

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

*Established in Aberdeen, serving communities across the Upper Hunter.*

September 2026

[www.facebook.com/aberdeenwhisper](https://www.facebook.com/aberdeenwhisper)

## Arts & Culture

### LOVE & FORGETTING Comes to Hollydene Estate

An intimate afternoon of cabaret, classic jazz, storytelling and Upper Hunter hospitality is coming to Hollydene Estate Wines, Jerrys Plains, on Saturday 26 September.

LOVE & FORGETTING – Tales from a Young Mixer, devised and performed by RARE BIRD ensemble, brings the theatre of the bar to life with timeless tunes, tall tales, wit and romantic charm.

Following a country kid from a “charming little town you’ve probably never heard of” as he chases a dream from the bush to the big city and beyond, the performance celebrates community, connection and the people and places that shape us.

Held in Hollydene Estate’s intimate Barrel Room, each \$95 ticket includes the performance, a glass of sparkling wine on arrival and an individual antipasto platter featuring Binnorie Cheese, salami, Hollydene honey, fig jam, lavosh and seasonal fruits.

***“A magical moment of performance that makes life more playful and extraordinary!”***

When: Saturday 26 September 2026, 1.00–3.00 pm

Where: Hollydene Estate Barrel Room, 3483 Golden Highway, Jerrys Plains

Tickets: \$95, including performance, sparkling wine and antipasto platter

Bookings: 123 Tix – search LOVE & FORGETTING – Tales from a Young Mixer



## Sports

### Aberdeen Tigers Book Three Grand Final Spots *by Jacob Dallah*

It was a big weekend of finals football for the Aberdeen Tigers on Sunday, 30 August, with the Under 18s, Women’s Tackle and Reserve Grade all securing their places in their respective Grand Finals.

The Under 18s produced a determined 24-8 victory over the Scone Thoroughbreds on Sunday morning. After leading 10-8 at half-time, the Tigers lifted their intensity in the second half, with Preston Bateman completing a spectacular hat-trick and helping Aberdeen pull away. Angus Sullivan, Harlen Thomas and Bailey Chick also played important roles as the Tigers held Scone scoreless in the second half to book their Grand Final spot.

The Women’s Tackle side followed with an impressive 26-6 win over the Muswellbrook Rams at Pirtek Park. After trailing 6-0 early, Aberdeen fought their way back into the contest and led 16-6 at half-time. Strong defence and some outstanding attacking plays saw the Tigers maintain control in the second half. Lily Cubillo was instrumental, including a brilliant

break that set up Tobey Stewart, before crossing herself late in the game to seal the victory.

In Reserve Grade, the Tigers survived an incredibly tight contest against Scone, securing an 8-6 victory. Josh Watson provided the breakthrough with a spectacular 70-metre effort to score Aberdeen’s only try of the match. With the scores locked at 6-all late in the second half, Aberdeen held their nerve, earning a penalty in front of the posts to take an 8-6 lead with just two minutes remaining. A determined defensive effort saw the Tigers close out the thriller and earn their place in the Grand Final.

Unfortunately, First Grade bowed out of the finals after a 26-10 defeat to the Singleton Greyhounds. Singleton established a 16-0 half-time lead, but Aberdeen refused to give up. Preston Bateman and Eamon Gleeson crossed in the second half as the Tigers fought their way back to 16-10, before Singleton regained control in the closing stages.

Despite the First Grade result, it was a hugely positive weekend for the club, with three Aberdeen sides now preparing for Grand Final football. Congratulations to all four teams on their efforts throughout the finals campaign, and best of luck to the Under 18s, Women’s Tackle and Reserve Grade as they fight for premiership glory.

**Supplied.**

## Whisper Trivia

1. According to Greek mythology, who was the first woman on earth?
2. Which singer's real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta?
3. Which country consumes the most chocolate per capita?
4. How many ribs are in a human body?
5. What is the smallest country in the world?
6. What is the painting 'La Gioconda' more usually known as?
7. What did the Crocodile swallow in Peter Pan?
8. What color jersey is worn by the winners of each stage of the Tour De France?
9. In which film did father and son actors Will and Jaden Smith first appear together?



Answers:  
 1. Pandora  
 2. Lady Gaga  
 3. Switzerland  
 4. Twenty Four  
 5. Vatican City  
 6. Mona Lisa  
 7. An alarm clock  
 8. Yellow  
 9. The Pursuit of Happiness

## Business Directory

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## Earle's Column

continued on page 7



One of the gratifying aspects of the Aberdeen community is the regular, consistent involvement of residents of our town on the Aberdeen Community Advisory Committee, (CAC). It meets quarterly to discuss "Aberdeen" matters, always in the presence of senior executives and other staff of Upper Hunter Shire Council, as well as a Councillor or two. The CAC meets quarterly and the interest shown by local residents in local matters sets us apart from some of the other towns in the Shire.

