

Clarence Town and District Progress Association Inc.

The Sentinel

Your local paper containing district news circulating throughout

Clarence Town—Glen Oak - Glen Martin - Glen William - Limeburners Creek

Wallarobba/Brookfield - Circulation:-1160

July/Aug 2023





https://thesentinelnews.com.au/

Our magazine is now online—see the advertisements with links to their website or facebook page 24/7. Notifications of events happening within our community.

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Closing date for News and Ads for our next issue is the 10th August

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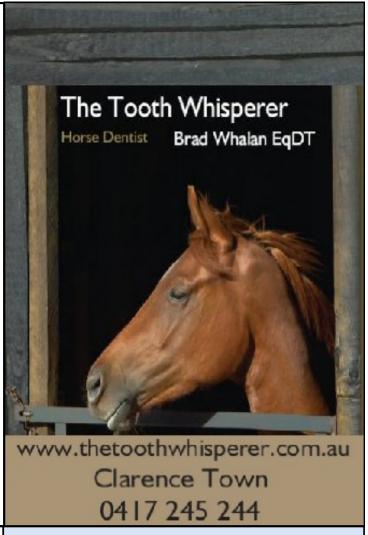
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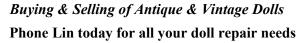
The Autumn Night competition is currently under way. Even though the nights are getting a bit cooler what a great way to exercise and keep warm by running around the tennis court. We are holding our AGM on Wednesday the 5th of July. This will be at the Club house starting at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend.



See you on the court. Brad (0417 651577), Gai (0419 600219)

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Clarence Town Public School

SPOTLIGHT ON CLARENCE TOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Term 3 has been full of excitement and events. The school has experienced success across several areas. In the sporting arena, Molly was successfully in making Hunter Cross Country and represented our school well. Our PSSA teams had had mixed results; however, all students involved a have experienced success on differing levels. In May we had students participate in the Horse Sports held at Scone. Thank you to Mrs Thomas for attending the event with our families. This was a fantastic opportunity to expand our extra-curricular activities and provide for all of students. We cannot forget students Dre and Angus making it through to represent our zone and school at the Rugby Hunter trials. We wish them all the best.

Starstruck has been a phenomenal experience for our students. Students and parents have raved about the exceptional opportunity it brings. This can not happen without the dedication of staff. We thank all involved. WE look forward to seeing the group perform in Education Week.

With the introduction of a School Parliament this year we are expanding the opportunity for Student Voice to be an integral part of our school decision making and vision. This is still a learning space for our students, but they are doing so well in developing their skills and knowledge in this area. Our Junior AECG members will also be an integral part of this process.

We have had some staffing changes this term and as of next week our new permanent School Administration Manager—Mrs Lyn Jones will take up her role full time at Clarence Town Public School. Mrs Jones was successful in gaining the position and we pass on our congratulations to her and welcome her full time to our wonderful school.

We also need to mention our amazing P&C and volunteers who have been working extra hard in the last few weeks with coordinating the Mother's Day Stall, the Clarence Town Hardware BBQ and the Athletics Carnival Canteen. The hard work of these volunteers supports our school in so many ways and the P&C is currently working with us to develop a priority list of purchases to support student learning and school programs.

This teamwork and collaboration has been the bedrock of our school for generations and we are proud to see both traditional and new events, programs and opportunities combine to allow our students to prosper and grow to reach their potential. Thank you all for the part you play in making our school great!

From Term 3, our school will begin the transition to utilising Sentral more effectively with the introduction of the parent portal. Parents are asked to download and register for the Sentral for Parents APP. Emails have been sent with the linking key for your child. We ask that families contact the office if they experience difficulty at any stage and we look forward to providing our community this platform to

increase parental engagement with the school.





Around the Churches

St. John's, Clarence Town.

We had a wonderful celebration on Sunday, 18th June, for our 117th birthday of the current building. The first church of St. John was a timber church built in 1852 on this site. That church burnt down in 1906 and this current one was very quickly built to replace it, such was the passion and dedication of the parishioners of that time. It was great to welcome back some of our past Rectors too.

