

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

June 2026

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ABERDEEN
HIGHLAND
GAMES

"A Celtic Experience in the Scottish Tradition"

Countdown For The Aberdeen Highland Games Is On!

With just four weeks to go, excitement is building for this year's much anticipated Aberdeen Highland Games, set to bring a vibrant celebration of Scottish culture, community spirit, and family fun. To celebrate 25 years of the Games, organisers and volunteers are working behind the scenes to ensure a memorable day of surprises amongst regular featured events, providing plenty of opportunities to embrace all things Scottish.

One of the highlights is expected to be the ever-popular "Best Dressed Pets" competition. Pet owners are already planning creative costumes, with tartan themes, kilts, and playful Scottish-inspired outfits sure to steal the show. From dogs in miniature Highland dress to imaginative takes on classic clan styles, the competition is set to be both heartwarming and entertaining for visitors of all ages. Alongside the fun, the Highland Games will showcase a stunning array of Scottish fashions. Attendees will be treated to a colourful display of kilts, accessories, and traditional attire, celebrating the rich heritage behind these iconic styles. Whether worn by guests or proudly displayed by the pipe bands, the fashions add an authentic and festive atmosphere to the day.

Of course, the games themselves remain at the heart of the event, bringing together friendly competition, music, and cultural pride. Families, friends, and visitors are enthusiastically welcomed to sample products from the many food and market stalls, as well as having the opportunity to buy traditional Scottish gifts and memorabilia from some of the best known suppliers in Australia. Anticipation is growing. The Highland Games promises to be a fantastic community event filled with laughter, creativity, and a strong sense of tradition.

For all information and ticket purchases, please go to www.aberdeenhIGHLANDgames.com



Whisper Trivia

1. How many major islands make up Hawaii?
2. Which K-pop idol became the face of Onitsuka Tiger in early 2026?
3. What was the name of the virtual pet toy that became a craze in the late 90s?
4. Which late-night host is known for "Carpool Karaoke"?
5. In the TV show Friends, what is the name of Ross' pet monkey?
6. What fruit shares 60% of its DNA with humans?
7. What was the first non-English-language film to win Best Picture at the Oscars?
8. What movie is known for the line, "Life is like a box of chocolates"?
9. Who won Song of the Year at the 2026 Grammy Awards for "Wildflower"?



- Answers:
1. Eight
 2. Momo (TWICE)
 3. Tamagotchi
 4. James Corden
 5. Marcel
 6. Banana
 7. Parasite
- Forrest
Elliott
Elle

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Earle's Column



AND NOW FOR THE NOT-SO-GOOD NEWS!

Unfortunately, this edition of my column starts with the news that our attempts to commemorate the 1926 Aberdeen Rail Disaster have had to be cancelled. It would seem that the idea simply did not resonate with people. When the decision was made to cancel on Monday 18th May bookings for the vintage railmotor were sitting at only 20% of capacity, we only had about ten bookings for the Market Day stalls and to continue would have been irresponsible given the use of public funds. The committee has decided to update the existing historical plaque in the Aberdeen Lions Jockey Park and correct a couple of bits of inaccurate information incorporated thereon. All of that said, I think it is much better to have tried and not succeeded, than to never have tried at all.

BUT IN OTHER PLACES, NO CANCELLATIONS - MOVING ON!

At the May Community Advisory Committee, (CAC), for Aberdeen, held on 11th May, the Committee received a presentation from Casey Joshua from North Harbour Clean Energy, (NHCE), the proponents of the Battery Energy Storage System, (BESS), proposed for the bottom end of Campbell Street. She reported that they are close to submitting their Environmental Impact Study, (EIS), to NSW Planning for approval. NSW Planning will advise when they place it on public exhibition and that will open a 28-day window for submissions from the general public. Hopefully that advice will coincide with a future edition of this column.

The CAC complimented NHCE on the way they have engaged with the Aberdeen community on their development proposal. To that end, they, NHCE, are conducting drop-in sessions on 9th and 10th June at the Aberdeen Sports Club at Jefferson Park to provide additional information to the community before their EIS is submitted.

At the ordinary council meeting on Monday 25th May, Upper Hunter Shire Council approved a resolution that applies to a very small part of the proposed project that NHCE needed as part of their EIS submission. Council has approved use of part of the road reserve of Wells Gully Road, between the Aberdeen Waste Facility and the Shire boundary for the installation of some of the necessary infrastructure for the project.

COUNCIL STUFF

The public exhibition period for the annual Delivery Plan Operational Plan, DPOP, for 2026/2027 and 2026 to 2031 has now closed. Councillors will now consider any submissions received during the exhibition period with a view to modifying the DPOP before it comes back to Council on 29th June for implementation.

