

t h e a b e r d e e n WHISPER

May 2025

www.facebook.com/aberdeenwhisper

Aberdeen Highland Games 2025

Organisation for the annual Aberdeen Highland Games, to be held 5th July next, is now attracting great interest from all over as ticket sales ramp up.

The Pipe Band World has again shown great interest in coming to our event, and we expect a good roll up on the day. People love the massed bands, and this year will provide a splendid showing. Also, a reminder that the Pipe Band Quintet competition will again be held this year at the Aberdeen Ex Servicemen's Club following the Games. This event is run by the New South Wales Pipe Band Association.

The Kilted Warriors, the strong men, will also be back this year with their amazing displays that we all look forward to. Further, it is anticipated that the Australian Defence Force Federation Guard precision drill team will again be with us. Their displays are greatly appreciated by all. There will be a great array of stalls this year, some of whom we have not seen before. They will provide an opportunity to pick some Scottish/Celtic items. Likewise, a good roll up of Clan Societies will allow individuals to check out the past and their family histories. There are always people around these tents. There will be novelty events for the children and a good supply of food outlets for those attending.

The Chieftain for 2025 will be Charles Cooke, OAM who was instrumental in establishing the Games in 2000 and who has been closely associated with it's running since then. Be there at 0830 hrs for a 9000 hrs. start. Tickets to be purchased online via the website www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com
Supplied.



ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES

"A Celtic Experience in the Scottish Tradition"

Saturday 5th July 2025

Jefferson Park, Aberdeen

- Bands
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- Clan Information Stands
- Market Stalls
- Food and Coffee Venders

Something for the whole clan

Tickets: www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

Experience the vibrant essence of Scotland in the Upper Hunter Valley



Details of the Scone Horse Festival on page 5

Whisper Trivia

1. Were playing cards invented in Europe, Asia, or Africa?
2. How often does the International Space Station orbit Earth?
3. What do you call a baby owl?
4. Which Australian city has the largest Greek population outside of Athens?
5. What is the largest internal organ in the human body?
6. Who is the creator of the character "The Little Prince"?
7. Which bone are babies born without?
8. What is the only land mammal that can't jump?
9. How many stars are on the European Union Flag?
10. What is the capital of the Ottoman Empire?
11. Which famous rap artist starred in the film "8 Mile"?



- Answers:
1. Asia
 2. Every 90 minutes
 3. An owl
 4. Melbourne
 5. Liver
 6. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
 7. Knee cap
 8. Elephant
 9. 12
 10. Istanbul
 11. Eminem

Earle's Column

continued on page 6



A REFLECTION ON ANZAC DAY 2025

In the last edition of the "Whisper" I encouraged the people of Aberdeen to attend the commemorations of ANZAC day this year. 'Aberdeenians' responded magnificently to that suggestion with several hundred people gathering for the Dawn Service, at 5.55am, or for the march and later service that 'stepped-off' in Bedford Street at 9.05am.

During the Dawn Service, it was particularly poignant that as the 'Last Post' echoed across Moray Street, in the not yet full daylight, a fog had descended onto the land where the abattoir had once been. As the haunting bugle notes rang out, there was no noisy competition from either the highway or the railway – just silence as many reflected.

From the speech given at the later service we heard: "There is something very Australian in coming together for such a cause. Like our natural disposition to stick together in adversity, it is a simple, comradely gesture, which flows from the deepest springs of our national character."

THE 1926 ABERDEEN TRAIN DISASTER



Also, in the April edition of the "Whisper", there was a reproduction of an article in the "Sydney Mail" dated 16th June 1926, reporting on a very serious rail accident at about 10pm just north of Aberdeen Railway Station on 10th June that year.

The "Whisper" was noting that ninety-nine years have elapsed since the Brisbane Limited Express crashed

off a wooden viaduct that was part of the approach to the Hunter River crossing. Four passengers were tragically killed that night and the "Sydney Mail" reported that about forty were injured. The destruction of the train is one thing, but it was the extraordinary efforts of residents of Aberdeen and others from surrounding towns who worked, largely in darkness, throughout the night to rescue and treat the injured.

The quote from this year's ANZAC day address suggests that eleven years after the terrible events of Gallipoli, ordinary Australians demonstrated a spirit similar to that which was forged on the shores of the Dardanelles in 1915.

