



the aberdeen WHISPER



December 2025

www.facebook.com/aberdeenwhisper

A Living Tribute to a Small Band of Volunteers

“Don’t they look good” says Heather Watson, as she surveyed the colour and beauty of Jacaranda trees.

Heather is a long time resident of Aberdeen and each spring her memory bounces back to the days when a small group of Aberdeen residents started on a tree planting journey. “It was only a small group, but driven by John Scriven who had a vision of beautifying Aberdeen with tree lined streets” Heather said.

The Highway and Abercrombie Crescent were areas where much of the work was carried out. The cemetery also benefited from their work. Twenty years ago locals participated in a project, planting 250 seedling trees. Planted at the back of the cemetery the trees formed a wind break and beautification of the area.

“We got so much satisfaction from working on and in the environment, but our enthusiasm took a hit when an anti-tree planting vendetta saw trees in Taylor Park torn out of the ground”, She said.

Today, thousands of trees in parks and streets have changed the landscape giving the town a colourful character and welcoming appearance. Today’s tree beauty is a testament to the small band of volunteers with considerable help from the Aberdeen Lions Club.

Heather’s love of the environment and gardening blossomed during her childhood on her parents’ farm where nurturing the land was a way of life. She said, I loved working and watching plants and trees grow enriching the surrounds. When she moved to the district in 1954 it was her love of gardening that paved the way for working in community groups. Her efforts too gained recognition in the local garden competition when she was awarded first place.

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To our wonderful advertisers and loyal readers, thank you for your unwavering support, enthusiasm, and community spirit throughout the year. Each story shared, each advertisement placed, and each edition read has helped keep our little publication thriving at the heart of Aberdeen.

Your contributions and belief in local news remind us how special this community truly is. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us to tell your stories, celebrate your achievements, and keep our towns connected. It is your involvement that makes The Whisper more than just a newspaper — it makes it a reflection of the people who call this region home.

As we celebrate this festive season, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments. May the New Year bring bright opportunities, renewed hope, and many reasons to smile.

Thank you for being part of our story. We look forward to sharing many more moments with you in the year ahead.

Love,
The Aberdeen Whisper Family

REZ Consultation Extended

ENERGYCO has extended the time for public comment on the revised New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission line between Muswellbrook and Walcha by two weeks. The requests for more information on the selection of the three kilometre-wide study area corridor, which will eventually be narrowed to a final easement of 140 metres-wide, will now see comment close on Friday 12 December.

EnergyCo will also host an online webinar on Tuesday 25 November, 5-6.30pm, to discuss some of the key findings of the recently released Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report, including the assessment of firefighting constraints and construction challenges in the previous corridor.

To register follow the link at Have your say to help shape the corridor on the New England REZ webpage: www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne. Meantime, the New England REZ has reached an important milestone with three shortlisted tenderers announced for the Request for Proposal phase to select the preferred network operator.

Supplied.

Need some Christmas present ideas? We have curated a Christmas shopping feature on page 6 & 7

Whisper Christmas Trivia

1. What "cool" character is said to be responsible for the icy patterns left on windows on winter mornings?
2. In Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," what was Mr. Scrooge's first name?
3. What is the name of Rudolph's girlfriend?
4. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
5. In the movie Elf, how does Buddy get to the North Pole?
6. Which Christmas treat is known for its notoriously long shelf life?
7. Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as another holiday mascot?
8. In what country is KFC a popular Christmas meal?



- Answers:
1. Jack Frost
 2. Ebenezer
 3. Clarice
 4. Germany
 5. He hides in Santa's sack
 6. Fruitcake
 7. Cupid
 8. Japan

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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.

Earle's Column

continued on page 5

Struth! The end of the year is six weeks and two days away as I write this. Where has 2025 gone? And suddenly Christmas is upon us.

No matter what you believe, at the heart of Christmas is a person. A bit over two thousand and twenty-five years ago a baby arrived in circumstances of extraordinary humility, in an unimportant town, in an out-of-the-way corner of the then mighty Roman Empire. This child, to be named Jesus, (meaning 'God Saves') had long been promised to the people of the day. Arriving into a broken world, (which remains the case), this child would demonstrate God's grace poured out in a most unexpected way. He would show that true joy does not come from what we have or what we do, but from the love we share and the hope we place in him.