'RAIN FROM NOWHERE'

Murray Hartin, an Australian "bush poet", has written a very poignant piece with the title above. I'd recommend that people read it, it has a very relevant tale to tell.

However, having 'stolen' the title of a wonderful piece of poetry I think it is very worthwhile to express gratitude for the rain received in May that, in my rain gauge, delivered a couple of millimetres short of 100 for the month. The country has developed an immediate green 'tinge' that along with still reasonably warm weather and, so far, no frosts might mean a chance for late sowing or some pasture growth for those who are dependent on the vagaries the weather. I'm not sure how long it is since I last used my lawn mower, but after zero in my gauge in April, it is something of a pleasure to cut green grass!

Supplied by Earle Shields.

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.

Happy to hear from you

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



the aberdeen
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This fantastic 4-bedroom brick home is in a lovely family friendly cul-de-sac in Aberdeen. Featuring 4 bedrooms, 3 with built in robes, the large main with NEW ensuite and walk in robe. There is Ducted R/C A/C throughout the home plus ceiling fans. Plenty of living space with a large living area with vaulted ceiling opening to the covered side Alfresco, plus a huge open plan kitchen, dining, family room which flows to the rear outdoor living space. The kitchen is in very good condition with electric oven and cooktop, dishwasher, and large pantry. At the back of the kitchen is a huge Laundry which could also be used as a walk-in pantry. This home is perfect for entertaining with a covered deck, paved area with built in seating and a Swim Spa. The yard has been freshly turfed and there is a single Colourbond shed for storage. An added bonus is the solar system to keep the bills down. There is side access into the yard plus a double garage with remote door and internal access. This home is very well presented and ready for a new owner to enjoy! Book your private inspection today!



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State Matters with Dave Layzell MP

COST OF LIVING TIP

If you receive a fine or overdue fine notice and are finding it hard to pay, Revenue NSW can provide help and support.

To start you can request a fine review or seek advice on applying to go to court from NSW Legal Aid www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au or by accessing independent legal advice.

There are other ways to pay a fine such as setting up a payment plan, applying to have your fine reduced or written-off or clearing your debt through approved unpaid work or activities. Managing your fines online has been made it easier and you can now add Fines to your MyServiceNSW account.

If you are a First Nations person, you can call the First Nations Hotline on 1800 002 345 to talk with support officers about your options and to help you get back on track.

For more information on the options that may be available, check:
www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/online-services/sections/fines

CLARITY FOR LANDLORDS

Landlords are on notice that strengthening compliance and enforcement of tobacco and vaping goods laws in NSW has now taken another step forward. The Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment (Landlord Offences) Bill 2025 has passed Parliament and will commence on proclamation in the NSW Government Gazette.

The legislation creates an offence for commercial lessors who knowingly permit premises to be used by tenants to sell illicit tobacco and illegal vapes. The new offence carries a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment, a fine of \$165,000, or both.

It is intended to target landlords who are aware of tenants selling illicit tobacco and vaping goods from their premises and knowingly permit this illicit activity to continue, without taking steps to report or evict the tenant.

Further information on penalties and enforcement are available at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/retailers-penalties-enforcement.aspx

REGO REMINDER

Motorists are being urging to sign up for digital registration reminders for their vehicle through Service NSW. The new text reminder is being introduced with more than 50,000 motorists last year fined for driving unregistered and uninsured.

Vehicle owners who opt in for digital reminders will receive an additional SMS notification the day after their registration expires to both remind them to renew and stop them driving an unregistered vehicle by mistake.

Motorists who fail to renew vehicle registration



must not drive their vehicle on roads until the registration is renewed to ensure vehicles are roadworthy and have compulsory third party CTP insurance in case of a crash. Further information and to opt in to digital vehicle registration reminders, go to the Service NSW website or click on 'Registrations' in the Service NSW app.

GOT YOUR POSTCARD?

Australia Post is this month delivering four million prepaid connection postcards to households across Australia. It's part of an initiative with Beyond Blue to make mental health and wellbeing a part of everyday conversations and to build stronger, more connected communities.

Now you can send a little message of kindness to a friend, a neighbour, or someone you haven't spoken to in a while, because connection matters and those few handwritten words can mean more than you realise. Keep an eye on your letterbox, pick one up at participating Post Offices or to order postcards visit: www.beyondblue.org.au/get-involved/campaign-supporter-packs/connections-postcards

For tips on how to connect and look after your mental health from Beyond Blue check in at: www.beyondblue.org.au

A BRIGHTER IDEA

If you need to dispose of fluorescent light globes and tubes, you should avoid putting them in your household bins for kerbside collection. Fluoros contain small amounts of mercury, which can be harmful to people and the environment if sent to landfill.