And the **WONDERFUL** news emerging from the August meeting is that the long-desired public toilet in the Aberdeen Lions' Jockey Park is, at last, coming to fruition. The CAC will recommend to Council that it proceed with the construction of a facility in the park at the end adjacent to the Metro Service Station. Funds totalling \$153,000 from the Dartbrook Coal Community Enhancement Fund, (otherwise known as the Dartbrook Voluntary Planning Agreement), will be utilised. Given that the recommendation has been made to the Council for consideration at its August ordinary meeting and the funds are available, there is a very high probability that this project will proceed.

Also at the CAC, there was a brief mention of the annual 'Tidy Towns' competition. Until only recently, the signs at our gateways advised travellers and residents of some success in that contest over fifteen years ago.

So, my question is simply: Is there any community appetite to pursue achievement in that arena again? If there is interest, please call or email me on 0419 681 175 or Cr.Shields@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au.

The Muswellbrook by-pass construction is scheduled to commence in 2027 and that will mean that Aberdeen will be the **FIRST** town that a traveller will enter after metropolitan Sydney if they are heading towards the New England or north-west regions of our state. It is important to recognise that there would be a significant time commitment required if success in 'Tidy Towns' were desired. But, 'nothing ventured, nothing gained'!

### THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS IN ABERDEEN!

As I compose this, on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd August there has been no shortage of activities to excite Aberdeensians! (Is that a word?) Saturday saw the annual Stallions Parades at the various Thoroughbred Studs across the Upper Hunter. Vinery Stud paraded, as did Darley/Godolphin at Kelvinside on Rouchel Road. At Kelvinside, seven or eight stallions were led before an appreciative crowd of several hundred spectators. The lineage and racing record of each horse was detailed, before we were told what it would cost for that stallion to cover a prospective breeder's broodmare. At a fee of \$275,000.00 it is not hard to understand why some of these stallions are valued up to and beyond \$100,000,000.00!

Recovering from the 'fiscal shock' of the Bloodstock Industry, on Sunday it was Minor Semi-final Day at McKinnon Oval and the mighty Aberdeen Tigers were up against the Muswellbrook Rams for a place in the Preliminary Final on the weekend of the 29th and 30th August. The Tigers looked set for a comfortable win with the score at 24-16 with about five minutes to play. But the Rams rallied and scored a converted try with only a couple of minutes to go. 24-22 and the Aberdeen lads had to dig very deep to withstand a final onslaught from our near neighbours. **But prevail they did! 'Carn the mighty Tigers.**

So now the Preliminary Final beckons and the mighty Tigers will be in each of the matches on the day. Unfortunately, deadline for "The Whisper" is Friday 28th August. So, what happens now will be 'history' by the time of the next "Whisper". Again, **'carn Aberdeen, sink your teeth into whoever would dare oppose and hopefully we will celebrate with you at the Grand Final on 6th September, (Father's Day).**

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

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**Dave Layzell MP**  
MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER



Authorised by Dave Layzell MP,  
94 John Street,  
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entitlements.

## Bird Flu Pending Major Disaster

by Doctor Dirt



*pictured above: endangered pair of Grey Crowned Babblers currently nesting in tree and Bill Rose Complex Scone. Many native bird species could become extinct due to Bird Flu*

Australia and New Zealand are bracing for the spread and impact of H5N1 Avian Influenza. This highly transmittable disease has been spreading in its current strain for at least six years in other parts of the world. Killing millions of animals and especially damaging the poultry industry in countries where this disease has taken hold.

This disease impacts native wildlife especially birds and back yard poultry. The domestic poultry industry is very vulnerable. Free range and housed egg laying birds and meat poultry birds could be decimated. It has already jumped from seabirds into mammals with the recorded deaths of two long-nosed fur seals and a red fox. The risk to human health remains low but it is strongly advised not to pick up sick or dead birds without gloves and avoid contact with your skin.

At the time of preparing this article there has been approximately 350 confirmed fatalities of seabirds across Australia. It is at a stage where further and likely escalation of this disease is almost inevitable.

So, what do we do if we find dead and sick animals, especially native or wild birds.

- Avoid contact and keep your distance
- Record date, time, location and take photos. Ensure your pets do not come in contact. It may be prudent to use gloves and rap the dead bird in two layers of plastic and in a sealed container away from all animals and people. Check what authorities want you to do next.
- Report to Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800675888 there is also a Webb site for further information [birdflu.gov.au](http://birdflu.gov.au). Please be proactive and visit this Webb Site.

