

Rainfall Report* (mls)

2025

July 71

June 22.6

May 406.6

April 205.6

March 243.8

Feb 26.6

Jan 341

2024

Dec 23.2

Nov 47

* Source: BOM, Clarence
Town Rainfall Station 061010

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Dungog Shire Leads NSW in Tourism Hits

Exciting news for our community — Dungog Shire has received the highest number of tourism hits across the Destination Sydney Surrounds North (DSSN) region!

This impressive result comes from recent DSSN data and highlights just how popular our beautiful part of the world has become with visitors.

“This is a great reflection of the hard work of so many people across the Dungog region,” said Cameron Archer, Chair of Dungog Regional Tourism. “It’s also a testament to the excellent services provided by our local tourism operators.”

From the hills of Gresford to the markets of Clarence Town and the charm of Paterson, Vacy and Dungog, our region offers something truly special — stunning landscapes, country hospitality, and a genuine sense of community.

We’re perfectly placed for both day-trippers and longer stays, with a growing range of accommodation and activities that showcase the natural beauty and character of the area.

One of our biggest drawcards? Volunteer-run events that bring our villages to life and attract visitors from near and far!

Whether it’s the scenery, the stories, or the people, Dungog Shire is making its mark as one of NSW’s most loved destinations – and we’re proud to call it home.

There’s plenty happening in September in the Shire. Please visit the **Creative Valley’s** website creativevalleys.com.au/all-events/ and **Visit Dungog** to see what’s happening locally: www.visitdungog.com.au

✦ CLOSING DATE FOR NEWS & ADS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE IS 10TH OCTOBER ✦

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Whimsical Tea Cosies & Trivets Exhibition

SEE AD PAGE 4



Celebrating 25 Years in Clarence Town

OP SHOP PAGE 5



Help Shape the Future of Dungog Shire

SEE AD PAGE 11



‘Dungog Shire Welcome Pack’ Planned

DDCC Page 14

Clarence Town **HOME** Hardware



Spring into action



22 Grey Street, Clarence Town
Ph: 4996 4555

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From the Editor

Not quite a local... but working on it!

After nearly seven years living first in Clarence Town and now Glen William, I've come to realise two things: one, Dungog Shire is massive – almost nine times the size of Newcastle – and two, no matter how many working bees I turn up to, I won't be considered a true local until I'm at least third-generation (and even then, only maybe).

But here's the thing – I've never felt more at home.

This part of the world continues to surprise me with its beauty, its bush humour, and most of all, its people. From sausage sizzles and trivia nights to roadside chats and last-minute sheep lambing (don't ask), community life here is alive and well – and I've made more friends in seven years than I did in the decade before.

Dungog Shire may only have about 9,000 people – that's just 19% the population of Newcastle – but it stretches across 18 towns and villages. Driving across it can take over an hour, especially if you get stuck behind a tractor/cattle muster or stop to admire the view (both likely).

And while we may not have skyscrapers or beaches, we've got big skies, big hearts, and conversations that last longer than your phone battery.

So whether you've been here for generations or just rolled into town, I hope The Sentinel gives you a sense of the local heartbeat. Because here, it's not about how long you've lived in the shire – it's about how willing you are to show up.

*If you've got a **community event or newsworthy tidbit to share**, I'd love to hear about it! Drop me a line at thesentinel2321@gmail.com*

Until next edition x Cathy Schneider



Disclaimer: Articles submitted to this newsletter may be edited for clarity, length, accuracy, and style at the discretion of the editor. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the views and opinions expressed in submitted articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the newsletter team or affiliated organisations. Publication does not imply endorsement.

Community Events Calendar

Welcome to the heart of Clarence Town! Discover local happenings, cultural events and opportunities.

To list your local event for free, email thesentinel2321@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 4th 6.30pm: **Clarence Town Progress Association** meeting. Clarence Town Community Centre.