Somewhere in this edition of the "Whisper", there's an ad for a Christmas Day service at Upper Hunter Presbyterian Church in Scone. We would love to have you join us. A minister, that I know, came up with this rather pithy statement about twenty years ago: "Christmas - How much more 'down-to-earth' can God get?"

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

Now, I know this sounds 'cheesy' however, I want to say that it has been a genuine privilege to serve on the Upper Hunter Shire Council on your behalf. Maybe people expect me to say this, but in my estimation the Council has worked well and has achieved some outcomes that will strengthen our shire. There is considerable effort being undertaken to build our financial resilience by paying down debt, now sitting at a bit under \$27,000,000 down from \$29,000,000 a year ago. That's roughly \$167,000 per month!

There have been some 'big' decisions during the year including leasing out the Hunter Warbirds facility at Scone Airport, reaching an equitable solution to the serious cash-drain situation of Gummun Place Aged Care Hostel at Merriwa and the almost complete rebuild of the Coulson's Creek, (Willow Tree), Road. (The road will reopen sometime before Christmas and I thoroughly recommend that shire residents go for a drive up and over the range to Willow Tree)

Closer to home we have been able to utilise funds from two voluntary planning agreements to fund infrastructure and community activities in Aberdeen. These include:

- Rebuilding the scoreboard structure at the football field, blown over in the January storm.
- Providing bus transport to enable students of Aberdeen Public School to attend swimming safety lessons at Scone during Term 4.
- Completed survey and design work for desperately needed works in Kyuga Street. (Now all we have to do is get a grant for \$500,000 to complete the job!)

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: <https://huntervalleyprinting.com.au/aberdeen-whisper>.

Thank you for your understanding and support for the Whisper.

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.

WHISPER

Would you like your story, event or advertisement in The Aberdeen Whisper? Phone 02 6545 2888 or email: publications@huntervalleyprinting.com.au or sconeadmin@huntervalleyprinting.com.au

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A Living Tribute to a Small Band of Volunteers *continued from page 1*

Gardening these days is limited, but it hasn't stopped her from admiring her many varied and colourful plants and shrubs. "I think I was lucky to have found likeminded people in Aberdeen that enabled me to follow my love of the environment", Heather reflected.

The driving force behind the many tree planting projects was John Scriven, a steadfast advocate for the environment who always regarded Aberdeen as his home despite spending decades working at Sydney Tech college as head design teacher.

It wasn't only the Aberdeen environment that motivated John to beautify his home town, he was passionate about assisting young people in pursuing a career in fashion. On some occasions he would invite young people to tour overseas with his Sydney Tech College fashion students. His artistry is evident today in the Aberdeen Anglican Church where Ecclesiastical banners hang from the beams. Today though, he and a dedicated group of volunteers have left an indelible mark on the town.

Last Stop

Langley's Coaches has announced the cancellation of its Dubbo-Newcastle Express Service which has serviced a number of Upper Hunter communities over recent months.

The Central West firm commenced Monday and Friday return services in August after the previous Newcastle-based operator decided to vacate the route. Langley's has advised it has been a very difficult decision and one it did not want to make, however, patronage has unfortunately not been sufficient to keep the route at a sustainable level.

The company has explored funding opportunities to support the service but has not received any positive outcome by the time it had to make a decision. The Newcastle Express' last week of operation will be Monday, 29 December, with the final service operating on Friday, 2 January 2026.

For further information go to:
www.facebook.com/Langleyscoachesdubbo

Supplied.



a picture of Heather's garden

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"Kanoona", a timeless c1908 weatherboard homestead set on a generous, level 2,599sqm block just moments from Muswellbrook Hospital. This distinguished residence showcases five spacious bedrooms, four with built-in robes, two opening via elegant French doors onto the gauzed verandah. Polished timber floors flow throughout much of the home, complemented by plush cream carpet in select rooms. Both bathrooms have been maintained in keeping with the home's classic character and the laundry is a dream with plenty of storage. The formal lounge greets you at the front of the home with its ornamental fireplace, leading seamlessly into a sunlit glass-enclosed north-facing sunroom. The formal dining room is equally impressive, featuring polished floors and a second fireplace, perfect for family gatherings or entertaining guests.

