

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

June 2025

www.facebook.com/aberdeenwhisper



July 5, 2025
Jefferson Park, Aberdeen

Store Front Window Competition

Start getting into the spirit of the Highland Games by **decorating your store front window!** (if you're in the Upper Hunter or Muswellbrook Shire Council). Don't forget to ring us if you're decorating your window so we can send the judges around. Call Liz at 0439 415 543.

Main Events

0900 Opening Ceremony

Address by the Honorary Chieftain - Charles Cooke OAM
Parade

Massed Band: Drum Major - Alex Watt

Followed by Australia's Federation Guard - Precision Drill Team

from 1030 Entertainment

Band displays

Kilted Warrior events

Highland & Scottish Country Dancing

Novelty events and activities for children of all ages

Australia's Federation Guard - Precision Drill Team

Best Dressed Competition - lassie, laddie and pets

1530 Closing Ceremony

Massed Band

Presentation of trophies

Lone Piper - James Bruce (Sydney Thistle Pipe Band)

Listen for announcements on the day for other display times

Supporting Events

FRIDAY EVENING 4 JULY

Muswellbrook RSL Club

Hills District Pipe Band will be entertaining guests. Meals available at the bistro.

SATURDAY EVENING 5 JULY

Aberdeen Sports and Recreation Club

Live entertainment - see their Facebook page for information.

SUNDAY 6 JULY

Kirkin' of the Tartan Service - from 1030

At St Alban's Church, 25 Hunter Terrace, Muswellbrook, followed by a morning tea at the the Church Hall - All welcome.

BOOKINGS

Online via www.aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.com following the links to Trybooking

PRICING

Adults \$30 | Concession Card or Child (13-18) \$25

Camping \$50 per site | Child (12 & under) FREE

Extra \$5 surcharge for tickets purchased at the gate on the day

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Scone Visitor Information Centre 02 6540 1300 or inquiries@aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.com

Scan the QR code for more information and to get your tickets online now



#aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES



Whisper Trivia

1. In a website browser address bar, what does "www" stand for?
2. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
3. How old was Rose in the Titanic movie when she was recounting her story?
4. On The Mandalorian, what is Baby Yoda's real name?
5. What is the national sport of Japan?
6. What is the only country to have played in every single soccer World Cup?
7. What color is a giraffe's tongue?
8. Which condiment was used as medicine during the 1830s?
9. Where does the Wizard live in The Wizard of Oz?
10. If an angle is less than 90 degrees, what is it called?



- Answers:
1. World Wide Web
 2. Marie Curie (1903)
 3. 100 years old
 4. Groug
 5. Sumo wrestling
 6. Brazil
 7. Black
 8. Ketchup
 9. The Emerald City
 10. Acute

Business Directory

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f i

FOUND LOST MEMORIES?
Custom Framing by Helen

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6B Wilkins St Muswellbrook
framinggood.com.au

Earle's Column

continued on page 6

GET READY FOR 6TH – 8TH JUNE 2026

In the last edition of "the Whisper", picking up on the centenary of the so-called, Aberdeen Rail Disaster, of 10th June 1926, I asked this question: 'Should Aberdeen organise any sort of commemoration to remember this sad event?'

The Aberdeen Community Advisory Committee, (CAC), met on 12th May and it was agreed to establish a sub-committee with the brief to look at options associated with the centenary of the tragic 1926 incident.

With only twelve months left to prepare, this small committee has had an initial meeting to 'start the ball rolling' focused on some type of community event tentatively set for the King's Birthday weekend 6th – 8th June 2026. (This fits in very nicely with the exact centenary which will fall on the following Wednesday.)

Early on the committee decided to focus on the outstanding efforts of Aberdeen townspeople who rushed to the crash site, not knowing the extent of the derailment or any injuries in an effort to provide assistance to whomever might be involved. There are several newspaper accounts of the response of the town, the broader district and the people who worked through the night to provide first aid and other assistance to more than forty injured travellers and train staff. So, the working title of the project is centred around "the Heroes of Aberdeen".

There is no intention to disregard the tragedy that overtook four people who lost their lives that night. The emphasis will be on how a small town exhibited that wonderful Australian character trait of getting 'stuck-in' to help those who are suddenly overwhelmed by circumstances beyond their control.

So how can you contribute?

- The sub-committee currently only consists of three people. We will probably need a few more as plans mature so we would love to hear from you.
- Perhaps you have a family story that's been passed down three or four generations about the heroic deeds of one of your forebears on that night. If you want to share it, please let me know.
- Maybe you have a connection to some of these people mentioned in the Scone Advocate of 15th June 1926.

Edward Grayndier (hairdresser of Aberdeen), Harold Vaughan, Jack Osborne, Mr. Francis (ex-Mayor of the then Aberdeen Municipal Council), Lou Schroter. I think that as our research continues more names may well appear.

One of the delights of community action is the enthusiasm that contributors bring to the exercise. So, if this idea excites you, text me your thoughts on 0419 681 175 or by email to cr.shields@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

AND NOW FOR THE 'NOT-SO-NICE-NEWS'

Upper Hunter Shire Council, (UHSC), at its ordinary monthly meeting on Monday 26th May, has agreed to implement the Special Rate Variation, (SRV), that was recently approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, (IPART). In these particularly tough economic times, any price rise is hard to stomach by those who have to pay. The problem faced by Council is that its costs, like wages, materials, insurances etc. have been steadily rising over recent years while funding from the State Government and from the Commonwealth Government have been falling.