For safe disposal take them to your local Community Recycling Centre: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Recycling-and-reuse/household-recycling-overview/community-recycling-centres

And, to make that trip worthwhile also take the most common form of household hazardous waste – batteries. Loose batteries, car batteries and battery powered items should only go to

your local recycling centre for safe disposal, free of charge.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

Two draft Public Environment Reports (PER) for the Hunter Valley Operations continuation project are out for community consultation until 17 June.

The reports for the HVO North Continuation Project and HVO South Continuation Project cover determined controlled actions under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. HVO's proposed continuation will increase resource recovery from the existing operation, predominantly by mining through previously mined areas. The draft PERs are on display at Singleton Library, Muswellbrook Library and the State Library of NSW. More details about the continuation project and the public environment reports are available on the HVO website: www.hvo.com.au

ADDRESS THE STRESS

Hunter Local Land Services is encouraging primary producers who have been challenged by recent events, including drought and the availability of fuel and fertiliser, to share their load. Demanding conditions can affect how we think, make decisions and cope day to day, so take a moment to check in with yourself, with family, neighbours and others in your community. If you are feeling that pressure, you are not alone and it is okay to acknowledge it. Support is available, and you don't have to work through it on your own.

If you would like to talk through practical options for your property, contact the Hunter LLS team on 1300 795 299. The Rural Adversity Mental Health Program also offers free, confidential support and resources for people in rural communities. Visit www.ramhp.com.au to find support near you.

TAFE ENROLMENTS

TAFE NSW is now taking enrolments for Semester 2, 2026 with hundreds of affordable, practical courses, taught by industry-experienced teachers. You can gain skills that work in agriculture, business, commercial cookery, hospitality, information technology, community services and flooring technology.

There are trade pathways for experienced workers to turn building and construction industry experience into a nationally recognised qualification through recognition of prior learning (RPL) and the trade pathways for experienced workers program.

You could help shape the future of Australian manufacturing by getting skills to be future-ready with specialisation in renewable manufacturing and advanced manufacturing.

Supplied.

Contact:

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

UHSC Meeting Recap

Upper Hunter Shire Council met on Monday, 25 May 2026 to consider a range of matters relating to community planning, infrastructure delivery and major projects across the shire.

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR AMBASSADORS PRESENTATION

Council welcomed participants from the 2026 Young Endeavour voyage, with local ambassadors sharing insights from their recent leadership and development experience aboard the national sail training ship.

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2026–2030

The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026–2030 was endorsed for public exhibition, supporting Council's ongoing commitment to accessibility, inclusion and improved participation for people with disability across the Upper Hunter. The draft DIAP can be viewed here: https://www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/2/council/meetings/council-meetings/diap_2026_v10.pdf

PUBLIC FORUMS AND COMMITTEES

New Model Public Forum Rules issued by the Office of Local Government were considered, along with their impact on Council's current Code of Meeting Practice.

Two motions were considered during discussion of the item. Council ultimately resolved to note the guidance and directives from the Office of Local Government on meetings and public forums, and modify the Code of Meeting Practice with the public forum commencing at 4.30pm prior to the Council meeting. The updated guidance supports holding public forums separately before Council meetings, allowing Councillors time to consider matters raised and seek further information if required.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Recommendations from the Environmental and Community Services Committee meeting held on 12 May 2026 were adopted. This included approval of a residential shed development application in Aberdeen, approval to regularise an existing cattle feedlot and increase its capacity to 4,100 head near Merriwa, and approval for the construction of a shed with amenities and retaining wall in Scone.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Council considered several confidential matters relating to infrastructure and procurement: Management of Scone, Murrurundi and Merriwa Pools Council resolved to: accept Tender 06/2026 from Aqua Connect, subject to the satisfactory provision of required insurance documentation, for the three-year lease from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029 to manage the Scone, Murrurundi and Merriwa swimming pools, with a provision for a two-year extension based on satisfactory performance to 30 June 2031; and provide delegated authority to the General Manager to conduct all relevant functions under the contract.

For more details on other matters discussed, please refer to the meeting agenda available on the Upper Hunter Shire Council website, or head to our YouTube channel to watch the meeting.

Supplied.

REZ Community Funding - \$60 Million On Offer

EnergyCo is consulting with local councils and residents on its Community and Employment Benefit Program for the New England Renewable Energy Zone (NEREZ). An initial \$60 million will be invested across the Upper Hunter and New England regions to support local infrastructure, services and employment opportunities. Community feedback will help determine how the funding is allocated to meet local priorities. The program builds on the success of similar initiatives in the Central-West Orana REZ, which have supported job creation and training pathways in renewable energy. More information is available on EnergyCo's website.

