailey bridge will be removed before Christmas and then the width restrictions will be removed.

Once harvest is over the repairs will continue and at this stage we do not know for how long and if there will be further closures.

Kee an eye on my regular updates.

Heritage Classification Removal Status

The process of the Scabbing Flat Bridge S170 classification being removed is still going through the various departments within Transport for NSW.

It has been going through this process for some months, and our understanding is that the Transport for NSW executive are continuing to review the request for consideration to have Scabbing Flat Bridge removed from Transport's S170 Strategy.

The frustration with this process is the time and the cost that could have been minimised with the repairs of the bridge.

Due to the heritage classification the materials and the labour skill set required to meet the heritage has significantly increased the time for repairs to be completed and the cost of materials which are hard to source.

Early this year the repair bill was quoted to be in the millions however to date we can not get any confirmation on what the actual cost is so far.

All government bodies at a Federal, State and local level all claim that there is no money available and there is no wonder when they are sinking money into infrastructures like Scabbing Flat Bridge which will never meet the current requirements of the community.

The bridge did have to be repaired however with the removal of the heritage classification it could have been done by using modern day materials which would have been less expensive and completed in a timelier manner.

It appears departments such as Transport for NSW are going through the motions without anyone in the department saying this makes no sense, it is not a good use of taxpayer's money, and we need to reassess this asap.

This has not happened and there is no accountability at any level.

There appears to be an open cheque book view which is using taxpayers' money unwisely.

Minister support

Multiple communications have gone to Minister Sharpe and Minister Aitchison.

Minister Sharpe has not responded to anything. We have been totally ignored by her.

Minister Aitchison responded to one letter and her response was just a rehash of what Transport for NSW had already provided. A letter was hand delivered to Minister Aitchison by Dubbo Mayor Josh Black and additional letters, and a meeting invitation has been sent to her.

To date no responses from her. Again, we are being totally ignored. Both ministers have been in the area opening bridges or announcing new initiatives but neither of

them have made any effort to contact or meet with us.

Federal member Andrew Gee has met with us and has been supportive, offered advice and contacted Federal Ministers to get support for us.

State member Dugald Saunders has met with us and even though late into the process has verbally provided support.

A request was made of him to source documentation under a Standing Order 52 which may have provided an insight into why we are in the situation we are in.

He expressed that he felt he would not get the support that would be required to enable this to happen.

Discussions have also taken place with the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party with the same request.

The initial response was that it was thought that information could be obtained however to date nothing has been presented.

Stephen Lawrence MLC. has had communication sent to him seeking his support.

Scabbing Flat bridge replacement

At this point we have overwhelming support for the replacement of the bridge.

We have community support with over 1000 signatures on a petition.

We have had letters from major businesses including Roger Fletcher, Fletchers International.

We have Dubbo Regional Council who have sent letters to Transport for NSW outlining their support for the removal of the bridge.

Dubbo Regional Councillors support our cause.

NSW Farmers presented a motion at their recent annual conference where the heritage classifications should be removed from wooden structured bridges if those structures could not meet the needs of agriculture and the community.

This motion was accepted and now Andy Martel is on the committee where he will be lobbying Transport for NSW.

NSW Farmers are supporting us.

Federal Minister – Andrew Gee is supporting our cause.

State Minister – Dugald Saunders is supporting our cause. This does not seem to have much influence on those that can make the decisions required to remove the heritage classifications.

How did Scabbing Flat bridge become S170 Classified?

Scabbing Flat Bridge was placed on the s170 list in 2012.

There was a report produced in August 2012 called the Timber Truss Bridge Conservation Strategy.

This process was supposed to have included community consultation. There is no evidence that this took place.

Transport for NSW stated this when they first met with the community at Geurie Bowling Club. There were three opportunities where the community should have been involved, and this did not happen.

We therefore question the validity of this classification as it did not comply with process that should have taken place.

The Timber Truss Bridge Conservation Strategy August 2012 has been compiled and presented by the then Transport Roads and Maritime Services in conjunction with Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd (a company based in Glebe).