At the heart of the home lies a stunning NEW, contemporary kitchen with a large pantry, integrated dishwasher, 600mm cooktop, under-bench oven, island breakfast bar, and a picture window framing serene garden views. Flowing from here, a warm and inviting family dining and living space with custom cabinetry opens through double timber doors to a covered rear deck. Outdoors, you'll discover a sparkling 16m inground pebblecrete pool and elevated views across the top of town, framed by lush, established gardens and shady spots designed for relaxation. A single garage, pool shed with third toilet, solar system (including Tesla Battery), security alarm and water tank add to the home's practicality. Framed by a handsome sandstone and wrought-iron fence, "Kanoona" is a property of presence and grace, lovingly cared for by the current family and now ready to welcome its next chapter. Arrange your private inspection today and experience this remarkable homestead for yourself.



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Aberdeen Public School

THANK YOU!!!

We have had another exciting year at APS, filled with learning, memorable experiences, academic achievements and extracurricular activities along with embracing new opportunities and successes.

Thank you to everyone who purchased Zooper Doopers on Thursday 25th September to help us raise \$108.00 for the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

We are also grateful for the support shown to Where There's A Will for Colour Your Threads Day. The school was a sea of colour and the smiles were plentiful for our out of uniform day. Thank you to everyone who helped the students raise \$149.00 for the charity



CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We recently celebrated Grandparents' Day. This day is about recognising the wisdom, support, and love of grandparents and the important role they play in children's lives. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our students' grandparents into the classrooms and it's obvious the children loved having you visit their school.



YEAR 6 MINI FETE RAISED \$1812.03

The Year 6 Mini Fete has become a school tradition and one of the most highly anticipated events on the school calendar. A picture tells a thousand words, and you can see from the collage of happy faces that the afternoon was a success.

From face painting to slingshots, pillow fights to water fights, and lollipops to all things spooky in the haunted house, there was genuinely something for everyone of all ages.

Congratulations to Year 6, whose stalls made a profit of \$1812.03. This is a fantastic outcome and a nice reward for the many, many hours that went into the planning, set up, and running of the stalls. Again, a huge thank you to the parents who assisted as well as to the Year 5 students who generously gave a helping hand to their friends in Year 6.



INTENSIVE SWIMMING PROGRAMME

On behalf of all students who participated in this year's intensive Swimming Program, we send our sincere appreciation to our MACH Energy, Upper Hunter Shire Council and the Aberdeen Investment Committee who generously sponsored this initiative. We extend our gratitude to the P&C, in particular, Kel Callaghan, for their relentless support and advocacy for the Aberdeen PS community. Mrs Loveridge did an amazing job handling the logistics, supported by staff across the school to ensure this year's program ran smoothly.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in enrolling their child at APS, please encourage them to get in touch with our school office. We would be happy to provide more information and answer any questions they might have.

As the year draws to a close, we would like to extend our warm wishes to the Aberdeen community for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. To our outgoing Year 6 students, we wish you all the best for the next chapter of your education and hope you enjoy high school and all it has to offer.

We look forward to seeing our students and families refreshed and ready for a wonderful 2026 at APS!

Supplied.

Barnaby Joyce's Opinion Piece on CSIRO Gen Cost

There is an alternate universe based on alternate "facts" that are only facts on the paper they are written for the purpose they are written for. It is the case in many things that somber pronouncements never match up to the reality, and that would not matter except for the cost worn by those who follow those earnest tomes.

In trying to plumb reality it is best to ground truth to the experience in the field. Now, Sarah Ferguson on the 7.30 Report on the 17th of November insisted that the CSIRO said that intermittent power (renewables) were the cheapest electricity so why would you consider anything else.

This is what GenCost from the CSIRO says: For the seventh year in a row, renewables remain the lowest-cost option for new low-emission electricity generation. Gas with carbon capture and storage (CCS) followed by large-scale nuclear are the next lowest cost options, but as neither is currently used for electricity generation in Australia, both may face longer lead times and first-of-a-kind premiums.

Now here is the critical phrase in that: remain the lowest-cost option for new low-emission electricity generation. That does not mean the cheapest overall, it means if you have to pick low emissions, as they define, it is in their view the cheapest. Coal fired power is not the cheapest when you look at CSIRO's catalogue because they are not considered low emissions. However, on comparable analysis of the portion power bills make up of the household's budget now that we have near 45% intermittent power and the portion of the power bill of the household's budget when we had coal fired power proves the overall "cheapest" claim to be garbage.

You may not like coal fired power but it is proven the cheapest.

