

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

Established in Aberdeen, serving communities across the Upper Hunter.

August 2026

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EVENT

BENGALLA

COMMUNITY OPEN DAY 2026

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

**MUSWELLBROOK SHOWGROUND
10AM-2PM**

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MACHINERY & INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS, MUSIC & FOOD**

**Must be over five for mine tours, enclosed
footwear required, registration at event only.**



**UPPER
HUNTER
COUNTRY**



Whisper Trivia

1. Which Australian city has the largest Greek population outside of Athens?
2. What empire did Turkey belong to during WWI?
3. In Legally Blonde, what was Elle's dog's name?
4. What is Chandler Bing's middle name?
5. What was the first non-English-language film to win Best Picture at the Oscars?
6. What is the tallest building in the world?
7. What is the rarest blood type in humans?
8. Malala Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate in 2014 for what cause?
9. What was the best-selling gaming device of the 1990s?
10. Which animated film won the 2026 Oscar for Best Animated Feature?



- Answers:
1. Melbourne
 2. The Ottoman Empire
 3. Briser
 4. Muriel
 5. Parasite
 6. The Burk Khalifa, UAE
 7. The right to an education
 8. Game Boy & Game Boy Color
 9. Game Boy
 10. K-Pop Demon Hunters

Business Directory

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Earle's Column

continued on page 11



THE ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 4th July was nothing other than a wonderful day. Perhaps I shouldn't make this confession, but it was the first time that I have spent the whole day, from before the opening ceremony until the event was declared closed in the afternoon, at the annual Aberdeen Highland Games. It was spectacular. A pair of parachutists displaying our National Flag and the St. Andrews Cross of Scotland provided a memorable opening to the day's festivities. The massed pipes and drums of many different bands filled the air with pipe music and the crash of drums.

They were followed by the Precision Drill Team of the joint service Australian Federation Guard who provide a remarkable marching display involving Lee-Enfield 303 rifles of World War One and Two vintage, (with bayonets fixed!), and self-loading rifles of Vietnam War vintage. Weapons are thrown between team members and into the air to be skilfully caught before the next manoeuvre.

And then there are the 'Kilted Warriors' who can only be described as amazing strong men who lift enormous stones, toss a sack of wheat using a pitchfork over a bar more than 4 metres above the ground, and then 'toss the caber', a wooden pole that weighs in at something in excess of 50 kilograms.

I haven't heard an attendance number, but there would have been several thousand attendees including spectators and enthusiastic competitors. I can only highly recommend the day and note that Aberdeen gets well and truly 'put on the map' on the first Saturday in July.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR 2027

Looking further ahead, some advance notice of nominations for the 2027 Australia Day Aberdeen Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Local Champion. I'm not sure when Upper Hunter Shire Council will open nominations, possibly late September, however, once open there will be a reasonably tight window in which to get nominations in for consideration, firstly by the community committee, and then ratification by Council at its meeting on the last Monday of November. Please start thinking about those people who selflessly serve our community or have achieved distinction in their field of endeavour and whom, you think, are worthy of wider recognition in our town. Yes, the nomination period is quite narrow so please keep an eye or an ear, (or both!), out for the invitation to nominate. Once award recipients are decided by Council, there is a tight timeframe to get awards made for the 2027 Australia Day awards which are likely to take place in Murrumbidgee on 26th January 2027.

COLOURING COMPETITION SUCCESS

Despite the disappointment of not being able to celebrate the centenary of the 1926 Aberdeen Rail Disaster, one aspect of those commemorations that was successful was a colouring competition that was conducted among child-care centres, Preschools and Primary Schools across the Shire. The competition was enthusiastically embraced and 127 entries were received. The job of judging the entries and awarding prizes was very difficult. After considerable deliberations the results are as follows:

0 to 2 years: The winner in this section was a child from Scone

3 to 5 years: First place in this section was awarded to a student from Scone Public School, second place to a student from Goodstart Early Learning Centre in Muswellbrook and equal third place to two students from Scone & District Preschool

6 to 8 years: First place in this section was awarded to a student from, Scone Public School, second place to a student from Aberdeen Public School and equal third place to two students from Aberdeen Public School.