The Rev. Greg Clarke, Rev. John Dring, Rev. Gary Atherton and Karen, and although not a Rector here, a much-loved minister who has provided services for us, Rev. Chris Freestone and Margie. We also welcomed some parishioners from our Dungog center.

A lovely service with lovely hymns chosen by our organist, Judy Schmitt, 'Make Way, make way for Christ the King; It only takes a spark to get a fire going and To God be the Glory, great things He has done', and our Priest-in-charge, Rev. Kimbalee gave a very appropriate sermon, which beautifully addressed the 'grief' felt by parishioners at the closure of some of our beloved churches.

Then, the banquet in the hall which followed was amazing. Thank you to all who contributed to that.

I think our past Rectors had a stroll 'down memory lane' of their time here at Clarence Town.

We are anticipating holding our Gymkhana this year on the 1st Saturday of November. Plans will soon be underway to organize that. It has been some years since we have been able to hold the event due to COVID. Here's hoping!

Our church hall is available for hire. Please contact Barrie on 4996 4174 to make bookings. Our weekly services are at 10am each Sunday and you would be most welcome.

Our Sunday services are at 10am each Sunday with Holy Communion and morning tea following the service.

You would be most welcome.

Sue Flannery 4996 5528

St David's Presbyterian Church Clarence Town.

At the time of writing, our community has been rocked by the sad news of the Greta bus crash. One of the other hats I wear is that of a police chaplain, which gives insight into the role our emergency services play when tragedies like this occur. To say this was on the higher scale of police and emergency service response would be an understatement, the effects of which will be felt by our community for years to come.

While it can be hard to understand why these kinds of things happen, one thing we as Christians know with absolute certainty, is that the God we love and serve knows our pain and anguish, from personal experience. There is comfort in knowing that God can sympathise with all of us, and especially those close to tragedy, as there was great tragedy on display when God's own Son died. But as the greatest story ever told makes it clear – we know following death, comes new life – and that is the Christian hope. CTPC would like our community know, we are all praying for you and your loved ones through these dark days, and would encourage everyone to lean on the Lord Jesus Christ and his teaching as we come to terms with this latest episode of grief.

Further to the above, in the coming days there will be a prayer box installed at the front of Clarence Town Presbyterian Church (just near the main sign). We invite everyone who would like prayer for whatever reason to put a message in the prayer box (anonymously if you prefer). This will be distributed to our prayer team each week.

In other sad news, we can announce that the Presbyterian Church property in Dungog is in the process of being sold. After much prayer and deliberation the Session of Elders, Committee of Management, congregation, Hunter Presbytery, Ministry and Mission and the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in NSW made the difficult decision to sell the property.

We pray for the other churches of Dungog, that the gospel will flourish there, and many will find eternal life that comes through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We continue to pray for our town, our leaders, country and world, both in private and when we meet together and, all the more as we see the great Day of our Lord Jesus approaching.

"And what does the LORD require of you? To do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

In Christ, Rev Allan D. Welch 0402 387 690

From the Parson's Pen

Christians believe that all Creation exists for the glory of God. Humans have a special place within Creation as stewards, not proprietors. Familiar comment, isn't it?

So let's take that one step further, with the basic statement that all humanity is created in the image of this loving and purposeful God: black, yellow, white, gay, straight, something else, left wing, right wing Now that's getting into troublesome territory!

If we are all created in the divine image, doesn't that mean that if we discriminate against someone who holds a differing genetic makeup isn't that discriminating against the image of God in another person? So, we have anti-discrimination laws to protect the rights of "other" people (are we are all of us "other" to someone else). We are coming more and more to accepting that in our society.... perhaps not so in many other societies.

But what about political discourse? Shouldn't that come under the same anti-discrimination umbrella? Now THAT'S where we start to get into contentious territory!

We have the right to hold different political ideas: that's one way in which our society progresses, but the way in which we conduct that debate is often troublesome, especially via social and print media.

