



Moruya celebrated Australia Day on Monday morning at Riverside Park. Story pages 4-5

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\$2.2m upgrade to Nursing Facilities at TAFE NSW Moruya

Member for Bega, Dr Michael Holland has secured a \$2.2m investment to deliver new nursing facilities at TAFE NSW Moruya, strengthening the local health workforce and supporting future healthcare demand across the Eurobodalla region.

Adjacent to the new \$330 million Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, the upgrades will significantly enhance learning opportunities for students, providing modern, fit-for-purpose training environments that better prepare graduates for real-world clinical settings.

This project is part of a statewide Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) program, ensuring TAFE NSW training facilities meet national accreditation standards, legal compliance requirements and student safety regulations.

- Two new simulated nursing training wards, including new beds, tables and other equipment required to meet the ANMAC standards,
- New mobile nursing station,
- Upgraded audio-visual equipment to support modern teaching and learning delivery,
- Dirty and clean preparation room,
- Training bathroom,
- Nurses station and lobby,
- New lunchroom facilities,
- New male/female and accessible toilets.

Chronically underfunded for over a decade while our teachers were spending much of their time working through administrative red tape to compete with private providers for desperately needed funding for our public training institution.

Dr Holland said "I am thrilled that the Minns Labor Government has committed \$2.2 million to upgrade the nursing facilities at TAFE NSW Moruya. This investment delivers purpose-built training spaces, updated equipment and student amenities that will support high-quality nurse training right here in our region.



Bek O'Reilly, Eurobodalla Deputy Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Jamie Fitz and Zoe Flavell TAFE Teachers- Nursing, Dr Michael Holland MP State Member for Bega, Deborah Crowe TAFE Services Coordinator, Mike Meurer- Director Strategic Asset Planning

"Adjacent to the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, these upgraded facilities will ensure our local students have the resources they need to gain their qualifications and help meet the growing demand for healthcare workers in the Far South Coast.

"After more than a decade of underfunding under the former Liberal National Government, this is exactly the support our TAFE and our community needed. I am proud to be part of the Minns Labor Government who is delivering long-term benefits for local students, nurses and the broader healthcare sector."

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Steve Whan said "These upgrades and investment are just what Dr Holland and the Moruya community has been calling for, for decades. This investment is about delivering skills that work - giving students access to modern, accredited training facilities that reflect the environments they'll step into when they graduate.

"The Minns Labor Government is committed to rebuilding TAFE NSW and addressing the critical skills shortages in our regional communities. This investment achieves just that. Thanks to the advocacy of Dr Holland, the Minns Labor Government is building better services for Moruya."

Water main repairs at Tomakin and Lilli Pilli



Repairs to water mains at Tomakin on Monday 26 January.

Repairs are underway following breaks to water mains, including a major one at Tomakin. Eurobodalla Council crews responded to several breaks on Sunday 25 January. Council's water and sewerage manager Sarah Lunau said some homes and surrounding businesses were impacted.

"At Tomakin yesterday, crews had to excavate a large area on the corner of George Bass Drive and Tomakin Road to access the mains and worked around the clock on repairs," Ms Lunau said.

"We thank everyone for their patience and slowing down while traffic control is in place."

Ms Lunau said the remaining break at Lilli Pilli is still being repaired and some residents may experience low water pressure over the next 24-48 hours, particularly in higher areas.

"There is no risk to drinking water quality – the water is safe to drink while work is underway," Ms Lunau said.

Ms Lunau said major breaks to water mains are not common and the cause was being investigated. Residents with concerns or ongoing issues can contact Council on 4474 1000.

MORUYA MAIL

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Callo takes out Best Male Vocal in Tamworth

Moruya musician Ron 'Callo' Callaghan has won Best Male Vocal at the Australian country Music People's Choice Awards.

In late November Walbunja man 'Callo' was invited to sing at presentation night at Tamworth Town Hall on January 22 for the Tamworth Country Music Awards.

All he knew was that he was to perform one 3 minute song, 'Proud Black Man' written about racism and walking together as one.

Phil Watts accompanied Callo, travelling 1800km in a non air conditioned car to Tamworth over a week.

It was Callo's first time in Tamworth.

"It was a massive festival that takes over the streets" said Callo. "The buskers were awesome and I'm definitely open to going back again next year."

Callo was nominated for Best Song and Best Male Vocal. The People's Choice Awards are the only major award where anyone can vote for anyone (no finalists)

"Just 20 minutes after I had performed, it came to Best Male Vocal category" said Callo.

"I really wasn't expecting to win by any means. I already felt like a winner being nominated. It was the first time I have been nominated for anything."

Callo started performing 40 years playing rhythm guitar and vocals for 'Mixed Relations' but took a lot of time off, going 15 years without performing. "When kids grew up, I started back at the music to have a bit of fun" he said. "I only started recording for the last 4- 5years. I made a few CDs but mostly gave them away."

However, 18 months ago Callo started producing and going through a publisher Blue Shamrock Music.

Callo said he will be releasing a new song in coming days - 'Friend of mine', recorded last year, written about people who have been a bit lost in life.

He also has a new Film clip produced by Afterglow Productions.

Callo has a unique vibrato voice and has kept crowds captivated with his rhythmic sounds for decades. Callo can perform as a solo artist or with his band, he can play many different styles of music but his heart and soul are felt through his original songs about family, culture and his journey through life.



Ron 'Callo' Callaghan. Photo: Scott Rathman Jnr

Body confirmed to be that of missing man near Narooma Police can confirm a body found at a South Coast beach last week, is that of a man who went missing on the South Coast more than a week ago. Emergency services were called to Mystery Bay Beach, about 12km south of Narooma, following reports a man had fallen into the water about 6.40pm on Sunday 18 January 2026.

Officers attached to South Coast Police District attended and were told a 23-year-old man had tripped and fallen several metres off a cliff into the ocean and had not resurfaced.

About 6:05am on 23 January 2026, police were called to Billies Beach, Corrunna, north of Mystery Bay, near Narooma, following reports a man's body had washed up on a beach. Officers attached to South Coast Police District attended and established a crime scene. The body has now been formally identified, and is that of the missing 23-year-old UK National. A report will be prepared for the coroner.

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AUTHORISED BY FIONA PHILLIPS MP, ALP, 3/59 JUNCTION ST, NOWRA NSW 2541



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Local citizens recognised on Australia Day



Citizen of the Year Mike Hallahan.

A ceremony was held on Monday morning at the rotunda to celebrate Australia Day and recognise community champions. After a welcome from Maureen Davis and address by Michael Weyman the citizens awards were presented.

2026 Moruya Citizen Of The Year:-Mike Hallahan

Congratulations to Mike Hallahan who has been quietly volunteering for numerous organisations within our local community for the past 30 + years.

From Surf Life Saving (former Moruya Surf Club president) to working with local schools within our town (both Primary & Secondary Schools) through to Special Nippers Program. Mike has also been involved in many other Moruya events, too numerous to recall. Mike is one of those "quiet achievers" who just helps "get the job done."

2026 Moruya Volunteer of the Year: Andrew Nader

Congratulations to Andrew Nader who is another of those quiet achievers who volunteers to assist almost every major public event in Moruya.

Andrew has been volunteering for the Moruya RSL at many events for at least the past 15 years. He volunteers at the Moruya Rodeo, the Moruya Remembers Committee (and WW2 bunkers at north head). Even over this very weekend, Andrew was braving the searing heat and was one of the many "green army" of workers who make the Eurobodalla Show happen.



Andrew Nader



Community Spirit Award Cliff Southcombe

2026 Moruya Community Spirit Award: Cliff Southcombe

You might not know his name, but if you have ever gone "Christmas Lights" patrolling over the past 25 years in Moruya you may know his face! You will certainly acknowledge that the best Christmas lights in all of Moruya, are on a house in Bergalia Street (over near the Moruya Cemetery).

Congratulations to Mr. Cliff Southcombe in receiving the Moruya Community Spirit Award for 2026.

You have always been there to bring a smile to the faces of little children and adults alike, through your hard work and spreading of Christmas cheer. And let's face it, right now, the world needs the spirit of Christmas 365 days of the year! Cliff spends at least two months before Christmas day, setting up his spectacular light show. And joked today that he is still pulling power cords down and packing decorations away into safe storage, now in late January!

Cliff, the town of Moruya extends their heartfelt thanks to you for what you quietly do for this town to raise our spirits at Christmas time. You truly are bursting with Community Spirit. >>>



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Local citizens recognised on Australia Day



2026 Moruya Junior Citizens of The Year (co-awarded): Moruya Tuross Junior Rugby League U16s – the 2025 team

Let it be said that Australia Day awards are not normally given, for sporting achievement alone. Otherwise, every person in this town who has done well at sport will be lining up for a trophy. But with the example set by Moruya's favourite son, the wonderful Mick Weyman we all know what can be achieved on the sporting field and often this is reflected off the field. It is important for young people to understand that when you pull on a jersey Which bears the name 'Moruya' You are not just representing yourselves and your team mates. But you are representing your entire town. Wearing the name of Moruya on their chests last year ... It is my understanding this team was undefeated throughout the entire 2025 season and went on to win the Grand Final. When you win, it is a win for everybody in this town who has influenced you in some way. From your parents, of course through to your school teachers and just as importantly, the coaches and support staff within the club who work for you, behind the scenes.

An award such as this is proof that what you young people do, both on and off the field ... is being watched and adults are taking notice. It gives me great pleasure to announce this team of fine young men who carried the pride of Moruya on their chests during the 2025 football season:-

1. Kayden Adams - Captain
2. Chad Brunhuber - played for Moruya since 2014
3. Charlie Gwynne - played for Moruya since 2014
4. Cameron Paull - played for Moruya since 2014
5. Mitchell Zutt - played for Moruya since 2014
6. Cooper Mazurkiewicz
7. Noah Adams
8. Declan Adams
9. Luke Drewsen
10. Riley Newell
11. Naite Turner
12. Izaiah Moreton
13. Bailey Pepper
14. Ned Spies
15. Dusty Irving
16. Tommy Parlett
17. Sonny Cottington
18. Lincoln Smith
19. Koby Pennell
20. Oliver Paul
21. Yuin Mongta
22. Austin Adams
23. Zac Whipp
24. Kordel Holzhauser

The trophy was awarded by Councillor Robert Pollock OAM

2026 Moruya Junior Citizens of The Year (co-awarded): Congratulations to Harper Lasscock, Maya Colburn & Lila Weyman.

These three wonderful young Ambassadors for Moruya put their bodies on the line as representatives of our town for the Regional Women's Rugby League Team "The South Coast Marlins". Their goal to create a supportive environment for young women in Country Rugby League. As stated when their footy playing counterparts were awarded their trophy, Australia Day awards are not normally given, for sporting achievement alone. But these three young ladies are pioneers in a traditionally male sport and are wonderful advocates for women's sport in general. Congratulations from the town of Moruya, for representing our small community on the big stage!

ESC councillors Anthony Mayne and Rob Pollock attended. The event was organised by Greg Malavey, Gary Traynor, John Gillett, Tubby Harrison, Kieran Kay, Kay Nash, Lorne Thomas, Sandra and John Spencer, Graham and Michelle Scobie.

Source: [Moruya Australia Day Ceremony](#)

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2026 Commonwealth Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to the three Eurobodalla residents awarded Australia Day Honours, and the Mr Basil Sellers, a major philanthropist to the arts in Eurobodalla.

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division

Dr Michele Denise Bruniges AM, Tuross Head NSW 2537

For distinguished service to public administration, to education policy and teaching practice, and to addressing educational disadvantage. Government Roles

- Secretary, Department of Education, Skills and Employment, 2016-2023.
- Secretary, NSW Department of Education and Communities, 2011-2016.

Education Roles

- Industry Professor, Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion, University of Technology Sydney, 2023- 2024.
- Chairperson, Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership, since 2023.
- Member, Ministerial Reference Group, National School Reform Agreement, 2016-2023.
- Chair, Program for International Student Assessment, Directorate for Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, since 2017.
- Chair, NSW Vocational Education and Training Review, 2023-2024.
- Chair, Lifting Literacy Outcomes Monitoring Group, since 2023.

Awards and Recognition include:

- College Medal, Australian College of Educators, 2019.
- Sir Harold Wyndham Medal, Australian College of Educators, 2015.
- Gold Medal, Australian College of Educational Leaders, 2015.
- Member, Order of Australia, 2012.
- Honorary Doctor of Letters, University of New South Wales, 2024

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division

Mr Philip Alan Armstrong, Broulee NSW 2537

For service to the community through a range of organisations.

Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels Cooperative Ltd

- President, current. Rotary Club of Moruya
- Foundation Chair, since 2017.
- President, 2004-2005.
- Treasurer, 2015-2016.
- Member, since 2000.
- Former Member, Rotary Drought Relief Committee.
- Former Chair, Rotary Bush Fire Recovery Committee. Rotary International District 9710
- District Governor, 2012-2013.
- Rotarian of the Year, 2019-2020. Campbell Page Australia
- Former Chair, International.
- Former Treasurer.
- Board Member, 1997-2014. Banksia Villages
- Chief Executive Officer, 1998-2014.
- Former State Board Member.
- Life Member. Boards and Appointments
- Board Member, Australian Rotary Health, 2014-2017.
- Former Committee Member, Meals on Wheels Queanbeyan.
- Aged and Community Services New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory
- Former Board Member.
- Life Member, since 2015.

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division

Mr William John Baker, Rosedale NSW 2536

For service to the community of Queanbeyan.

Treehouse Queanbeyan

- President, Treehouse Queanbeyan, since 2018.
- Founder, Treehouse Family Fund. Community
- Member, Karabar Housing Cooperative.
- Former President, Telopea Swimming Club ACT.
- Former President, Triathlon, ACT.
- Former President, New South Wales Country Children's Services Association.
- Chair Selection Committee, Australian Triathlon Team, 2000 Olympics.
- Education
- President, Queanbeyan District Pre-School Association, 1984-1989.
- Former President, Pre-School Association Advisory Board.
- Former Chair, St Gregorys P & F.
- Former President, Queanbeyan YMCA.
- Former President, New South Wales Country Children's Services Association.
- Former Chair, Campbell Street Children's Centre.
- Queanbeyan Business Council
- Founding Member.
- Former President. Boards and Appointments
- Former Treasurer, ACT Law Society.
- Former President, Southern Tablelands Law Society.
- Professional
- Partner, Baker Deane and Nutt Solicitors.

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division

Mr Basil Alfred Darrell Sellers AM, Double Bay NSW 2028

For distinguished service to the community through philanthropy and leadership, and to sports administration.

Charitable

- Supporter, Association for Non-Traditional Employment for Women, India, since 1998.
- Supporter, The McGrath Foundation, since 2008.
- Benefactor, Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation, current.
- First XI Patron, The Steve Waugh Foundation, current.
- Patron, Len Evans Tutorial and Foundation, current.
- Patron, The Chappell Foundation, current.
- Patron, LBW Trust, current.
- Benefactor, Sydney Dogs and Cats Home, 2025.

Sydney Swans, Australian Football League

- Patron, current. and Benefactor, Sydney Swans Academy annual scholarship, since 2023.
- Benefactor, Basil Sellers Richard Colless Centre, 2023.
- Director, 1989-1993. Sydney Cricket Ground Trust
- Benefactor, 20+ years.
- Donor, sculptural installations, 2008.
- Life Member, Sydney Cricket Ground, 2023.

Cricket NSW

- Vice Patron, 2022.
- Founder, Basil Sellers Country NSW Scholarship Program, 2006.
- Founder, Basil Sellers Emerging Player Program, 2006.
- Director, 1984-1987.
- Life Member, 2009.

Basil Sellers Art Prize, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne

- Benefactor, 2007-2016.
- Founder, 2007. Basil Sellers Art Prize, Eurobodalla Shire Council
- Benefactor, since 2005.
- Founder, 2005. Bradman Foundation
- Benefactor, 1990s-2000s.
- Co-Founder, Bradman Museum, 1989.
- Awards and Recognition include:
- Person of the Year, Well-Being Australia, 2025.
- Inductee, Sydney Swans Hall of Fame, 2023.
- Honorary Doctorate, Bond Uni, 2018.
- Member, Order of Australia (AM), 2003.

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NAROOMA DISTRICT FUNERALS

Broulee resident appointed to Aged Care Council of Elders



Broulee resident, Marilyn Beaumont OAM

Broulee resident Marilyn Beaumont OAM has been appointed by the Australian Government to the Aged Care Council of Elders for a 2-year term – one of nine new appointees from across Australia.

The Aged Care Council of Elders is a group of older people from diverse backgrounds with lived experience of ageing and aged care, who provide a direct voice to government for older people, by older people.

The Australian Government established the Council in 2021 following the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which called for an advisory body on quality and safety of care, and the rights and dignity of older people.

Marilyn's unique perspectives, based on her lived experience and her extensive qualifications, including being a valued Director of the Board for trusted, local aged care provider Banksia Villages, made her an ideal candidate and high calibre appointee for the Council of Elders.

Banksia Board Chair Craig Hamer expressed delight in Marilyn's appointment, adding "Banksia's board is comprised of exceptional people, who volunteer their time and expertise to support this local community organisation. Marilyn's appointment to the Council of Elders is a very worthy appointment and a source of immense pride for Banksia."

Marilyn spoke of her desire to advocate for the health and wellbeing of older Australians in her role as a Council of Elders member.

"I'm keen to make a difference to the lives of older Australians. My work on a number of Boards, including the past 13 years as a Director at Banksia Villages has helped me understand how I might achieve this." she said.

Find out more about the Council of Elders here - [Aged Care Council of Elders | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#). Find out more about Banksia's Board and Management teams here - <https://banksiavillage.com.au/about/our-people/>

Lettuce Learn and Nourish with SAGE Food & Knowledge

By Lindsay Gates

The joy of backyard food gardening is even better when shared with like-minded people!

SAGE NSW Inc is a not-for-profit volunteer group dedicated to growing a local food community. They support growers and shoppers through the SAGE Farmers Market, SAGE Garden, and a variety of education activities and events, and their weekly Food and Knowledge Shares are a way for backyard growers to share food and conversation with the community.

The shares are starting up again in February and will take place every Sunday from 10 to 11am in Riverside Park.

However **this Sunday, with rain forecast, it will be at the Sage Gardens.**

Our first guest on February 1st will be Lou Dampney. She loves growing food and finding ways to preserve it, and is a "bit mad about chillies!" She is also a horticulturist, was a researcher for Burke's Backyard, Groundforce and Better Homes and Garden, and ran her own landscaping and garden maintenance business for nearly 20 years.

SAGE coordinator Lindsay Gates is passionate about community food and knowledge sharing and will be welcoming newcomers and regulars to each event.



"We will be there every Sunday to share our excess garden produce and introduce a local food grower or cook to share their knowledge about growing and eating local.

Our aim is to grow the community and foster local food resilience in all ways. Through sharing experience, recipes, growing skills and mistakes we hope to build connections and inspire new backyard gardeners.

"We understand that many households are too busy to garden and we genuinely invite you to take advantage of our bounty and feel empowered knowing you will be eating chemical free food grown with love.



Everyone is welcome and you don't need to bring anything. All ages are welcome and we will have "magic" bean seeds for kids to take home and plant,". says Lindsay Gates.

People who can bring items to share can contribute vegetables, fruits, eggs, seedlings/seeds, cookbooks, gardening books, tools, preserves and plants.

SAGE Food and Knowledge Shares -
Riverside Park every Sunday from 1 February 1st to 26 April (excluding 1 March - Cobargo Folk Festival).
If raining, the event will move undercover to the SAGE Gardens at 110 Queen St, Moruya.

Full house for conversation about the history of Australia



Mark McKenna in conversation with Frank Ross at St John's.

'Travelling Together' is a community project that seeks to create opportunities for First and Second Nations people to grow in relationship, to deepen understanding and connection in two ways through sharing stories, food and deep listening. Throughout 2026, a series of open, exploratory conversations will take place, organised by the Moruya Commons Council alongside First Nations people. The project is funded through the Investing in Rural Communities Futures program by FRRR (Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal) as a response to a desire for stronger cross-cultural relationships and deeper respect that is embedded in the culture, place and people of Walbunja, Brinja-Yuin and Djiringanj (Eurobodalla), of the Yuin Nation.

After a welcome to country acknowledging the Walbunja, Brinja-Yuin, Djiringanj people of the Yuin Nation by Uncle Bunja Smith, Frank Ross discussed the book with the author.

McKenna described his intention of writing something different from the regular narrative of Australian history by using chapters of history from different places, times and perspectives.

Questions from the floor included topics of the idea of Australia Day, Tony Armstrong ABC show 'Always was tonight', the current situation with regard to a Republic reflecting on the new reality with a majority of citizens being born overseas or parents born overseas.

Linda Chapman from Moruya Commons said "It was a terrific way to launch the Travelling Together project and a wonderful event in its own right. I think that Mark has given us a very helpful frame to proceed. Namely, that without disowning or denying all the shocking wounds of colonisation, we have one shared history albeit with many different stories."

Stephanie Chui asks that anyone who is interested in keeping up to date with the Travelling Together project, or would like to be a part of it in some way to email: stephaniechiu.studio@gmail.com

>>> About the Shortest History of Australia >>>



Uncle Bunja Smith, author Mark McKenna, Frank Ross and Toscha Irving from Moruya Books.

Over 100 people attended the book talk and conversation with eminent historian Mark McKenna at St John's Church in Moruya on Saturday 24th January.

McKenna's 'The Shortest History of Australia - The history of Australia has been written before - but not like this' was published in November as part of a series of 'The Shortest History of...' by Black Inc Publishing.

The 'conversation' was part of the ongoing 'Travelling Together' project in conjunction with Moruya Books.

'Travelling Together' explores the question: *How do we as people living on Yuin land, deepen our understanding and connection in two ways?*



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Full house for conversation about the history of Australia



Haddigaddi Seafood Trailer attended the book talk with refreshments.

The Shortest History of Australia

The history of Australia has been written before – but not like this.

In The Shortest History of Australia, Mark McKenna offers a compelling new version of our national story. This is a modern Australia permeated by First Nations history; a multicultural society with an island mindset; a continent of epic beauty and extreme natural events; a country obsessed by war abroad but blind to its founding war at home; and a thriving nation-state still to realise its political independence. McKenna's wise and humane history reveals the surprising in the familiar, and reframes the past so we can see the present more clearly.

Praise for The Shortest History of Australia

'A deeply imaginative, beautifully written, individual and original book' —Robert Manne

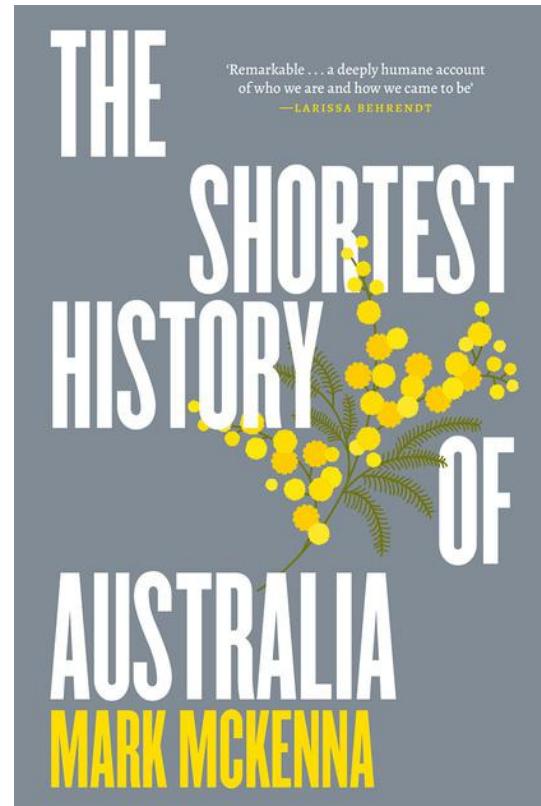
'In this remarkable book, Mark McKenna offers a concise yet richly layered portrait of Australia. Thoughtful, reflective and inclusive, *The Shortest History of Australia* doesn't flatten the past into a single story, but traces the many threads – First Nations, settler, migrant – that have shaped the nation. With great sensitivity, McKenna also ensures that the country itself – the land, its extremes and its beauty – is a character, shaping the Australian spirit as much as any historical force. He explores both the tensions that remain and the spirit that endures, offering readers a deeply humane and optimistic account of who we are and how we came to be.' —Larissa Behrendt

'Mark McKenna's *The Shortest History of Australia* found a new way to trace this continent of ours. With every page, the kaleidoscope shifted and a new way of seeing emerged.' —Patrick Mullins, Australian Book Review

'The Shortest History of Australia has impressive breadth. Somehow in its pages not only is a history told but yesteryear's jingoistic myths are dispelled.' —The Saturday Paper

'McKenna's approach to writing the past, present and future of Australia is deeply considered and precisely crafted.' —Readings

'This is a sensitive and scrupulous account that says the cliches about Australian history are failures of imagination.' —The Age



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Working together for a cleaner, smarter future for the Eurobodalla



Narooma Rotary awards 2026 Tertiary Scholarship

Narooma Rotary President Julie Hartley is delighted to announce that Lachlan Druhan is the recipient of the 2026 Narooma Rotary Tertiary Scholarship.