Now, who also has the view that intermittents are unviable? Well, it appears to be Rio Tinto who are closing down the Tomago Aluminium Smelter and are now going to start shutting their operations in Gladstone Queensland. This is a globally serious company that has closely analysed our nation's power policy. All the promises of a new sunny upland of intermittent power heaven have been brought crashing back down into the swamp of heavy industry deserting Australia.

Supplied.

Earle's Column

continued from page 2

CRASH OR CRASH THROUGH!

The unfortunately named EnergyCo has demonstrated, yet again, that when it comes to their statutory duty to engage in 'community consultation' that it appears to be, from their perspective, a 'box-ticking' exercise. In their dealings with councillors on 27th October, and then at community meetings at Gundy and Timor in the following week, they are either adopting a strategy of being completely opaque or they are simply disorganised, lazy and therefore, probably, incompetent!

If you're not across this issue, they have proposed a new three-kilometre-wide corridor to enable the building of two 500 kilovolt transmission lines to bring electricity generated by renewable methods from the New England Renewable Energy Zone, NEREZ, (think Walcha, Armidale and surrounding districts) through the Walcha Shire, then Upper Hunter

Shire and onto Muswellbrook and beyond, (Sydney). This corridor not only crosses the Rouchel district, directly affecting at least 15 homes, but then will transverse prime agricultural land east of Scone and up to Walcha where there are three 'hubs'. The disruption to quality of life and to livelihoods will be immense.

At the October meeting, I asked why these new transmission lines couldn't be placed within the two 330 kilovolt line corridors that have existed for decades. The representatives of EnergyCo offered nothing more than excuses and provided no evidence to support their excuses/argument. As I understand it, the same proposition has been put to them again and again with no better resolution. The rapacious power-needs of metropolitan areas cannot come at the cost of running roughshod over vibrant rural communities.

Sally, my wife, and I wish you a wonderful Christmas season and may 2026 be a year full of good things for each of you and those close to you.

Supplied by Earle Shields.

Aberdeen Pony Club



Last month we held our November rally day back at our own grounds in Aberdeen which was wonderful. This day was filled with lots of laughs and fun activities, we had a few friends from Scone join us and every horse had a little bit of sparkle on them.

A big thank you to Ash and Graham for instructing before our riders tackled the crazy Christmas time trial, the tinsel team bending race, pin the nose on rudolf and then we topped it off with a donut eating competition. This donut game was a hit as young and old tried their hardest to eat a donut hanging from a piece of string without using their hands. We hope you all had a great time and thanks to the parent helpers, we couldn't have done it without your help.

So as Christmas fast approaches we have a couple of important dates to mark in your calendars -

- Sunday 14th December: AGM and Presentation day, starting at 12 noon Linga Longa Pub Gundy (Keep an eye on the Aberdeen Pony Club face book page for updates, we are trying to organise a trail ride before the formalities begin.)
- Friday 19th December: come along to the Commercial Hotel Aberdeen from 6pm to help sell or buy raffle tickets. The Commercial Hotel have been very generous including us in their regular Friday night raffles and all the proceeds go back into our club. Thank you Lenore

There is a band on after the raffles too, so pop down and celebrate a fantastic Pony Club Year with a drink or too and great company. Don't forget to RSVP for the Presentation day so we can finalise our catering options.

Supplied by Amy Croft.



DESIGN PRINT SIGN

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Before you click “buy now” online or head out of town for your Christmas shopping, here’s a little local secret – The Aberdeen Post Office is so much more than just a place to post letters!

Owner Kylie has filled the shelves with a delightful range of gifts and cards to suit just about everyone on your list. “Yes, it’s more than just a post office,” Kylie says with a smile, gesturing to the array of thoughtful and affordable gift ideas. Now in her second year of ownership, Kylie says the local support has been amazing – with many customers choosing to shop local and keep their dollars in the community. And of course, part of the charm is Kylie herself – always ready for a friendly chat and a warm welcome when you pop in.

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Framing is more than a craft – it’s an art form, and it’s one Helen has perfected over many years. From paintings and photographs to unique treasures like a ballerina’s tutu or even pebbles from Elvis’ grave, Helen can frame just about anything with precision and care. Her philosophy is simple yet timeless: a good frame should complement the artwork, becoming a seamless extension of it. Proudly recognised with the Australian Quality Excellence in Customer Service Award, Helen continues to deliver craftsmanship and care that makes every piece shine – just in time for the festive season. This Christmas, create a gift that will be cherished for years to come. Give your memories the perfect frame this Christmas!