Supplied.

St Joseph's Catholic College



ST JOSEPH'S STUDENTS SHINE AT WINGHAM BEEF WEEK

Students from St Joseph's Catholic College, Aberdeen, achieved excellent results at Wingham Beef Week 2026, with the Year 10 Agriculture class enjoying a highly successful week of competition. Competing in a range of beef industry events, the students recorded outstanding individual and team performances, reflecting their hard work and commitment throughout the year. A special congratulations goes to Millie and Jack, who earned placing positions in the paraders competition, finishing among the top competitors in a field of more than 150 entrants. The results were a credit to both the students and the school's agriculture program.

YEAR 9 STUDENTS EXPLORE RIVER ECOSYSTEM THROUGH FIELDWORK

Year 9 students recently swapped the classroom for the outdoors, taking part in a hands-on Geography fieldwork day focused on the local river ecosystem. During the excursion, students tested water quality by measuring pH, salinity and turbidity, while also identifying macroinvertebrates to assess the health of the waterway. The activities provided valuable insight into environmental monitoring and the importance of healthy river systems.



Students also explored Indigenous perspectives on water management, learning about traditional practices and creating clay replicas of Aboriginal water-carrying tools. The day included habitat walks and collaborative sculpture-building using natural materials found along the riverbank. The fieldwork experience combined science, culture and creativity, giving students a deeper understanding of the environment and its significance to the community.

VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS INSPIRED AT ART FEST

Year 10 and Year 11 Visual Arts students recently attended ART FEST at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery, where they explored a range of contemporary exhibitions and artistic practices.

As part of the program, students took part in two hands-on workshops. A drawing workshop encouraged them to experiment with observational and expressive techniques, while a collage workshop inspired by Ray Monde's Reword exhibition explored composition, layering and visual storytelling through mixed media. The excursion provided students with a valuable opportunity to engage with professional artworks and further develop their creative skills in a gallery environment.



Supplied.

St Mark's Church Officially Deconsecrated

The history of St Mark's Anglican Church in Aberdeen was celebrated at a deconsecration service on May 30th. The Bishop of the Inland Episcopate, the Right Reverend Sonia Roulston, and the Rector of Muswellbrook and Incumbent of the Upper Hunter Minster parishes, Reverend Angela Peverell, led the deconsecration service.

The service at St Mark's Anglican Church, Aberdeen attracted over sixty Aberdeen and district residents along with former parishioners. Following the service, many historical items that adorned the building will be repurposed across Upper Hunter parishes as a memorial to St Mark's church and to ensure ongoing connection with the community.

Included in these items were brass plaques and an offertory plate donated by family members of former parishioners. A series of ecclesiastical banners, on loan to the church by former Aberdeen resident John Scriven (now deceased) hang gracefully from the ceiling. John's sister Sally Henry was at the service lamenting the occasion.

"It's a sad day for Aberdeen, but I understand, not that John would if he were alive today," she said. "I think he would have worked to keep and maintain the church in some form." His contributions to the Church can be seen through the banners and a mural behind the altar and the kneeling cushions were also a work of John. "It would be ideal to see the banners remain in Aberdeen if a suitable place could be found," she concluded.



Following careful consideration, the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle made the decision to close St Mark's in May 2025. St Mark's has not held worship in the past 12 months.

Supplied.

Clubs & Community

Aberdeen Pony Club Shines at Scone Horse Festival

What a wonderful way to celebrate the annual Scone Horse Festival, with members of Aberdeen Pony Club proudly riding in the festival parade through the main streets of Scone.

Club members showcased a fantastic variety of equestrian disciplines and horsemanship, with show riders, ropers, stockmen and stockwomen, King of the Ranges representatives, jockeys, and polo players all taking part in the celebrations. It was a wonderful display of the talent, dedication, and community spirit within the club and the wider Upper Hunter horse community.

A big thank you goes to all the children and parents who participated in the parade and helped represent the club so proudly on the day. Events like these are a great opportunity to celebrate the rich horse heritage of the region while encouraging young riders to be involved in the community. Some of our members also attended the Denman President's Cup Day over the weekend. Results and photos from the event will be shared in the next article. The next rally day for Aberdeen Pony Club will be held on Sunday, 14 June. We look forward to seeing everyone there for another great day of riding and fun.

Supplied by Amy Croft.



Wind Erosion Part 2

by Doctor Dirt

Rain yes rain, we bless the rain in the Upper Hunter. This was a great start, we had 36mm in Scone of very steady rainfall. The rain fell gently over a few days in the Upper Hunter. Hopefully there is significant follow up rain on the horizon.