9 to 12 years: First place in this section was awarded to a student from, Scone

Happy to hear from you

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



the aberdeen
WHISPER



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

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

Aberdeen Highland Games

Celebrating a Scottish Tradition in Australia

The Aberdeen Highland Games is one of the district's festival success stories, an event highlighting traditions, history and Scotland's unique culture.

The Games' 25 year commemoration publication (recently released) has captured the very essence of Scottish heritage through well written memories and is alive with colour.

The book gives you a strong sense of community and a purchase would be like bringing home a piece of Scotland's heritage.

The coffee table book can be purchased for \$50 - please contact Kate on 0408 080436 for further information.



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



Help Preserve the History of St. Mark's Church

Following the recent deconsecration of St. Mark's Church, local resident Denise Bell is appealing to the community for help in preserving the church's rich history.

As she begins compiling a record of St. Mark's and the many memories associated with it, Denise has uncovered numerous references to weddings, debutante balls, flower shows and other significant community events held at the church over the years.

She is now hoping to locate photographs, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia that will help tell the story of this much-loved local landmark.

If you have photographs, newspaper articles, programmes or other items relating to St. Mark's Church or events held there, Denise would love to hear from you. All original photographs and documents will be carefully copied and promptly returned to their owners.

Many local families have celebrated important milestones at St. Mark's, and every photograph or story contributes to preserving an important part of Aberdeen's history for future generations.

For more information or to share your memories and photographs, contact Denise Bell on 0455 180 354.

Supplied.

2026 Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize

The 2026 Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize opens at Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre from 13 August, showcasing contemporary photographic works from artists across Australia.

Presented by the Australian Photographic Society, the exhibition explores the diverse ways photographers use images to communicate ideas, stories and perspectives, highlighting the evolving possibilities of the medium.

The prize continues the long connection between photography and the Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection, with the winning work to be acquired into the collection.

Visitors can explore a range of creative approaches and photographic styles as the finalists question, interpret and reimagine the world around them.

The winner will be announced via a live stream on the gallery's Facebook page from 4.30pm on Saturday, 15 August. The exhibition is presented with support from Bengalla Mining Company, AGL, Malabar Resources and Australian Photography magazine.

Council

Key Decisions from July Council Meeting

Upper Hunter Shire Council met on Monday, 27 July, considering a range of matters including community funding, infrastructure, sporting facilities, local government advocacy and regional development.

FUNDING FOR ABERDEEN PROJECTS

Recommendations from the Aberdeen Investment Committee propose allocating \$186,485 from the MACH Energy Community Enhancement Fund to four local projects.

The proposed funding includes \$26,320 for Aberdeen Public School's 2026 Intensive Swimming Program, \$10,000 for upgraded Aberdeen SES sandbag facilities, \$19,665 for the Macqueen Street Tree Renewal Program, and \$130,500 for the Aberdeen Cemetery Fencing Project. Funding proposals for upgraded toilet, kitchen and training facilities at the Aberdeen SES unit, along with lighting improvements at McKinnon Oval, have been deferred pending further plans, costings, approvals and project information.

SCONE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY

Council also considered the Scone Indoor Sports Facility Masterplan following public exhibition, which attracted 19 submissions. Option 1, featuring cross-laminated timber construction and estimated at \$21.37 million, received the most support, with 10 respondents selecting it. Six supported Option 2, a \$20.15 million steel construction option, while three selected Option 3, a reduced-scope facility estimated at \$14.47 million.

The proposed facility would cater for multiple sports, including basketball, indoor cricket and futsal. Council endorsed the masterplan, noting the community preference for Option 1, which will help support future advocacy and grant applications. Construction would depend on securing external funding.

COUNCIL RAISES REGIONAL CONCERNS

Council supported a Notice of Motion raising concerns about consultation with landholders affected by the proposed New England Renewable Energy Zone transmission project. The motion calls for a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative impacts of renewable energy developments, including effects on agricultural land, roads, biodiversity, fire risk, water security, housing and the regional workforce.