### WHAT PREVENTATIVE MEASURES CAN YOU TAKE

- Practice good hand hygiene by washing hands prior and after handling, eggs, raw meat especially if home produced and animals. All pet feeding bowls and utensils that are used for feeding pets to be cleaned after use.
- Keep pets away from wildlife. Walking dogs make sure the dogs are on leads in wildlife and community areas. Do not allow cats to roam keep them indoors.
- When entering national parks, reserves or farms. Clean footwear, clothes to be used. Any vehicles should be clean and washed prior to entry to these locations.

Major poultry enterprises would have a biosecurity management plan already in place.

### PEOPLE WITH BACKYARD POULTRY SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS

- Prevent wild birds mingling with your poultry. Especially prevent wild bird sharing watering and feeding devices for your poultry
- Keep clean feeders and watering equipment
- Wash and sanitise hands before after handling birds
- Monitor and report signs of sickness or sudden death of your poultry.

I have reported using the online hotline and recording procedure of a dead native water bird I found in a Scone public area. I followed the procedures as I have outlined above. Please note this was not confirmed it was a Bird Flu Death, but I followed the recommended precautions.

I have experience in this field over the past 40 years in animal health I was Upper Hunter Local Biosecurity team. I know firsthand the impact of animal disease. The

NSW Government preparation and procedures is very good. There is always room for improvement and as this pandemic widens further resources and financial assistance will be necessary.

This is a very serious matter, families' livelihoods are at stake, our availability of poultry eggs and meat are at risk, we need to take care of much-loved pets. Australia and New Zealand have unique, rare and endangered bird and animal species. Australia is known as continent of parrots and native birds. This disease could be another nail in their very survival. So, please be aware this disease can and is likely affect our region and community.

**Supplied by Steve Eccles.**

Steve Eccles - [steveecclesconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:steveecclesconsulting@gmail.com)

Mobile: 0400 808 873



*pictured above: grey Crowned Babbler at its nest at Bill Rose Complex Scone.*

# LITTLE ATHLETICS

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## Aberdeen Public School

### DANCING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our Dance Group wowed the crowd at the Hunter Dance Festival in Newcastle. The students danced with poise and were complemented for their exemplary behaviour. Thank you to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Kelly for leading rehearsals and to the parents who supplied transport and cheered them on. The day was a huge success.



### CELEBRATING 101 DAYS OF KINDERGARTEN

What an amazing first 101 days! Kindergarten students have made new friends, gained confidence, and enjoyed many exciting learning moments. We celebrated with a pizza party, fun crafts and games — a perfect way to reflect on how far we've come. Our Kindergarteners continue to impress us, and we can't wait to see what's next.



### SPEAKING WITH CONFIDENCE

Congratulations to all students who presented at our Public Speaking finals! Your thoughtful ideas and confident delivery impressed our judges, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Mooring. Kindergarten 1st - Alexander M., Kindergarten 2nd - Kaiden P., Stage 1 1st - Charli A., Stage 1 2nd - William H., Stage 2 1st - Evelyn E., Stage 2 2nd - Delilah M., Stage 3 1st - Harrison E., Stage 3 2nd - Nicholas R.. Thank you to the audience members for making this a memorable occasion for our public speaking finalists.

### GROWING FUTURE LEADERS

Our Year 5 students attended Burn Bright in Scone where they engaged in a variety of group activities to identify and foster their leadership skills. This is an important event, not only for our aspiring school and sport captains, but for all students as they prepare for their final year of primary school and the transition to high school in 2028. As part of the Year 5 Leadership Package students are asked to reflect on the Burn Bright experience, describing not only what they did but what it taught them about being a leader. This is an important part of the conversation during the interview with the principal, so students are encouraged to give considerable thought to this task when completing the Leadership Portfolio. APS thanks the sponsors and facilitators for making Burn Bright available to Year 5 students in the BEAMS Learning Collective.

Supplied.

## TransCare Hunter Ltd

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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**[www.transcare.org.au](http://www.transcare.org.au)**

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

## NEREZ Input

Residents across Scone and Muswellbrook will have the opportunity to weigh in on a major regional investment program next month, as the New England Renewable Energy Zone (NEREZ) mobile office rolls into town. The visit coincides with an active public consultation period, open until September 18, for the NEREC Community and Employment Benefit Program. The initiative makes an initial \$60 million available to fund projects and programs designed to deliver long-term legacy outcomes for the region. Local communities, councils, and First Nations groups are being encouraged to share their feedback on how the benefit program should be designed and delivered.

### MOBILE OFFICE LOCATIONS & TIMES

Scone (Tuesday, 15 September): Upper Hunter Shire Council

- Morning Session: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Afternoon Session: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Muswellbrook (Wednesday, 16 September): Muswellbrook Library

- Morning Session: 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Afternoon Session: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Community members are invited to drop by during any of the sessions to speak directly with team members and submit their input on the \$60 million initiative.