The founder and director of Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd, Dr McLaren North profile says 'As a seasoned heritage expert with over three decades of experience, I specialise in delivering compelling expert testimony for heritage-related cases in courts, tribunals,

emerged as one of the best prospects in the region with four wins and three placings from eight starts, the only time unplaced being when coming from an outside barrier on a very heavy track at Rosehill.

In last position approaching the home turn at Dubbo on Friday, Fetes Des Meres (\$3.20 to \$2.60) was brought down the outside with a powerful run by leading apprentice Siena Grima and won by a short neck from Turned Down (Donovan Dillon, \$1.95 fav) and Rhythm Is A Dancer (Mitchell Bell, \$5). "Although trailing the field, I was confident Fetes Des Meres was going to win as she was relaxed and travelling so well," Siena Grima said.

Mudgee Saturday, October 4

AT HER first race ride for over two years, apprentice Hollie Hull won the 1100m Wild Oats Benchmark 50 Handicap on Saturday at Mudgee.

Now the winner of 12 races, Hollie Hull at one stage was apprenticed to Clint Lundholm at Dubbo.

Since making a come-back, Hollie Hull has been apprenticed to her cousin Jake Hull who once rode as a jockey at Central West tracks and now has a big team in work at Gosford. "I promised Hollie that if she worked hard I would try and give her a winner at her first ride back,"

and decision-making forums. My career began with a decade-long tenure in the NSW government, where I honed my skills in regulatory, service delivery, and advisory roles. I've been at the helm of my own consulting businesses, safeguarding our cultural legacy and ensuring that heritage matters are heard and respected.'

This is not an independent report.

There were 48 bridges assessed, and a methodology was applied to which of the 48 bridges represent better candidates for long-term conservation within the road network.

Public comment was sort, and the strategy was advertised between 18th July and 26 August 2011 in national and local [Dubbo Daily Liberal, not Wellington Times] papers.

Meetings took place in National Trust Centre, The Rocks Sydney with Industrial Heritage Committee of the national Trust of Australia and the Engineering Heritage Committee of Engineers Australia, Carrathool and Bombala.

Nothing in our area and there is no supportive information to show there was any engagement with our local area.

It appears no public submissions or council submissions were received regarding Scabbing Flat Bridge.

One recommendation in the report is that RTA should ensure that only accredited heritage and conservation engineers make decisions affecting the significance and the structural integrity of timber truss bridges.

This process was designed and implemented to ensure that heritage was the key and only focus.

It further supports that heritage is more important than the needs of the community, viability and productivity of businesses and the most important fact, safety.

Transport for NSW quote they are focussed on safety.

Safety is not just the bridge. It is the surrounding roads that are being impacted by additional traffic that they are not designed to support this type of traffic due to bridge shutdowns, and they are Dubbo Regional Councils responsibility.

DRC have requested that Transport for NSW assist them in funding for the maintenance of these roads.

To date we have not heard an outcome of that communication.

The heritage classification is so important that if you do a search on the State Heritage Register list for Scabbing Flat Bridge no data is found.

So, what is the POINT.

What needs to happen

The process is broken. Andrew Gee summed it up as Scabbing Flat Bridge is caught up in a bureaucratic mess.

'The community is doing the heavy lifting and to date no-one outside the community is owning the problem.

't is caught up in Transport for NSW's bureaucratic red tape and I am not seeing or hearing that anyone knows what needs to be done to have this sorted out,' to quote Mr Gee.

Minister Sharpe and Minister Aitchison appear to not want to know about it. Minister Sharpe does not even acknowledge any communication. Minister Aitchison when she does respond, which has only been once, refers to Transport for NSW.

It appears to us that Transport for NSW is the department that can recommend that Scabbing Flat Bridge S170 classification is removed.

Until that classification is removed, we are in a holding pattern.

We can not lobby for any funding because the heritage classification prevents us from being considered.

Jake Hull revealed.

Leading most of the way, the Jake Hull trained Rebelious Red (Hollie Hull, \$4) won by a length from Ultra White (Kath Bell-Pitomac, \$3.60) and Gold Smiles (Shannen Llewellyn, \$8).