Council will raise these concerns with the NSW Premier, relevant ministers, EnergyCo and local State and Federal representatives. The meeting also covered changes to council meeting regulations, the upcoming 2026 Local Government Annual Conference, the Scone Airport landing fee and the Cassilis Footbridge. The Mayor was selected to represent Council at the 2026 Local Government Annual Conference in Wollongong, which brings together councils from across NSW to discuss shared priorities and advocacy.

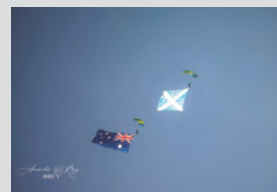
For further details, residents can view the July Council Meeting Agenda on the Upper Hunter Shire Council website or watch the meeting via Council's YouTube channel.

Supplied.

Flu Season Isn't Over Yet!

Flu season is still underway, with influenza continuing to circulate throughout the winter months. Those who have not yet received their annual flu vaccination are encouraged to speak with their local GP or healthcare provider.

Vaccination can help reduce the risk of flu and serious complications, while simple measures such as good hand hygiene, covering coughs and staying home when unwell can also help limit its spread. It's not too late to get vaccinated and help protect yourself, your family and the wider community.



Scotland's 25th Visit to Aberdeen a Resounding Success!

The rich sounds of the pipe bands are now faded for another year, but the outstanding attendance, enthusiastic participation, and community spirit made the event a tremendous success. It was truly heartening to see so many families, friends, competitors, volunteers, sponsors, and visitors come together to enjoy and celebrate our Highland traditions.

The Committee of the Aberdeen Highland Games would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and supported this year's Aberdeen Highland Games weekend.

From the Scottish and Australian flags dropping from a perfectly clear and vibrant blue sky right through to the emotion of the lone piper at the end of the day, the 2026 Aberdeen Highland Games was filled with magic.

Events such as the Aberdeen Highland Games are only possible because of the generosity, dedication, and support of so many people. We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers, officials, competitors, entertainers, sponsors, local businesses, and community groups whose hard work

and commitment helped create such a memorable weekend. Most importantly, we thank everyone who came along and supported the Games. Your presence, enthusiasm, and encouragement contribute to preserving and promoting the rich heritage and traditions that make the Aberdeen Highland Games so special.

We hope you enjoyed the weekend as much as we enjoyed hosting it and look forward to welcoming you back next year for another fantastic celebration of Highland culture, sport, music, and community.

Please mark the weekend of 3 July, 2027 in your calendars now - we are already planning for new and exciting additions to the 2027 Aberdeen Highland Games.

On behalf of the Aberdeen Highland Games Committee, thank you for your continued support.

Supplied by Aberdeen Highland Games Committee. Images by Amanda Ray Images.

Schools & Education

Aberdeen Public School

P&C DELIVERS EXCITING NEW SCHOOL ADDITIONS

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our dedicated P&C for funding and purchasing new play equipment for the top oval. Two brand new pieces have been installed and are already a big hit with students, encouraging imaginative play and enhancing the sandpit area. Additionally, a practical new work area has been added in the garden, giving our gardeners a dedicated space for planting, preparing produce, and completing gardening tasks. We truly appreciate the P&C's commitment to making our school a welcoming and vibrant space for everyone!



A MEMORABLE VISIT FROM FIRE AND RESCUE NSW

A big thank you to the crew from Fire and Rescue NSW Station 208 Aberdeen and Fire and Rescue NSW station 443 Scone for visiting our

Kindergarten to Year 2 students and delivering an engaging fire safety presentation. Our students enjoyed learning about fire safety, what to do in an emergency, and the important role our firefighters play in keeping our community safe. The hands-on demonstrations and opportunity to see the fire truck up close were definite highlights! Thank you for helping our children learn valuable safety skills in such a fun and memorable way.



Supplied.

Sports

Tigers Sweep Round 12 at McKinnon Oval

by Jacob Dallah

Aberdeen Tigers enjoyed a memorable day at McKinnon Oval in Round 12, recording victories in all four grades against South Newcastle and Muswellbrook.