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At Wildflower Wedding Co., Bronte believes that every love story deserves to be told in a way that’s meaningful, beautiful and entirely your own. Based in the heart of the Hunter region, she specialises in heartfelt wedding and event planning that brings your unique vision to life with grace, intention and a touch of magic. From intimate elopements to grand celebrations, she’s here to take the stress away and replace it with joy, clarity and excitement as she plans your perfect day.



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This Christmas, There's No Place Like Local

As Christmas approaches and our towns begin to sparkle with festive lights, there's never been a better time to support the small businesses that make our community feel like home. Choosing to shop local during the holidays does more than help you find the perfect gift — it strengthens the heart of our towns.

Local businesses employ local people, sponsor our Christmas events, donate to school raffles, and help create the sense of community we treasure during this season. Every purchase made close to home keeps money circulating here in the Upper Hunter, supporting families, jobs, and the services we rely on. Shopping local at Christmas also brings joy in ways online shopping simply can't. You can browse beautifully decorated shopfronts, enjoy a friendly chat with a familiar face, and discover unique gifts you'd never find anywhere else. From handmade treasures to thoughtful vouchers, our small businesses offer something special for everyone on your list.

This Christmas, let's celebrate the spirit of giving by choosing local first. Every gift bought locally is a gift to our community — helping our towns stay vibrant, connected, and full of festive cheer.

By choosing to shop local, we're also investing in the future of our region. When small businesses thrive, they're able to grow, innovate, and continue offering the personal service and quality that set them apart. Their success encourages new businesses to open, brings life to our main streets, and helps ensure our towns remain strong and welcoming for generations to come. This season, your support doesn't just make a difference today — it helps shape the community we'll all enjoy tomorrow.

Shop local, support small businesses, and keep the magic of Christmas right here at home.



UPPER HUNTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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.

State Matters with Dave Layzell MP

HOSPITAL UPDATE

Stage Three of the Muswellbrook Hospital Redevelopment will achieve several milestones as 2025 draws to a close.

State-of-the-art theatres include an operating room, procedure room and staff support spaces are due for completion before the end of year, ready to be operational next year. And, the new Community Health space, is currently being fitted out with electrical cabling and framing for internal walls.

As the construction team works toward completion of its milestone with the Operating Theatre suite, the existing construction compound will close with site fencing coming down by the end of the year. A new compound will then be established behind the main hospital building to focus on the Sterilisation Department.

For more about the project, check: www.nsw.gov.au/muswellbrook-hospital-redevelopment

POST-MINING PLAN

Legislation has been introduced into the NSW Parliament to establish the Future Jobs and Investment Authority.

It will also create a framework for strategic intervention to encourage economic growth and development in regions experiencing, or likely to experience, structural economic change as a result of changes in demand for coal or coal-fired power generation.

More information about the Authority is available at: www.nsw.gov.au/fjia

FESTIVAL GRANTS

Three councils in the Upper Hunter Electorate have received funding from the NSW Seniors Festival Grant Program.

The state's Seniors Festival is being held 2-15 March 2026 with events including wellbeing workshops, concerts and community outings. MidCoast Council receives \$9,250 to provide a variety of creative, educational and cultural events designed to encourage participation, life-long learning and community connection.

Cessnock City Council has \$6,230 for 'Live Life in Colour' to engage the local senior's community in all aspects of the planning and delivery of a free, accessible and inclusive festival program.

TAFE 2026

TAFE NSW is already preparing for next year with enrolments for Semester 1 now open. There are hundreds of courses to choose from with prospective students encouraged to find their gift for practical learning.

Courses such as electrotechnology, animal care, commercial cookery, early childhood education and care, healthcare, hospitality, business and marketing, and Aboriginal programs.



Flexible study options are available, with industry experienced teachers and nationally recognised courses to ensure you are job-ready for a successful career. Further detail on courses and enrolment can be found at: www.tafensw.edu.au

ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open for the NSW Government's Fisheries Advisory Councils.

Passionate recreational fishers and commercial fishing industry representatives with good fishing knowledge and experience, are required for the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) or the Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW). The Advisory Councils provide engagement between government and industry, with key outcomes delivered on a range of fisheries policies and issues including management of fisheries resources and ecosystems, for future generations.