## Clubs & Community

# Aberdeen Pony Club Celebrates 70 Years

Aberdeen Pony Club celebrated a major milestone on 16 August, holding its annual Presidents Cup Day alongside a special celebration of the club's 70th anniversary. Around 70 riders took part in a variety of events throughout the day, including showjumping, sporting, hack and riding classes. A special thank you was extended to judges Christine, Heiffe, Rozinda and Marcia for their time and support in making the day a success.

The 70th anniversary was marked with a large celebration cake, with special badges presented to all Aberdeen Pony Club members in recognition of the club's long history.

Another highlight was the presentation of Life Memberships to four long-standing members: Christine Brooker, Dennis and Karen Barham, and Vikki Lambley. The recipients were recognised for their many years of dedication to Aberdeen Pony Club and their continued involvement in supporting the club. The club also thanked its wonderful committee and members for their hard work and assistance in making Presidents Cup Day run smoothly. Congratulations to Aberdeen Pony Club on 70 years of supporting riders and the local community!

**Supplied by Amy Croft.**

## Clubs

# Lions Deliver \$33,000 to Local Community

The Aberdeen & Scone Lions Club Inc. has capped off another extraordinary year of service, detailing a staggering \$33,261.00 distributed directly into local schools, youth sports, health initiatives, and community support networks between July 2025 and June 2026. Beyond financial funding, club members logged an incredible 2,560 volunteer hours over the 12-month period, demonstrating an unwavering hands-on commitment to strengthening the Upper Hunter community.

## FUNDING LOCAL EDUCATION AND YOUTH SPORTS

Local schools received a massive boost in funding throughout the year. In June alone, \$1,000 contributions were delivered to Aberdeen Public School, St Joseph's High School Aberdeen, Aberdeen Preschool, Scone Public School, St Mary's Primary School Scone, Scone High School, and Scone Grammar School. Youth sports and recreation groups also featured heavily in the club's giving program. The Aberdeen Pony Club received \$2,000 toward a canteen upgrade in April, while the Muswellbrook Pony Club received \$1,000 in May. The Scone Swimming Club, Aberdeen Junior League, and Scone Junior League were among other sporting beneficiaries supported throughout the year.

## DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Addressing immediate local needs remained a primary focus for the Lions Club. A significant \$2,000 donation went to the Scone Neighbourhood Centre Food Pantry in March, paired with a \$500 contribution to the Aberdeen Public School Food Pantry in April. The Scone Girl Guides were backed with \$1,500 in January, while Scone Arts & Crafts received a major \$3,000 boost in June. Emergency services and essential healthcare initiatives were heavily supported, led by a standout \$5,000 donation to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service in October. Additional contributions throughout the year targeted prostate cancer research, diabetes alert dogs, eye health, cord blood research, and vital mental health care through Lifeline (\$500). The club extended additional support to local veterans via Legacy (\$1,200), aged care facilities including Murravale Aged Care and Strathearn House, and emergency relief programs.

With 2,560 hours of volunteer sweat equity poured into fundraising and community work alongside these monetary contributions, the Aberdeen & Scone Lions Club continues to exemplify their timeless motto: We Serve. The clean sweep was a fitting reward for Aberdeen, with every grade producing disciplined, committed performances in front of a strong home crowd.

**Supplied.**

# Local ADHD Assessments

If you've been wondering whether it's time to seek an ADHD assessment, there is now a local option available in Aberdeen.

Dr Layth Almallah is providing comprehensive ADHD assessments at Aberdeen Surgery for suitable patients. Consultations include discussion of symptoms, concerns and medical history to determine whether an assessment is appropriate.

Where a diagnosis is made and medication is clinically indicated, ongoing management can also be discussed as part of an individual care plan.

The assessment fee is \$600, with a \$300 deposit required at the time of booking, which is applied towards the total consultation fee.

Appointments are available at Aberdeen Surgery, 1 Segenhoe Street, Aberdeen.  
**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. Thank you for your understanding.

## Earle's Column

continued from page 2

On Wednesday 9th September the, now, annual Jared's 9-4-9 walk and community gathering to support fundraising for mental health and suicide prevention is on again. The brainchild of the quietly-spoken and yet stunningly indefatigable Aberdeen resident, Kate Jones, this event is gathering mass and momentum year on year. The event is born out of Kate's personal tragedy, losing her son Jared to the ravages of mental ill-health and suicide a few years ago. Participants are invited to walk one of a number of courses around Jefferson Park and Aberdeen raising funds to combat the epidemic of mental illness that our community is now struggling to come to terms with. If you have work commitments, you can start as early as 7.30am.