She presented the scholarship to Lachlan at a small ceremony at Narooma Rotary Market on Sunday. Lachlan will study Economics and Finance at Wollongong University.

Narooma Rotary awards a three-year scholarship to a student from Narooma High School each year, thanks to a bequest by Alexander Birch and additional funding from a greatly appreciated benefactor.

Lachlan is the 36th student from Narooma High who Narooma Rotary has helped pursue their studies and achieve their dreams. With this scholarship, that assistance now totals over \$353,000.

Mrs Hartley said applicants were assessed by the Club's scholarship panel based on several criteria, including evidence of commitment to their chosen field, the student's school assessment and examination performances, and interview. No particular course is preferred over any other. Applications for the 2027 Narooma Rotary Tertiary Scholarship will open in October.



Lachlan Druhan is the recipient of the 2026 Narooma Rotary Tertiary Scholarship.

Friends mark 40 years at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden



Some of the Friends of the ERBG

"Some volunteer on site, others support through membership and fundraising - every contribution counts." Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden manager Michael Anlezark said the Garden has always been about helping people connect with and care for the region's native plants. He said Friends have played a part in making that happen - supporting work across the nursery, herbarium and visitor services.

"Through fundraising and hands-on volunteering, Friends have supported major projects including the Herbarium and Visitor Centre and helped the Garden recover after the 1994 and 2019 bushfires," Mr Anlezark said.

"Members also play an important role in the community, particularly in disseminating information about what's going on in the garden, which was very important after the fires."

Mr Anlezark said Friends will continue to play a key role in the Garden's future, including committing funds to a planned upgrade of the Garden's nursery.

"The nursery upgrade will allow our team to grow more plants for revegetation and landscape rehabilitation projects across the region, delivering environmental benefits that go well beyond the Garden fence," he said.

Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden meet monthly and welcome new members and volunteers. Membership supports conservation work and includes discounts and invitations to special Garden activities and events.

Friends also have a full year of activities planned, including guided founder walks, themed events such as Eucalyptus Day, exhibitions, a speaker series with leading botanists and a book swap. Keep an eye on the Garden's website for upcoming events.

More information about becoming a Friend or supporting the Garden is available on the Garden's website.

Fiona Phillips MP said "Today we celebrated that 40 years, with a very special guest speaker, Professor Tony Haymet, Australia's Chief Scientist, Q&A and birthday cake. Prof. Haymet (also a local), talked about some of the wonderful discoveries of Australian scientists and the importance of their work for Australia's sovereignty. Congrats to all members of the Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden."

Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden celebrated 40 years on Saturday 24 January.

Friends' members, volunteers, Council representatives and guests got together with a cake cutting and the presentation of correa plants - a signature native of the Garden, to mark the milestone.

The non-profit group also unveiled a commemorative illustrated timeline capturing key moments in the Garden's history. The artwork will be permanently displayed in the Visitor Centre foyer.

The Friends group formed in the mid-1980s after a community push to protect local native flora was adopted by Council.

Friends president Derek Anderson said the group has more than 400 members and a handful of its volunteers work closely with Council to support the Garden's conservation, education and recreation.

"Not all our members are botanists - we all come from different backgrounds, and all love the place and what it's trying to achieve," Mr Anderson said.

Wind played havoc with Australia Day Narooma Duck Race



And they're off! The start of the 2026 Narooma Rotary Duck Race

After a flying start off Narooma Bridge, almost all 1,000 entrants in this year's Great Australia Day Narooma Rotary Duck Race on Sunday slowly drifted north and took refuge in Mill Bay.

'It was good fun, but it was a highly unusual race because of conditions,' said Duck Race Coordinator Antoinette Lee. 'It was a battle between the tidal flow and the southerly wind; the wind won. Those that went under the boardwalk were automatically disqualified.'

'Only six ducks actually made it to the finishing line, all with heads down and bottoms up, a decided advantage with the wind.'

Duck 683 was the clear winner, purchased by Antonella Lukic of Canberra who won \$1,000. Last Duck was 997, held by J Hamilton who won \$100.

Ms Lee said there was a really good crowd on the bridge and along the boardwalk.

Narooma Rotary President Julie Hartley thanked everyone who had helped with the event, especially those on the bridge and all those on the water who helped retrieve the ducks including Marine Rescue, Narooma Surf Club members and the merry band of kayakers. The kayakers included Rotary Exchange students Aaro from Finland and Calix from France, currently on holiday at Dalmeny with a Narooma Rotarian.

'A big thank you too to all those Rotarians, partners and friends who continue to make this day such a success each year,' she said.

Proceeds this year go towards Narooma Rotary's 2026 projects including the Tertiary Scholarship and Apprenticeships.



The winning duck 683, held by Narooma President Julie Hartley with Duck Race Coordinator Antoinette Lee and Rotarian Pina Prosperi.



Narooma Rotarians Diana Bachman, Ange Ulrichsen and Pina Prosperi added some Duck fun on the bridge.



Free tech café drop-in sessions

Term 1 2026 – 2 February – 1 April

Narooma – Mondays 10.00am – 12.15pm - Narooma Golf Club

Moruya – Tuesdays 12.30pm – 2.30pm - Moruya Library

Batemans Bay – Wednesdays 10.00am – 12pm - Bay Pavilions

Need a helping hand with digital devices? Come and chat to experienced digital mentors for one-on-one support or join one of our group classes:

Wk 1 - smartphone features, functionality, maintenance and updates
Wk 2 - jargon, terminology and AI
Wk 3 - security settings
Wk 4 - The camera function

Wk 5 - how to avoid scams
Wk 6 - install, use and remove apps
Wk 7 - understand and use the internet
Wk 8 - how to fill out online forms
Wk 9 - emailing from your device

No bookings required

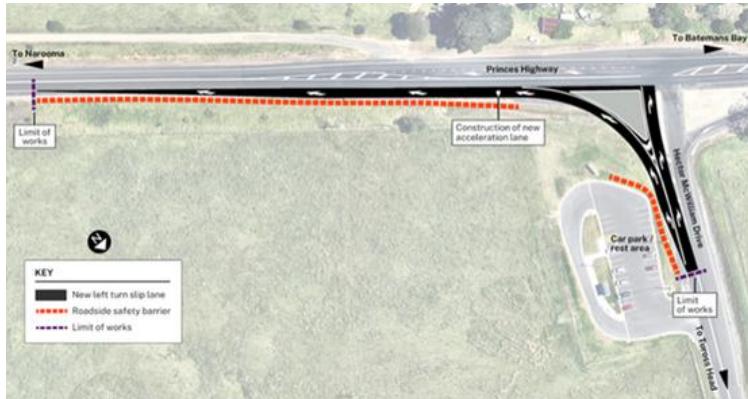
For more information contact Community Development Officer Michael Lawrence-Taylor on 4474 1276 or email michael.lawrence-taylor@esc.nsw.gov.au



Narooma Surf Club had quite a contingent to assist with the Rotary Duck Race, seen here led by Joe Bourke bringing up various craft at the Mill Bay boat ramp.

Princes Highway safety and efficiency upgrades

Transport for NSW - \$5 million of safety and efficiency upgrades on the Princes Highway Mogo and Coila



Safety and efficiency upgrades on the Princes Highway, Mogo

Transport for NSW report "We are delivering \$2.8 million of safety and efficiency upgrades on the Princes Highway between Deep Creek Dam Road and Burkes Lane, Mogo.

These upgrades will improve safety, efficiency and traffic flow on this section of the Princes Highway and is being delivered as part of the Princes Highway corridor safety and efficiency upgrades program.

What work are we doing?

Safety upgrades to be delivered on this 3.5-kilometre section of the highway include:

- installing one-metre-wide centreline
- installing audio tactile line marking, commonly known as 'rumble strips', along the centre and edge lines
- installing and upgrading around 2.5-kilometres of roadside flexible steel rail barriers
- shoulder widening and upgrading roadside drainage
- reinstating existing line marking
- road widening to accommodate the widened centreline and road shoulders

When and where we'll be working?

We'll be working on the Princes Highway at Mogo, between Deep Creek Dam Road and Burkes Lane, from Tuesday 3 February 2026 for around 12 weeks, weather permitting.

Work hours will be between 7am and 6pm weekdays and 8am to 1pm Saturdays. No work is planned to be carried out on Sundays or public holidays. Work will be scheduled to avoid the busy Easter holiday period.

What are the benefits of these improvements?

The upgrades will increase safety, efficiency and traffic flow, providing road users with a smoother, safer journey along the Princes Highway.

Widened centreline: A widened centreline replaces the existing centreline with two new centrelines spaced one metre apart to increase the space between vehicles travelling in opposite directions, reducing the risk of head-on crashes.

Audio tactile line marking (rumble strips): Audio tactile line marking involves placing small, raised bumps or milled-in grooves along or next to edge lines and centrelines of roads to alert drivers or riders when they are drifting out of their lane, allowing them to correct their path and prevent a crash.

Shoulder widening: Road shoulders serve multiple purposes, including providing a space for vehicles to recover or avoid hazards and providing a safe area for broken-down vehicles to stop. They also provide additional space on approach to intersections to allow left-turning vehicles to safely exit the highway.

Roadside flexible safety barriers: Flexible steel rail barriers along the roadside help redirect vehicles back into their lane, preventing crashes with roadside hazards. They are designed to absorb impact forces, lowering the risk of serious injury or death in the event of a crash.

Princes Highway and Hector McWilliam Drive intersection upgrade

We are building a left turn slip lane at the Princes Highway and Hector McWilliam Drive intersection at Coila.

This \$2.25 million intersection upgrade aims to improve safety, efficiency and journey time reliability for all motorists, particularly during peak holiday periods.

What will the intersection upgrade include?

Work will include:

- building a left turn slip lane with southbound acceleration lane from Hector McWilliam Drive onto the Princes Highway
- installing roadside safety barriers on the southern corner of the intersection, adjacent to the commuter carpark.

See artist's impression below of the final layout and design of the intersection upgrade:

Why are we upgrading this intersection?

The intersection is an important link for residents and tourists as it provides the primary access to Tuross Head.

Currently, motorists wanting to turn left from Hector McWilliam Drive onto the Princes Highway to travel south, must do so from a complete stop. This can be challenging in a 100 km/h zone and can often result in delays on this approach, impacting journey time reliability, particularly during peak holiday periods.

In response to community feedback about the need to improve safety and efficiency at this intersection, the NSW Government committed funding to develop and deliver a left turn slip lane from Hector McWilliam Drive onto the Princes Highway.

Providing a left turn slip lane will make it easier and safer for left turning vehicles to enter the highway from Hector McWilliam Drive, as it will allow them to accelerate and safely merge at speed with southbound through traffic, improving safety and efficiency.

When will work start and how long will construction take?

Work will start on Monday 9 February and is expected to take around 12 weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Work hours will be 7am to 6pm weekdays and 7am to 1pm Saturdays, as required. No work will be carried out on Sundays or public holidays. Work will be scheduled to avoid the busy Easter holiday period.

Member for Bega, Dr. Michael Holland said "I welcome this \$5 million investment to improve sections of the Princes Highway for our road users across Eurobodalla, including families, workers and tourists. We thank the community for their patience while this work to ensure the ongoing resilience of our roads is carried out."

Other projects and improvements in the area

As part of the Princes Highway corridor safety and efficiency upgrades program, Transport is planning for upgrades of the **intersections at Larry's Mountain Road in Moruya and Bingie Road at Bergalia**.

Also under the program, Transport is commencing additional safety improvements on the Princes Highway at Batemans Bay this year. More details about these projects will be provided as the next phase of the program is developed.

Eurobodalla Councillors may struggle with their new Code of Council Meeting Rules

By Cid Mateo

On 16 December 2025, Eurobodalla Shire Council adopted the new 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (the Meeting Code). The NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) directed the new Meeting Code apply from 1 January 2026. Just in the knick of time, the Eurobodalla Council squeezed in its draft Meeting Code on public exhibition before the end of 2025. Unfortunately, Council officers did not publish any relevant policy discussion, which might guide and stimulate the Eurobodalla community and strengthen local democracy. Consequently, two submissions from the community were received out of a population of around 42,000 in addition to two presentations at the Public Forum on 16 December 2025. This looks like inadequate consultation and engagement with the local community.