That leads to a simple proposition: Either we raise more revenue OR we cut back on the essential services that we offer to the community. I think it is fair to say that NONE of the nine councillors were excited at the prospect of an additional rate increase. I think this is the notion of being "stuck between a rock and a hard place!"

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.

t h e a b e r d e e n

WHISPER

hunter valley printing

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

Major Development Proposed for Aberdeen

A 600 million dollar Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has been proposed for Aberdeen. Situated on nine hectares of vacant land off Campbell Street the battery storage is poised to become a key component in the region's transition to a renewable grid.

Its location, strategically chosen near a Transgrid substation within the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone.

The project, boasting a 400 megawatt/800 megawatt-hour battery will take up to two years to build and essentially function as a giant rechargeable battery, drawing power from the grid, storing it, and releasing it back when needed.

Company representatives Casey Joshua and Chris Hodge addressed the May meeting of the Upper Hunter Shire's Aberdeen Advisory committee with details including local benefits and incentives.

North Harbour's Tony Schultz told the Whisper the company is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement and carrying out environmental assessments for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System in Aberdeen and is committed to engaging with the local community.

"Feedback from residents will help shape the project, and we look forward to sharing assessment findings and answering questions at a community information session planned for August 2025." He concluded.

The committee sought answers to some of the local concerns prompting the Whisper put these questions to the company. The responses are listed below.

1. NOISE DURING CONSTRUCTION?

We are preparing a Noise Impact Assessment which will assess the amount of noise the proposed BESS will make during construction and operation. The amount of noise created will be measured against strict noise levels, and the assessment will identify any noise mitigation works needed.

Further details on noise impact will be available at the community information session.

2. FENCING?

The site will be secured during the construction and operational phases of the project. The details of this fencing, along with some visual representations of what it will look like will be available at the community information session.

3. FIRE RISK (BUSHFIRE)?

As part of the project's design, we are working with the relevant fire and safety authorities to ensure that appropriate hazard management plans are in place with respect to bushfire and combustion risk.

These hazard management plans will be tailored specifically to any potential risks associated with a BESS at Aberdeen. Further details on fire risk and hazard mitigation plans will be available at the community information session.

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (OPEN MEETINGS AND HOW OFTEN)?

North Harbour have distributed a community information sheet to 922 households in Aberdeen and we have met with various community and government stakeholders. We have a survey open and are encouraging community members to provide feedback through that channel. We will also be holding a community information session targeted for August 2025.

The project team are happy to hold individual meetings (online or in person) to any community members that would like to discuss the project. Please get in touch with us via our website or provide your details through the survey.



5. JOBS DURING CONSTRUCTION AND AFTER. (EMPHASIS ON LOCAL EMPLOYMENT?)?

Our project is expected to generate 100 jobs during the construction phase and 5 ongoing jobs.

6. HAS THE LAND BEEN PURCHASED AT THIS STAGE?

The land remains in the ownership of the Upper Hunter Shire Council. North Harbour are leasing the land from Council.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the development please contact Casey Joshua, North Harbour Clean Energy via email: casey.joshua@northharbourpl.com or by phone: 02 9137 4142.

For more information about the social impact assessment or the survey, please contact Jamie Seaton via email: jamie@socialaspect.com.au or by phone: 0466 413 645.

Supplied.



Have your say on the New England Renewable Energy Zone network infrastructure project

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is leading the delivery of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The New England REZ will be serviced by new network infrastructure, including transmission lines and energy hubs, to transfer power generated by solar and wind projects to electricity consumers.

Applications now open to join the South Community Reference Group

We are inviting expressions of interest to fill a newly available position on the South Community Reference Group for the New England REZ network infrastructure project.

The Community Reference Group provides a forum for EnergyCo to engage with local communities and key stakeholders, share project information, and seek feedback to help inform planning and delivery.

We're looking for a community-minded individual based in the project area between Muswellbrook and Tamworth, who is actively involved in their local area and interested in the future of energy in NSW.

Applications close at 5pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025.

Please visit energyco.nsw.gov.au or contact us for details on how to apply.

Get in touch

For more information, call 1800 061 114 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) or email nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au.

Visit energyco.nsw.gov.au for our latest project updates.



LTD0460

Aberdeen Public School

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The COLA area was filled to capacity as we welcomed mums, grandmothers and significant others to celebrate Mother's Day with a coffee or tea and a muffin. Also thank you to our fabulous P&C for organising beautiful gifts for our students to purchase during the week and providing three mystery prizes. Congratulations to Mia T., Zac M. and Axel H. who were the lucky recipients.



CRAZY HAIR STYLES FOR CHARITY

APS students came to school with Crazy Hair styles and a gold coin donation to help Variety, Mrs McCamley and Team Trolls (Poppy and Branch) raise much needed funds for kids who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability. We hope our fundraising of \$142.43 helps in some small way.



UPPER HUNTER PSSA FOOTBALL (SOCCER) TRIALS

Several students recently participated in the Upper Hunter PSSA Football (Soccer) trials in Scone. Whilst the weather wasn't great, the experience most definitely was. Although our students missed out on selection in the 2025 team, all students showed resilience and sportsmanship throughout the event, qualities we value and appreciate at APS.