In association with Jared's 9-4-9, that whole week is devoted to a variety of mental health/mental well-being activities in the Upper Hunter. And Kate is delighted to welcome back the Rugby League legend, Wally Lewis, who will be the guest speaker at a couple of other events that week along with the "Unbreakable Farmer", Warren Davies. Around town there are posters advertising various events in that week as well as material on the 'socials'. **If you are able, please support these events.**

In early October, nominations for the 2027 Aberdeen Citizens of the Year will open. If you know someone who lives in our district that you think is a potential worthy recipient of either Citizen of the Year, Local Hero or Young Citizen of the Year please spend a little time telling their story to the Upper Hunter Shire Council Australia Day committee. Nomination forms will be available on the U.H.S.C. website and also at council offices, such as Aberdeen Library. Our town has many 'quiet achievers' who seek to improve the lives of people around them in a multitude of ways. The rest of the Shire needs to hear about them and recognise the difference they make. It's up to us!

**Supplied by Earle Shields.**

## Mayoral Minute

A Mayoral Minute raised concerns about access to specialist and surgical services for Upper Hunter residents and the future provision of maternity services at Scott Memorial Hospital in Scone.

Council resolved to write to the NSW Minister for Regional Health, the Hon. Ryan Park MP, seeking urgent assistance and calling for the retention and restoration of essential obstetric services, including antenatal, birthing and postnatal care. The adopted motion also seeks improved access to timely specialist and surgical services, with a focus on reducing short-notice postponements and cancellations.

Council will continue working with the Hunter Joint Organisation, Hunter New England Health and local State representatives to advocate for improved regional health services. The motion also calls on the NSW Government to redirect funding allocated to firearm buybacks towards regional health services and roads.

A separate Notice of Motion concerning maternity services at Scott Memorial Hospital was withdrawn following the adoption of the broader Mayoral Minute.

## Sports

## The Latest on Vets Golf

### COL HUNTER SHIELD 2026

Cloudy weather and a forecast of rain meant there were a few withdrawals for the Vets' Col Hunter Shield event at the wonderful MBK Golf Club on Tuesday, August 25. Thank you to the Pro Shop for organising the players' draw, and to Beryl for registering and processing the scorecards so efficiently.

Congratulations to Elie Raad, who won the 2026 Col Hunter Shield with an impressive 43 points. Les Cuttriss finished second on 40 points on a countback, followed by Graham Turvey on 40, Glen Standing on 39, Andy Medway on 38 on a countback, and Ross Banks on 38. Golf balls were awarded to Captain Mick McCormick (38), Pauline Carrigan (37), Christine Smith and Treasurer Bob Minch (36), President Lindsay Hodge (35), and Mick Reynolds, Dave Perfrement and Graham Newton (34).

The Bradman's Trophy was won by Russell Jukes. Nearest the Pin: 5th – Glenn Googe, 8th – Mick McCormick, 11th – Joan Shaw, 14th – Charlie Wintle, second shot (in the hole!), 17th – Les Cuttriss

### A GREAT DAY ON THE GREEN

Thank you to Ross and Lyn Banks for organising the playing groups and checking the up-to-date handicaps for the 37 players who took part in our game at Scone Golf Club on August 18.

It was a cool start to the day, but conditions warmed up nicely before becoming a little windy later on. The course provided some perfect playing conditions earlier in the day. As always, well done to Captain Mick McCormick for his leadership. Congratulations to our top players, with David Adams taking the win with an excellent 43 points. Glenn Googe finished second with 41 points, followed by David Bramley on 40, Graham Newton on 39, Lyn Banks (CB) on 37, and Mark Lewis on 36. Golf balls were generously presented to Reg Davidson and Robert Ryan, both scoring 36 points; Robert Colbert, Red Palmer and President Lindsay Hodge on 35; Steve McGhie, Ross Banks, Dave Perfrement, Charlie Wintle, Dave Taylor, Bob Lawman and Kerry McLennan on 34; and Mick Alsleben and Hilton Carrigan on 33. Thank you also to Charlie Wintle for recording all the players' results on the computer.

The Bradman's Trophy was awarded to Annie Woods. Nearest the Pin: 4th – Kerry McLennan, 8th – Mick Alsleben, 13th – Mark Lewis, 17th – Robert Colbert

### UPCOMING GAMES

- September 8 – Stableford at Denman
- September 15 – Stableford at Scone. Book in with Lindsay Hodge.
- September 22 – Murrurundi, Stableford Medal Round
- September 29 – MBK, 2-Ball Ambrose. Book in with the Pro Shop with your partner.

New members are always welcome! Shotgun starts are by 9.00am.  
**Supplied.**

## Always Good Enough With Kate

September is going to be a terrific month for lots of reasons...Spring is here, although it feels like we've never really had Winter in lots of ways!

Next week is going to be a big one for Aberdeen, and I'd love to invite everyone to join us on 9th September....yes, the rumours are true - Wally Lewis and his inspirational wife, Lynda, will be in Aberdeen for Jared's 949 Lifeline Walk. It won't only be Wally - Warren Davies, known Australia wide as the Unbreakable Farmer, will be here as well! Warren has just been named as one of the top 30 rural wellbeing leaders, so we are being joined by the best of the best!