So what is the Model Meeting Code and why does it matter? The Model Meeting Code is prescribed under the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. This regulation governs Council Meetings and how they affect the community. The Model Meeting Code is one of our most important regulations designed to protect democracy and the public interest at our local government level. It prescribes the powers of Councillors, the Mayor and the General Manager, and the minimum standards that the community can expect with respect to transparent and accountable decisions made by the Council and recommendations put forward by Council officers.

In 2024, OLG reported a number of concerning undemocratic processes occurring in NSW Councils. One of the most concerning appears to be the practice where councillors receive secret briefings from council staff that are closed to the public. For example, councillors receive private briefings from council officers before they are dealt with in the public forum of a council meeting. Consequently, members of the public impacted by a council's decision have no idea what the councillors have been told or what has been discussed. Sound familiar? This behaviour has been a feature of Eurobodalla Shire Council business up until 31 December 2025.

OLG has now mandated "that to promote transparency and address the corruption risks identified by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) that can arise from a lack of transparency, it is proposed that councils will no longer be permitted to hold pre-meeting briefing sessions in the absence of the public. Any material provided to councillors, other than the mayor, that will affect or impact or be taken into account by councillors in their deliberations or decisions made on behalf of the community must be provided to them in either a committee meeting or council meeting." Interestingly, this restriction does not apply to the mayor.

So what can we, the community, expect from our Council in 2026, and how are our Councillors going to cope without secret briefings? OLG tell us that Councillors can continue to request information from the General Manager to guide their decisions as long as that information is made public. In other words, there is no excuse for uninformed decisions by the Councillors. They can seek the information they need and ask questions to be better informed and make better decisions for the community. The community should also win because it is no longer shut out of secret briefing meetings. Any information given to Councillors must now be shared with the public.

How this all plays out in the Eurobodalla remains to be seen. With three business days notice of monthly Council Meeting agenda items and agenda papers, often hundreds of pages long, Councillors are now on a level par with the community, unless the public continues to be shut out. Let's hope not and 2026 brings a new era of transparent and accountable decision making for all.



Go Get Healthy with Sofia

GO VITA

Moringa is one of those rare plants that ticks many health boxes at once. Scientifically known as *Moringa oleifera*, this leafy green has a long history of traditional use and is valued for its impressive nutrient content and wide-ranging support for overall health and wellbeing.

One of moringa's standout benefits is its potential to support liver health and natural detoxification. The liver, our body's chief detox organ, processes toxins, chemicals, alcohol, medications, and metabolic waste. Studies suggest that bioactive compounds in moringa such as flavonoids, polyphenols, and isothiocyanates may protect liver cells from damage and even assist in repairing tissue exposed to toxins (1,2).

When we think "detox," most of us picture indulgent weekends of alcohol or rich food but the liver's workload goes far beyond that. Daily exposure to heavy metals like mercury, lead, cadmium, and aluminium from processed foods, cookware, cleaning products, pesticides, cosmetics, dental fillings, cigarette smoke, and even the air we breathe places chronic stress on the liver (3). Over time, this exposure has been linked to neurological issues, cognitive decline, cardiovascular disease, chronic inflammation, and conditions including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and some cancers (4). Supporting the liver through diet, lifestyle changes, and supplementation has become an important part of modern health conversations. What makes moringa so interesting is that it may assist with liver detoxification while also offering many additional benefits for overall wellbeing.

Regular consumption of moringa has been shown to support healthy blood sugar levels, cholesterol balance, and blood pressure regulation, largely due to its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties (5).

Modern studies, including research from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, have explored the role of plant-based antioxidants like moringa in supporting metabolic and liver health, with promising findings published in peer-reviewed journals.

Given the level of environmental toxins we are exposed to today, incorporating moringa into a daily health routine is a sensible approach. A simple, well-chosen addition like this can make a meaningful difference to everyday health.

For more information about Moringa, drop into Go Vita, Your Health Shop at 5 North Street, Batemans Bay. You can also call us on (02) 4472 9737 or visit us online at www.govitabatemansbay.com.au. Don't miss our weekly segment on 2EC radio, where Marianne and I chat about health and wellness with Kimmi Saker every Wednesday after 12.30pm.



100 years ago from the Moruya Examiner



30-01-1926

In recognition of having participated in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924, Mr. A. Louttit, of Mullenderree, has received a handsome bronze medal in a leather case and a certificate of honor; also a letter from the Executive Secretary, on behalf of the British Empire Executive authorities, conveying the commissioner's cordial thanks for Mr. Louttit's valued co-operation in sending a sample of his excellent maize.

Mr. E. Mather, of Nerrigundah, has been appointed the Liquidator to conduct the winding up of the Cadgee Co-operative Butter Co. Ltd.

Nickola Tesla, the electrician and inventor, predicts that the world's internal heat will be tapped for use as industrial power, the power being transmitted by wireless.

Councillor H. J. Bate wrote us to the effect that he had interviewed the Engineer concerned, and he promised that he will make arrangements for the dredge Neptune to return to Moruya as soon as possible. This is the first boon Mr. Bate has conferred upon the district after taking his seat in Parliament as our representative.

Suffering from diphtheria three children from one family at Bateman's Bay were brought in during the week, and admitted to the local hospital.

Extracted from the Moruya Examiner by the Moruya and District Historical Society Inc.
If you are interested in history why not join us and become a volunteer at the Museum or our library. Check us out at <https://www.mdhs.org.au>

Dredge Neptune Walsh Island 26 October 1923 Newcastle University Library

It is frequent practice for motorists on entering a town to ascertain its name. The Royal Automobile Club of Australia suggests to the Shire and Municipal authorities the placing of name-boards at the main entrances. Such a procedure would serve a double purpose – supply valuable information to tourists and at the same time act as a publicity medium for the town. Finger posts should also be erected at all the principal turnoffs, particularly at the corner of Vulcan and Campbell Sts., and Page and Campbell Sts.

Mr. Allan Southam, of Tilba, was the successful tenderer for the erection of a low beam timber bridge over Tuross River near Silo Hill, Bodalla, tenders for which were recently called by the Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Congratulations to Mr. George Turner, of the Burra, upon his marriage with Miss Molly Deane, youngest daughter of Mr. J. Deane, of Moruya, in Sydney on the 4th inst.

At the monthly meeting of the Moruya District Hospital Committee correspondence was received: - From the Department of Health re treatment of refractory patients in the hospital, intimating that any such patients admitted at the insistence of police, and the latter have instructions to render assistance to the hospital authorities where necessary. The visiting Committee reported having visited on 20th inst. Matron Constable is still away on sick leave, Nurse Wiseman relieving her. The work authorized on the isolation ward has not yet been carried out owing to Mr. Stubbs' illness. All the firewood supplied by Mr. Jeffery has been sawn into small lengths.

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SAGE
MARKET
MORUYA





A Beer with Bazz #222

With
John
Longhurst

Mick wended his way through the remnants of the holiday crowd and positioned the schooners on the bar table.

His teeth wrapped around his face and he gave an exaggerated wink..

"I am off to the United State of America."

Bazza took a sip of the offered schooner.

"I am not so sure about the 'united' bit, Mick but it is certainly in a state at the moment. I hope your Will is up to date."

Mick shook his head.

"You are very cynical, Bazza. It is the land of the free.

Opportunity knocks in the 'American Dream'. We share a rich history. There has not been an international conflict where we have not backed our American mates since federation.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, Korea ... the list goes on and on and the future just gets brighter with AUKUS. Anyhow, I am after some advice on packing."

Timeless Tom leaned in and lowered his voice.

"I would be packing an AK47 assault rifle for day excursions to major attractions and a hand gun for trips to the supermarket and the like. Now ... in terms of clothing, I think you are safest if you do not dress like a civilian. Full combat uniform is my recommendation for dress and a bullet proof vest for any trip outside of the house. Even though it is mid winter, Mick, I would not be wearing a beanie or a balaclava. By the by, you should download the app, 'American Ways'. It works like our satellite navigation app 'Waze' which provides information on roads, traffic, police radars etc. 'American Ways' keeps you up to date where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are operating as well as the location of everyday shootings, stabbings, riots, kidnaps, explosions and so on."

Mick's eyes widened as Young Simon leaned in.

"I would be getting rid of that suntan, Mick. You need to be as white as possible to ensure survival. You need to trawl through your social media and make sure you have not said anything negative about the Donald. In fact, go on the front foot and praise the way he has brought peace to our world. Also, carry lots of identification with you. For the moment Australian appears to be in favour with the USA so think about an Australian flag tattoo for your forehead. Oh ... pack a trophy or an award just in case you get into trouble."

Simon paused for a sip.

"It is really important to not associate with anyone from any of the named 'low life' countries and includes; Denmark, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, China and all of Europe. Keep an eye on the list, as it is updated daily."

Mick's shoulders slumped and Bazza clicked his tongue.

"Ahhh ... do not despair, Mick. It is just a matter of time before the President of the USA spins the globe, lands on Australia and says 'I think I will have that one today'. Why go to the USA when it is going to come to us?"

Have a beer with Bazza at john.longhurst59@gmail.com



Working for a climate safe future



euro350.org@gmail.com [f/350Eurobodalla](https://www.facebook.com/350Eurobodalla)





Let's do coffee with ... Lottie Cooper

A post on social media that started with the line 'A humble thank you to my community ...' and continues with a candid view of her life by Congo resident, Lottie Cooper, (LC) sparked the Moruya Mail's (MM) interest and we had coffee in Mogo last week.

MM: Hi Lottie, you are taking us to the Isle of Wight first up.

LC: Yes ... I was born in 1998. My mum set up and still owns 'Freedom Childcare Service', so there were lots of kids in and out of our home. I have one brother. My dad was multi-talented and what I now lovingly refer to as neurospicy — the kind of person whose mind could lock onto an idea completely. Whether it was turbines, motorcycles, or in one particular memory perfecting a fudge recipe (smiles). We had stacks of fudge everywhere, from tabletops to nearly the ceiling, and eventually ended up giving it away to half the local schools. Once he was in, he was all in!

Growing up in that environment meant I learned very early how to read people. I became deeply observant — tuned into body language, shifts in energy, and changes in mood. I could adapt quickly to whatever the moment required.

Funnily enough, that awareness is exactly why I believe I'm good with dogs. They don't rely on words; they communicate through movement, posture, timing, and energy. Long before I ever worked with animals, I was already fluent in a language that doesn't need to be spoken.

My parents marriage broke up and mum remarried to a wonderful human. I have a stepbrother and a stepsister.

I lived in some 52 different places growing up, as we moved frequently due to a fair bit of turbulence at home. I ended up being homeschooled for around six months which felt equal parts confusing and wildly unstructured.

When I started school again, it was mid Year 7 and we had just left the Isle of Wight. On that first day, I trundled off with my oversized backpack to the bus stop, knowing absolutely no one.

I made the fatal error of sitting in the wrong seat on the bus ... a decision that caused unimaginable consequences.

What seemed like a harmless mistake became the catalyst for bullying.

Looking back, it was confronting — rocks were thrown, I was spat on, and had so much chewing gum stuck in my hair ... I had to cut it short.

It did teach me resilience early on... and a very practical lesson in always checking where you sit on a school bus (Laughs).

I became my own animal rescuer and would bring home half dead pigeons and injured bunny rabbits.

I even made a tiny bed for my pet snail but was shocked when it started reproducing by itself*.

I finished my schooling at High Cliff Comprehensive School at 16 years of age and began an apprenticeship at a high end women's clothing boutique.

Honestly, it was an Aladdin's Cave of garments ... cocktail dresses, fashion for the races ... very much clothing for the elite. I lasted about eighteen months. I moved into animal feed nutrition with feed merchants selling everything from guns and saddles to feed. I enjoyed helping people choose the correct feeds and was offered an apprenticeship.

MM: Wow ... that's quite a pivot! From high end women's fashions to animal feeds. I think we better get you to Australia.

LC: (Laughs ...) Okay ... in 2018 I booked a 2 week holiday to Australia to attend my uncle's wedding at Seal Rocks. At the wedding the bride and groom asked me to look after their dog in Woollahra whilst on their honeymoon for 6 weeks. I worked in a bar and soaked up inner city life. At the wedding I also met my uncle's best friend from the Isle of Wight, who in turn, put me in touch with a couple in Queensland who offered me farm work. They introduced me to Coco who was living near Congo. My uncle's best friend also knew Coco very well, so I felt safe heading to the South Coast. After settling into Coco's farm, he duly announces he is off to the Dolomites, in Italy, and asked me to look after the property.