PSSA BASKETBALL KNOCKOUT V SCONE PUBLIC

PSSA Basketball Knockout v Scone Public - On Thursday our Senior basketballers competed against Scone Public. We had a really tough game being 12 points down in the last quarter, we fought back hard, however sadly going down 31 to 34. It was a really fun game playing basketball and representing our school. Thank you to Mrs Edwards for training us at lunch breaks, Mrs Hinschen for being Team Manager on the day, and Kristy Cunneen for her assistance. We appreciated the support of Mr Johnston and the BALLERS from Scone High for their advice and coaching before and during the game on Thursday. Written by Jaden C.

JACK JOHNSTON MEMORIAL DAY

K-2 Students had a fantastic time at the Jack Johnston Memorial Day where they were able to see and experience many aspects of rural life. Thank you once again to the Scone Horse Festival Committee for providing the bus transport for our students to the event and to Mrs Robens for her organisation.



APS KINDER 2026 TRANSITION NEWS

This year, APS has extended its transition program, Busy Bees, to include activities with Aberdeen Pre-School. Staff and students will visit the pre-school throughout the next 3 terms and the pre-school will be joining us at school for lots of fun events.



Aberdeen Public School

Busy Bees




COMBINED EVENTS WITH ABERDEEN PRE-SCHOOL

Parent Orientation Talk with Mrs Kelly:
To be held at Aberdeen Pre-School
Tuesday 26th August 2025 3:30pm

- Wednesday 14th May** - Pedestrian Safety with Mrs Kerrigan 10.30am at Aberdeen Pre-School.
- Tuesday 17th June** - Yoga with Mrs Wright at 10.00am at Aberdeen PS Hall (pre-school parents welcome to attend).
- Tuesday 1st July** - Storytime with Miss Regan and 1-2 Blue 10.30am at the Pre-school.
- Wednesday 30th July** - Teddy Bear Picnic 10.00am at Aberdeen PS. (Bring Your favourite teddy and join us for some games and fruit picnic).
- Tuesday 12th August** - Bullying No Way Day - Social story with Mrs Kerrigan at Aberdeen Pre-school.
- Tuesday 26th August** - Kindergarten Orientation Talk with Mrs Kelly at 3.30pm at Aberdeen Pre-school (Parents of all pre-school children welcome to attend).
- Thursday 4th September** - National Super Hero Week - Movie & Popcorn at 10.30am Aberdeen PS Hall.
- Wednesday 17th September** - Maths games with Miss Purcell and K Line at 10.30am at Aberdeen Pre-school.

02 6543 7271 Administration Office 8.30am-3.15pm
aberdeen-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
<https://aberdeen-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Supplied.



THE BUNGALOW
SCONE

short, medium & long stay accomodation



For more information about the Bungalow and prices for short, medium & long stay accomodation, call 0427 702 091.

BOOK NOW!

Unit 4, 61 Hill Street, Scone

The Welcome Experience

If you are an essential worker thinking about relocating to the Upper Hunter NSW, **The Welcome Experience** offers tailored support for you and your family. Our dedicated Local Connector will introduce you to the right people and services to help you settle into your new community faster.



What we can help them with

Relocation

Partner employment

Housing

Cultural connections

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Local knowledge



Upper Hunter NSW
make the move



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Solid Brick Home

3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom

Surrounded by quality homes, this home has had the renovation started but needs a new owner to complete it. There are 3 bedrooms, all with built-in robes and one with an air con. The laminex kitchen is in good condition with an electric cooktop and oven. The bathroom is original but still in good condition also. The lounge has a combustion fire and reverse cycle air conditioning. The yard is flat with 2 garden sheds and plenty of room to extend or build a new shed. Homes at this price are becoming rare so don't wait too long for an inspection.

Call to book your **FREE** Market Appraisal today! Jay: 0438 474 222 Tiffany: 0419 437 252

www.jtsrealty.com.au

Welcoming Service

for Essential Workers in the Upper Hunter

If you've recently noticed some new faces at the school gates, in local clinics, or around town, there's a good chance they're among the 150+ essential workers and their families who've relocated to the Upper Hunter in the past 18 months—and they haven't made the move alone.

A free NSW Government service called The Welcome Experience has been helping new arrivals settle in across Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shires.

This service offers one-on-one support to help essential workers and their immediate families find housing, connect with community groups, navigate local services, and feel at home. It is available to those working in education, healthcare, emergency services, aged care, disability support, and various government agencies.

Community Connector Coordinator Katrina Kiely said that while the program is aimed at newcomers, locals also play an important role.

"We know relocating to a new area can be a big step and this service makes it easier for newcomers to settle in and feel part of the community from the start. It's knowing which footy team to support – Go Tigers! or where to get the best pies – Crofts all the way – and that knowledge sharing is why locals can really make a difference to those new to town. We want them to put their roots down here."

To find out more, visit www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/the-welcome-experience, or call Katrina on 0490 089 570.

Supplied.

Earle's Column *continued from page 2*

IPART has allowed UHSC to raise its land rates by a total of 10% in each of the next three financial years. Now, while this may sound excessive, IPART has approved a general rate increase for all local government areas in 2025/2026 of 4.3%. The increase that UHSC is getting over and above other councils, is 5.7% in the forthcoming financial year. This is the first SRV that Upper Hunter Shire has sought for a decade. The total of the additional funds to be raised through this measure is estimated at \$742,000 in the year ahead. To put this into some perspective, (and not wishing to reduce this serious matter to a 'couple of cups of coffee each week!'), to seal one kilometre of currently unsealed road, (of which UHSC has hundreds of kilometres!), will cost about \$1,000,000!

Well, that's it for June. Get ready for Aberdeen's prime annual event, the Highland Games on 5th July.

Supplied.