Fri 5th 10.30am: FREE talk by International quilt historian, collector and author **Annette Gero** "The History in Quilts", James Theatre Dungog. www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1452491

Tues 9th 6pm: **Clarence Town Lions Club** meeting. Clarence Town Bowling Club.

Wed 10th - Sun 14th Open daily 10am - 4pm: **The Dungog Tea Party** held at the James Theatre, Dungog. FREE ENTRY. See ad page 4 for details.

Sun 14th 3-4.30pm: **Veterans**, come learn about local support. Hosted by RSL NSW, Clarence Town Bowling Club. FREE. Please RSVP by calling 0431 967 843. See ad page 5.

Thurs 18th 6.30-9.30pm: Red and Black Networking Dinner Meeting hosted by **DDCC**. Royal Hotel Dungog. FREE, RSVP: www.trybooking.com/DEOJQ

Sat 27th 8am-12pm: **Clarence Town Markets**, hosted by the Lion's Club. Clarence Town Bowling Club.

Mon 29th SCHOOL HOLIDAYS for public schools BEGIN

OCTOBER

Mon 6th **Labour Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Sat 11th 12-4pm: **Oktoberfest at Wallarobba Hall**. See Wallarobba Halls FB page for details.

Mon 13th **BACK TO SCHOOL** for public schools.

Wed 15th 8.30am-12pm: **Clarence Town Op Shop & Treasure Centre** celebrates 25 years. Drop in!

Sat 25th 8am-12pm: **Clarence Town Markets**, hosted by the Lion's Club. Clarence Town Bowling Club.

UPCOMING... Save the Date!

9th Nov 9am-1.30pm: **Hunter Valley Show & Shine**. Glen Oak Hall. See ad page 6.

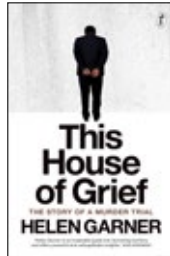
Book Recommendations

Shelf Life

Looking for your next page-turner? The Sentinel's curated book recommendations make finding the perfect read a breeze – for adults and kids alike!

***This House of Grief* by Helen Garner** – Reviewed by Anne Higgins

Was it an accident when three boys drowned in the car their father was driving after it left the road and drove into a dam? He was returning the boys to his estranged wife following a visit to him on Fathers Day.



In this book Helen Garner describes the theatre of the courtroom as people gather to bear witness to an elusive truth in the story of the murder trial. The House of Grief is a heartbreaking story of a man's facing up the questioning of lawyers and the eventual decision of the jury made of twelve regular human beings. High drama indeed. A must read.

***"When I am big"* by Penny Johnson** – Reviewed By Anne Fisher

"When I am big" is a picture board book aimed at young children but which can be enjoyed at any age! Illustrated by Kirsten



Irving the story follows a sweet little bunny who is desperate to grow up and do the things their older sister and brother enjoy. The bunny enviously watches its siblings delight in activities like running races, collecting fireflies and picking buttercups. The baby bunny's friends are also little and can't wait to dance and play games. This is a book which explores feelings and the anticipation of adventure while still appreciating the importance of affection, "However big or small I am, I'll still snuggle my Mummy, whenever I can".

Brought to you by "Books & More," 232 Dowling St, Dungog.
Explore our \$5 book collection and support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
Contact Anne Higgins at 0403 029 181.



10th - 14th September 2025

✉ dungogteaparty@gmail.com
 🌐 www.dungogteaparty.com.au
 📱 Dungog Tea Party
 ☎ 0429 629 014

FREE ENTRY
OPEN DAILY 10am - 4pm



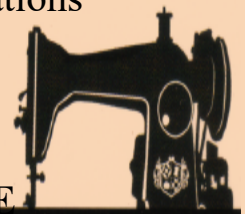
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SALON HOURS:

Tuesday 9am to 5pm
 Wednesday 9am to 2pm
 Thursday and Friday 9am to 5pm
 Saturday by appointment only



Calling all Veterans

You are invited to join us for some drinks and refreshments

Where: Clarence Town Bowling Club
When: Sunday 14th September 2025
Time : 3:00PM to 4:30PM



Come along in the spirit of generating camaraderie and mateship whilst gaining useful information. New details of the Wellbeing Support Officer network, and Wellbeing and Compensation Advocacy will be presented. Come along and meet your local WSOs and Advocates.