This of course points to the fact that 2026 will be the centenary of the worst rail disaster in NSW to that date, an unfortunate reputation it maintained until the awful train crash and bridge collapse that occurred at Granville in January 1977. The date also closely coincides with the King's Birthday Weekend in 2026.

So, should Aberdeen organise any sort of commemoration to remember this sad event? This is a question that will be put to the Aberdeen Community Advisory Committee, (CAC), at its next meeting on 12th May. With only twelve months to prepare, substantial effort will be required.

In the meantime, perhaps you have an opinion? If you do and you want to convey it to me, text me your thoughts on 0419 681 175 or by email to cr.shields@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

However, nothing ventured, nothing gained. I'll keep you posted.

Business Directory

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f i

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Happy to hear from you

If you know someone in your community that has an interesting story to tell, who's doing some interesting things - we'd love to hear about it. Chances are if you think it's interesting - others will too - and we're always open to ideas for stories, or features here.



the aberdeen
WHISPER



Would you like your story, event or advertisement in The Aberdeen Whisper? Phone 02 6545 2888 or email:

Advertisements and Editorial - publications@huntervalleyprinting.com.au
or sconeadmin@huntervalleyprinting.com.au



Sylvia Lawson & Doug Avard cutting the cake

Meatworks Reunion

This wasn't just any gathering; it was a reunion. A reunion of the Aberdeen Meat Works family, those who'd spent their days of toil processing countless animals. The meatworks, a colossal monument to industry, succumbing to age in 1999 and the relentless march of stricter licensing requirements.

On the night former employees were reliving those years, reminiscing and rekindled friendships. Les Parsons welcomed guests and asked for a moment of silence as they remembered those who had died. Their stories now woven into the very fabric of the building that no longer stood. Les continued, recounting the history, mentioning the Nelson brothers who built the meat works.

The construction that began in 1891, the first stock processed in 1892. In its heyday, the meatworks employing 600 men and women, processing 3,000 sheep, 200 pigs, 200 calves and a staggering 870 cattle. The sheer scale of it was staggering.

The occasion was marked by the cutting of the reunion cake, a generous offering from Pam and Butch Watson. Sylvia Lawson and Doug Avard, both stalwarts who had served under the previous owners, AC and F Company and FJW Ltd, were given the honour. Jason Roe from the Newcastle Union Office, an invited guest, expressed his admiration for the work ethic and camaraderie that had defined the meatworks. The dedication of Denise and Max Bell who for months, they had painstakingly compiled the history of the meatworks, a treasure trove of photographs, documents, and artifacts. Culminating in a breathtaking display, covering 17 tables, a testament to the impact the meatworks had on the lives of its employees. And there it was, the "Billy," the pride and joy of every worker. Arthur Day, wherever he was, would have beamed with pride to see his trusted companion amongst the memorabilia.

Throughout the evening, one word echoed above all others: "Remember..."

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Flying Foxes / Bats (part one)

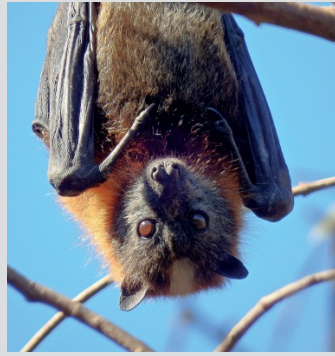
by Doctor Dirt

There have been a few requests and community interest to investigate Flying-foxes and their numbers and current locations in the Upper Hunter, especially within or in proximity to townships. I know there are a number of concerns, but I will stick to the facts and the science. I have talked to a number of environmental experts who have detailed knowledge regarding Flying-foxes. Once I have collected additional information and consulted further, I intend to convey additional facts in future additions.

For this addition I will provide information regarding Flying-foxes. There are four species of Flying-foxes in Australia. The Flying-foxes (fruit bats) in the Upper Hunter are dominated by the Grey-headed Flying-fox species. A National Parks Threatened Species Officer has told during our discussion the Little Red Flying-fox would also be present in roosting colonies.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) has a rusty reddish coloured collar, grey head and hairy legs. They have an average wingspan of one metre and weigh up to one kilogram. They are a native species and are listed as most vulnerable. A "vulnerable" species is a species which has been categorised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (supported and approved by Australia Scientists and Departments) as being threatened with extinction unless the circumstances that are threatening its survival and reproduction improve. Species are not placed on this list lightly; thorough research and investigation has been conducted prior to category assessment. This species is in danger of extinction in the future. The CSIRO currently considers this bat population stable but not actually increasing in numbers. This is the species I have seen most frequently in the roosting colonies. The Little-red Flying-fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) is a native mammal but is not listed as endangered nor vulnerable. They are the smallest of the flying foxes and weigh between 300 to 600 grams. I have not yet identified them in a roosting colony.