The Under 18s opened proceedings with an impressive 30-4 win over South Newcastle. Casey Milton crossed for two tries, while Harry Foot also bagged a double in a dominant team performance. Bailey Chick controlled the game well, contributing a try and five goals as the Tigers finished strongly.

The Women's Tackle side continued the winning momentum, defeating Muswellbrook 36-6. Layla Haggarty, Isla Johnston, Samantha Roache (2), Tobey Stewart, Ava Roughan and Lily Cubillo all played key roles as the Tigers controlled the contest from the outset.

In Reserve Grade, Aberdeen proved too strong for Muswellbrook, running away with a 54-4 victory. Matt Jones and Mitch Eveleigh each scored doubles, while Jagah Hasselmann, Curtis Irving, Lachlan Marco, Cooper West (2), Aidan Edwards and Alan Baker also crossed in an outstanding attacking display.

The First Grade side completed the clean sweep with a commanding 56-0 win. Tommy Dixon stole the show with an incredible five-try haul, while Casey Milton, Lawson Enosa, Ben Halliwell (2) and Billy Mitchell also crossed the stripe. Bailey Miller-Freebairn was flawless with the boot as the Tigers capped off one of their most dominant performances of the season.

Credit must also go to Muswellbrook, whose teams battled bravely despite being heavily affected by injuries. Their Reserve Grade side finished the match with just 10 players, while several players backed up in First Grade to ensure the games went ahead, showing plenty of determination and spirit.

The clean sweep was a fitting reward for Aberdeen, with every grade producing disciplined, committed performances in front of a strong home crowd.

Supplied.



Cactus Watch

Hunter Local Land Services is alerting land managers and farmers to keep watch for Harrisia cactus.

This spiny invader produces thousands of viable seed and is spread easily by pest animals, harms livestock, turns productive land into a prickly mess, outcompeting grasses and native vegetation.

If you have spotted suspicious cactus clumps, now is the time to act by learning how to identify it, understanding why it is a problem and the best control options. Managing weeds is part of your General Biosecurity Duty as a landholder in NSW.

For local advice on weed management or to report an infestation, don't hesitate to contact your local council biosecurity officer: www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au/index.php/weed-officer-contact

Supplied.

Schools & Education

St Joseph's Girls Crowned Northern NSW Champions

Congratulations to St Joseph's Catholic College's Under 14 Girls Rugby League team, who were crowned Northern NSW Champions after an outstanding performance at the School Girls Trophy Competition held in Coffs Harbour last week.

The talented team showcased exceptional skill, determination and teamwork throughout the competition, earning the championship title and securing their place among the top four schoolgirl teams in New South Wales. Their success has also earned them a berth at the NSW State Championships in August, where they will compete against the state's best school teams for the title.

The girls represented St Joseph's Catholic College with pride, displaying outstanding sportsmanship, commitment and respect both on and off the field. Their achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the players, coaches and supporters throughout the season. Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff on this fantastic accomplishment. The college and wider community wish them every success as they prepare to compete at the State Championships next month.

Supplied.



TransCare

TransCare is your local aged care and community transport service provider and we are here to help you.

TransCare's services include domestic assistance, home maintenance and repairs, meal delivery, social support and community engagement, equipment and products, and our transport services.

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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

TIME FOR THE COUNT!

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducts the Census of Population and Housing with the next national count being conducted on Tuesday, 11 August.

The Census is a snapshot of the country and tells the story of how we are changing.

By counting every person and household, the data informs planning for schools, health care, transport and infrastructure and is also used to help plan local services for individuals, families and communities.

FLIGHTS POSTPONED

EnergyCo has rescheduled its aerial survey work for the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

Originally scheduled to take place along the project corridor between Muswellbrook and Armidale from mid-July, the survey has been moved to a new date in September.

The operation, expected to take up to 10 days, has been rescheduled in response to community feedback with EnergyCo endeavouring to avoid particularly sensitive periods for farmers while also meeting its planning timeframes.