TransCare^{Hunter Ltd}

A Home Care Package provides a range of tailored services to assist people to live independently in their own home for as long as they can.

As your local home care provider, TransCare is here to help you design a package to suit your needs.

Call now for further information or visit our website.

6545 3113

www.transcare.org.au

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.

Pony Club News



Over a month ago the decision was made to unfortunately temporarily move our pony club days due to the inundation of bats at our beautiful grounds. We are hoping these horrible critters vacate the area soon. So at the moment we have been so lucky to use the Wingen Community Grounds, we had our first rally day there with loads of fun had by all. Our next rally day will be on the June long weekend and we will be having two days of instruction with jumping, troop drill, cattle, flat work, challenge patterns, and lots more fun activities to participate in. To top off the weekend we will have a family dinner and bonfire. All members new and old are most welcome to join us, please RSVP to the Aberdeen Pony Club Facebook page.



Scone Horse Festival parade was another outing for 6 of our members, the horses and kids were very well behaved and great representatives of our little club.



Supplied.



Peep Into the Past: A Letter from the Rouchel

The following is a letter taken from the Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society's Journal, Volume 4, 1973.

It was printed under the title of – A Letter from the Rouchel with the introduction...The following letter, lent for copying by Mr George McMullin, is printed by permission of Mrs Mollie Logan. We believe that such documents have a place in local history.

Signed.

"The Junction,
Upper Rouchel.
11th July 1945
Mr Jim Logan,
"Woodside".
Aberdeen.

Dear Jim, I was glad to see you the other day and to find that you were interested in the old days of the Rouchel. It is a far cry now to when my grandfather (Donald) Kennedy lived at 'Bingeberry' as sheep overseer for the McIntyres. McIntyres had sheep all over the Rouchel watershed, except Davis Creek, and William Russell of Ravensworth occupied that part, right over to where Alan Brookers lives now. Ravensworth extended from Alan Booker's to Singleton. William Russell is buried in Leichhardt cemetery, Sydney, I saw his grave. In those days a man named Marsh was overseer for Russell for this end of Ravensworth and lived at Sandy Creek – 'Albano' now...When the original Mr McMullin inspected "Bingeberry with a view to buying the property, he and his daughter...rode on horseback to 'Bingeberry' from Maitland in one day.

In 1857 my father was held up at Singleton with the bullock team coming from Morpeth for three months with the great flood of that year. The "Dunbar" was wrecked at the same time, 20th of August, at The Gap, Sydney heads. There were some great floods in those early days, one big flood covered all the flat at Dalvey and George McMullin's half moon flat and took all the wheat away from both places.

The original Cameron shepherded about two miles above where Allan Brooker lives now, and Cameron's daughters used to walk all the way to Aberdeen to church...

Sheep in those days were washed before being shorn. McIntyre's washpool was at Dalvey. One Robert Whitford had a young horse bolt with him from the 'Glencoe' yard, the horse made in the direction of Davis Creek and when passing near where this house is now, the rider jumped off and the horse was away six weeks with the saddle before they could get him in. John McPhee, late Ernie McPhee's father while chasing wild horses had his horse fall and McPhee got his thigh broken and had to pull himself backwards with his hands for half a mile through rough country before he could make himself heard. The late Duncan Kennedy, while after horses in Deadmans Gully was leading his horse round a steep side above a big rock and the horse slipped, went over the rock and smashed horse and saddle to pieces, and the same man

while galloping very fast on a valuable horse owned by the late Kenneth Kennedy at the head of Stoney Creek when the horse fell and was killed.

A pitiful tragedy happened in the early sixties of last century. The original William McPhee, Donald PcPhee and a young man named Brennan started a wild mob of cattle from the top of 'Cock Crow' mountain. Brennan had the fastest horse and was hard on the lead of the cattle, and at a particular point had to force them in on to the Rouchel side of the range, and in doing this ran into the head of a fir tree, which ran a two inch limb through him. The McPhees carried him four miles on a stretcher made from their shirts, sent for Dr West, Muswellbrook, but when the Dr pulled the stake out Brennan died. He is buried in a small paddock owned by Sir Alister McMullin.

The late Matthew Dodd started seven wild cattle from the top of Mt. Lousie, Upper Rouchel, and in the run the cattle went over a ledge of rock and rolled down the steep side, dead, to a place called the Big Flat where coachers were being held. (Coachers were tame cattle which were mixed with the wild ones to help quieten them). Kenneth Cameron, Robert Carter of Stewarts Brook and a coloured chap named Carlo were with the coachers.

...When the Rouchel Brook went dry McIntyres put a well down at 'Glencoe' and a shepherd named Carney was supposed to have fallen down the well and drowned. For many years after this Carney's ghost appeared at the well at night and pelted everyone with stones who passed that way. Carney was not drowned in the well, but left his flock of sheep shut up in the yard and cleared out. But the people from the old country of those days believed in ghosts. Martin Brunell, the man who built the Church of England, Lower Rouchel, died suddenly at the Church, and many of the home country people used to see strange figures at night about the Church and road. An old Scotchman named McKinnon lived at 'Kenalea' in those days. Brunell and McKinnon were great friends and one night after McKinnon had gone to bed Brunell's ghost called out to him 'Are you in bed, John'. McKinnon got up, but after hunting about could not find his friend. John McPhee was chased by something in the shape of a dog at Deadmans Gully, but the creature was a flaming fire.