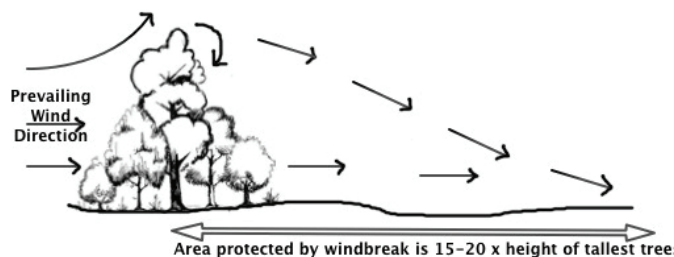
The drought conditions currently occurring in our landscape could not handle high intensity rain without resulting in damage. There are so many areas with poor ground cover that if intense and long duration rainfall occurred it would have resulted in erosion and sediment movement removing vital topsoil. This would cause degradation of one of landholders' major assets of their soil. Thank goodness this did not occur this time.

Several of my clients have mentioned on their land an initial rejuvenation. A flush of germinating seeds. However, it is too soon to identify most of the plant species that are sprouting hopefully not too many are weeds. There is a need for follow up rain this is essential for landscape recovery. Now to provide tips to reduce wind erosion. Firstly, maintaining ground cover, research data recommends having at least 50 percent ground cover. However, I would recommend that your paddocks ground cover does not fall below 70 percent. As this is a minimum to prevent erosion from water runoff. It is not in the owner's long-term interest to graze the pasture to the ground. Firstly, it will destroy many species of existing pasture plants, providing increased opportunity for weeds to establish. Heavily grazed areas will take further time to recover.

Ploughing paddocks when soil moisture is not at appropriate levels will result usually in dust clouds generated from the tillage actions, especially in windy conditions. There are advantages of using minimum tillage or direct seeding methods when establishing pastures to reduce wind erosion problems.

Windbreaks greatly reduce wind erosion. I recommend at least six rows (some people put the minimum to be only four rows) the higher numbers of rows will have other advantages such as habitat and establishing connective corridors for native fauna.

The outer rows on each side of the windbreak should be native shrub species. At least one row of mid storey trees/shrubs, the middle rows to be native canopy trees. You are trying to achieve a wall against the wind, so a range of plant sizes is required. All species need to be local providence species that align with the Plant Community Type - Ecosystem



at your location. It is not the end of the task of planting. The area needs to be fenced to exclude stock, biodegradable tree guards and woven biodegradable weed mats to be used. It is essential watering schedule is established. The term planting really should mean establish, monitor and maintain. Failure to do this will likely to end up with a 100 percent death rate or if you are lucky 50 percent. There is a need to replace the casualties by replanting where deaths occur. Tree guards are important; one hare can kill up to 150 plants in one night. They hate their grassland-based home being altered. Weed mats protect the plants from weed infestation near their root zone.

Studies have shown that the height of the windbreak provides wind protection to the ground at a distance of at least 15 times the height of the tallest trees and often the protection distance is approaching 20 times the height.

Other advantages of windbreaks include increased shade and shelter for stock and the establishment of habitats for a wide range of native animals, especially woodland birds. They reduce noise and visual impact from outside sources such as nearby roads.

In saline recharge areas a designed series of windbreaks across the landscape (a technique called Alley Farming) reduces saline impact through the uptake of groundwater and it also drops water tables heights. These tree Alleys can be designed to achieve maximum protection against salinity. The design includes where to plant, what to plant, how many rows and the spacing between the Alleys. If the groundwater can sustainably fall well below 2 metres below the ground surface it will reduce salinity impact on pastures/crops and infrastructure.

Supplied by Steve Eccles.

Steve Eccles - steveecclesconsulting@gmail.com
Mobile: 0400 808 873

Business & Industry

Liddell Power Station Stacks Demolition

AGL has marked a significant milestone in Australia's energy transition with the safe demolition of the Liddell Power Station stacks, paving the way for the site's future redevelopment.

The demolition, carried out in partnership with CMA Contracting, involved a precision-engineered blast that safely brought down the three 169-metre-high chimneys. AGL says the project reflects progress on its strategy to transition former thermal power station sites into Integrated Energy Hubs and marks an important step in the closure of the former power station.

AGL Chief Operations and Construction Officer Matthew Currie said the company's vision is to transform the site into a Hunter Energy Hub that will support new jobs, regional growth and long-term economic development.

Currie acknowledged the site's importance to generations of workers and local families, describing the demolition as an opportunity to recognise Liddell's legacy while preparing for its next chapter. The future hub is

expected to make use of the site's existing infrastructure, transport links and grid connections.