COMMUNITY INFO

Community drop-in sessions are being held at Muswellbrook next week on the Mount Arthur Coal Mine Transformation Precinct Master Plan and rezoning proposal.

The Master Plan proposes Mt Arthur mine land be rezoned to allow for uses in addition to mining, which is a key step in enabling a range of future uses of the site's infrastructure once BHP stops mining.

The proposal has the potential to rezone around 5,400 hectares of BHP land within the Mt Arthur Coal mining footprint and a portion of land near Muswellbrook township, plus also prioritise around 950 hectares of land within the footprint for 'early activation'.

KEEP RECORDS

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) is providing advice for people who were impacted by the Telstra outage earlier in the month.

You may have experienced lost income, disruptions to business or difficulty accessing critical services during the recent outage.

Ombudsman Cynthia Gebert is advising if you are considering applying for compensation, it is important to keep records of how the outage affected you.

Consumers who have been impacted should first contact their provider to discuss any concerns or to request compensation.

If consumers can't reach a solution with their provider, they can make a complaint to the



TIO, which will assess each complaint based on individual circumstances and work with consumers and providers to facilitate a fair outcome.

For further information, check: www.tio.com.au/article-type/media-release

P&C HAVE YOUR SAY

The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW has launched a survey to gauge public opinion on teacher preparation time.

Delegates attending the NSW Teachers Federation annual conference over the winter school holiday have reaffirmed their support for public school teachers to have two hours per week of additional preparation time.

The Federation's campaign, More Than Thanks — It's Time, was initially launched in February this year.

P&C Federation NSW would now like to hear from parents and carers of students in NSW public schools about their thoughts on the current proposal to extend the time teachers are released from class to work on planning and preparation.

Survey participants views can then be reflected in any position that the P&C Federation takes on this issue. The survey is anonymous and can be completed by going to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FQVYY7B>

BYPASS UPDATE, NOW OUT!

Transport for NSW has released a new project update for the New England Highway bypass of Muswellbrook.

The \$381 million project is reported to be moving closer to major construction in 2027, with shortlisted applicants progressed to the Request for Tender stage.

Design of the project has been updated with refinements made to the Milpera Drive intersection, the northern and southern connections, local road access with a dedicated U-turn facility to be located on the New England Highway north of the bypass.

IPC UPDATES

The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) has extended the deadline for written submissions on the State significant development application for the HVO North and South Open Cut Coal Continuation Projects.

The extended deadline for written submissions is now Sunday, 2 August, and can be lodged

by going to the IPC's online submission form: www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/form/hvo-north-and-south-open-cut-coal-continuation

PROTECT THREATENED BIRDS

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is hosting information sessions next week for landholders with native woodland habitat in the Hunter Valley or Central Tablelands.

Landholders will soon be invited to submit expressions of interest to receive annual payments for protecting and managing a portion of their land for conservation.

The tender aims to support private landholders to protect important native habitat for threatened woodland bird species, including, but not limited to, the critically endangered regent honeyeater.

Information session at Singleton Heights-Club Dorsman, Thursday 6 August, with all sessions Noon to 2pm.

For more on the information sessions and the expressions of interest process, check: www.nsw.gov.au/environment-land-and-water/conservation-on-private-land/hunter-central-woodlands-tender

RURAL CRIME REMINDER

The NSW Police Force Rural Crime Prevention Team is continuing to encourage farmers and rural property managers to help call time on rural crime by reporting it.

Livestock, farm equipment, fuel and firearm theft, illegal hunting, fishing, poaching, trespassing and vandalism are all criminal offences.

For a fuel theft in progress or for incidents where vehicles are seen trespassing and hanging around farm fuel storage facilities, call Triple Zero (000).

If you're a victim of crime, report it to the NSW Police Force Community Portal: <https://portal.police.nsw.gov.au/s/login/> or the Police Assistance Line (PAL) on 131 444.

If you see something, have information or want to provide a tip-off in confidence 24/7 online – NSW Police don't need your name, just what you know: <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au> or call 1800 333 000.

Supplied.