For more information and to apply for the positions before 19 December visit: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/consultation>

PROJECT TO PROCEED

EnergyCo will proceed with plans for an oversize overmass (OSOM) truck pullover bay at Jerrys Plains in the proposed location, north of the BP Service Station.

A range of feedback raised issues including safety, the current condition of the location, use of the pullover bay by non-OSOM vehicles and loss of parking, during community consultation in June of this year. EnergyCo has acknowledged community comments about road safety regarding the increase in OSOM vehicle movements from the Port of Newcastle to the Central-West Orana renewable energy zone (REZ). It is investigating how the pullover bay could be used by others when OSOM vehicles are not using it and will continue to work with Transport for NSW to plan how OSOM vehicles will travel safely and efficiently. Construction of the pullover bay in Jerrys Plains is scheduled to start in 2026.

FERAL PIG ASSISTANCE

Landholders are encouraged to take advantage of free grain and bait on offer as part of a statewide crackdown on feral pigs. \$850,000 funding has been made available as part of the NSW Government's Feral Pig and Pest Program.

Local Land Services Feral Pig Coordinator Bec Gray is encouraging landholders to team up, plan strategically and use the free bait and grain to support the use of multiple control methods, such as trapping and shooting. The Feral Pig and Pest Program has been extended until June 2026 offering landholders training, resources, and support to manage pests and meet their General Biosecurity Duty.

For more on the free grain and bait or to join the fight against feral pigs and pests call Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

MOBILE PHONE WARNING

Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman is warning users of some older Samsung mobile telephone owners to check if their handset is fully functional. Some of the phones can't call Triple Zero when there is no reception because they cannot connect to back-up mobile networks. If your telephone is affected, your telco needs to notify you and then disconnect your service in 28-35 days, after this time your mobile will be blocked from accessing all Australian mobile networks.

The problem is about the Samsung mobile device, not specific telcos or networks. To check if your phone needs to be updated or replaced, Optus customers should check: www.optus.com.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/2025/10/customer-update-triple-zero-and-samsung-devices and Telstra customers: www.telstra.com.au/exchange/older-mobile-devices-calling-triple-zero

Watch for notifications from your telco or contact them directly, however, if you can't work it out together, contact the TIO on 1800 062 058 or make an online complaint: www.tionline.com.au.

SENIORS AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the NSW Seniors Festival Local Senior of the Year Awards. The Upper Hunter electorate is encouraged to recognise an outstanding older person in their community by Friday 16 January.

Previously known as the NSW Seniors Local Achievement Awards, the awards highlight the diverse ways seniors enrich their communities. If you know a senior who strives to make our community a better place through volunteering, innovation or simply supporting family and friends, now is the time to nominate them for recognition.

Supplied.

Contact:

94 John Street Singleton 2330
upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au
6543 1065

The Latest on Vets Golf

WHO WON THE JACK WHITE TROPHY?

28 Vets competed for the Jack White Trophy at Aberdeen Golf Club on Tuesday, Nov 25. Thank you to Captain Mick for compiling the shotgun start draw.

Robert Colbert won the trophy with nett 67, from Gary Leake second 69, Glenn Googe third 70, Paul Constable fourth 71 CB, Reg Davidson fifth 71 and Andy Medway sixth 72. Balls went to John Belfield, Des Partridge and Mark Middleton 73, Glen Standing and Dave Kerr 74 and on 75 Dave Perfrement and Dave Bramley.

The putting wine was won by Glen Standing with 25 putts on a CB. The Best Scratch Score was recorded by Robert Colbert with 77. Nearest the Pins: 4th David Bradshaw 13th Brian Harshman 9th Dave Kerr 18th Dave Perfrement. The Bradman's trophy was won by Bob Lawman.

DAVID BRAMLEY WINS THE BRADMAN'S TROPHY

Lindsay Hodge has done an excellent job drawing up the draws for the Vets at Scone Golf Club over recent weeks, and it was fitting that he won the Stb event on Nov 18 (today) with 42 points, from Bob Lawman second 41, Andy Medway third 40, Dave Perfrement fourth 37 CB, John Belfield fifth 37 CB and Gary Leake sixth 37.