Please join us from 10.00am down at Jefferson Park (at the Men's Shed) to walk, talk or just sit and share a coffee and a sausage sandwich! If you can't make it there, join us at the Commercial Hotel from 5.00pm for an evening of music, raffles, fun and friendship with both Wally and Warren.

Aberdeen is the best place to be...and the 9th September will be a terrific day to spend some time together!

If you'd like to get in touch to find out more, please message me on 0408 080 436 or email at [brookaquatics@gmail.com](mailto:brookaquatics@gmail.com)

**Supplied by Mrs Kate Jones**

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Authorised by Barnaby Joyce MP, 17/454-456 Peel Street, Tamworth NSW 2340.

**Jared's  
949-  
"Every Step Mattas"**

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING AT THE  
Commercial Hotel!**

Raffle tickets will be on sale, live music, drinks will be flowing and **Wally Lewis** will be there for some chats and photos with everyone!

*Join us to Raise a glass to Jared, Anthony and all those who have been lost to suicide.*

**09/09/2026 FROM 5PM THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL, ABERDEEN, NSW, 2336**

*Theme: Bright blue, Yellow or white!*

**JARED'S  
NINE FOR NINE** **CH  
COMMERCIAL  
HOTEL**

**Jared's  
949-  
"Every Step Mattas"**

**NINE FOR NINE WALK**  
WALKING TOGETHER. SAVING LIVES.

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

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 each day.

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 workplace...

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 Mattas'.

Leading the walk will be the magnificent horses, ridden by Jareds 949 ambassadors, Anna White and Jeremy Metcalfe.

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

**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.

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!**

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.

For more information, contact Kate Jones on... 0408080436 OR [jareds9for9@gmail.com](mailto:jareds9for9@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.

**SUICIDE** **FOREVER Loved** **OUT OF THE SHADOWS WALK** **RUN47**



## PRINT SPOTLIGHT

Supporting local businesses through quality printing, signage and design

### The Event Storeroom: Mobile Event Solutions



Hunter Valley Printing was proud to work with The Event Storeroom to produce custom vehicle graphics and signage that transform their mobile unit into a striking, professional billboard on the move.

Designed to handle the demands of travel and outdoor setups, the new trailer graphics feature a clean, high-contrast layout that displays key service and contact details with maximum clarity. Bold navy and white blocks ensure the branding is instantly recognizable—whether the trailer is parked on-site at a function or in transit between venues.

This functional update creates a polished display that reflects The Event Storeroom's commitment to reliable, high-quality event solutions. Mobile branding helps the team build instant recognition with clients, event organizers, and passersby wherever their work takes them.

At Hunter Valley Printing, we love helping local businesses present themselves with confidence. From vehicle graphics and trailer wraps to signage, pull-up banners, and promotional materials, we create durable print solutions that make an impact wherever they're displayed.

#### Project Snapshot

Client: The Event Storeroom

Industry: Event Hire & Infrastructure

Products Produced: Custom Trailer Graphics / Signage

Purpose: High-visibility mobile branding for event equipment and vehicle transit

#### Need your business to stand out on the road?

Whether you need vehicle signage, trailer wraps, pull-up banners, or promotional materials, Hunter Valley Printing can design and produce print solutions that leave a lasting impression.

Hunter Valley Printing | 02 6541 1358

#### Schools & Education

### St Joseph's Catholic College

#### LEGAL STUDIES IN ACTION

Our Year 12 Legal Studies students, accompanied by Mrs Collier, had the valuable opportunity to attend a List Day at Muswellbrook Local Court.

The day provided an engaging and insightful experience for our HSC students, allowing them to observe the legal system in action and gain a deeper understanding of the concepts they have been studying in the classroom.

Experiences such as this provide students with a valuable connection between their learning and the real-world application of the law.

A huge thank you to Muswellbrook Local Court and its staff for welcoming our students and providing such a valuable opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom.



#### BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND CREATING MEMORIES

Our Year 8 students took part in an exciting Connection Day filled with adventure, teamwork and plenty of fun.

Students embraced a range of activities, including axe throwing, archery, laser clay shooting and human foosball. Each activity provided an opportunity for students to challenge themselves, work together and step outside their comfort zones, while strengthening friendships and making new connections.

It was wonderful to see the positive engagement, enthusiasm and encouragement shown by students throughout the day. The staff at Hunter Adventure Centre were particularly impressed by our students' excellent manners, cooperation and behaviour.

Well done, Year 8, on representing the school so positively!

A big thank you to Mr O'Toole and Miss Spooner for coordinating such a fantastic day and creating an opportunity for our students to connect, grow and make lasting memories.



Supplied.