ABERDEEN GHOSTS

Well, Jim, these are but very few of the incidents of the early days of Rouchel. I could keep going for a week on such like stories. When Aberdeen was very small and I was small too, the inhabitants were scared for their lives through a mysterious object of fire that used to hover over the settlement at night for months. Aberdeen of those days was mostly composed of McLean the stationmaster, Paterson the postmaster, McKenzie the storekeeper, Janson a small shop, Stewart the publican, Warland a teamster, and a few other residents such as Mrs Kinsella, two Miss McDonalds, and a family the name of Gooch. Schroeter was at the 'Mill' and Gunn, an employee of the Whites, lived where the butter factory is now.

This is a very queer sort of letter, Jim, but I thought I would give you some of the old time news and incidents. Ebby said that you found some more good trees that would make telephone poles. If you are willing I would take these poles in the summer time at 30/- a pole, the same as the others. It is hard to estimate the value of local grown ironbark when compared with other timbers. Store bullocks were dear at Scone. Mr Neely bought 60 for us at €12-12. Mr Miller got the top yards up to something like €14 – some say that steers were not as dear as usual. With kindest regards to all the Logans, Yours sincerely, Donald Kennedy.

Supplied.

Missed the Whisper?

If you live in Aberdeen you should receive a copy of the Whisper but unfortunately, for whatever reason it may not get to your Letterbox. If it does happen you can collect a copy from the Aberdeen Post Office. A digital copy can also be found on the Hunter Valley Printing Website. Thank you for your understanding.

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

The Latest on Vets Golf

HEAVY RAIN BUT WE PUTT ALONG!

Due to the week of heavy rain we all have experienced in the Upper Hunter, and 33mm of rain overnight, there was only a small attendance of Vets on May 27 for the stroke and putting event at Aberdeen. The Aberdeen members showed up, that's for sure. All other golf courses are currently closed but not Aberdeen!

The course is in excellent condition as usual, and even though there was a bit of casual water lying around, the Vets were able to play the 18 holes.



John Belfield who won with nett 69 (left). He is congratulated by Captain Mick McCormick.

John Belfield won the stroke event with nett 69 and Robert Colbert won the putting wine with only 28 putts. Thank you to Mick McCormick for the shotgun start draw, to Bob Minch for the prize money and to Dave Kerr for processing the score cards. Graham Turvey won the Bradman's trophy, kindly donated by Gary Morley.

FUTURE GAMES:

- 3rd June, Stb at Mbk, for the Ossie Miles trophy (please book-in with the proshop)
- 10th June, Stb at Denman
- 17th June, Std at Scone (please book-in with Ross Banks) Medal Round
- 24th June, S&P at Aberdeen.

New members welcome. Shotgun starts by 8.30am

Supplied.



Upper Hunter Electorate Office

94 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

(02) 6543 1065 upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au

THE NATIONALS
for Regional NSW



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

Dave Layzell MP

MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER

HOW I CAN HELP YOU

As your State MP I can make enquiries and representations on your behalf for matters involving NSW Government departments and agencies.

Gloucester
Dungog
Singleton
Muswellbrook
Aberdeen
Scone

Broke
Branxton
Luskintyre
Lorn
Bolwarra
Maitland Vale

Tigers Round Six Recap

by Jacob Dallah

ABERDEEN TIGERS – ROUND 6 RECAP

Couldn't make it out to support the Tigers last weekend? No worries — here's a full breakdown of how our teams fared in Round 6. With the Under 18s on a bye, it was a big weekend of footy, starting Saturday with the Under 16s, Reserve Grade and First Grade, then wrapping up Sunday with a massive performance from our Women's Tackle side.



WOMEN'S TACKLE – SUNDAY SHOWDOWN

Aberdeen 18 def. Merriwa 14. Sunday was all about redemption. After a heavy 58-0 defeat to Merriwa earlier in the season, our Women's Tackle team came into this clash fired up and ready to turn the tide.

From the opening whistle, the girls played with passion, laying down strong tackles and applying constant pressure. An early try saw us go up 4-0, with Merriwa struggling to match our intensity. We kept our foot on the gas, with Tobey Stewart and Samantha Roche crossing for two more tries. One conversion went over, and suddenly we were up 14-0 — a scoreline no one expected. Merriwa finally found their way over before halftime, cutting the deficit to 14-4.

In the second half, Merriwa came out strong and scored two quick tries, locking the scores at 14-all. But the Tigers refused to back down. In a determined team effort, Lily and Isla combined down the left edge for a vital try in the corner.

We held our ground in the final minutes, defending our line with everything we had to seal a stunning 18-14 win. Player of the Match & Players' Player: Samantha Roche. This was Merriwa's first loss in over two years in the Women's Tackle comp — a massive achievement!

UNDER 16S

A large and vocal crowd turned up for the top-of-the-table clash between Aberdeen and Valentine, kicking off Saturday's action at McKinnon Oval — and what a contest it was.

Aberdeen had a rough start, with an injury in the opening minutes and some early ill-discipline handing Valentine great field position. They capitalised, opening the scoring with a strong offload that sent their fullback over. With the conversion successful, we were down 0-6. Around the 13-minute mark, the Tigers began to claw back into the game. A Valentine handling error 40 metres out gave us a chance to apply pressure. Strong hole-running from Xavier Day set the platform for Theo Ballard to cross the line. He converted his own try to level the score at 6-6.

Later in the first half, Jaggar Hassleman's tactical kicking forced another Valentine mistake. From the resulting field position, Daesjarn Coyle crashed over to give Aberdeen a 10-6 lead at halftime (conversion missed). The second half opened with both sides making handling errors, leading to a back-and-forth battle for the next 10 minutes. Valentine eventually scored a converted try to take a narrow 12-10 lead.