Balls went to Glenn Googe, Dave Kerr and Alan Flanagan 36 and on 35 Joan Farras, Captain Mick McCormick, Dave Taylor and Red Palmer. The Bradman's trophy was won by David Bramley. Nearest the Pins: 4th Geoff Barton 13th Garry Carter 8th Mick Reynolds 17th Lindsay Hodge.

FUTURE GAMES:

- Dec 2, Stb at Mbk, (please book-in with the Proshop,) Xmas prizes
- Dec 9, Stb at Denman Xmas Prizes
- Dec 16, Stb Scone (please book-in with Ross Banks) Xmas prizes
- Dec 23, at Aberdeen S&P Xmas prizes
- Dec 30, at Mdi.

New players welcome. Shotgun start by 8.00am.

Supplied.



pictured on left: (left) Robert Colbert had a good round at Aberdeen Golf Club on Nov 25 and won the Jack White Trophy plus recording the best scratch score. He is congratulated by Treasurer Bob Minch. pictured on right: Lindsay Hodge (right) is congratulated by Captain Mick on winning the Stb event with 42 points in the Vets' Golf on Nov 18 at Scone.

Aberdeen Rugby League

MITCH TAYLOR RETURNS FOR 2026!

The Aberdeen Tigers are thrilled to welcome Mitch Taylor back for the 2026 season! Mitch is known for his strong carries and dominant presence through the middle. He's the kind of player who sets the tone early and lifts the whole squad every time he's involved. We're excited to see him back in the black and orange and ready to make an impact

JAMIE FEENEY – HEAD COACH

The Aberdeen Tigers are excited to announce that Jamie Feeny will lead the club as head coach of our First Grade squad for the 2026 Group 21 Rugby League season. Jamie played 132 NRL games with the Canterbury Bulldogs and Melbourne Storm, represented Country three times, and has coached at State, National, and NRLW levels — including the Sydney Roosters and Gold Coast Titans. He also guided a team to a Host Plus Cup Premiership in 2023. We're thrilled to welcome Jamie to the Tigers family and can't wait for what's ahead in 2026!

ALBURY TEAM BODES WELL FOR TIGERS

Albert joined the Tigers in 2012 and began coaching in 2013, taking charge of the League Tag side. Since then, he's coached over 100 games across 10 seasons of League Tag, multiple women's tackle comps, and one full tackle season. He's seen the women's game grow massively and continues to share his passion with every new group coming through. Caitlin started playing for the Tigers in 2013 and has been a regular on the field ever since — in League Tag, tackle, and as League-Safe. She began coaching alongside her dad in 2015 and helped push for the first 6-week women's tackle competition. She's proudly represented the club in Group 21 and with the Greater Northern Tigers. Her biggest passion is encouraging girls of all ages to get involved and fall in love with rugby league.

TOMMY DIXON RETURNS TO ABERDEEN!

The Tigers are excited to welcome Tommy Dixon back to the Aberdeen Tigers for the 2026 season. Tommy returns home after three strong years with Lakes United, where he collected three Best Back awards in the Queens Ward competition. A true whiz-kid in the backline, Tommy brings speed, creativity and sharp footy smarts that will help steer the

club in all the right directions this season. Welcome back, Tommy — great to see you in the black and orange again!

2026 PRE-SEASON BEGINS

The Tigers are back for an even bigger year, pre-season training running STARTED on November 25, December 2, continuing on December 9, and 16 December. Each session will be held at McKinnon Oval from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. All players from our Senior Men, Under 18s, and Women's Tackle teams are invited to attend. Pre-season is the ideal opportunity to reconnect, build combinations, and set the tone for the season ahead. We also encourage any potential new players who are considering joining the Tigers to come along. Whether you're returning to the game or trying something new, everyone is welcome to be part of our 2026 campaign. Let's get to work, Tigers

2026 UNDER 18'S COACHING OPPORTUNITY

With our successful Under 16s team moving into the Under 18s competition next season, we're looking for a coach to guide this group through their next stage of development. This squad has already built strong foundations, trust, and culture with the current Under 18's from the 2025 season. Keeping continuity into U18s can provide smoother progression, stronger combinations, and stability for players as they step into a higher level of footy. The team already understands each other's playing style and expectations, giving any new or continuing coach a solid base heading into 2026. If you're interested in coaching our Under 18s or would like more information, please send club President Jhi Tanner a message.