# MACHEnergy

## Mount Pleasant Operation

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

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

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

**COMMUNITY HOTLINE: 1800 886 889**

**BLASTING HOTLINE: 1800 931 872**

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 1800 931 873**

**For further information, including BLAST times and location, visit our website:  
[www.machenergy.com.au](http://www.machenergy.com.au) or email: [info@machenergy.com.au](mailto:info@machenergy.com.au)**

**FOR SALE**

# JTS REALTY

*A Family Business*

**48A Segenhoe Street, Aberdeen – \$299,000**



### VACANT LAND IN AN EXCELLENT LOCATION

Located opposite St Joseph's High School and the local primary school, this 1,373 sqm block is a great development site for multi dwellings or your dream family home (subject to council approval). All services are at the boundary either connected or ready for connection including power, town water, sewer, and NBN. There is currently a small shed with a bathroom which you could utilise while you build. The block has a very gentle slope and is an easy building site. Book your inspection today!

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

# State Matters with Dave Layzell MP

## EARLY BUSHFIRE DANGER

The Liverpool Range District, which includes the Upper Hunter Shire Council local government area, will have its Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) commence on 1 September.

This aligns with several neighbouring districts that will also commence their Danger Period next month, while all remaining districts retain the standard commencement date of 1 October. The earlier commencement of the BFDP will see fire permit in place to ensure burning activities are conducted safely and appropriately under current and forecast seasonal conditions.

For further information about the Danger Period or the fire permit process and applications, contact the Liverpool Range District Office on 6746 5800 or visiting the NSW RFS website: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au). The RFS has also issued a reminder ahead of the upcoming fire season to please keep drones away from bush and grass fires. If a drone is operating near a fire, firefighting aircraft will be unable to safely operate, impacting the RFS's ability to support crews on the ground and protect the community.

## OPERATION DEVIL ARK

Rural crime was the focus of a recent NSW Police operation focussed on Murrurundi, Wingen, Barrington Tops, Stewarts Brook and Scone.

The Hunter Valley Rural Crime Prevention Team was assisted by Traffic and Highway Patrol Command, Hunter Valley Police District, Port Stephens Hunter Police District, and NSW Hunting personnel from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The operation forms part of an ongoing commitment to prevent and disrupt rural crime, improve firearm compliance and ensure the safety of rural communities.

As part of the operation between Thursday, 13 August, and Sunday, 16 August, officers conducted several firearm safe storage inspections, livestock carrier inspections plus stopped and searched a number of hunting vehicles for compliance with movement of firearms within vehicles. A total of 22 infringement notices were issued for a range of traffic offences.

The Rural Crime Prevention Team has commended the vast majority of people they interacted with for their appreciation of what investigators do, for storing and handling their firearms in accordance with the legislative requirements and generally doing the right thing.

## WHAT ARE YOU INHALING?

The NSW Legislative Council's Justice and Communities Committee has tabled its report entitled 'Illegal tobacco trade'.

The committee's 11 recommendations focus



on reducing the illegal tobacco market, strengthening enforcement, improving regulation, and increasing Australian Government support for states dealing with the consequences of the illicit tobacco trade.

Meanwhile, the 16 findings are underpinned by a harm minimisation approach, concluding that current tobacco and vaping policies have unintentionally contributed to the growth of a substantial black market, with significant consequences for public health, law enforcement, and legitimate businesses. The committee concluded the growing illegal tobacco trade poses a serious threat not just for NSW but to all of Australia.

Recent estimates indicate that the illicit trade accounts for as much as 60 per cent of the total tobacco market, which means that a significant number of smokers are consuming illicit products that are not subject to any regulatory controls. See the report, at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/parliamentary-business/committees/reports-and-government-responses](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/parliamentary-business/committees/reports-and-government-responses)

## BIRD FLU ADVICE

Public reporting is an important part of the current response to bird flu, with calls to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline critical to support detection efforts. If you see multiple sick or dead birds or other animals, do not touch them, use your mobile telephone camera to record what you see, then report it to the Hotline. Bird flu has not been detected in commercial poultry flocks or captive birds anywhere in Australia and the risk to human health remains low.

Following the announcement by the Australian Government that an H5 avian influenza vaccine has been approved for use in native birds, the NSW Government is advancing plans to vaccinate priority captive native species to help safeguard vulnerable wildlife populations.

Priority species identified for potential vaccination include little penguins and regent honeyeaters.

Vaccination of other species will be assessed

on a case-by-case basis, informed by the available science and evidence, plus disease risk, conservation value and practicalities of vaccination.

Vaccination is one tool but is not a silver bullet and is one part of the broader H5 response.