As a native species they are protected by law against intervention that results in killing, injury or harm. This includes sound devices to scare them off such as gun fire, smoke, water jetting, banging pots and pans. Their habitat is protected, all native and introduced woody vegetation species are also protected by law. No lopping or destruction is allowed without approval. I recommend, if you require clarification, talk to National Parks and Wildlife experts and appropriate State Government Departments. Do not take illegal actions. An expert on Flying Foxes during a discussion with me said, "well if there were only 100 people left in the world, and we only have a habitable area of a



house block is it the area left to us where we can exist or the numbers of the people". It is only an analogy, nothing more. They are colony animals, they require numbers, just because they are in a few large numbers in roosting areas does not mean the species are in huge numbers, in this case it is quite the opposite.

Flying-foxes massive habitat destruction is a significant reason for their decline. So, we are

responsible for where they are relocating. It is well documented mass extinction events (heat waves) resulting from climate change, Flying-foxes have difficult surviving temperatures above 42 degrees Celsius. Increases in frequency heat waves, the prolonged extended events and the excessive temperatures have resulted in massive reduction of thousands often 10's of thousands across Australia of individuals. The Grey-headed Flying-fox species are more likely to die due to heat waves than other Flying-fox species. In high temperatures the adults die in the trees whilst roosting and fall dead out of the trees, immature animals and baby bats are particularly vulnerable to the temperatures. They die in vast numbers during the heat waves. The Flying-foxes often roost near and over water, as these areas are often cooler. They have access to surface water for drinking as well skimming the water surface to allow water drops to stick and be collected to their fur for cooling and drinking. The height of the trees provide safety, easy access and assist in shelter and cooling of the bats.

The Flying-foxes tend to follow their preferred native pollen, nectar and fruit during flowering or fruiting events. They are a very significant species spreading pollen and seeds, up to 60,000 seeds for each individual bat. They can travel a stretch of up to 50km every night to find food. Their significance to the well-being to native forests cannot be overstated. They are a species in trouble because of human activity. They often are only in one location for a time period. I have noticed the Aberdeen colony a dramatic reduction of bats has occurred over the last week (many thousands), this may not be the case in other locations such as Muscle Creek. I am not certain if any change in numbers has recently occurred. A question would be the reduction of trees in Singleton and surrounding areas has obviously moved the bats on. Have they relocated to other areas and towns. They would have gone somewhere to survive.

Further research will be conducted and published in future episodes of Doctor Dirt.

Further information can be found at:

- NSW Environment and Heritage: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/land-mammals/flying-foxes/living-near-a-flying-fox-camp>
- Living with Grey-Headed Flying-Foxes: https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/threatenedspecies/20120272GreyheadFlyin_gfox.pdf
- Little Aussie Battler: <https://littleaussiebat.com.au/>
- Flying-fox Facts



Grey-headed Flying-fox at Muscle Creek

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A big thank you to the Warrior Disability Service staff, parents and participants for delivering your Whisper. The service offers people with disabilities choices through group activities, one-to-one support, and in-home support. NDIS registered. Sally Pereira is the Director of Participant Services. The office is situated at Shop 12 Brook Street Plaza, Muswellbrook, 0432 680 936.

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New Project for the Lions Club of Aberdeen

Aberdeen & Scone Lions Club have been carrying out eye sight testing at local schools, the project is called Lion's Eye Health Program (LEHP). Members of our Lions Club and other Lions Club have been trained to perform four vision screening assessments including:

1. Visual Acuity – Using a live symbol chart
2. Colour Vision – Using a quick 6 basic colour screening book
3. Depth Perception – Using a stereo fly screening tool
4. Spot Vision Screener – A state of the art portable machine to pick up various problems with the student's eyes

Please note: This is a screening only. We do not diagnose any vision issues. If a vision problem is detected this will be written on the student's result sheet and the parent or guardian will be encouraged to seek a further eye assessment with an eye professional.

A total of 165 students from the 3 schools were screened and 35 were referred for further assessments with an eye health professional.