Think about what passes for political "debate" in our Parliaments! We wouldn't tolerate some of that behaviour in infants' schools! So much of it is based on denigration and abuse. (I make exception for the good-natured banter between, say, Fred Daly and Jim Killen in years gone by that added a note of levity and humanity to parliament). Think about some of the Facebook or Instagram sites labelled "We hate so-and-so and x-and-y" and the personal comments aimed at parliamentary leaders on all sides. Certainly, we have had "leaders" who have failed on many ethical and behavioural counts, and who have denigrated, often in tensely personal terms, someone with differing racial, philosophical, or religious beliefs, and their election to high office is a judgement on our political system. We have, over the last 50 years, elected some governments whose moral and economic policies have been disgraceful, institutionalised corruption.

But our debate MUST be on issues, and not personalities, because we are ALL created in that image of a loving and purposeful God and entitled to the dignity which goes with that.

The way in which we conduct ourselves in public life impacts our standing not only in our own backyard, but on the world stage. If we can't behave with dignity and high purpose, can we expect any better of Russia? Of China? Of the United States? Of any person or country that aspires to public and international leadership?

Voltaire said, "I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it".

The demand for respect goes deep and remember that we are called to emulate One who taught us to pray "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil".

Dignity and respect are as important in our corporate life as in our inter-personal affairs.

Fr George Mainprize

Christ Church, Dungog.

We had a lovely sunny warm market day in June. Our next few dates for the Markets are 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September.

The Mother's Union at Christ Church has a special day we would like to invite everyone to. On Thursday 10th August we shall have the Dungog High School Students to entertain us. We start the afternoon with our Stall open at 1.30 pm and the Students shall entertain us from 2 pm, then we have afternoon tea. Cost for the afternoon is \$10. It would be lovely to have lots come as sometimes this is the first time that the Students have performed in public. They are always wonderful, some singing, some playing under the leadership of their teachers. It is held at the Church hall at 51 Dowling Street, Dungog.

For enquiries call Margaret Flannery on 0427 921 839.

We continue to have our Op Shop open each Friday 8.30 to $2~\rm pm$ and on the first Saturday of the month with our Markets 8.00 to $1~\rm pm$.

Our Church Services are Friday 10.30 am, Sunday 8.30 am. On the Fourth Sunday there is also a service at 5pm at the Church Hall. On the First Sunday Bendolba has a 5 pm service, (St. Peter's in the Paddock). Both the night time services have a meal to follow.

The Combined Churches have recently met and will have a Combined Church service at the Uniting Church at 6.30 pm in Dowling Street, Dungog on Sunday 30th July. All welcome.

Thanks

Margaret Flannery

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Around The District

Another family history has come to light, making about



10 histories of local families now available to peruse. I say "about" because when you examine one, you are invariably discovering information about another local family due to inter-marriage. Looking through the recent acquisition from Barbara Robinson of the Dark's family is also reading about the Holmes family and the Robards, Campbells, Ronans and others. A recent donation of a small cabinet will see these soon displayed in a better location within the museum.

Work continues for the Museum Open Day on Saturday the 29th of July. As detailed on Facebook, there will be live music, a fashion parade with clothes from more than 50 years ago, a chance for you to bring items for appraisal by an expert-think Antiques Roadshow - and the judging of the art/photographic competition (entries closing 16th July).

By the time this goes to print, years 1 and 2 from Clarence Town Public School will have visited, making the second visit by the school in the last twelve months.

A visitor this month was Wayne Padfield, a member of Paterson Museum, who is writing his fourth book on the rivers in the Hunter Region, this time concentrating on the river traffic itself-the construction of the boats, the boats themselves, the produce and peoples carried. Clarence Town of course, will have a large chapter on shipbuilding.

Barbara Robinson, also donated two collections of short stories from Stroud Writers-based often on life experiences over last century by locals with a special emphasis on wartime.

Chris O'Neill (Secretary)

To get in touch our email is <u>CTmuseum@outlook.com</u>,

Our phone number is 0491 346 491,
or you can reach us through Facebook.

Council Report

Clarence Town Bridge

The Clarence Town Bridge saga continues with discussions and negotiations progressing with the Worimi Aboriginal Land Council over land title claims. But the Albanese government is yet to confirm its funding for the project. The local member Dr. David Gillespie MP is pursuing the matter and Council has requested a meeting with the Hon. Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, & Regional Development. The project can't proceed until the federal government has confirmed its original funding and the additional \$5 million that is forthcoming.