Despite some late momentum — including a forced error near halfway and strong crowd support — an error in the final minutes ended any chance of a comeback. Valentine held on to win 12-10 in a game that could've gone either way.

RESERVE GRADE

Our Reserve Grade squad faced the Muswellbrook Rams in a cold Saturday afternoon clash. The Rams started strongly, breaking through our line early — only to be pulled back for a forward pass.

Still, they got on the board shortly after with a sweeping backline play, their winger finishing in the corner. The conversion was missed, 0-4. Aberdeen made a costly mistake near our 20-metre line at the 15-minute mark, allowing the Rams to cross again, this time from the back of a scrum. With a successful conversion, it was 0-10.

Momentum began to swing when Jayson Hovi forced an error around halfway. That set up Sean Millwood to send Jamie Feeney over for our first try — 4-10 (conversion missed). After back-to-back penalties in our favour, Josh Emery took full advantage, scooting from dummy half to level the score at 10-10. Mitchell Kemp added the extras.

But just before halftime, an error at the halfway gave Muswellbrook a chance they didn't waste. They scored and converted to lead 10-16 at the break. Aberdeen came out fired up in the second half. The Rams dropped the ball almost immediately, and Captain-Coach Sam Fitzsimmons pounced to score two minutes in. Kemp converted to make it 16-16. The Tigers kept pressing. After a Rams error and a penalty for a two-on-one strip, we spread the ball wide to Jack Fayth, who added four more points. 20-16. Five minutes later, Jayson Hovi produced a brilliant 40-metre solo effort, scoring under the posts. Kemp converted — 26-16.

Muswellbrook struck back with a try in the 54th minute, converted to bring the score to 26-22. With 12 minutes to go, Aberdeen made an error inside the Rams' half, but Muswellbrook returned the favour by accidentally putting themselves offside. In the final moments, Millwood again worked his magic, setting up Jack Albury, who offloaded to Jamie Feeney for his second try of the day. Kemp converted, sealing a 30-22 win. Player of the Match: Jamie Feeney.

FIRST GRADE

The First-Grade match started with intensity, as Muswellbrook burst out of the gates. Just three minutes in, their back rower went over for an early try (conversion missed), 0-4. Straight off the kick return, the Rams ran 80 metres on a set play to score under the posts. With a successful conversion, we were down 0-10.

Aberdeen showed grit and responded with some defensive pressure. Josh Halliwell delivered a massive hit that forced a turnover. After back-to-back penalties for high and dangerous tackles, Dylan Porter placed a clever chip over the top. That led to a repeat set, and Tuhere Maraki crashed over next to the scoreboard. Harry Douglass converted — 6-10.

Momentum began to build, with strong carries from Mitchell Taylor, Uiti Baker, and Ryan Holman pushing us deep into Rams territory. But a knock-on inside their 20 halted the attack. Soon after, another Aberdeen error near halfway gave Muswellbrook a golden chance — and they took it. Another converted try made it 6-16. Around the 30-minute mark, Josh Tickle launched a cross-field kick, and the Rams winger made a poor decision, throwing the ball back into touch. Dylan Porter dived on it and scored — 10-16 (conversion missed). But discipline again let us down. A series of penalties allowed Muswellbrook to score just before the break, going into halftime with a 10-22 lead.

The second half started well for Aberdeen, as the Rams fumbled the kickoff. But an error five metres out from their line meant we couldn't capitalise. Muswellbrook marched back upfield and scored again off a clever kick then an inside ball. With the conversion, it was 10-28. Still, Aberdeen wasn't done. A bouncing kickoff gave us ideal field position. Richard Graham barged over after a series of powerful runs from the forward pack. Douglass converted — 16-28.

Both sides traded errors until we earned another chance. Holman spotted a gap on the short side and went himself, diving into the corner. Douglass nailed the sideline conversion in front of the Old Boys Corner. 22-28. But from there, discipline again proved costly. A chip-and-chase from the Rams led to a penalty for a tackle without the ball. Moments later, they scored in front of the scoreboard. Converted: 22-34. Aberdeen went down to 12 men after a sin bin for a high tackle, then lost another player for backchat — two sin bins in under five minutes. With the Tigers down to 11, Muswellbrook's fullback iced the match with a 70-metre try. Final score: 22-38. Player of the Match: Matthew Hay.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

A massive thank you goes out to every single person who helped bring the weekend together — from setting up, manning the gate, working the canteen, helping with logistics, and cleaning up afterwards. Clubs don't run without people like you, and your support never goes unnoticed. We appreciate all that you do.

Supplied from Aberdeen Rugby League Facebook Group.

Ideas for Livestock Assistance During Floods and Extreme Wet Weather *by Doctor Dirt*

I certainly hope families and communities have been taking care of themselves when faced with the flooding and wet weather conditions. The Upper Hunter has mainly avoided the catastrophic events facing the Mid North Coast and other Coastal Coast Areas. The following information should be a reminder to our readers and hopefully is of use. Relocate in advance of any flooding, livestock prior to the predicted flood events. Please, make sure you keep up to the latest notifications from reputable media and government-based announcements of the local situations.