Pictured at Aberdeen Public School, Presentation of donation to canteen and appreciation certificates for LEHP, L to R: Rob Herps, school representatives Boston, Callie, Principal Corallee Kerrigan, Bob Dixon



Pictured at Scone Public School, L to R: Sue Lewis, Deb Osmond (Deputy Principal), Carolyn Carter



Pictured at Ellerston Public School, L to R: Instructor Geoff Kilmurray, Margaret Hook (Maitland Lions), Rob Herps and Bob Dixon (Aberdeen & Scone Lions) with students after screening

Barnaby's Election Tea Leaves

This election polling is now underway. The voters of Australia are casting their vote for choice of our combined future. Labor is going to be marked on their job of running the country over the last 3 years and it is a pretty easy question; do you believe the nation and yourself have done better or worse under the Labor Party's management? Probably the first item to reflect on in making that choice is are you getting ahead as much as you had wished or worse, still going backwards.

I believe Labor has put other priorities way in front of you. They have put their zeal for intermittent power, euphemistically termed renewables ahead of you, they have put environmental restrictions on farming ahead of you, they put a referendum bound to fail ahead of you. They have put your taxes going to offshore intermittent power companies ahead of you. They have been swept up in their fantasy that for so many has turned into a very bad dream.

Labor has dropped the ball on building the critical infrastructure to make our nation stronger; no new dams were financed, the Inland Rail was mothballed with the third sealed road across Australia, the outback way. They dropped the ball on health with many smaller regional hospitals not even having a 24 hour doctor. Labor has dropped the ball on defence with the Chinese Communist Party's navy circumnavigating Australia and conducting live fire exercises in the sea off Sydney. Now we read of Russia wanting to set up an airforce base in striking range to our north. Our debt is now careering past a trillion dollars and the interest bill for all is now one of our biggest budget expenses.

The Coalition made the courageous and correct decision to start the process of developing nuclear base load energy. It has put on the table immediate cash back to your wallet with a reduction in fuel excise. The Coalition has announced new fighter jets to protect our nation. The Coalition has created new funding for the basic social infrastructure so essential in Regional Australia. The sequel if Labor gets back in will be dramatically worse than the current movie. They will rely on the Greens and the Teals in either, probably both, houses of Federal Parliament. This is not a gift of support for Labor but will come with a dramatic cost in policy payments to them. The decision now is over to you.

Supplied.

Earle's Column *continued from page 2*

YOU HAVE TO LOVE A GOOD ACRONYM

ANZAC, (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps), is an acronym. So is LASER and RADAR and many other words that have slipped into our English language and now have common use.

Locally we have another, which may not have common usage, but nonetheless is very important in the annual fiscal management of YOUR local council.

DPOP. Pronounced 'deepop', this is the annual **Delivery Plan** and **Operational Plan** which is, effectively, the budget, (Operational Plan) for Upper Hunter Shire Council for the financial year ahead, 2025/2026, and with projections, (the Delivery Plan) out to the financial year 2028/2029.

The DRAFT DPOP has now been prepared and at the ordinary Council meeting on 28th April, I expect that it will be endorsed for public exhibition.

The public exhibition will occur from Thursday 1st May through to Friday 30th May. It will be available for residents and others in the Shire to examine on the Council website. If internet access is an issue, and you would like a printed copy please contact me or the Council directly and request a hard copy.

From that public exhibition, Council will welcome submissions from interested parties and these will be considered at a Councillors' workshop during June before finally being adopted at the ordinary Council meeting on 30th June.

This is an excellent process for residents and ratepayers to peruse the financial plans of Upper Hunter Shire Council and to engage directly with council over issues contained therein.

Supplied.

State Matters with Dave Layzell MP

EYE FUNDING

Funding to increase access to treatment and support services for people living with macular disease has received a \$180,000 boost from the NSW Government.

The Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) will use the one-off grant to minimise the impact of the disease on the 1.9 million Australians living with it and their families.

Macular disease is the leading cause of severe vision loss and blindness in Australia and the grant will support the organisation to reduce the impacts through prevention and early detection, supports for those living with it, and further research into the disease. The Foundation also advocates for patients in NSW to receive affordable anti-vascular endothelial growth factor eye injections which can slow and, in some cases, prevent vision loss.

Without treatment, people with macular diseases such as neovascular AMD, diabetic macular oedema and retinal vein occlusion will lose their vision. MDFA provides information and advice through programs including a confidential helpline -1800 111 709 - peer support groups, and services to support people living with the condition, those at risk of the condition and their families.