Prior to her winning double at Mungery Picnics on Sunday, Scone trainer Nikki Pollock landed a double at Mudgee with Stolen Show (Billy Cray, \$5) and Not My Problem (Jordan Quince, \$3 fav).

Formerly from West Australia and now apprenticed to Alison Smith at Orange, Jordan Quince is riding well and she had the Brett Thompson trained Jade Division always nicely positioned in the 1400m Gooree Park Benchmark 50 Handicap.

Over the concluding stages Jade Division (\$7) reeled in the leader Fleetly (Mikayla Weir, \$6) to score by over a length with Out Wrapped (Leeshelle Small, \$16) finishing third.

The other winner, the Dale Wagstaff, Newcastle trained Zartamay (Shannen Llewellyn, \$8) led throughout in the 1850m Benchmark 50 Handicap.

Racing at Orange on Thursday, Forbes Saturday, Young Picnics Saturday and Coonamble Cup Sunday.

Racing at Dubbo

Friday, October 3

PUNTERS ARE still able to get set for substantial wagers on course at central districts and western area meetings with a racegoer having a big collect when Saint Philomena won on Friday at Dubbo.

A prominent bookmaker bet the punter \$8000 to \$400 each way Saint Philomena, subsequent winner of the 1600 metres JT Building-Class 1 & Maiden Plate.

Saint Philomena (\$20 to \$18) was taken to the early lead in the 14-horse field by Jake Pracey-Holmes and when under siege in the straight kept fighting to win by a long head from the fast finishing Prince Of Prophets (Donovan Dillon, \$5.50) with Down The Kooka (Aaron Bullock, \$5.50) a short neck away third.

Trained at Dubbo by Dar Lunn for Rob Pratten (Dubbo) and Guy Mitchell (Binnaway) the four-year-old chestnut mare Saint Philomena from 18 starts has now recorded two wins and seven placings.

Another four-yea-old mare, Fetes Des Meres, off for a spell now, wrapped up an outstanding opening campaign for Dubbo trainer Garry Lunn when winning the 1400m Casey Nestor Farrier-Benchmark 82 Handicap.

After being unplaced at all five starts in Victoria, Fetes Des Meres came to Garry Lunn in May this year and has

Swimmers start training - Carmen Gain Photos





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Swim season kicks off with squad training

SQUAD TRAINING with Wellington Amateur Swimming Club has launched for 2025 with plenty of energy and enthusiasm.

More than 20 swimmers hit the water last week under the guidance of experienced coaches Anne and Rod.

The club is inviting all members to come along and be part of the squad, with sessions continuing each week from Tuesday to Friday at 9am for the second week of the holidays.

With the swimming season fast approaching, the squad is already in preparation mode.

The first carnival will be held in Dubbo at the end of October, followed by the start of Wellington's popular Pointscore competition on Friday, October 17.

The club is looking forward to another successful season and encourages swimmers of all ages to get involved.

Carmen Gain.



Squad training has begun at the swimming pool with Rod Pedron who is a master at stroke correction and has been a backbone of the local club for decades. He has helped many swimmers learn the correct stroke procedure ..More photos Page 15.

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW
\$2,700
TUESDAY, FRIDAY & SUNDAY NIGHTS

CASH FEVER DRAW
\$3,300
FRIDAY & SUNDAY NIGHTS

LIVE Music
Emily Williams
SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER STARTS 7.30PM

COUNTRY MUSIC
Live Performer
RAY-LEA BROWN
COME AND SING ALONG TO ALL YOUR FAVOURITE COUNTRY SONGS
STARTS 7.30PM

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



Gamble Help is close at hand Gambleaware.nsw.gov.au | 1800 858858 | gambleaware.nsw.gov.au
ARTHUR STREET, WELLINGTON | INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUEST

WELLINGTON

6845 2877

HALLOWEEN PARTY WITH TJ SIMPSON
31ST OCTOBER STARTS 7.30PM

TJ SIMPSON BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER HALLOWEEN PARTY

LIVE MUSIC
SAM COON SAM
SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER FROM 7.30PM

BINGO
LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
20 x Games
Line Games
Under Cover Games
Free Book Raffles for all days
BINGO HIGH ROLLERS
WIN BIG!