Livestock should be moved to higher ground well above any projected maximum flood levels. Stock to be removed from saturated heavy clay soils, will reduce livestock being bogged, trapped and subject soilborne diseases, contamination, hoof damage and infections. Do not allow stock, if possible, to stand in flood waters. The higher ground should have shelter/shade, no stagnant water and no runoff running through the area. Always provide an access route for the stock to escape (floods are unpredictable in nature and heights). Stock to be excluded from flooded areas as flood waters have high turbidity, contaminants (in most cases), poor water quality and pollutants. Flood water is extremely high in decaying organic matter both vegetation and animal based. Stock to have a supply of clean water and feed from raised clean containers. Spreading grain and fodder on wet containment ground is wasteful and can be a source of sickness. Stressed stock will trample over 40 percent of the feed if the feed is placed on the ground.

The supplementary feeding regime is very similar to drought feeding requirements I have covered this in drought feeding in previous articles (it is the same principle). Pastures in current circumstances,

even if not contaminated have a higher percentage of water and are lower in nutrient and protein (less accessible and available in most species). A broad guideline, feeding is about three percent of body weight. A starting point is 2 to 3kg of grain (crushed grain digestibility is different to whole grain) and 4 to 8 kg of good quality hay. In these cold conditions and stock stress add 20 percent to the ration. I strongly suggest an online search will lead you to information on Livestock Feed Calculator amounts vary according to type of stock, livestock age, if they are lactating or pregnant, male or female and especially the size/weight of the livestock.

Livestock will be prone to lameness and infections, cows' mastitis, toxicities from poisonous plants (as they seek options to feed), increase in small intestinal worms such as barbers pole and liver fluke. All vaccinations schedules are to be up to date and actions for further vaccinations are likely to be required. The particular diseases in flood situations include leptospirosis, Blackleg, Pythiosis fungal skin diseases) Yersiniosis (scours), outbreak of Three-Day Sickness, Woody Tongue, Sheep diseases such as Dermatophilosis which are wool and hoof infections, Salmonellosis, Botulism and Pink Eye.

In the unfortunate event of stock death take action to dispose of the bodies. Inspect areas subject to flooding of new dangers and any introduced weed. Foods are a vector of major transport of noxious/poisonous and unwanted weeds). Observation and inspection of livestock is required where possible daily. Local Land Service will assist you with livestock health advice and feeding requirements. There are an ever-increasing number of Local Government areas that are included in Disaster Assistance Declarations I am sure the appropriate State Government Departments will guide you through what is available.

A few links include:

1. Drought and Supplementary Feed Calculator. App, 2. Balancing nutrition and cost. A guide to feeding option for livestock grazers – online search and 3. Local Land Services – Caring for Livestock in times of Flood.

Supplied.



MACHEnergy

Mount Pleasant Operation

The Mount Pleasant Joint Venture owns
& manages the Mount Pleasant Operation.

The Mount Pleasant Operation operates on a
24 hour a day, 7 day a week roster.

Please contact the following **FREE CALL** numbers 24 hours a day,
7 days a week if you have any questions or concerns.

COMMUNITY HOTLINE: 1800 886 889

BLASTING HOTLINE: 1800 931 872

GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 1800 931 873

**For further information, including BLAST times and location, visit our website:
www.machenergy.com.au or email: info@machenergy.com.au**

State Matters with Dave Layzell MP

WILD DOG & FOX CONTROL

Owners of working dogs and domestic companion animals are advised that wild dog and fox control programs have commenced across the Upper Hunter Electorate.

Hunter Local Land Services and Forestry Corporation are conducting aerial and ground baiting programs from Merriwa to Nundle, Nowendoc to Dungog encompassing private tenure, State Forests, Crown Land and Travelling Stock Reserves until 30 June.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service will conduct aerial baiting from Monday 19 May until 1 June in Goulburn River, Wollemi and Yengo National Parks, Manobalai Nature Reserve, and the Wollemi Flora Reserve and State Conservation Area.

Baits have also been laid in the Singleton Military Area with neighbours recommended to restrain pets and working dogs until the end of June.

Hunter Valley Operations, Ravensworth Open Cut and Mount Thorley-Warkworth are conducting baiting activities at the mine sites and surrounding offsets including land at North Rothbury, Belford, Putty, Muscle Creek, Sandy Hollow, Turill and Cassilis.

Residents requiring further information should contact Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299, the NPWS Bulga office 6574 5555, HVO Complaints and Blasting Hotline, Yancoal Community Information Line or the respective mining company.

NOMINATE EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS

Registrations have opened for the annual Rural The inaugural NSW Emergency Volunteer of the Year award is giving us the opportunity to shine a light on the Upper Hunter Electorate's dedicated and brave emergency volunteers.

The award will be delivered as part of the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards run by the Centre for Volunteering.

Nominations can be submitted for anyone who volunteers in association with an emergency services organisation, a community-based organisation, a non-government organisation, or unaffiliated with any organisation.

Individuals or volunteer teams can be nominated for the award across emergency prevention, preparation, response or recovery efforts. Submit nominations before Friday, 23 May at: <https://www.volunteering.com.au/awards/about-the-awards>

BUS IS COMING!

A new custom-built bus which is set to improve access to holistic diabetes care across the Hunter and New England regions is scheduled to stop in the Upper Hunter Electorate later this year.

Medibus is a fully equipped mobile health clinic which brings specialist multidisciplinary teams

including endocrinologists, a diabetes educator, Aboriginal health worker, dietitian and podiatrist, to towns with limited access to healthcare.

Clinical teams support patients directly and upskill local General Practitioners, nurses and allied health providers to provide diabetes care and management within the primary care sector.