On day two of this new adventure, Coco's kelpie proudly presented me with a kangaroo arm. It was a brutal initiation into farm life for an 18-year-old English girl who had barely unpacked.

I found myself on the phone to my mum, crying my eyes out. I was talked through how to put the dear creature out of its misery. It was confronting, messy and very Australian.

Next up, the pumps on the troughs stopped working, followed by solar panels breakdown — no hot water through winter — all character building!

Coco returned and a beautiful friendship blossomed. I met incredible people whilst pursuing my working holiday visa, including Robyn and John Gamble, tending to horses, cattle and spraying thistles, before moving on to Matt and Jo Broad's dairy farm in Bodalla, helping with milking, calf rearing and general farm maintenance.

I mixed things up with some hospitality work with Church Street Pizzeria in Moruya, dog grooming with 'Splash Dog Groomers' and some strapping for Jamie Stewart at Moruya Racecourse.

I had obviously taken on too much and ended up with a bacterial gut infection and was very sick for 6 months.

At this stage, I was also stumbling through life with self-doubt, depression, and an unspoken need for purpose. What I didn't realise was that every hesitant step was guiding me towards something. It became my medicine... and eventually my passion ... dog care.

Now ... the really cool bit is when you move your body, your muscles release tiny proteins called myokines, often nicknamed "hope molecules." They boost your mood reducing anxiety and depression.



I didn't know this at 18 years of age but every single dog I picked up and walked was literally helping to rebuild me. Something else incredible happened. Spending time with animals naturally increases oxytocin, the same "bonding hormone" released when caring for a newborn baby. Walking outdoors boosts serotonin and dopamine regulation, helping stabilise your entire emotional system.

So without realising it... every walk, every wag, every goofy grin was healing me.

MM: Animals seem to figure at all the important moments in your life. What was the next step?

LC: Well ... I set up a business, 'People and Puppers'** in 2020. I became very curious about canine brains and the needs for social skills between dogs. I trained one dog and then introduced others and would take groups of four on pack walks. Play was encouraged between dogs and the calming impact of the social skills became noticeable.

People & Puppers offers: dog walking, doggy daycare, dog training and dog boarding (pet holidays).

We cover from Bodalla to Longbeach in the 'Dogmobile' ... so give us a wave. So ... in short, This isn't just my passion anymore. It's the oxygen I breathe. It's my purpose and my livelihood. I am committed to giving everything I can back to the people and puppers who unknowingly helped put me back together.

I am genuinely blown away by the love, support, and trust 'People and Puppers' has received over the years. I can't believe that this once-broken 18-year-old has grown into someone she is finally proud of ... thanks to a community that welcomed her, believed in her, and gave her a chance.

MM: Great chat, Lottie ... thank you.

LET'S DO COFFEE WITH ... is a column exploring the interesting personalities of the Eurobodalla Shire. Feel free to nominate a personality by emailing **John Longhurst at john.longhurst59@gmail.com**

Follow the Bowerbird Arts Trail

By John Longhurst

Appreciating local art at studio level has been made easy with the Bowerbird Arts Trail between Batemans Bay and Broulee.

Following the successful River of Art in 2025, five artists united by locality recognised the need for a collective artist trail which would run more than annually.

With the following mission statement;

'Bowerbird Arts Trail nurtures open studios by showcasing individual and shared creative spaces that bring the community together, encourage meaningful connection, and offer visitors a memorable experience within our thriving local arts scene.'

A unique cultural and tourist attraction has evolved. Founding artist, Suzanne Carter, is keen for people to visit artists in their own studios, ensuring a more relaxed and rewarding experience.

Suzanne said, "Each Trail could have up to 12 studios, carefully selected from the applicants to ensure navigation and variety is optimal for our visitors. Each successful applicant agrees to open on the same days and times during the Trail, and to refer on to the next depending on the direction of travel for the visitor. Each studio is encouraged to provide a behind the scenes look at how the artist creates, often having works underway on display and being willing to provide an experience, not simply a retail transaction."

The initiative has proved to be a winner for both artists and visitors.



Suzanne Carter, Naomi Crowther, Janet Kininmonth, Gemma Porteous & Kerrie Wilson

Suzanne said, "We created the Bowerbird Arts Trail to build a supportive, friendly and fun way for local artists to lift each other up - proving there is space in the art world and our beautiful coastal community for everyone. Referring visitors from one studio to the next has worked wonderfully, helping us all share in the joy of connection, creativity and collaboration."

The next planned Trail is for 6th and 7th June, 2026 with all participating studios opening their doors from 10am to 3pm. More information and the trail map can be found at; <https://bowerbirdartstrail.art/>

DEB JOHANSEN

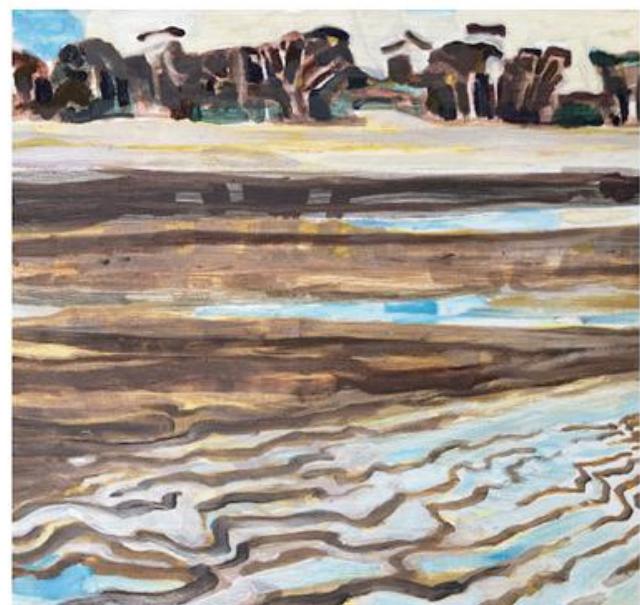


Deb Johansen Wollumbin to Wapengo 80x155cm oil on paper on board



Deb Johansen Wollumbin to Wapengo 80x155cm oil on paper on board

MELISSA SELBY-BROWN



Melissa Selby-Brown Wollumbin to Wapengo 25x30cm

'Wollumbin to Wapengo'

thurs 12 feb to sun 8 mar 2026
please join us for opening drinks
with the artists | sat 14 february 3pm

g a l l e r y b o d a l l a

Launch of 'Debris - A Memoir of Love, Grief and Courage' at Bay Pavilions



By John Longhurst

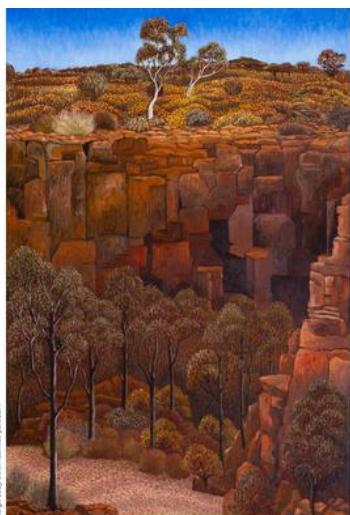
'On December 31, 2019, as the Black Summer Bushfires across the South Coast of New South Wales raged, they consumed more than trees, homes and wildlife. They claimed lives, including my beloved husband.'

So begins the preface to Josie L Smith memoir launched at Bay Pavilions last Sunday. At the launch Josie shared her journey from love and grief through to courage in a moving speech, including the singing of a song 'Debris' eerily written by her late husband, John;

*I looked up in the sky
At the stars that shine,
Reached up with my hands and asked
Which one of them was mine
I feel like the fallen like
A shower of summer rain
I look out at the debris
And the little that remains
Was it just a bad dream
To make me wonder why
All of these characters
That take the stage then die
Looking like a ship
With no wind behind its sails
Becalmed in the water
Of some wet country lake.*

'Debris' is a hauntingly poignant memoir of true love scorched by the flames of Australia's Black Summer Bushfires. It is the story of Josie as she learns to live with the loss, uncover what is best for her and her daughter as she embraces change, rebuilds with courage and discovers ways to heal.

'Debris - A Memoir of Love, Grief and Courage' is available on Amazon, Booktopia, Everand, Barnes & Noble, Scribd, Bookscape, Indigo Chapters, Vivlio and Kobo.



GORDON ROBINSON
territory



thurs 8 january to sun 8 february 2026

please join us for opening drinks
with Gordon | sat 10 january 3pm

gallery bodalla

open thurs to sun 11am - 4pm & by appointment | visit the exhibition online at www.gallerybodalla.com.au
post office 66a princes hwy bodalla | valerie faber ph 0421 238 174 | gallerybodalla@gmail.com

Open Day

Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre, Tilba

Join us for a FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY OPEN DAY enjoy a tour of Kamalashila in the stunning foothills of sacred mountain Gulaga & learn all about meditation.

Lunch & refreshments, stalls & coffee van

Saturday 28 February 10am-2pm

Scan for more details

www.drogmi.org

Open Day

Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre, 9000 Princes Highway Tilba.

A new year packed with activities at Eurobodalla Libraries

Eurobodalla Libraries welcome 2026 with a packed program of activities, as school returns and popular adult and preschooler programs start back up for the year.

From author talks and classic films to practical workshops and engaging talks, February is shaping up to be a great time to get back into the library and try something new.

Eurobodalla Council's library acting coordinator Skye Stapleton said the new year program is designed to support learning, connection and curiosity across all ages. "February is all about welcoming our community back into the libraries after the school holidays, with a great mix of activities for adults, seniors and families with young children," Ms Stapleton said.

"Whether you're keen to brush up on your online skills, learn more about our local history or enjoy a classic movie, there's something on for everyone."

Program highlights include:

Sydney Writers Festival talks - live streamed from the State Library. The chance to hear authors like Geraldine Brooks and Kathy Lette without the travel.

Cyber security workshops for seniors at Batemans Bay and Moruya libraries offer plain-English tips to help people stay safe online.

Author talks with Peter Lacey explore the fascinating history of the NSW South Coast and the forces that shaped the region.

Classic flicks and Saturday matinee movies are perfect for a relaxed afternoon at the library.

Indigenous science and the Medicine Wheel at Moruya Library, with Dr Valerie Cloud Clearer Ringland who share insights into Indigenous knowledge and healing.

The science behind our weather at Narooma Library explores how weather stations and weather balloons work.

Regular preschooler and early years programs also return in February, helping little learners build a love of books, stories and social time as the school year begins.

artcentral TERM 1 PROGRAM
2 FEB - 2 APRIL 2026

CLASSES

Price per class: \$25 members, \$30 non-members and \$15 concession to be paid by cash at the beginning of each class.

Materials included. Please contact the tutors directly to book.

CREATIVE TECHNIQUES

Learn the techniques and principles of drawing, painting, and mixed media.

Tuesdays 10am to 12pm

Nick Summers 0410 774 543

DRAWING EXPLORATIONS

Learn drawing and mark making techniques

Tuesdays fortnightly, 1pm to 3pm

February 10, 24, March 10, 24

Victoria Westwood 0418 488 501

EXPLORING SCREEN PRINTING

Learn screen printing while exploring different stencils and materials.

Wednesdays fortnightly 9am to 12pm

February 4, 18, March 4, 18, April 1

Sonja Skagen 0421 197 358

ANTI-METHOD ART SESSIONS

Use paint, collage, charcoal, pencil and more to follow guided prompts in the spirit of Dada and the surrealists.

Wednesdays monthly 1pm to 3pm

February 4, March 4 & April 1

Diana Keenan - [book online](#)

UNDERSTANDING ACRYLICS

Learn to use acrylic paint, mix colours, master composition, tone, and shade.

Thursdays 1.30pm to 3.30pm

February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, 26 & April 2

Lesley Whale 0421 331 002

WORKSHOPS

LIFE DRAWING

with Lesley Whale

Capture the form of the human body from a live model. No experience necessary. Materials supplied.

Thursday 1.30pm to 3.30pm, February 19

\$50 members/concession, \$65 non-members per session.

[Book online](#)

COURSES

CLAY TO CUP, BOWL, PLATE, PLATTER

with Sarah Ludowici

A six-week ceramics course where you'll learn hand-building and glazing techniques to create your own unique, handcrafted tableware. Perfect for beginners and beyond.

Saturdays 1.30pm to 3.30pm

February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7 & 28

\$360 (includes all materials and firing).

[Book online](#)

WWW.ARTCENTRAL.ORG.AU



Library officer Rachel Blaas and branch librarian Donna Lawrence enjoy story time with families.