REGISTER NOW

Registrations have opened for the annual Rural Women's Gathering which this year is being held at Lismore on Saturday 25 October.

Organised by Lismore Council with support from the Rural Women's Network and \$30,000 from the NSW Government, the theme for this year's program is "Connect to the Heart".

The Gathering at the Lismore Quadrangle will showcase a diverse program that includes inspirational talks, entertainment, writing and AI workshops, music, arts, local businesses and catering and community vendors.

Shanna Whann, Founder and CEO of Sober in the Country is the keynote speaker and Madeleine West, partner of Safe on Social and co-creator of the podcast Predatory is the guest speaker. A full weekend of activities has been planned from Friday 24 October to Sunday 26 October so that attendees can enjoy the whole weekend. Register for the Rural Women's Gathering at: www.nsw.gov.au/women-nsw/rural-womens-network/rural-womens-gathering.

YOUTH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Applications for the 2026 NSW Youth Advisory Council (YAC) are now open with young people aged 12-24 invited to help advise the NSW Government on issues that matter. A dozen young people from diverse backgrounds, who are passionate about addressing the issues impacting children and young people in NSW, will make up the YAC.

Meetings are scheduled on weekends, every 4-6 weeks, with YAC members required to commit to attending all scheduled meetings, to the best of their ability.

The Youth Advisory Council provides advice to government and other agencies including SafeWork, Women NSW, Revenue NSW, State Library of NSW, the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office, Department of Education, Disability Council NSW and NSW Health. If you have questions, contact 9248 0970 or email acyp@acyp.nsw.gov.au Learn more and apply by Sunday 20 April at: www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/nsw-youth-advisory-council-application-faqs



'FLU VACCINATIONS

State MPs have been in the frontline of preparations for the 'flu season with the Pharmacy Guild attending the recent sitting week of NSW Parliament to give members a 'jab'.

Experts warn that the flu season may come earlier and hit harder this year with more than 50,000 cases confirmed by the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System for the first quarter of 2025. For the year to date to the week ending 5 April, Hunter New England Local Health District has had 1,272 reported Influenza cases with 1,570 COVID-19 infections and 1,501 RSV cases.

April is considered the best time to get the flu vaccine ahead of winter with the community encouraged to act now to be safe and healthy ahead of the flu season. Discover more about free flu vaccination at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/influenza/

HELP FOR BUSINESS

Enhancements have been made to the Service NSW Business Bureau's digital tools to provide efficient, accessible and personalised support. Since October 2023, more than 195,000 businesses have used the Service NSW Business Bureau's digital tools, such as the Service NSW Business Profile and Business Bureau app, to access government support,

manage transactions, and save and track industry licences.

Enhancements to the Service NSW Business Bureau App include sharing access and simplifying voucher management and tracking applications in real time. For more information on the Service NSW Business Bureau's digital tools, call 13 77 88 or visit the Service NSW website: www.service.nsw.gov.au/business

RENEWABLES GUIDE

A new guidebook has been launched to help landowners and the community to better navigate and understand the transition to renewable energy. The NSW Renewable Energy and Transmission Guide has been developed by NSW Farmers in collaboration with the Queensland Farmers Federation and the NSW Government.

It is designed to ensure landowners in NSW are better-informed as they engage with developers, government agencies and contractors in Renewable Energy Zones and beyond. The guide will assist landowners who are considering hosting wind, solar or battery projects, and those engaging with energy companies about transmission projects in their region. Another aim is to demystify the energy transition for neighbours and broader community members.

The guide will be available in print and on the NSW Farmers website: www.nswfarmers.org.au/NSWFA/Content/Industry/Policy/Resource/NSW-Renewable-Energy-and-Transmission-Landholder-Guide.aspx

UPSKILLING OPPORTUNITY

Regional and rural women will be empowered with essential skills in first aid and mental health and crisis support through free training with St John Ambulance. The Rural Women's Network Skills Roadshow will provide the training under a partnership between the NSW Government and St Johns.

Approximately 30 free workshops tailored for women are planned across 15 regional locations including Maitland on May 16-17, Tamworth May 30-31 and Port Macquarie June 27-28. The program aims to be accessible and includes skills to respond effectively in emergency situations, recognise mental health issues, recognise situations where people may be in imminent crisis, provide appropriate interventions and learn where to direct people for further support. Workshop participants will receive a nationally accredited certification once they have completed their training.