Safety remained the highest priority throughout the project, with AGL working closely with contractors, authorities and the community to ensure the demolition was completed safely. The company thanked the community for its support and cooperation.

Supplied.



UPPER HUNTER BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROPOSAL



Community Information Drop-In Sessions

Tuesday, 9 June 2026 - 2pm–4pm and 5pm–7pm

Wednesday, 10 June 2026: 10am–12pm and 5pm–7pm

Aberdeen Bowling Club, Jefferson Park, New England Hwy

Come along to our Community Drop-In Sessions to learn more about our proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Aberdeen, ahead of our application lodgement.

The sessions will include:

- Project design
- Environmental and technical study outcomes
- Planning process next steps
- Q&A with the project team

The Aberdeen Lions Club are providing a BBQ at the evening sessions. Light refreshments will be available at all other sessions.

Scan to fill
in survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UpperHunterBESS>

For more information:

visit: www.nhcleanenergy.com

email: info@northharbourpl.com



Your voice is needed - New England REZ network infrastructure project

EnergyCo is upgrading the grid to unlock clean, reliable and affordable electricity. Our role is to maximise the opportunities created by the transformation of the NSW electricity system by coordinating investment in renewable energy zones (REZ) across the state. By upgrading and extending our network, we are unlocking investment in solar, wind and batteries in the places best suited to host it.

We are developing the New England REZ, which will deliver critical electricity supply to NSW energy consumers as coal-fired power stations close. The REZ will include new network infrastructure to transfer power from renewable energy projects to consumers, including lines and substations. It will also provide once-in-a-generation economic opportunity for the region by providing funding, like the recently announced \$60 million investment, and future funding generated from fees paid by projects with an access right to connect to the REZ network infrastructure.

CRG positions available

Two Community Reference Groups (CRGs) were formed in 2025 to share information and feedback about the New England REZ between EnergyCo, key stakeholders and the wider community.

We're now inviting applications for 4 people to join our North and South CRGs (2 in each group). We're seeking locals with demonstrated involvement in their community, including with social, service, environment, First Nations and industry groups.

Find out more about the CRGs, the role of members and how to apply at energyco.nsw.gov.au or scan the QR code.

Applications close on **5 June 2026**.

The next CRG meetings are planned for Uralla on Monday 15 June (North), and Muswellbrook on Tuesday 16 June (South).

Contact us

For more information, contact our team on **1800 061 114** (9am-5pm Mon-Fri) or email nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au

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



CANCELLATION NOTICE

It is with disappointment that the **Aberdeen Railway Disaster Commemoration** planned for 7th June 2026 will no longer be going ahead.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who showed interest, shared stories, photographs and support for the event. The history of the Aberdeen Railway Disaster remains an important part of our community's story and heritage.



While the commemoration event has been cancelled, we are pleased to advise that a historical photo display relating to the Aberdeen Railway Disaster will still be presented at the **Aberdeen Highland Games** on **4th July 2026**.



We are also pleased to confirm that the **Aberdeen Railway Disaster** sign located at Jockey Park will be updated to ensure this important piece of local history continues to be recognised and remembered.



The Aberdeen Railway Disaster colouring in competition will go ahead and be extended, and will be offered at the Highland Games. A winner will be identified on **4th July 2026**.



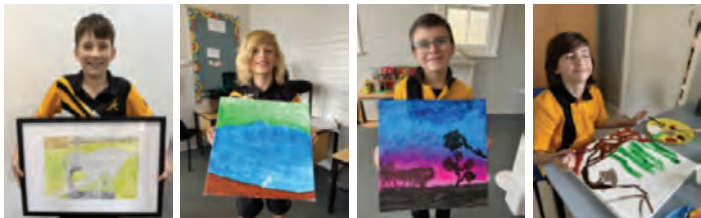
Thank you again to everyone who supported the project and helped keep the memory and history alive.

ARDC

Schools & Education

Aberdeen Public School

Students in Years 5 & 6 were given an opportunity to be part of an art group, run by Mrs Kelly, to work on an art piece to enter into the Scone Horse Festival Art Prize. Jack K. worked on a drawing titled 'Mare and Foal', Jack A. painted 'Glenbawn Dam', Harrison E. painted 'A Sunset from Scone National Park' and Cooper M-H. painted a koala in Scone National Park. These students gave up numerous lunch times to work on their pieces, and they have done a wonderful job. They showcased persistence, creativity, patience and dedication. Well done boys! A special congratulations to Harrison E. who received a 'Highly Commended' for his painting.