Contact:

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

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Call to book your **FREE** Market Appraisal today! Jay: 0438 474 222 Tiffany: 0419 437 252
www.jtsrealty.com.au

Always Good Enough With Kate



Happy Horses' Birthday! If you're a horse lover, as I am, we certainly live in Horse Heaven!

Did you know that there are two special little ponies calling Aberdeen home now? The Kids' Foundation Mini Equine program has been operating in Victoria for a number of years, and Aberdeen is now home to the beginning of the NSW program. The program uses ponies to teach about kindness, safety and always knowing we're good enough.

"Bullseye" and "Paddington" are steadily becoming well known across the Hunter region and are about to begin their "work", visiting nursing homes, preschools, events and basically anywhere they are asked to go!

The ponies recently made their debut at the Jack Johnston Memorial Gala Day, and were a hit with children and adults alike.

Please get in touch if you'd like to meet the ponies, or if you'd be interested in having them visit your workplace or event...and remember, we're all good enough!

You can phone me on 0408 080 436 or email at brookaquatics@gmail.com

Supplied by Mrs Kate Jones

Schools & Education

St Joseph's Catholic College's Beauty and the Beast a Memorable Success

Although the final curtain has fallen on St Joseph's Catholic College's production of Beauty and the Beast, the memories and friendships created throughout the journey will last for years to come.

After months of rehearsals, the talented cast, band and backstage crew delivered outstanding performances that showcased the dedication, teamwork and creativity of the school community. The production gave students the opportunity to build confidence, develop new skills and form lasting friendships, both on and off the stage.

The college extends its sincere thanks to the staff, volunteers, families and community members whose support made the production possible. From costumes and sets to lighting and rehearsals, every contribution played a part in bringing the beloved musical to life.

Congratulations to the cast, musicians, crew and everyone involved in Beauty and the Beast 2026 on a production that will be remembered with pride.

Supplied.



NINE FOR NINE WALK
WALKING TOGETHER. SAVING LIVES.

Please join Jared's family, friends and colleagues as we embark on our third annual walk in aid of Lifeline Australia. This walk is to recognise the 9 lives lost to suicide in Australia each year.

Every year in Australia over 65,000 people attempt suicide, unfortunately over 3,000 Australians succeed, EVERY YEAR.

Last year we raised enough money to fund over 130 phone calls to Lifeline. That's over 130 people we helped just by walking!

This year, we aim to raise enough funds to cover all phone calls in the entire Upper Hunter region for the next 12 months. You could support us in this goal!

Can't make it to the walk because of work? Why not speak to your place of work and organise a walk in your workspace...

This year we have the family of Anthony 'Matta' Matthews on board. Anthony ended his own life just a few short months after Jared. We have become really good friends over the last few years.

This year we are 're-branding' our walk and introducing 'Jareds 949 - Every Step Matters'.

Raffle tickets will be available on the day, for some great prizes. \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There will be a sausage sizzle and some cool drinks available after you have completed your walk!

There will also be hot drinks to offer too.

WALK WITH WALLY!

The team from Hunter Therapy Dogs and Next Step Mental Health will also be joining us.

That's right, Mr Wally Lewis and his amazing wife Lynda will be coming back to the Upper Hunter to share stories, laughs and photos with us all. Both Wally and Lynda have become an integral part of Jareds 949 and it is the greatest honour to have them with us for almost a full week.

Time: 10am official start (or 7am for those that would like to walk before work).

Where: Aberdeen Sport and Recreation Centre

When: Wednesday 9th September

What: Any distance walk, up to 9km - Easy graded and marked walking path.

Cost: No cost! However a donation of \$9 or more, to recognise the 9 lives lost each day, would be warmly welcomed. 100% of these funds will be donated to Lifeline.

For more information, contact Kate Jones on... 0408080436 OR jareds949@gmail.com.

Please join us at the Commercial late afternoon for music, raffles, chats with Wally and some fantastic meal deals. This will also be an opportunity to raise a glass to Jared, Anthony and all who have lost their lives to suicide.

Illegal Dumping Near Aberdeen

Residents are being urged to dispose of their waste responsibly following the illegal dumping of several whitegoods near Aberdeen.