To register, go to: <https://events.humanitix.com/rwn-skills-roadshow> / or www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/women-nsw/rural-womens-network/rwn-events/rural-womens-network-skills-roadshow-2025

Supplied.

Contact:

upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au;
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117 Graeme Street, Aberdeen – \$599,000



4 bed, 1 bath, 2 car, Fully Renovated Family Home
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Barnaby JOYCE MP



**Fighting for
the Upper Hunter**

THE NATIONALS

for Regional Australia

Authorised by Barnaby Joyce MP, The Nationals, Tamworth, NSW

📞 02 6761 3080 ✉️ barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au

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The NSW Government has programs to assist with cost of living expenses.

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www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder



Dave Layzell MP
MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER



Authorised by Dave Layzell MP,
 94 John Street,
 Singleton NSW 2330
 Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

The Latest on Vets Golf

TRICKY STROKE EVENT

There were 32 Vets at Scone for the tricky stroke event on April 15 (tricky because there are no WIPES with stroke events). A big thank you to Ross Banks for the Draw and to Lyn Banks for the printing of the handicaps for all the booked in players, and for sorting the score cards too. Welcome to visitor Brad Fitzhenry.

Bob Lawman won the day with net 71 from Charlie Wintle second 72, Brett Dann third 74 C/B, George Campbell fourth 74, Gary Leake fifth 75 and Yvonne Palmer sixth 76 C/B. Balls went to Dave Perferment, Dave Bradshaw and John Belfield 76 and Red Palmer and Robert Ryan 77. The best scratch score was from Charlie Wintle with 82 off the stick.

The Bradman's trophy, kindly donated by Gary Morley was won by Graham Turvey.

NEW VISITOR FROM BALLINA JOINS US

Twenty Vets played in the Stf event at Mbk on April 22, under some cloudy skies and with a bit of rain during the 18 holes. Thank you to Mick McCormick for the shogun start draw.

Constantly good player Will Coward won the day with 39 points C/B from Glenn Googe second 39, Paul Constable third 36 C/B and Robert Lawman 36 fourth. Balls went to Lyn Banks 35, Gary Leake 34 and on 32 Dave Perferment, Dave Taylor wearing a suite and Christine Smith.

Welcome to visitor Chris Lambley from Ballina who will be with us for a few weeks. The Bradman's trophy, kindly donated by Gary Morley was won by Terry Mitchell.

Nearest the Pins:- 5th Will Coward 8th Tony Pearson 11th Glenn Googe 14th (second shot) Paul Constable 17th Gary Carter.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- May 6, at Mbk 2BBB & Ind Stf (Please book-in with the proshop)
- May 13, Stf at Denman
- May 20, Stf at Scone (Please book-in with Ross Banks)
- May 27, S&P at Aberdeen

Shotgun starts. Hit-off by 8.30am.

Supplied.



Will Coward won the stf event at MBL on April 22 with 39 points. He is congratulated by Treasurer Bob Minch.

Saddle Up! One Month Until the Festival Begins!

Mark your calendars! Next month, 10,000 people will begin descending on Australia's Horse Capital, Scone, ready to celebrate the 45th annual Warburton Estate Agents Scone Horse Festival. A hotly anticipated event in the Hunter Valley, the 10-day festival held from May 9-18 will provide exciting and entertaining equine events showcasing the versatility of the horse and the important role they play within the region and around the world.

"We are excited to be back in 2025 ready for another brilliant festival jam-packed with free, exciting and educational equine events the whole family will enjoy," Festival President Jason Hill said. "There will be the iconic Scone Equine Hospital Street Parade, Hunter Homes Equine Extravaganza, HTBA Stud Tours, sheep dog trials (AGL's Jack Johnston Memorial Gala Day), RM Williams Horses and High Tea, Ladbroke's Sportsmans Lunch, Scone Grammar School's finale fireworks and the well-loved Darley Scone Cup Carnival."

For the first time in the festival's 45-year history, 2025 will introduce an exclusive event celebrating women in racing with special guest, Katie Page, co-founder of The Magic Millions and CEO of Harvey Norman.