The Medibus schedule includes stops in the Lower Mid North Coast on 12–15 August and 17–19 November, and the Upper Hunter 27 October–7 November. Medibus access is via GP or healthcare provider referral with further information on the dapplus.org website: www.dapplus.org.au



WOMEN VETERANS RESEARCH

An Australian-first research project to improve wellbeing support services for women veterans is being conducted by the NSW Government in partnership with RSL NSW and Monash University.

With a growing number of women veterans it is important to understand the challenges they face when using veteran wellbeing services. The research will include a survey and interviews with women veterans to learn about their experiences, challenges and further support needs. Participation is voluntary and includes an online anonymous survey to capture data on the experiences of women veterans accessing veteran-specific services, and an optional follow up interview that allows participants to expand on their responses and experiences.

For more information and to participate in the survey visit the Shaping Support Services for Women Veterans webpage: www.monash.edu/medicine/women-veterans-support/research

WEED IN SPOTLIGHT

Hunter Local Land Services wants landholders to be on the lookout for the invasive weed, Sticky Nightshade, which is spreading across parts of the state including the Hunter.

It is commonly found in pastures, along riverbanks, fence lines and roadsides, and thrives in a wide range of soil types. Sticky Nightshade spreads via birds, broken branches and slashers, making early detection essential.

This weed poses serious problems for landholders and the environment because it competes aggressively with crops and pastures, reducing productivity and ground cover. To identify Sticky Nightshade look for a prickly, hairy plant that grows up to 1.5 metres tall and remove it by chipping or digging it out by the roots, using gloves and boots for protection.

For support, contact your local Biosecurity (weeds) officer at Hunter Regional Weeds: www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au or visit NSW WeedWise: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au>

FLOOD DONATIONS

People should not collect, send, or drop off donations in disaster-affected areas.

If you are looking to donate items such as food or clothing or make a financial contribution visit GIVIT, a non-profit organisation partnering with the NSW Government: www.givit.org.au

NSW Fair Trading is reminding the public to take simple precautions to ensure donations are going to legitimate causes. This includes checking the charity is registered and has a valid fundraising authority, and be cautious of unsolicited donation requests via phone, email, or social media.

MEDICAL TREATMENT PLAN

An expected increase in winter illnesses over the coming months has prompted NSW Health to remind people that free and instant health advice and treatment is available 24/7.

A new campaign encourages all NSW residents to save Healthdirect's number, 1800 022 222 into their phone, to be ready for when illness strikes over winter.

When you call Healthdirect, a registered nurse will ask some questions about your health. Depending on your condition, the nurse will recommend the right healthcare option which may include a nearby doctor, pharmacist or urgent care service, connecting you with specialist virtual care, or calling an ambulance if it is life-threatening.

If you or someone you are with is experiencing a medical emergency such as difficulty breathing, chest pain, severe bleeding, sudden collapse or are seriously injured, please continue to call Triple Zero (000) immediately. An increasing number of people are turning to Healthdirect to get the advice and reassurance they need to recover quickly, so add 1800 022 222 to the contacts in your mobile telephone.

Supplied.

Contact:

upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au;
Phone number: 6543 1065

Cellarbrations

JUST SOME OF OUR SPECIALS COMMENCING
MONDAY 2ND JUNE TILL SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2025

TOOHEYS NEW STUBBIES	\$ 52.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 50.00
GREAT NORTHERN SUPER CRISP 24 STUBBIES & CANS		\$ 54.00
HAHN SUPER DRY STUBBIES	\$ 54.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 52.00
CARLTON DRY 3.5 30PK CANS		\$ 55.00
XXXX GOLD 30 PK CANS	\$ 55.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 53.00
HAHN SUPER DRY 3.5 30PK CANS		\$ 58.00
GREAT NORTHERN ORIGINAL 30PK CANS		\$ 66.00
SOMERSBY 6PK BOTTLES		\$ 19.00
STRONGBOW CARTONS	\$ 53.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 51.00
CRUISER BOTTLE 4PKS	\$ 22.00 OR 2 FOR	\$ 38.00
KRAKEN SPICED RUM 4PKS		\$ 25.00
CANADIAN CLUB 4.8% 10PKS	\$ 49.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 47.00
JIM BEAM 4.8% 10PKS	\$ 49.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 47.00
JACK DANIELS DBL 10PKS		\$ 66.00
BENCHMARK BOURBON	\$ 44.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 42.00
ABSOLUT 700ML VODKA		\$ 53.00
J/WALKER BLACK LBL 700ML		\$ 57.00
J/WALKER RED LBL 1LTR		\$ 66.00
BUNDY UP/RED 700ML		\$ 50.00
J/DANIELS BLACK LBL 700ML		\$ 62.00
SMIRNOFF RED 1LTR		\$ 65.00
19 CRIMES (EXCL SNOOP CALI RGE)	\$ 12.00 OR 2 FOR \$ 22.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 20.00
DE BORTOLI ROSE' ROSE' & BLUE GRIS	\$ 16.00 EA OR 2 FOR	\$ 30.00
MUD HOUSE CORE WHITES	\$ 16.00 EA OR 2 FOR	\$ 30.00
WYNN CORE WINES	\$ 16.00 EA OR 2 FOR	\$ 30.00
HARDYS VR 1LTR WINES		\$ 10.00
JACOBS CK RESERVE WINES	\$ 13.00 EA OR 2 FOR	\$ 24.00
MATUA VALLEY S/BLANC		\$ 17.00
OYSTER BAY WINES		\$ 22.00
G/BURGE PINOT CHARD & PNC ROSE		\$ 23.00
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