Operational Plan & Budget 2023-24

Council has a \$42.4 Million capital works program for 2023-2024 which reflects our success in attracting grant funding for upgrading main roads and replacement of timber bridges. While this is an outstanding outcome, there are ongoing risks in delivery of these works due to a factors such as ongoing shortages of materials and labour, and escalating costs.

Another concern is risk of variations to grant funding arrangements with projects reduced, delayed or even cancelled. Already in 2022-23 State funding was delayed for Clarence Town Road and the Commonwealth Government is currently reviewing their infrastructure priorities.

Work will soon start on Duke Street rehabilitation (\$863,000) flowing on to Queen Street between Grey & Rifle Streets (\$767,000). Also, a footpath will be constructed along this section of Queen Street which will link the public school to the sporting fields.

Major upgrades for FY23-24 are planned for Limeburners Creek Road between the bridge and the intersection with Glen Martin Road (\$1,665,000) and Glen Martin Road has three sections for rehabilitation (\$1,473,000). Since 2017, Council has received approximately \$122 million in special grant funding for ongoing road and bridge infrastructure projects. But when that money is finally expended in about three to four years, Council will be in desperate need of similar ongoing funding because we will still have numerous sections of worn out roads. Without such assistance from governments, Council's budget is too small to be able to address the backlog of infrastructure repairs. General rate income which provides the majority of operating revenues is insufficient to meet the current and future needs of the community.

Draft Recreation & Open Space Plan

The Draft Plan was placed on public exhibition during May-June featuring many aspects of infrastructure for community activities. The need for a new full sized sporting field in Clarence Town is included in the Plan - the "Field of Dreams" to be built at the old quarry site. The pile of earth opposite the site will be taken across the road once a zoning issue is sorted for investigation of sporting fields. This has been and will be a long term project requiring substantial grant funding from Government.

Your Local B Ward Councilors:

Jessica Clark: **0421 451 716**

jessica.clark@dungog.nsw.gov.au

Steve low: 02 4996 4022 stevelow49@tpg.com.au

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1st CLARENCE TOWN SCOUTS

1st Clarence Town Scouts holds its group nights every Tuesday night from 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

Anyone interested in bringing their child along or helping out as an adult helper can come along any Tuesday during school terms and meet the leaders.

We run Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers.

Call myself 0417 651 577, Robyn 0400 033 873 or Mark 0408 425 092

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> Scout Hall 747 Glen William Road, Glen William.

Joeys - 5 - 8 years old Cubs - 8 - 10 years old Scouts - 11-15 years old Venturers - 15-18 years old





Clarence Town Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club

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Socials - FB: Clarence Town Bowling Club IG- @clarencetownbowlingclub_

Tuesday-Euchre 6:30pm

Thursday-Bingo 11:30am

Friday - Meat Raffles & Members Draw (tickets on sale at 6pm and drawn at 7pm

Saturday - Meat Raffles (tickets on sale at 2pm)

Last Sunday of every month- Meat Raffles & Members Draw (tickets on sale at 5pm and drawn at 6pm

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CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The next step is to contact your local rural fire brigade. The members of the brigade are all volunteers and can help you decide whether volunteering is right for you. If you're not sure where the brigade is located, ask your nearest Fire Control Centre or

email volunteer@rfs.nsw.gov.au.
For anyone in the Dungog Shire your Control Centre can be contacted on **4015 0000**.

Anyone in the Clarence Town area can contact the CT Brigade 4996 4454

THE APPLICATION

Complete the Volunteer Membership Application Form. If you are over 16 you will also be asked to complete a National Police Checking Service Consent Form and provide identification. The Brigade will point you in the right direction.

STEP 4

THE INTERVIEW

You will be invited to attend an interview with the brigade you are seeking to join. The interview will cover the types of things you can expect as a volunteer, what your role in the brigade will involve and what the NSW RFS expects from its members.

PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

If both you and the brigade wish to proceed, your application will be sent to the District Manager for endorsement. At that point you become a "probationary member pending clearance"

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

It is important for the NSW RFS to make an assessment about each applicant's suitability for membership because our volunteers hold a position of trust within the community, so a criminal history check will be conducted after your application form is endorsed. Your privacy will be protected in this process.

STEP 7

COMMENCE INDUCTION

While you wait for clearance, you can commence some activities with the brigade under supervision. During this time there are some restrictions on the types of activities you can participate in.

OUTCOME OF APPLICATION

If your application for membership is successful, you will receive a letter containing your membership number. You can now participate in more activities as a volunteer member of your brigade.

TRAINING FOR YOUR ROLE

The NSW RFS provides training opportunities to all members free of charge, giving you the knowledge and skills to work safely in your chosen role. Once trained, you will be provided with the appropriate clothing and equipment for your role.

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

You will remain a probationary member for a minimum of six months, and at the end of the probationary period your brigade will vote on whether to accept you as an ordinary member

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News from Glen William Public School

WOW! What a school we have here at Glen William Public School! Over the past weeks, we have seen the very best of our special school community.

Our Mothers Day High Tea and Bingo was the best Mothers Day celebration I have been a part of in nearly 20 years of teaching. The vibe and atmosphere created such a buzz. Thank you to all of our incredible mother figures in our students lives who attended. Also a huge thank you to Mrs Reeves, Mrs Keller and Miss Parr for all of their work behind the scenes leading up to the day.

At our Small Schools Athletics Carnival, we saw what our students are made of. In cold and at times, wet, conditions, it was so heartening to see all of our students in attendance getting out on the track and the field, competing in a number of events and give their best! The support for each other, along with that from the family members who came along, brought an enormous smile to my face and again confirmed to me what a privilege it is to be the Principal of our school. Congratulations to Miss Parr who coordinated all six small schools. A special thank you to our wonderful P&C who did a tremendous job organising and running the canteen. What a successful day of sprinting, laughing and fun, and to top it all off, Glen William Public School received third place in the Overall Handicap Trophy. Well done!

Zone Cross Country Congratulations to Dezzy and Carla who represented our school with pride at the Zone Cross Country Carnival. Dezzy placed 13th and Carla placed 44th. Well done.

Our students participated in a Dung Beetle workshop. We learned so many weird and wonderful facts about dung beetles. Thank you to Bern and Loene from Dung Beetle Solutions Australia, and Jane from Local Land Services, for coming to Glen William and educating our students and teachers about the importance of such stinky beetles also our students participated in a worm farm incursion. We learned all about the importance of composting worms, what they look like, what they eat, and how to improve our worm farm at school. Did you know worms have 5 pairs of hearts? We thank Mitch from EnviroCom for sharing his knowledge and passion with us.

Dance with Miss Libby: Miss Libby is back this term to get our bodies moving with dance. We are very excited to learn some new dance moves ready for the Term 3 Education Award Assembly, and showcase our talents in our freestyle circle each week.

Breakfast Club: A reminder that breakfast club runs Monday to Wednesday, 8:30am-8:50am. Thank you to our senior students who provide this very important service at our school.

Tour de William: Volunteers are required for the Tour de William. We are looking for people to help out on the day, Sunday 27 August 2023, with stalls, marshalling, registration, baking or any donations they might be able to put forth. We are also looking for anyone who might like to help out in the lead up to the event. Please contact the school or one of our P&C members if you are able to help.

Save the date Tour de William Bike Ride is back Sunday August 27th 2023. See you there!!

We are still taking Enrolments for 2023. Please contact the school office for an information pack, visit the school website to complete an online enrolment.

Glen William Public School 4996 5507

E-Mail glenwillia-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

From the Lion's Den.

The Lions have been hunting for new members for the last few months and have had some success with the addition of several newcomers from our wonderful community! It's exciting to see new faces and people coming together offering their time and energy for the benefit of others. Lions are always looking for enthusiastic people to bring new ideas and energy to the group, so please feel free to come to the monthly meeting at the Clarence Town Bowls Club. It is held on the second Thursday of every month at 6pm. All welcome!

So what's been happening?