For full program details and bookings, visit Council's website - [what's on at the libraries](#).

Enjoy reading the Moruya Mail?

You can support this free publication when you



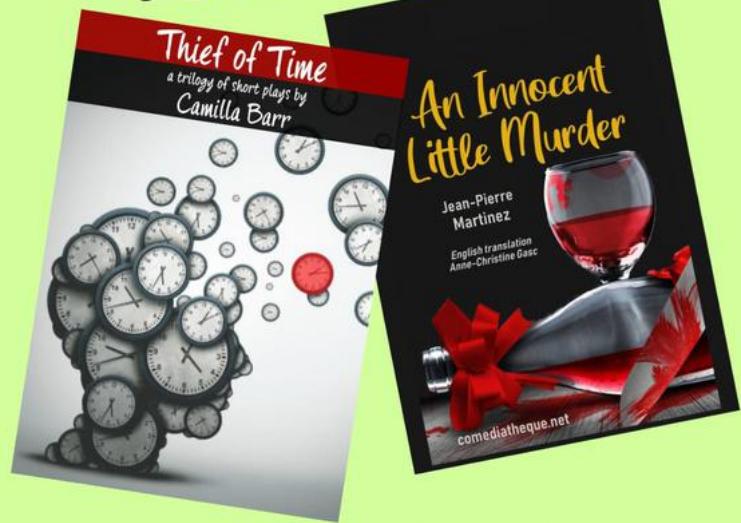
[Buy me a coffee](#)

Just Click on the cup



Moruya Red Door Theatre presents

Escalating Chaos



A Program of 2 x One-Act Plays

Evening shows 7.30pm; 13th, 14th, 20th & 21st Feb 2026

Matinee 2.00pm; 14th Feb 2026

RSL Hall, Page St, Moruya

Tickets starting at \$20, from: moruyareddoortheatrecompany.com.au

or ph 0490 805 389



A poster for Quantum Brewery Saturday Live Music. The top half features the brewery's name in a large, bold, black serif font. Below it, the text "Saturday Live Music" is displayed in a smaller, black serif font. Underneath that, the time "4.30-7.30pm" is shown in a black serif font. The bottom half of the poster is a grid of eight white rectangular boxes, each containing a date and a name. The dates are 24 Jan, 31 Jan, 7 Feb, 14 Feb, 21 Feb, 28 Feb, and 7 Mar. The names are LAZ N CAZ, Giann Cafe, Jakob Poyner, Richard Lawson, and Steve Jackson. The box for 21 Feb contains the text "Free for a booking" in red. The poster is set against a light green background. There are four small images of musical instruments (a guitar, a microphone, a keyboard, and another guitar) arranged in a horizontal line below the main title.

2EARFM / Moruya Mail GIG GUIDE "Live & Local"	
Friday 30 Jan:	
Allan Watts	Tathra Bowlo (6pm)
Mojo	Club Narooma (6pm)
Strutt	Soldiers Club (7.30pm)
Tony Jagers	Lynchs Hotel 7pm
Saturday, 31 Jan:	
Allan Watts	Club Malua (7pm)
Strutt	Soldiers Club (7.30pm)
Ricky Bloomfield Band	Merimbula RSL (8pm)
Giaan Café	Quantum Brewery
Barry and Rick	Broulee Brewhouse
Dave Wells	Tilba Valley Winery
Sunday, 1 Feb:	
Tony Jagers	Foxdog Distillery noon
Waikama	Longstocking Brewery (1pm)
Bill and Bird	Club Narooma (3pm)
Davey Hilder	Club Tuross (4pm)
Richard Lawson	Broulee Brewhouse
Australia Day (Music all day)	Steampacket Hotel
Felicity	Tilba Valley Winery
Sunday Sessions	The Drom Tilba

Sailing
PLUS
MUSIC WORKSHOP WITH ADAM
ART SESSION WITH RUTH
BBQ + TREATS

SUNDAY | 8TH FEBRUARY
11AM-2PM

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Featured Artist



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JANUARY—FEBRUARY	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 31	SUN 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4
ANACONDA M 99 MIN	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:05 PM	CLOSED	3:05 PM	3:05 PM
AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH M 197 MIN	12:25 PM 6:00 PM	12:25 PM 6:00 PM	12:25 PM 6:00 PM	12:25 PM		2:25 PM 6:00 PM	2:25 PM 6:00 PM
MERCY M 100 MIN	10:25 AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	10:25 AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	10:25 AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	10:25 AM 4:00 PM		12:25 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	12:25 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM
PRIMATE MA15+ 88 MIN	4:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:45 PM	4:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:45 PM	4:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:45 PM	4:15 PM		12:10 PM 6:00 PM 6:45 PM	12:10 PM 6:00 PM 6:45 PM
SONG SUNG BLUE M 132 MIN	2:05 PM	2:05 PM	2:05 PM	1:10 PM		2:05 PM	2:05 PM
THE CHORAL M 113 MIN	11:55 AM 4:35 PM	11:55 AM 4:35 PM	11:55 AM 4:35 PM	11:00 AM 3:40 PM		11:55 AM 4:35 PM	11:55 AM 4:35 PM
THE HOUSEMAID MA15+ 131 MIN	4:30 PM	4:30 PM	4:30 PM	12:35 PM		12:35 PM	12:35 PM
THE POUT-POUT FISH G 92 MIN	12:20 PM	12:20 PM	12:20 PM	12:20 PM			
THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SEARCH FOR SQUAREPANTS PG 96 MIN	10:25 AM 12:35 PM	10:25 AM 12:35 PM	10:25 AM 12:35 PM	10:25 AM		5:05 PM	5:05 PM
ZOOTOPIA 2 PG 108 MIN	10:30 AM 2:10 PM	10:30 AM 2:10 PM	10:30 AM 2:10 PM	10:30 AM 2:10 PM		1:55 PM	1:55 PM

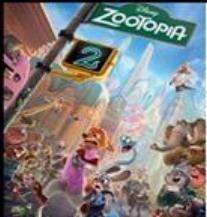
AVATAR FIRE & AND ASH



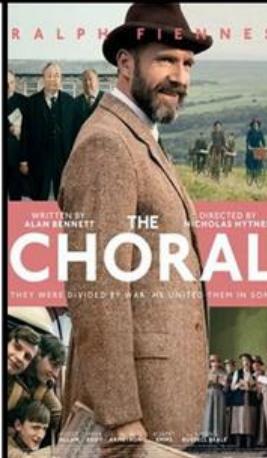
M | 3hrs 17min
~ Action ~ Adventure ~
Jake and Neytiri's family grapples with grief after Neteyam's death, encountering a new, aggressive Na'vi tribe, the Ash People, who are led by the fiery Varang, as the conflict on Pandora escalates and a new moral focus emerges.



SONG SUNG BLUE
M | 2hrs 12min ~ Drama ~
Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to find love.



ZOOTOPIA 2
PG | 1hr 48min
~ Family ~ Animation ~ Comedy ~
Brave rabbit cop Judy Hopps and her friend, the fox Nick Wilde, team up again to crack a new case, the most perilous and intricate of their careers.



THE CHORAL

M | 1hr 53min
~ Drama ~ War ~
Ralph Fiennes
1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. They must also engage a new chorus master, and suspect that he has something to hide.

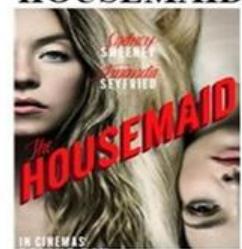
MERCY
M | 1hr 40min
~ Action ~ Drama ~ Sci-Fi ~
A detective (Chris Pratt) stands on trial accused of murdering his wife. He has 90 minutes to prove his innocence to an A.I judge, before it determines his fate.

ALSO SCREENING ANACONDA



M | 1hr 39min
~ Comedy ~

THE HOUSEMAID



MA | 2hrs 11min
Sydney Sweeney
A wildly entertaining thriller.

ALSO SCREENING - POUT POUT FISH & PRIMATE



MORUYA MAIL
"Free local news for Moruya & the Eurobodalla"

A poster for a Trivia Night event. At the top, there is a decorative border of small animal icons (birds, insects, mammals) and the text 'Quota Club Narooma Inc.' Below this, there is a photo of a black dog with the text 'ADOPT A DOG'. The main title 'Trivia Night' is in large, bold, purple letters. Below it, 'Supporting Animal Welfare League NSW, Eurobodalla Branch' is written. To the right is the 'ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW' logo, featuring a horse silhouette. The text 'When: Thursday February 19th, 2026 6.30 for 7pm start' is in the center. The text 'Where: Club Narooma' is below that. To the right is a photo of a puppy with the text 'ADOPT ANOTHER ANIMAL'. The text 'Cost: \$10 per ticket. Cash or Card accepted at the door.' is at the bottom right. The text 'Tables of 2 to 8 players' and 'Light supper provided.' is in the center bottom. The text 'Call Steph 0413 229 133, to book a table.' is at the bottom left. The bottom of the poster features a decorative border of small animal icons.

A photograph of a group of business people at a breakfast meeting. A woman in a blue shirt is on the left, a man in a white shirt and tie is in the center, and a woman in a black dress is on the right, all smiling and holding plates of food. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the image.



2026
PHOTO COMPETITION
FOR THE TCA'S 2027 CALENDAR

Photos need to be recognisably Tomakin

Entries of

2026

Detail

<https://tca.tomakin.co>

PHOTO CREDITS CLOCKWISE: INGRID K.

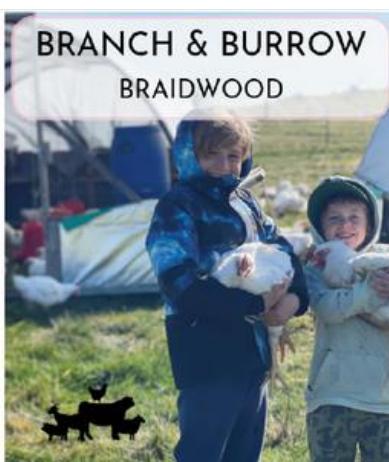


JOEL PEDLER MARK RIDLEY NADYA TKACHENKO KIM WARD



The logo consists of a dark blue recycling symbol (a triangle with three arrows forming a circle) containing a small, stylized tree with a trunk and branches.

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Animal Welfare League News



Crystal and Pearl

White cats are this week's theme; AWL Eurobodalla has four beautiful pure white adult cats all looking for homes. Along with Yoki, who was featured in last week's Moruya Mail, there are:

· Crystal and Pearl - 9 month old bonded sisters also looking for a quiet home. These two are real sweethearts, but they came from a traumatic background, so will need a patient owner prepared to give them space and time, so that they can adjust to new surroundings and feel safe and comfortable. Once their trust is built, their loving, playful natures are on full show. Crystal's microchip number is 991003002410376 and Pearl's is 991003002410364.



Leo

• Leo - 22 months old - a gentle, loving boy ready to make someone a wonderful companion. Leo likes to have some alone time during the day but then shows his affectionate side in the evening and at bedtime. He will snuggle up to you in bed and has the loudest purr as he climbs on you to give head bumps. He likes to play with ping pong balls and enjoys pouncing at a cat wand. Leo is open to living with another friendly cat, as long as it is in a quiet household. Leo's microchip number is 991003002724617.

Like all AWL pets, Leo, Crystal and Pearl come desexed and vaccinated. Call Animal Welfare League Eurobodalla on 0410 016 612 to arrange a meeting, or complete the form on the AWL NSW website: www.awlnsw.com.au. AWL's Rehoming Organisation Number is R251000222.



CWA BATEMANS BAY IS OPEN!

After a truly joyous Christmas Party and a rest for all our hard working ladies and supporters, we are raring to go in 2026. Our first function was a social lunch at Club Catalina, attended by 16 members and guests. Art classes will resume on 5th February, at 10am in our Hall. Keep an eye out for our next event!



SAGE Farmers Market

Tuesday 3pm Moruya

sagefarmersmarket.org.au growing the community

Montague Visiting Artists 2026



Acacia Quartet

Music by Haydn, Ravel & Nick Wales
2:30 pm Saturday February 14
St Paul's Anglican Church, Narooma

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2026 Diary Dates

- 27 Feb – 1 Mar – **Cobargo Folk Festival**
- 27 Feb – 1 Mar – **Bega Show**
- 8 March – **Broulee Bay to Breakers Ocean Swim**
- 7 – 15 March – **Sculpture Bermagui**
- 1 – 3 May **19th Narooma Oyster Festival**
- May – June – **2026 Sculpture for Clyde**
- 12 June to 12 July – **Fungi Feastival**
- 21st-25th October – **Sea Otter Australia**
- 13 March 2027 – **NSW State Election**

Narooma VIEW Club welcomes new members

Narooma VIEW Club meets on the fourth Friday of each month at Narooma Golf Club Seahorse Room at 11.30 for lunch & a guest speaker. (Except October will be Friday 18th).