Our K-2 students had a wonderful time at Jack Johnston Day at White Park, as part of the Scone Horse Festival. This special day provided a fun and educational opportunity for our youngest learners to connect with rural traditions and understand the importance of farming in our community. What a fantastic way to learn outside the classroom!



Students recently made a healthy start to the day by participating in our Walk Safely to School event accompanied by teachers and family members. We even had an extra special guest, our PBL mascot Stripes, greeting students at the front gate.



In support of Do It for Dolly Day students wore blue to show support and raise awareness about the impact of bullying. We are proud to say we raised \$151.50 for Dollys Dream Foundation. Thank you to everyone who helped make our school a safer and friendlier place!



Supplied.

Sports

Mixed Results for Tigers in Round 6 Clash with Singleton

by Jacob Dallah

The Aberdeen Tigers faced a tough afternoon at Pirtek Park on Saturday, taking on the Singleton Greyhounds across all four senior grades in Round 6 competition.

The Under 18s produced a spirited comeback after trailing 18-0 early in the contest. A hat-trick to Bronx Geerin and a strong kicking display from Bailey Chick helped the Tigers close the gap to four points, but Singleton held firm to claim a 22-14 victory.

Aberdeen's Women's Tackle side continued their strong season with an impressive 26-4 win. Tries to Layla Haggarty (2), Tobey Stewart, Georgia Smith and Zali Wallings, along with Smith's accurate goal-kicking, helped the Tigers overcome the Greyhounds in a dominant all-round performance. Strong defence proved the foundation of the victory, with Singleton limited to just a single try.

Reserve Grade endured a difficult afternoon, falling 32-6 despite opening the scoring through Sam Fitzsimmons. Singleton controlled much of the contest after halftime, capitalising on field position and repeat sets to secure the win.

First Grade also faced a tough challenge against a strong Greyhounds outfit. Singleton made the most of their opportunities to build an early lead, while Aberdeen's points came through Tommy Dixon and Jacob Cordina. Despite plenty of effort throughout the match, the Tigers were unable to bridge the gap, with Singleton running out 34-8 winners.

While the results didn't fall Aberdeen's way in every grade, the Women's Tackle side continued their impressive form and the Under 18s showed plenty of character in their fightback. The Tigers will now look to learn from the round and turn their attention to the challenges ahead.

Supplied.



Clubs & Community

Flag Raising Ceremony Marks Reconciliation Week

Community members gathered recently to mark National Reconciliation Week at a special Flag Raising Ceremony, reflecting on this year's theme, "All In". The event featured performances by Richie Lawton from Budbudda Dreaming and the Yidiki Birray group from Scone Public School, as well as reconciliation artwork created by Early Learning Centre students.

Students from several local schools shared their thoughts on reconciliation, while the Aberdeen Public School Cultural Group and Scone Public School's Sista Speak group also took part. Upper Hunter Shire Council thanked all participants, volunteers and organisers who helped make the event a meaningful celebration of reconciliation and community.

Supplied.



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Dave Layzell MP MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER

HOW I CAN HELP YOU

Upper Hunter Electorate Office

94 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

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

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As your State MP I can make enquiries and
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The Latest on Vets Golf

AUTUMN CONDITIONS MAKE FOR GREAT DAY AT DENMAN VETS GOLF

There were 19 players for the Vets' Stableford event on Tuesday, May 12 at Denman. Conditions were ideal, making for a pleasant autumn day on the course. A thank you goes to Mick McCormick for once again organising the playing draw and prize money. The winner of the day was Gary Leake with 36 points, followed by Terry Mitchell in second place with 33 points. Alan Flanagan claimed third on a countback with 31 points, ahead of Reg Davidson in fourth, also on 31.

Ball winners were Graham Schilg and John Belfield with 29 points, Graham Newton and Garv Myers with 28, Paul Constable with 27, and President Lindsay Hodge with 26.

Nearest the Pins:

3rd – Terry Mitchell

5th – Graham Schilg

12th – Paul Constable

14th – Captain Mick McCormick

The Bradman's Trophy, kindly donated by Gary Leake and associates, was won by Red Palmer. Members also appreciated Brian Dever for supplying pies for lunch.

ROBINSON CLAIMS OSSIE MILES TROPHY AT MBK

There were 26 players competing for the Ossie Miles Trophy at MBK Golf Club on May 26, with players greeted by cloudy skies and light rain early in the day. It was wonderful to welcome Jimmy Miles, son of Ossie Miles, who joined the field and later presented the trophy. The 2026 Ossie Miles Trophy winner was Bruce Robinson with an impressive 38 points, adding another victory to his record in the event.