Lions Club was present at ANZAC Day with Jo presenting books for schools to help our younger generations understand our history and the courage and sacrifice made by ordinary Australians in service of our country. Lest we forget.

The following weekend, Lions held a BBQ at the Lion's Park for a Charity Bike Ride at the end of April. It was a great success with over 150 bike riders enjoying a rest stop in lovely Clarence Town overlooking the river. Riders contributed a gold coin donation for lunch which raised \$250. This money has been donated to the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation Biggest BBQ 2023 to support this very worthy cause. A big thank you to everyone who helped on the day, especially Shaun and Wendy! Awesome effort!

The Lion's Park tables will be receiving a fresh coat of paint and the Lions themselves have also been painted. The Lions Club members work very hard to ensure that the BBQ facilities are cleaned daily and that the Park remains in good order for the enjoyment of all.

The Mother's Day Raffle in May was a big hit, a huge thank you to everyone in our community who supported it. Big thank you to Trudy and Marjorie for organising the raffle. There were several lucky winners and congratulations to Kay, Cole, Lyn, Margaret, Ruth, Alana, Alan, Karen, Leonie, and Adele. Clarence Town Lions Club is a proud supporter of local Lleyton Lloyd who will compete in the Virtus Global Games in France in June this year. Lleyton is an elite track and field para athlete and represents Australia in the 100m, 200m, Long Jump and Relay events. At the time of writing this article, Lleyton is in France competing so we are eagerly awaiting news and keeping him in our thoughts.

The Clarence Town Markets held on the last Saturday of every month have been very successful in both April and May. May saw the addition of a Coffee Van that was very popular! The markets also saw the beginning of the new Clarence Town Collaborative Stall in which members of our community were able to share a stall with a multitude of small gifts and food offerings. The feedback was fantastic and we are looking forward to it continuing to grow. The June Markets will see a small increase in stall holder fees to \$20. Thank you to all stall holders and the community for your support. Other projects included the Lions Club covering half the cost of, delivery and installation of a Debrillator (AED) at our local Erringhi Hotel. This incredible initiative is a credit to owner Curtis McDonald and Lion Steve. AED's are a life-saving device that allow for an immediate response in the event of a heart attack. This is a welcome addition for our community and increases first aid coverage in the area for locals.

Upcoming events include a Father's Day Raffle in September. Some lucky fathers or grandfathers will receive some wonderful gifts.

Finally, save the date – the Lion's Club Car Boot Sale is planned for the Sunday 1st October, 2023. Hopefully some amazing bargains to be had and treasures to be found!

"Alone, we can do so little; Together, we can do so much."

Helen Keller

St. Patrick's, Clarence Town.

The dreaded COVID seems to be hanging around and, unfortunately, has caught some of our parishioners, together with the usual winter flu, so our numbers have been down a little. It must be said though, that our intrepid leader 'soldiered on' even though he wasn't at all well.

We continue to keep the Barry and Flanagan families in our thoughts and prayers. May the Good Lord help them through this most difficult time. Our monthly morning tea was a happy gathering, and as always, the cooking was yummy. Each Sunday we look forward to our instruction on the Liturgy in our bulletin. It is most interesting and thank you to Father Andrew for keeping it in 'layman's language' so we can grasp it.

All welcome to 8am Mass each Sunday and a cuppa on the 1 st Sunday of the month.

God Bless

Marilyn Amos

Clarence Town Op Shop and Treasure Centre.

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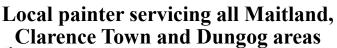


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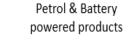
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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Local Church Contacts:

ANGLICAN: Clarence Town Pastoral Ministry

0491 007 193

ROMAN CATHOLIC: 4992 1477

PRESBYTERIAN: Allan Welch - 4025 5638

DUNGOG BAPTIST: 4992 2122

DUNGOG UNITING: Joy Shelton - 4992 1508

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Clarence Town, 29 Marshall Street

10am Every Sunday

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Clarence Town, Rifle Street:

8am Every Sunday

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CWA: Carol Johnstone: 0438213477

LIONS CLUB: Bill Pitkin: 0448 428 087

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C/TOWN SCOUTS: Robyn Keller: 4996 4061

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