Moruya Community Workshed

New members are always welcome. We are located in the grounds of the Moruya High School operating two days per week. For inquiries please contact Wayne on 0488 743 788.

Tuross Community Markets

held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Tuross Head Bowling Club Easter Market

Calling all Market Stall Operators. If you are planning your markets for 2026 don't forget to contact us at Tuross Head Bowling Club. With only a few months until our annual Easter Market fundraiser, we are seeking stall holders to come and share their wares. We have just under 20 stalls booked already but have plenty of space for more and only \$20 for a marked site (3m x 3m). Our Easter Market is on Sunday 5 April this year, from 9.00am - 1.00pm. It is a great community day - if anyone would like a stall, please contact the numbers on the flyer. Vickie Wheelahan Tuross Head Bowling Club Secretary turossheadbowlingclub@clubtuross.com 0473 859 295

GOT AN EVENT COMING UP ?

Birthday, Garage sale, AGM?

You can't always rely on the socials...

Let the community know with the Moruya Mail
hello@moruyamail.com.au

Rally for Recovery

Ainslie Parade Tomakin

Mega Garage Sale

Every Wed and Sat
 8.30 - 12.00

Small bric-a-brac to furniture
 Crockery, and glassware
 Tools and electrical equipment
 Books and puzzles
 Manchester and haberdashery
 Toys and baby items
 Paintings and artwork
 Plants and garden tools.
 Beds and bedding
the list is endless.



rallyforrecovery.au 0406 363 166



LLS Draft Strategic Plan

Local Land Services NSW is seeking feedback on the NSW Government's Local Land Services draft Strategic Plan, which includes:
 -10-year Statement of Strategic Intent (2026-2036)
 -5-year Statement of Strategic Intent Implementation Roadmap (2026-2031). These documents outline the future direction and purpose for Local Land Services, and your input will help shape how we support you. Consultation closes on 27 February 2026. Visit <https://bitly/3ZysYLv> to have your say.

South Coast & Country Community Law

coming to Moruya to provide in person legal appointments for clients. Where: Moruya Medicare Mental Health Centre, Mirrabooka Avenue Moruya 2537 (Building address: 73 Vulcan Street, parking and entry at rear, off Mirrabooka Avenue).

When: Thursday 12th February 2026 10am to 2:30pm

How: Appointments are required. Call us on 1800 229 529 to make an appointment

Song Connections is designed specifically for individuals living with dementia and memory issues, and their family members, friends and carers.

This singing group is led by Kim Edgar a trained music therapist and choir leader and proves that music remains for us all.

We gather to sing familiar favorites, spark joy through rhythm, and build a supportive community where everyone belongs.

Starting again on Monday 2 Feb 10-11am at the CWA Hall Moruya for 9 weeks this free hour of singing, clapping, rounds and the occasional dance is an hour of joy.

Please come and say hello and give it a go! Drop in on Monday at 10am or call Katrina Scobie 0429 351 700

Bay Bushwalkers

If you are 18 yrs and over and interested in a healthy activity that connects you to nature with friendly like-minded people, taking you to interesting and exciting places the Batemans Bay Bushwalkers may just be what you are looking for.

We have been in existence for forty years with over 100 members and cater for most hiking abilities. We offer two walks per week, one mid-week and one on weekends. We also offer multi-day pack walks and camps both locally and interstate.

Our new program starts on 12th February so now is a great time to be involved. You are welcome to attend up to three walks as a visitor, prior to joining, to see if we are a good fit for you.

Check out our website at baybushwalkers.org.au for more information on the club and what to expect, including safety information. If you think that this sounds like you then contact our secretary on email secretary@baybushwalkers.org.au for further information and a copy of our new program once it's available.

TeenSafe

a driving skill for life

TRAINING SAFER YOUNG DRIVERS

Teensafe is a safe-driver program for L and P plate drivers – a skill for life.

Practical behind-the-wheel courses are provided in school holidays at Moruya Speedway. Cars and instructors provided. Fee \$100.

Teensafe is a community group operating for over 25 years supported by IMB Bank and partnered with Bay Beginners.

For info and forms go to Teensafe link at baybeginnersdrivingschool.com.au or phone Sean 0412446568



Moruya District Hospital Auxiliary

If you would like to join the Hospital Auxiliary and help raise funds for your local Hospital, you would be most welcome. Meetings are held at the Moruya Golf Club on the 1st Monday of every month at 2pm To find out more email mdha@y7mail.com or PO Box 469 Moruya 2537



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Tackle World Moruya Fishing report 23.1.26

Moruya River.

As I expected, the large amounts of heavy rainfall we had last weekend, have had an effect on the river. The river has dirtied up as a result of the nearly 200mm of rain we had in the space of a few days.

While conditions are less than ideal, there are still fish to be caught, just not in the numbers we were experiencing last week.

Fish the incoming tide, which will hopefully bring cleaner salty waters back into the system, and concentrate on the deeper holes that estuarine species tend to favour when there has been an influx of dirty, fresh water. The closer you are to the mouth, the better the chance of finding a few fish also.

The airport flats, the spur wall and quarry and Preddy's wharf areas will all be good areas to try this long weekend.

The plus side of all this rain, is that will have drastically freshened up the higher reaches of the Duea river, allowing more food and an increase in river levels for the Bass to continue moving up stream. Something that a fortnight ago, was desperately needed.

Tuross River.

Much like Moruya, the Tuross system will also be running dirty, pushing slot of either down towards the mouth or into the deeper holes this system has in abundance.

The flats around the Potato Point side of the system will have good numbers of bream and flathead, particularly on an incoming tide.

Oily baits like mullet or tuna fillet will be your best options this weekend, as will artificials with noise making or vibration making actions. Paddle tail style soft plastics, metal vibes will all exceed in these conditions, especially when paired up with your preferred scent. Dirty water is one of the times where I will readily apply some S-Factor or similar scent.

The deeper holes throughout this system will also be a good place to look for a mulloway or two. The high tide change would be my preferred time, but the low tide change is also a viable option.

Rock and Beach.

Now that the strong southerly winds that buffeted us yesterday have eased, the beaches and headlands away from the dirty water out flows of the 3 major rivers along the coast, will be the best place to search for a fish this weekend. Look for cleaner waters for your best chance at finding fish. It shouldn't take too long for the warm currents pushing down the coast to clear a lot of this dirty water away.

Salmon, bream whiting and flathead should all be available in these locations. There will be a lot of river residents that were pushed out with the storm surge, and it won't be too long before these fish decide to head back into the rivers. This can concentrate fish in areas close to river mouths, before they head back into the systems they came from.

Offshore.

With the big seas from last weekend finally easing, expect to see a few more boats at the boat ramp for the Australia Day long weekend. The offshore water temps are high, and are primed to find a Marlin, Mahi Mahi or kingfish or two. There will also be a flathead or snapper or two to be found for those that prefer not to travel wide. Try the 30-40m mark for both species.

The bait freezer was restocked this week, and we have both hawksbury prawns and salted pilchards back in stock. Along with most of the usual offerings in the freezer for this weekend.

Don't forget double demerit points are in play for the long weekend.

Stay safe everyone and remember, " Every day's a good day for fishing..."

Team Tackle World Moruya.



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COUNTRY CLUB**
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CHAMPIONSHIP & CHALLENGE BOWL

\$30 per person
Includes Golf,
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Prizes, Raffles,
fun & friendship

**SUNDAY
22ND
FEBRUARY**

Check-in: 8.30 am
Shotgun start 9:00am
18 Hole Stroke -
Handicap capped @ 45.

CONTACT:
Teri Swanbury
teri.swanbury@hotmail.com
0410 584 196



**Driftwood
Shores**
TUROSS HEAD



**Hotondo
Homes**

**Hotondo Homes Broulee Bay
to Breakers Ocean Swim**

Sunday 8 March 2026 from 9am

Our 15th Annual and most beautiful ocean swim from Broulee Island's Bay around the headland to Broulee Surf Beach. 1.4km for Open and Age divisions, an all age 1.4km flipper swim and a 500m swim for under 12s, under 14s and novice ocean swimmers. The Broulee Brewhouse Dash for Cash over 200m in surf. Why not swim all 3 swims (Open, Age and Dash)?



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Hotondo Homes Batemans Bay
02 4472 36 55 | hotondo.com.au

www.ocean swim.brouleesurferssisc.org.au
Entry is \$60 for age divisions and \$30 for Juniors. Entries close 2 March



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rfreurobodalla.com.au

A lasting difference: Catalina Club Members raise \$2,500 for those in crisis

In late 2025, the Catalina Club team were determined to give members and the broader community a unique opportunity. In the face of increasing cost of living pressures, the upcoming festive season and an underlying presence of domestic violence in our local area, Catalina Club called upon the Club members to Make A Wish and donate any Catalina Rewards points to Southern Women's Group.

Thanks to the selflessness of Catalina Club's members, the Club was able to provide \$2,519 which has been delivered directly to several families and individuals experiencing domestic and family violence.

For more than 40 years, Southern Women's Group has been providing essential services to women living locally that have been affected by violence. Samantha Monck, the Southern Women's Group Domestic Violence Prevention Manager, said her team had seen an approximate 16% increase in calls for support this holiday season compared to last year.

Every dollar donated by members was converted to gift cards valued at approximately \$200, which allowed families to buy essential items and Christmas gifts to help make the festive season safe and enjoyable.

"Thanks to the generosity of the members and guests of Catalina Club, we are able to offer far more than financial support," Samantha said.

"This gift carries something deeply meaningful, the feeling of being seen, heard and believed in. It restores dignity and provides families with the chance to celebrate Christmas with their children, free from at least some of the worry and stress they carry every day."

One woman who received funding said the gift arrived at the perfect time, saying it had "saved" her in a moment of need.

Throughout November and December, hundreds of Catalina Club members and visitors donated their Catalina Rewards points or cash, and submitted their "wishes" for Christmas, the future, their community and the world. Every written wish was hung on Catalina's Wish Tree, transforming the ninth green on the golf course into a bright and eye-catching scene.

With hundreds of tags swaying in the breeze, Make A Wish acted as a conversation starter to those on the golf course or dining in the Clubhouse and aided awareness to domestic violence in our local area.



Catalina Club General Manager Guy Chapman and Southern Women's Group Domestic Violence Prevention Manager celebrated the funds raised and wishes made beneath the Wish Tree on Catalina Club's golf course in January 2026.

Make A Wish coincided with the global 16 Days of Activism campaign which strives to end gender-based violence. Southern Women's Group spearheads this campaign each year to bring domestic violence to light.

"We know that the financial strain of Christmas does not end when the decorations come down. For many families, it continues well into the months ahead. This support makes a lasting difference, helping families move forward with hope during what can be an incredibly challenging time."

"The team at Southern Women's Group extends our heartfelt gratitude to Catalina Club and its members and guests for recognising the needs within our community and for their continued compassion and commitment to support organisations and individuals when they need it most."

Anyone in need of support can contact 1800WDVCAS (1800 938 227) or the national 24/7 support line, 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732).

Support the work of Southern Women's Group - [donate here](#).

Are you part of a local charity or organisation making a difference in the Eurobodalla region? **Apply to the Eurobodalla Category 1 ClubGRANTS** funding round between February 1 and May 31, 2026.

Endangered bats make their return to Wallaga Lake Bridge



A plan to protect an endangered microbat colony during essential maintenance work on Wallaga Lake Bridge has been declared a success, with the winged mammals making their return.

Transport for NSW Executive Director, Partnerships and Integration South, Cassandra Ffrench said a colony of Myotis microbats, affectionately known as fishing bats and listed as a threatened species, were found living under the bridge during surveys carried out in 2022 and 2023.

"These microbats are commonly found in cracks, gaps and other crevices under bridges and in culverts," Ms Ffrench said.

"We worked with microbat experts and sought guidance from species experts at the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on the best way to manage potential impacts on the bats. A Microbat Management Plan was developed to mitigate the impacts on the colony during the essential maintenance work on the bridge."

"Habitat boxes created using recycled bridge girders were installed under the bridge and around the foreshore to provide compensatory habitat for the microbats and help them be moved while the bridge was being rehabilitated."

Ms Ffrench said major work on the important local landmark included removing and replacing large elements of the bridge's superstructure with new timber.