The incident serves as a timely reminder that many household items can be disposed of free of charge at Muswellbrook Shire Council's waste facilities, making illegal dumping unnecessary and avoidable.

Council accepts a range of items at no cost, including scrap metal and many whitegoods, electronic waste, cardboard, gas bottles, batteries, light globes and used motor oil. Eligible drink containers can also be recycled through the Return and Earn scheme. In addition, Council provides one free disposal day each year for mattresses and tyres, helping residents safely dispose of larger items that are often difficult to manage.

Illegal dumping not only detracts from the natural beauty of the Upper Hunter but also harms the environment, creates safety hazards and places an unnecessary financial burden on ratepayers, who ultimately bear the cost of clean-up. Those caught illegally dumping rubbish may face substantial fines as well as the cost of removing the waste.

Residents who are unsure how to dispose of a particular item are encouraged to consult Muswellbrook Shire Council's A-Z Waste Guide, which provides information on the correct disposal or recycling options for a wide range of household items.

By disposing of waste responsibly, everyone can play a part in keeping the Aberdeen district and the wider Upper Hunter clean, safe and environmentally healthy for future generations.

Supplied.




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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.

Upper Hunter Electorate Office

📍 94 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

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

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PRINT SPOTLIGHT

Supporting local businesses through quality printing, signage and design

Making a Lasting Impression: Polly Farmer Foundation



Hunter Valley Printing was proud to work with the Polly Farmer Foundation to produce a vibrant pull-up banner and feather flags that help showcase the Foundation's inspiring work at schools, community events and information sessions.

For more than 25 years, the Polly Farmer Foundation has empowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through academic enrichment, mentoring and leadership programs. With a strengths-based approach, the Foundation supports students to complete school and pursue pathways into university, apprenticeships, traineeships and rewarding careers.

Designed to be eye-catching, portable and easy to set up, the new pull up banner and feather flags create a professional display that reflects the Foundation's commitment to education, opportunity and community. Whether at careers expos, school visits or local events, the display helps the Foundation engage with students, families and partners while sharing its vision for brighter futures.

At Hunter Valley Printing, we love helping organisations present themselves with confidence. From pull up banners and feather flags to signage, brochures and promotional materials, we create high quality print solutions that make an impact wherever they're displayed.

Project Snapshot

Client: Polly Farmer Foundation

Industry: Education & Community

Products Produced:

Pull-Up Banner

Custom Feather Flags

Purpose: A professional event display for school visits, careers expos and community engagement.

Need your organisation to stand out at events?

Whether you're attending a conference, field day, careers expo or community event, Hunter Valley Printing can design and produce pull-up banners, feather flags and promotional displays that leave a lasting impression.

Hunter Valley Printing | 02 6541 1358

Earle's Column

continued from page 2

Grammar School, second place to a student from Merriwa Central School and equal third place to two students from Merriwa Central School.

The Aberdeen Rail Disaster Committee wishes to congratulate all those who entered the competition and to further congratulate the chosen winners. Prizes and certificates are on the way.

Well, that's about it for the August edition of "The Whisper". Keep warm as we emerge from the depths of winter and the days get longer. Best wishes to the "Tigers" as the Rugby League Season draws to a conclusion for 2026.

Supplied by Earle Shields.

Sports

The Latest on Vets Golf

REG DAVIDSON CLAIMS SCONE VETERANS GOLF VICTORY

There were 37 players at the excellent golf course at Scone for the Vets' regular event, Stb. on Tuesday July 21. It was very cold early and rather foggy, but the day matured into a glorious day for golf by about 11am. Thank you to Captain Mick McCormick for programming the shot gun start, with help from President Lindsay Hodge. Thank you to Charlie Wintle for sorting the score cards. The winner of the day was Reg Davidson with 39 points, from Sid Collison 39 CB second, third Andy Medway 36 CB, fourth 36 CB Graham Turvey, fifth Charlie Wintle 36 CB, sixth Stephen McGhie 36 and seventh Dave Perfrement 35 CB.