BRADLEY FENTON – COACH OF RESERVE GRADE

The Aberdeen Tigers Rugby League Football Club is proud to announce that Bradley Fenton will be taking the helm as coach for the Reserve Grade squad for the 2026 season. Bradley is no stranger to the Tigers family. He began his journey with Aberdeen juniors back in 2004, went on to be part of the 2010 first-grade premiership team, and later took on a leadership role as captain-coach of the Reserve Grade side that claimed the 2016 premiership. He also featured in the 2017 Reserve Grade grand final and has been a key figure in multiple grand finals over the years. We're excited to welcome Bradley into the coaching role and can't wait to see what he brings to the club in 2026.

Supplied by Jacob Dallah.

Barnaby JOYCE MP



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

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



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To: The Upper Hunter Electorate
**Merry Christmas and a
Safe, Happy Start to 2026**

From: Dave Layzell MP Member
for Upper Hunter



Dave Layzell MP
MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER



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

Agriculture

Milankovitch – Earths Orbital Cycles by Doctor Dirt

The final article of the year I am covering the Orbital Cycles and their role in the Earths Climate. The other major factor is the amount (parts per million) of carbon related compounds such as carbon dioxide and methane (there are others, but these are major ones) in and being admitted in the thin atmosphere. I will cover human induced emissions currently running at 38.1 billion tonnes per year and growing at approximately 4 percent per year in later articles this is known as the human induced great acceleration.

Serbian scientist Milutin Milankovitch early in the 20th century hypothesis was the Earth's position in relation to the Sun has a long-term and collective effect on Earth's climate in particular regards to commencing and ending of glacial periods "ice ages" and the time between the interglacial periods. There are three components of the astrophysics cycles. The first component is Eccentricity this is the change in the earth's orbit due to approximately of the two gas giants to the earth. Their influence pulls the earth further from the sun when they are closer to the earth. This cycle spans approximately 100,000 years at present the Earths Orbit around the sun is approaching circular. This component has the least astrophysics climatic effect on the earth. It does however add to the influence and the interval variations the other two components Obliquity and Procession.

The second component is Obliquity this is the axis tilt of the earth. Over the past approximate 1 million years, the earth has had a 41,000-year axis tilt cycle between 22.1 degrees and 24.5 degrees. We are currently neutral/halfway at 23.4 degrees axis tilt. The less the tilt such as 22.1 degrees the less sun solar ray exposure to the atmosphere and the earth surface. This is major natural factor in ice ages occurrences. When the tilt is 24.5 degrees the sun's solar rays' impact on the atmosphere and earth's surface as the largest areas are closer to the sun and exposed. This coincides when the

earth should be at its hottest. The earth is currently tilting towards and progressing to a more acute angle of sun exposure (22.1 degrees). This means the earth should be getting cooler ever so slowly, but the earth is rapidly heating due to human landuse practices and the consumption/dependence on fossil fuels. Obliquity is a major factor in climate Orbital Cycle the earth should be at its hottest in 31,800 years.

The third and final component in regard to Orbital Cycles is Axial Procession (The Earths Wobble). This Orbital Cycle is a major factor in the earth's seasons. The "Wobble" occurs as the earth rotates on its axis like a slightly off-center spinning top. It is a major factor in seasonal conditions. Currently this results in the Southern Hemispheres experiencing more extremes such as hotter summers whilst Northern Hemisphere has more stable weather. This will be reversed in approximately 13,000 years when southern hemisphere will become more moderate and more extreme in the Northern Hemisphere.

These Cycles have been reviewed (especially Obliquity), and researched by many scientists, independent organisations and universities. Extensive ice core investigation in Antarctica and Greenland is just some of the examples of work to verify this Cycle.

The earth just does not suddenly decide to change its climate. There are always scientific reasons. Baring catastrophic events such as asteroid collision, massive natural geothermal events. Though there have been other one-off imbalances that have either heated or made the earth much colder. Orbital Cycles and Natural Geothermal Activities have been the two major influences on the earth's climate. Until now, humanity consumption of fossil fuels (human generated emissions) our dependence on them and land use such as clearing is causing the great acceleration of climatic extremes and conditions. What we all do, all 8 billion of us have a direct impact, climate change effects everything- everyone- everywhere. The current climatic changes, as thousands of specialist scientists confirm, are not part of the Earth's Natural Orbital Cycles.

Supplied by Steve Eccles.

Steve Eccles - steveecclesconsulting@gmail.com

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