"What an honour it will be to welcome the Co-Founder of The Magic Millions, Katie Page, to our community next month," Mr Hill said. "We're also very excited to welcome world-renown Horse Tamer Luke Thomas who will be performing at the Hunter Homes Equine Extravaganza." In 2025, the Warburton Estate Agents Scone Horse Festival will mark a significant milestone, celebrating 45 years of honouring Scone as Australia's Horse Capital. Themed "Home is Where the Horse Is: 45 Years of Heart in Scone," this year's festival reflects on the enduring bond between Scone's equestrian heritage and the community that has shaped its legacy.

"It is truly a remarkable feat for a small rural community to establish and foster an annual festival which now attracts 10,000 people, has run for 45 years and helped shape Scone into Australia's Horse Capital. This wouldn't have been possible without our horse-loving community, generous sponsors and of course the Upper Hunter Shire Council. "The celebration this year is for everyone who has been part of the festival's history - which is likely everyone in this remarkable town."

Supplied.

First Round Postponed

Due to the overnight rain and bad weather, the Tiger's first round games against the Singleton Greyhounds were postponed till May 2nd! Hopefully the weather's all good by then and see you all at Denman Oval, Friday night!

Don't worry, the team was still training hard despite the cancelled game so you know they'll be ready on Friday!



Remembering Beverlee Adams

Beverlee Adams, for many years a teacher at St Josephs and a well-known local identity, died in April, aged 93, having spent nearly 4 years in aged care. Beverlee was a councillor at the Scone Shire for more than 20 years and served as both Shire President and Deputy. She was the chair of the Scone Horse Festival and a Member of the Order of Australia for her work in local government, services to rural women, environmental management and sustainable agriculture.

Generations of local people will remember Beverlee as the eccentric but effective and much-loved teacher at St Josephs. Aberdeen residents with long memories might recall the DPI Artificial Insemination Centre at Aberdeen, dedicated to improving the genetics of the local dairy industry. Beverlee's husband Geoff purchased the centre and became the first Veterinary Surgeon practising in Aberdeen in the 1970s. There is a rose in the Aberdeen rose garden Beverlee planted and dedicated to her husband Geoff on his death in 1982.

Beverlee came from a family of graziers and meat processors, at the age of 20 she was running her family's 94,000-acre beef cattle property near Sarina in Central Queensland. Never one to miss an opportunity, Beverlee realised that with Geoff's AI expertise, the Upper Hunter could be a centre for improving beef cattle genetics. She started one of the first Charolais breeding operations in NSW and after 50 years, Beverlee's purebred Charolais herd is still at "Sans Tache" Dry Creek.

She was the NSW Rural Woman of the Year in 1995 and she achieved so much over such a long life that it is difficult to do her justice without writing a book. She was not the most naturally gifted individual, nor was she the most well prepared or qualified in her fields of endeavour, but there is no doubt that she was one of the most persistent, energetic and driven woman in the district. One of her St Josephs students reminded us this week of her often-quoted mantra: Good better best, Never let it rest, until your good is better, and your better best!

A celebration of Beverlee's life will take place on Saturday May 3 at "Sans Tache" 425 Dry Creek Dry Creek Road at 3 pm – and there's an open invitation to join Jackie and Woody, (Daughter and Son in Law).

Vale Mrs Adams.

Supplied.



Aberdeen's Scandlon Shield Wrap Up

For those who couldn't make it to Scone Park, here's how it panned out for your Aberdeen Tigers:

ABERDEEN 18S VS SCONE 18S

The first game of the day saw Aberdeen take on Scone in the Under 18s. Scone were the first to cross the line after back-to-back penalties. After a 10-minute arm wrestle, Aberdeen's Preston Bateman crashed over, bringing the halftime score to 6-4 in favour of Scone.

The second half saw Scone spread the ball through the hands, extending their lead to 10-4. The remainder of the game was end-to-end footy, but Scone held on for the win, 10-4.

ABERDEEN FIRST GRADE VS DENMAN FIRST GRADE

Aberdeen faced the Devils in what was a tough First Grade contest. Denman were first on the board, leading 0-6 after just 4 minutes. Sustained pressure in Aberdeen's half led to another try, making it 0-12. A Dylan Porter bomb forced an error from Denman, allowing Josh Tickle to cross a few plays later. Halftime score: 6-12 to Denman.

An error off the kickoff gave the Devils an early second-half chance, but a powerful run from Uiti Baker set up Daniel Hoogerwerf to work his magic, resulting in a Josh Halliwell try – closing the gap to 12-10. Another pinpoint Porter bomb allowed Aberdeen to seal their spot in the finals after a Denman knock on.