"This stage of the project involved replacing the girders, headstocks, corbels, cross decking and longitudinal decking, railings and kerb," Ms Ffrench said.

During construction, the team faced an unexpected challenge when some microbats refused to vacate their existing girder habitat ahead of the girder's removal as part of the demolition of the bridge.

"Adapting quickly, the team developed a safe method to transport the girder with the bats still inside. The girder was then placed in a secure location and left until all bats had naturally exited before being taken offsite."

"Once work was completed, the habitat boxes were reinstated under the bridge for the microbats that had temporarily moved to other homes during the months of major work being carried out on the bridge."

Ms Ffrench said ecologists and Transport staff have monitored the uptake of microbats in these boxes.

"By November 2024, just months after major work on the bridge was completed, 46 per cent of the estimated microbat population had already returned, showing a strong and positive trend in habitat recovery," Ms Ffrench said.

"An additional four boxes were placed under the bridge in January 2025 to bring the total to nine, to create more space and greater opportunity for the original colony to fully reestablish."

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Team Leader Dr Damon Oliver praised the work done to protect and reestablish the microbat colony.

"From conception to end, the communication from Transport's project team and consultant has been great around management of a colony of Myotis microbats during work on Wallaga Lake Bridge," Dr Oliver said.

"The results of reestablishment have been excellent with new roost boxes that may be replicated in the future for other projects that affect Myotis."

The major reconstruction work was completed on Wallaga Lake Bridge in July 2024, with some final pile wrapping completed in July this year to ensure the bridge can continue to serve as a vital link for those who live, work and visit the area.

Transport carefully considered the project timeline to ensure any work that might disturb the microbats was done outside of the breeding season.

Batemans Bay Sailing Club Report



Red Dwarf and Sail La Vie. Photo: Terry Paton

"Unlike the heatwave and gale from the abandoned race day a fortnight before, on January 24th it was a perfect day for sailing. A 15 knot sea breeze blew in over a lovely summer's afternoon on beautiful Batemans Bay. 4 yachts headed out to contest Batemans Bay Sailing Club's Bay Cup race along with race officer Terry Paton and his trusty team of Jim Anderson, Andrew Bain and Richard Dunne aboard the committee boat "Dave Magill". The course was triangle, windward return, triangle. Paton set the familiar boat end favoured start.

"Accolade" (Lachlan Brown) got the best of the start ahead of "Sail La Vie" (John Drummond).

"Moonmist" (Tony Sutton) was going the fastest upwind until she had to throw in a couple of extra tacks to clear the rocks at Chain Bay before rounding the top mark. "Red Dwarf" (Jack Egan) had a reef tucked in the main and ended up being underpowered.

"Accolade" was able to get away from "Moonmist" on the downwind legs averaging around 8 knots and hitting 12 knots at one stage under spinnaker on the run from the Marine Park middle mark to the leeward mark at Caseys Beach. She went on to secure line honours 4 minutes ahead of "Moonmist". This was enough to secure the AMS victory by less than a minute from the smaller "Moonmist". "Sail La Vie" and "Red Dwarf" were well behind, but everyone had a pleasant sail on the day.

Full results are up the BBSC website www.bbsc.org.au. The next BBSC keelboat race will be on February 7th."



Moonmist and Accolade

Malua Bay Stingrays Women's Bowls .

Social bowls was enjoyed by all present on a very warm morning but kept comfortable with a nice breeze although this made bowling tricky at times. Mac presented Chrissie Keler with her hankie whilst we all sang the Happy Birthday song.

Before calling cards for 6 Rinks of 2 bowl Triples 25 Ends, Bowls Organiser Jay Breust announced there will be Skills and Drills this Friday from 2pm until 4.30pm also Open Pennants training Saturday @ 10 am for selected teams and reserves. Winners Rink 5, Tricia Wheeler, Patricia Bill and Lyn Hardy. (Photo) Runners-up Rink 1, Ruth Blake, Judy Davis and Raija Johnston. Lucky Losers Rink 6, Chrissie Keler, Jan Shalders and Sue Morgan. Money Club Winners, 4 Lyn Hardy, 14 Tania Calder .



Tomakin Twist Tops Bowls Report.

There were 26 Twisties on the Green on a very hot morning, some sharing a half game due to the heat

Thanks as always to our fantastic committee for the Barbecue breakfast and the early start on our special Boothy's Day as well as all celebrating Australia Day.

The Corner to Corner bowling competition was won by President Pedro, the "John Booth Memorial Trophy" will be presented to him at a later date .

Thanks to all who took part in this event all proceeds will go to Charity . Welcome to new bowlers Quentin and Zayne Russell also to Peter Trahair from Queanbeyan.

Winners today were those with Most Winning Ends on a countback Scottie and Bert . +11 (Photo)

Runners-up, Peter and Quentin.

Scottie selected Rink 8 to try for Jackpot . Winning Skip Irish cut cards but no Joker just 8 of Spades

Congratulations to Irish and Mad Max on winning 8 shots on one End as having all bowls played close to the Jack doesn't happen often .

Lucky numbers, 10 Robbo, 15 Trish the Dish.

Team score, Mad Max & Irish 23/17

Smiley's team 15/12. Bert & Scottie 27/8. Peter & Quentin 23/10. Pedro & K.C. with Whizza & Lozza 24/13.



Tuross Head Golf



Winner: Peter McRae with Committee member Ian McManus



Winners: Herb Muriwai and Belinda Stone with Graham Brown President FSCV.



Winner: Paul Ferguson with Vice President Paul Scholze



Winner: Herb Muriwai

Tuross Head Golf Results Thursday 22nd January 2026

50 players competed in a Medley Stableford event today, including some visitors. It was a fine day and there were some fabulous scores achieved.

The Winners were:

1st: Peter McRae (20) with 39 points (countback)
2nd: Peter Coffey (22) with 39 points
3rd: Leonie Snodgrass (18) with 38 points
4th: Bruce Martin (20) with 36 points (countback)
5th: Wayne Fullerton (21) with 36 points

Nearest to the Pins
4th: Troy Kingdom 2.46 A Grade
4th: Paul Scholze 4.66 B Grade
6th: Jim Wade 3.00 A Grade
6th: David Woolley 1.51 B Grade
6th: Graeme Sindel 4.52 C Grade
7th: Ruth Gschwend 3.64 A Grade

Balls went to: Brad Doolan 35, Rob Green 35, Steve Johnston 34, Michael Brice 34, Anthony Lore 34, Troy Kingdom 34, Jim Wade 34, Paula Coffey 34, Nick Brice 33, Graeme Sindel 33, Maree Coffey 33, Chris Wratten 33, Rex Wood 33, John Harb 32 and Allan Langford 32.

Far South Coast Vets Golf Results Friday 23rd January 2026

62 players competed in a Stableford event today at Tuross Head Country Club. It was a sunny day, a lovely BBQ lunch was provided and there were some fantastic scores achieved.

The Men's Winners were: A Grade:

1st: Darrell Kildey (Tuross Head) (15) with 37 points
2nd: Nick Brice (Tuross Head) (9) with 36 points
3rd: Lloyd McLachlan (Narooma) (14) with 35 points

B Grade:

1st: David Sansom (Narooma) (22) with 32 points
2nd: Stephen Gardner (Tuross Head) (21) with 32 points
3rd: Bruce Cleeve (Tuross Head) (21) with 31 points

C Grade:

1st: Herb Muriwai (Tuross Head) (25) with 42 points
2nd: Paul Pereira (Tuross Head) (33) with 35 points
3rd: Derek Hoare (Tuross Head) (34) with 32 points

Nearest the Pins:

6th A Grade Wayne Evans 4.75
6th B Grade Bruce Harding 7.95
7th 2nd Shot Greg Smith 0.82

Super Vet: Paul Pereira

Place Getters: Roland Rees 30, Robert Atkinson 30, Paul Scholze 29, Scott Cockerell 29, John Eglitis 28, Bruce Harding 27, Graham Brown 27, Stephen Kruler 27, Mark Jackson 27 and Benjamin Dutch 27.

The Ladies' Winners were: A Grade:

1st: Belinda Stone (Tura Beach) (28) with 37 points
2nd: Annette Britten (Bega) (27) with 34 points
3rd: Pam Alexander (Tuross Head) (34) with 33 points (countback)

B Grade:

1st: Cate O'Brien (Tuross Head) (35) with 36 points
2nd: Paula Coffey (Tuross Head) (42) with 35 points
3rd: Jane Eglitis (Tuross Head) (40) with 30 points

Nearest the Pins:

4th A Grade (2nd Shot) Jenny Ellis 0.34
4th B Grade (2nd Shot) Shirley Quinlan 0.17

Place Getters:

Leonie Snodgrass 33, Jenny Ellis 30, Marilyn Bingham 29, Carol Brown 29 and Barbara Ubrihien 29.

Tuross Head Golf Results Saturday 24th January 2026

A field of 62 players, including some visitors, registered for a Stableford Medley event today. The weather was perfect, the course in great condition and some fantastic scores were achieved.

The Winners were:

1st: Paul Ferguson (13) with 41 points
2nd: Michael Elfar (31) with 40 points
3rd: Bruce Harding (18) with 39 points
4th: David Gray (18) with 38 points
5th: Martin Booth (13) with 37 points

Nearest to the Pins

4th: William Steenbergen 3.35
A Grade
4th: Julie Barningham 3.52 B Grade
4th: Wayne Fullerton 2.08 C Grade

6th: Malcolm Gilbertson 1.07
A Grade

6th: Paul Scholze 1.05B Grade

7th: Mark Cutmore 5.07A Grade

7th: Jonathan Coffey 4.50 B Grade

7th: Lynne McDonell 3.68 C Grade

Balls went to: Lynne McDonell 36, Tony Brown 35, William Steenbergen 35, Peter McRae 35, Simon French 35, Frank Pomfret 34, Paula Coffey 34, Michael Walsh 34, Jonathan Coffey 34, Colin Houghton 33, Anthony Lore 33, Cathy Milliken 33, Ian Miller 33, Ken Hush 32 and Brad Doolan 32.

Tuross Head Vets Golf Results Wednesday 28th January 2026

A field of 32 players signed up for a Single Stableford event today. The weather was hot and some fantastic scores were achieved.

The Winners were:

1st: Herb Muriwai with 20 points
2nd: Jeanette Miller with 19 points (countback)
3rd: Ross Hendy with 19 points

Balls or Chocolates went to: Leonie Snodgrass 18, Ken Hush 18, Paul Pereira 18 and Warren Hodder 18.

Nearest to the Pins:
4th: Ken Hush (2nd Shot)

6th: Leonie Snodgrass (1st Shot)

7th: Ladies: Jeanette Miller (2nd Shot)

Mens: Ross Hendy (2nd Shot)

Accuracy: Gail Rogers (5th hole)
Bradmans: Neal Watson



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148th Eurobodalla Agricultural Show



Barbara and Kerrie Smith with their Jam Awards



Lorraine Dore with her preserved fruits.



Penny Shaeffer with her Champion Quilt featuring the Deua.



Rose Rsepa's Champion Artwork



Craftwork from RfR



Mal Reed received the Steven Heffernan Trophy



Julie Barningham's Champion Needlework in gold thread.



Judy Barnett's Champion Cake.



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If not, we advise of
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EASTER mini MARKET
STALL HOLDERS WANTED

TUROSS HEAD BOWLING CLUB
EASTER SUNDAY 9AM-1PM

Club Tuross Bowling Club are seeking a variety of stalls including gourmet food, fresh produce, handcrafted goods, plants, bric a brac and more. Stalls are available at \$20 each - individual stalls are approximately trestle table size. Limited number of stalls available. Book now to secure your space. Morning Tea and a Sausage Sizzle will be catered by the Bowling Club. The Easter Mini Market will be promoted on the Club Tuross website and Facebook pages plus local retail and media outlets. It's a great opportunity to sell your products to visitors and tourists during the Easter holidays. Funds raised support the Tuross Head Bowling Club to attract more visiting bowlers to Tuross.

TO BOOK A STALL OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
DENISE LIDBURY Mobile: 0459 540 442 Email: thelidbury@bigpond.com
ROSE FARRINGTON Mobile: 0488 043 994 Email: roseludwig70@gmail.com

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148th Eurobodalla Agricultural Show



Michael Holland MP, Bruce Smith, Fiona Phillips MP, Barbara Smith, Mayor Hatcher.



RAS President John Bennett with Barbara Smith who was presented with Life Membership.



Pavillion Stewards



Eurobodalla Woodies stall



Braidwood CWA stall



Moruya Hospital Auxiliary stall

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