John Belfield finished second with 36 points, followed by Andy Medway on 35. Garry Carter claimed fourth on a countback with 34 points ahead of Glenn Googe, also on 34, while Dave Bradshaw rounded out the placings with 33 points. Ball winners were Jimmy Miles and Alan Flanagan with 32 points, Will Coward with 30, Dave Perfrement and Gav Myers with 29, Graham Newton with 28, and Steve Nowland and Bob Lawman with 27.

Nearest the Pins:

5th – Bruce Robinson

8th – Red Palmer

11th – Garry Carter

14th – Graham Turvey

17th – Graham Newton

The Bradman's Trophy, kindly donated by Gary Leake and associates, was won by Red Palmer. A thank you goes to Treasurer Bob Minch for organising the prize money and shouting everyone a \$10 lunch. Appreciation also goes to Jimmy Miles for once again presenting the Ossie Miles Trophy, and to Beryl for tabulating the scorecards as usual.

FUTURE GAMES

- June 2 – Stableford at Denman
- June 9 – Stableford Medal Round at Aberdeen
- June 16 – Stableford at Scone (book in with Ross Banks)
- June 23 – Stroke and Putting at Murrumbidgee

New members are always welcome. Shotgun start at 9.00am.

Supplied.



left: Left Bruce Robinson is presented with the Ossie Miles Trophy which he won with 38 points at MBK course. On the right is Jimmy Miles, the son of Ossie.



Sports

Upper Hunter Quartet Earn National Honours

Four talented Upper Hunter rugby league players have earned selection in the Australian Universities teams set to tour Fiji later this year.

Tyla Brown (St Joseph's Aberdeen), Jayden Seckold (Scone High School), Lachie Hails (Scone High School) and Macey Cox (Scone Grammar School) were recently selected in the NSW Universities sides that travelled to Brisbane for the Australian Universities Interstate Clash against Queensland.

The NSW men recorded a 28-24 victory, while the NSW women were dominant 44-6 winners. Following the matches, all four Upper Hunter representatives were named in the Australian Universities squads. Having progressed through Newcastle Knights representative pathways, the quartet's selection is a fantastic achievement and a reminder of the sporting talent emerging from the Upper Hunter. Congratulations to all four players and their families on this outstanding success.

Supplied.

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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.

Cellarbrations

JUST SOME OF OUR SPECIALS COMMENCING
MONDAY 1ST JUNE TILL SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026:

CARLTON DRY MID 3.5 24 STUBBIES	\$ 52.00 – LOYALTY \$ 50.00
STELLA ARTOIS STUBBIES	\$ 56.00
TOOHEYS NEW/ULTRA STUBBIES & CANS	\$ 56.00 – LOYALTY \$ 54.00
GREAT NORTHERN SUPER CRISP STUBBIES & 24 CANS	\$ 57.00
HAHN SUPER DRY 3.5 30PK CANS	\$ 59.00 – LOYALTY \$ 57.00
XXXX GOLD 30PK CANS	\$ 59.00 – LOYALTY \$ 57.00
KIRIN ICHIBAN 24 STUBBIES	\$ 60.00 – LOYALTY \$ 58.00
COOPERS PALE ALE STUBBIES & CANS	\$ 64.00
VB 30PK CANS	\$ 70.00
BETTER BEER ZERO CARB STUBBIES & CANS	\$ 63.00
STRONGBOW CIDER CARTONS	\$ 59.00
KIRIN HYOKETSU 4PKS	\$ 25.00
JAMESON 6.3% 4PKS	\$ 27.00 OR 2 4PKS FOR \$ 50.00
SMIRNOFF CRUSH 6% 440ML 4PKS	\$ 27.00 OR 2 4PKS FOR \$ 50.00
JACK DANIELS 4PKS	\$ 28.00 – LOYALTY \$ 25.00
WOODSTOCK 4.8% 6PKS	\$ 28.00 6PK - \$95.00 CTN
WOODSTOCK RSV 12% 4PKS	\$ 28.00 - LOYALTY \$ 25.00
BUNDY CAMPFIRE 8% 4PKS	\$ 32.00
CANADIAN CLUB 4.8% 10PKS	\$ 48.00
HARD RATED 4.5% 10PKS	\$ 48.00
SUNTORY -196 10PKS	\$ 48.00
JACK DANIELS DOUBLE JACK 10PKS	\$ 69.00
BUNDY RUM RED & UP 700ML	\$ 49.00 - LOYALTY \$ 46.00
J/WALKER RED LBL 700ML	\$ 49.00
GORDONS PINK 700ML	\$ 54.00
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SMIRNOFF 1LTR	\$ 65.00 – LOYALTY \$ 62.00
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