Balls were won by Red Palmer 35, Bruce Robinson 34, on 33 to Mick Alsleben, Graham Newton, Gary Leake, and on 32 Robert Colbert, Ian Thomas Glen Standing, Will Coward and Stephen Nowland 32. Nearest the Pins: 4th Mick Curry; 8th Bob Lawman; 13th John Belfield; 17th Glenn Gooze. The Bradman's trophy, kindly donated by Gary Leake and associates was won by Terry Mitchell.

GARY LEAKE WINS 2026 PRESIDENTS' CUP

Thirty-two veterans enjoyed a fine morning of golf at Muswellbrook Golf Club on Tuesday, 28 July, for the annual Presidents' Cup Stableford event. Gary Leake claimed the 2026 Presidents' Cup with an excellent score of 39 points. Glen Standing finished runner-up on 38 points after a comeback, followed by Bob Minch, Bob Lawman, Graham Turvey and Mick Alsleben, all also finishing on 38 points.

Ball winners included Christine Smith (36), Graham Newton and Will Coward (35), Dave Perfrement (34), Mick Curry (33), and Bruce Robinson, Gav Myers, Ian Cuttriss and John Belfield (32).

Nearest the Pins were won by Graham Newton (5th), Christine Smith (8th), Tony Pearson (11th), Bruce Robinson (14th second shot) and Gary Leake (17th). Bruce Lambert claimed the Bradman's Trophy.

Players thanked Captain Mick McCormick for organising the event, Beryl in the Pro Shop for processing the scorecards, and Muswellbrook Hotel and Pad Thai Restaurant for providing lunch. The veterans' next competition will be held at Aberdeen on Tuesday, 4 August, with new members always welcome for the 9am shotgun start.

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.

Cellarbrations

JUST SOME OF OUR SPECIALS COMMENCING
MONDAY 10TH AUGUST TILL SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026

TOOHEYS EXTRA DRY 24 STUBBIES	\$ 50.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 48.00
XXXX GOLD STUBBIES	\$ 52.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 50.00
HAHN SUPER DRY 3.5 STUBBIES		\$ 56.00
CARLTON DRY 24 STUBBIES & CANS		\$ 58.00
HEINEKEN STUBBIES		\$ 58.00
HAHN SUPER DRY STUBBIES	\$ 59.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 57.00
GREAT NORTHERN SUPER CRISP 30PK CANS	\$ 64.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 62.00
TOOHEYS NEW 30PK CANS	\$ 66.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 64.00
GREAT NORTHERN ORIGINAL 30PK CANS		\$ 69.00
STRONGBOW CIDER 10PKS		\$ 25.00
CRUISER DBL 4PKS	\$ 26.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 24.00
CAPTAIN MORGANS 6% 4PKS		\$ 28.00
BUNDY CAMPFIRE 8% 4PKS	\$ 35.00 - LOYALTY	\$ 32.00
WILD TURKEY 4.8% 10PKS	\$ 52.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 49.00
CANADIAN CLUB 6% 10PKS		\$ 58.00
J/DANIELS 10PKS		\$ 62.00
MALIBU COCONUT RUM 700ML		\$ 40.00
COUGAR BOURBON 700ML		\$ 48.00
GRANTS SCOTCH 700ML	\$ 50.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 48.00
SMIRNOFF VODKA RED 700ML	\$ 50.00 – LOYALTY	\$ 48.00
GORDONS DRY GIN 700ML		\$ 54.00
MAKERS MARK BOURBON 700ML		\$ 59.00
TORAVITCH VODKA 1LTR		\$ 64.00
MCGUIGAN BLACK LBL VARITIES	\$ 10.00 EA – LOYALTY	\$ 8.00 EA
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BROWN VROS MOSCATO VARITIES		\$ 16.00
SQUEALING PIG VARITIES		\$ 16.00
YELLOWTAIL VARITIES		\$ 11.00
BANROCK STN 1LTR VARITIES	\$ 12.00 EA OR 2 FOR	\$ 22.00
JACOBS CK RES VARITIES		\$ 15.00
BERRI 5LTR CAKS		\$ 23.00

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