ABERDEEN 18S VS SINGLETON 18S

In the next 18s match-up, Aberdeen faced Singleton. A kickoff out on the full gave Singleton an early advantage, leading to the opening try and a 0-6 scoreline. Singleton crossed again before halftime to go up 0-12.

The second half saw a stronger showing from the young Tigers in both defence and attack, but Singleton's cool, calm and collected approach saw them maintain control. Final score: 12-0 to Singleton.

ABERDEEN FIRST GRADE VS MUSWELLBROOK FIRST GRADE

The Tigers came out strong, with an inside ball from Matt Hay to Josh Halliwell setting up Josh Tickle for a try in the corner, 4-0. A chip-and-chase led to a Rams knock-on, and Kaleb Slater was there to scoop up the loose ball and score, 10-0. Momentum shifted as a few Tigers errors gave the Rams a 10-12 lead. Muswellbrook came out firing in the second half, breaking the line straight off the kickoff. They soon converted another try to go up 10-18. A costly Aberdeen penalty gifted the Rams another try, extending their lead to 10-24.

Late in the game, Aberdeen shifted the ball to the left edge where Tuhere Maraki put in a grubber for Chad Dewson to score. Josh Tickle added the extras, 16-24. Unfortunately, time ran out for a comeback – full-time score: 16-24 to Muswellbrook. Thank you too all the supporters and volunteers, days like today couldn't go ahead without you.



ANZAC Day 2025

Aberdeen's ANZAC Day services attracted strong support from the local community when residents and organisations turned up in strong numbers. The Aberdeen Rugby League's ANZAC day raffle was won by Tina Dodds (centre) with Tiger's representatives Josh Halliwell (left) and Matt Jones (image on left). Karen Daley added to the reverence of the day with her and Frank Daley's Stock Horse. (image on right)



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Cellarbrations

JUST SOME OF OUR SPECIALS COMMENCING
MONDAY 5TH MAY TILL SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

GREAT NORTHERN SUPER CRISP 24 STUBBIES & CANS	\$ 54.00 – LOYALTY \$ 52.00
TOOHEYS NEW STUBBIES	\$ 54.00
HAHN SUPER DRY STUBBIES	\$ 55.00 – LOYALTY \$ 53.00
XXXX GOLD 30 PK CANS	\$ 56.00 – LOYALTY \$ 54.00
HARD RATED 4PKS	\$ 22.00 – LOYALTY \$ 20.00
HARD RATED 4PKS	\$ 110.00 CARTON
GORDONS PINK DBL SRV 6% 4PKS	\$ 25.00
SMIRNOFF CRUSH 4PKS	\$ 27.00 – LOYALTY \$ 25.00
BUNDY RUM 4.6% 10PKS	\$ 46.00
JACK DANIELS DBL 10PKS	\$ 67.00
CANADIAN CLUB CUBES	\$ 100.00 – LOYALTY \$ 98.00
JIM BEAM CUBES	\$ 100.00
WILD TURKEY RARE & COLA 10PKS	\$ 72.00
BAILEYS ORIG IRISH CREAM 1LTR	\$ 52.00
SHEEP DOG P/BUTTER WHISKY 700ML	\$ 53.00 – LOYALTY \$ 51.00
MAKERS MARK BOURBON	\$ 62.00
JIM BEAM WHIT LBL 1LTR	\$ 68.00

JUST SOME OF OUR CELLAR SAVERS PROMOTIONS
COMMENCING MONDAY 5TH MAY TILL SUNDAY 27TH JULY 2025

BETTER BEER MIDDY 30PK CANS	\$ 56.00
GOAT LARGER BEER	\$ 60.00
PERONI NASTRO AZZURO STUBBIES	\$ 62.00
POETS COUNTRY LAGER 30PK CANS	\$ 61.00
STRONGBOW CIDER CARTONS	\$ 53.00
WHITECLAW 10PK	\$ 49.00
SMIRNOFF ICE DB 10PK	\$ 57.00
JIM BEAM BLK DBS 10PK	\$ 64.00
MOLLYS IRISH CREAM 1LTR	\$ 38.00
BUNDY RUM UP & RED 1LTR	\$ 67.00
MCGUIGAN BLACK LBL WINES	\$ 10.00 EA OR 2 FOR \$ 18.00
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