Report suspected H5 bird flu immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Also check: [www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/avian-influenza/report](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/avian-influenza/report) and: [www.nsw.gov.au/regional-and-primary-industries/livestock/health-diseases/emergency-animal-diseases](http://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-and-primary-industries/livestock/health-diseases/emergency-animal-diseases)

## FIREARMS TAKEBACK

The NSW Nationals are calling on Premier Chris Minns to stop and listen to the people most impacted by the State Labor Government's firearms buyback scheme.

Nationals MPs have been out at gun clubs, with farmers and with the people who are trying to do the right thing because we believe their voices deserve to be heard.

Nationals Leader Gurnesh Singh says it's disingenuous to call this a buyback, because that implies Labor are buying the firearms, when they are just taking the firearms – it is not a buyback, it's a takeback.

The unintended consequences will be huge with no fair value, no accessories and no other states involved that is why the Nationals voted against NSW Labor's rushed laws in December last year. NSW Nationals will support practical reforms that improve public safety, will continue to hold Labor accountable and ensure its laws are workable, properly funded and do not unfairly punish law-abiding citizens.

## NEW FACILITIES

The recently completed Community Health space which is part of the Muswellbrook Hospital Stage 3 Redevelopment is now ready for use. Clinical services will move from their existing location in the Weidmann Wing with the new space opening to the community on Wednesday, 19 August.

Provision of Community Health services will not be interrupted by the staff move to the new location. Access to the space is via the lift near reception in the main entry of Muswellbrook Hospital. Staff will benefit from a more integrated facility and contemporary workspace, and patients will experience care in modern spaces.

The result is expected to be improved outcomes for patients and a health service that will meet the current and future health needs of the Upper Hunter community.

## Supplied.

### Contact:

94 John Street Singleton 2330  
[upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
6543 1065

# Cellarbrations

JUST SOME OF OUR SPECIALS COMMENCING  
MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER TILL SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

|                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| TOOHEYS EXTRA DRY 24 STUBBIES        | \$ 50.00 – LOYALTY \$ 48.00 |
| XXXX GOLD STUBBIES                   | \$ 50.00 – LOYALTY \$ 48.00 |
| HAHN SUPER DRY 3.5 STUBBIES          | \$ 53.00                    |
| CARLTON DRY 24 STUBBIES & CANS       | \$ 54.00 – LOYALTY \$ 52.00 |
| HEINEKEN/ SILVER STUBBIES            | \$ 56.00                    |
| HAHN SUPER DRY STUBBIES              | \$ 58.00                    |
| CARLTON DRY 3.5 30PK CANS            | \$ 60.00 – LOYALTY \$ 58.00 |
| VB STUBBIES & 24 CANS                | \$ 60.00                    |
| GREAT NORTHERN SUPER CRISP 30PK CANS | \$ 62.00                    |
| TOOHEYS NEW 30PK CANS                | \$ 63.00 – LOYALTY \$ 61.00 |
| GREAT NORTHERN ORIGINAL 30PK CANS    | \$ 71.00                    |
| STRONGBOW CIDER 10PKS                | \$ 25.00                    |
| SUNTORY -196 4PKS                    | \$ 22.00                    |
| WOODSTOCK 6% 4PKS                    | \$ 25.00                    |
| BUNDY CAMPFIRE 6% 4PKS               | \$ 27.00                    |
| HARD RATED 6% 10PKS                  | \$ 52.00 – LOYALTY \$ 50.00 |
| WILD TURKEY 4.8% 10PKS               | \$ 52.00 – LOYALTY \$ 50.00 |
| CANADIAN CLUB 6% 10PKS               | \$ 56.00                    |
| JACK DANIELS & COLA 10PKS            | \$ 59.00 – LOYALTY \$ 57.00 |
| CANADIAN CLUB ORG 37% 700ML          | \$ 50.00                    |
| GRANTS SCOTCH 700ML                  | \$ 50.00 – LOYALTY \$ 47.00 |
| JIM BEAM WHITE LBL 37% 700ML         | \$ 50.00                    |
| SMIRNOFF VODKA RED 700ML             | \$ 50.00 – LOYALTY \$ 47.00 |
| SHEEP DOG P/BUTTER WHISKY 700ML      | \$ 52.00                    |
| J/WALKER RED LBL 1LTR                | \$ 72.00 – LOYALTY \$ 69.00 |
| PEPPERJACK VARITIES                  | \$ 20.00                    |
| EVANS & TATE CLASSIC VARITIES        | \$ 14.00                    |
| ATMATA ORGANIC VARITIES              | \$ 17.00                    |
| PENFOLD K/HILL VARITIES              | \$ 17.00 OR 2 FOR \$ 32.00  |
| JANSZ NON VINTAGE 750ML              | \$ 32.00                    |
| PIPER-HEIDSIEK NV BRUT               | \$ 68.00                    |
| HARDY VR 3LTR CASKS                  | \$ 18.00                    |

PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE IN STORE!!!!  
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