Learn about the new VETS Act that is coming in July 2026

Whilst it is free, bookings are essential, please call **0431 967 843**

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126 Prince St, Clarence Town
For more details contact:
Owen Giggins 0409 603 995



Clarence Town Op Shop & Treasure Centre

Celebrating 25 Years!

Our present Op Shop will be celebrating 25 years of service to the community on Wed 15th October.

When I say the present Op Shop, I mean the current building. We were operating in the hall each week for two years before that. It was a huge job, as we put all of the wares out on tables in the hall each week, and then packed everything up again at the end of the day.

Please come along so that we can thank each and every one of you for the wonderful support you have given to us over the 27 years. We could not do it without the support from our community.

Our Spring and Summer fashions will be available from Wed 3rd September, so come in and grab a bargain.

Thank you to all of our customers for your wonderful support which helps us support Mission Centres locally. We are open every Wed from 8.30am to noon. See you very soon and do try to stay warm and dry.

**Follow us on Facebook: @OP SHOP Anglican Church
Clarence Town to stay updated on our latest deals!**

Gillian Finch 4994 9168 / 0477 326 142

St. John's Anglican Church, Cnr of Grey & Queen Sts

Clarence Town & District Historical Museum Assoc.

A Peak into the Past

Robyn, Lyn, James, and Jack represented the Clarence Town Museum at Tocal's Peak into the Past event on Sunday 26th July, setting up a stall and selling merchandise. The event was a fantastic experience, especially for our two young ambassadors, who explored the many facets of colonial life on display.

There was a query about the naming of one of Clarence Towns early hotels. This hotel had been in the lady's family in the 1880's and burnt down in 1912. Yours truly was able to explain the name change, as it was built by one of my distant uncles in 1855, and show her a picture of the hotel in a book we were selling – which she then bought!

Our ambassadors are planning a Christmas event and, also exploring the option of another workshop at the museum in a few months involving Dungog's Men's Shed. More on that later! Electrical upgrades to powerpoints and lighting are planned soon, as some cabling is very old by today's standards.

Open the 2nd Sat of each month, 10am–2pm or by appointment. Chris O'Neill, Museum Committee Secretary, Ctmuseum@outlook.com 0491 346 491

0466 384 613



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**RARE
SPARES**



HUNTER VALLEY SHOW & SHINE

Sunday 9th Nov 25, 9-1:30pm

Glen Oak Hall, 1998 Clarence Town Rd

Modern Sports, Classic Cars, Panel Vans, Hot Rods,
Classic Bikes and Rat Rods
(Gates open 7:30am)

Raising funds for Glen Oak School of Arts, Recreation Reserve, and Clarence Town RFS



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Contact Kev Crossey 0428 498 649



Clarence Town Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club

Ph- (02) 49964222

Email - admin@clarrobowlo.com.au

Socials - FB: Clarence Town Bowling Club

IG- @clarencetownbowlingclub_



TUESDAY - Euchre 6:30pm
Bingo! 6:30pm start, \$12 for 20 games & 2 jackpot sheets

THURSDAY - Bingo 11:30am start, \$12 for 20 games & 2 jackpot sheets

FRIDAY - Meat & Voucher Raffles, Members Draw & Live Music
(tickets on sale at 6pm and drawn at 7pm)

SATURDAY - Meat Raffles
(tickets on sale at 2pm & drawn at 4pm)

LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH - Meat & Voucher Raffles + Members Draw
(tickets on sale at 5pm and drawn at 6pm)

HAPPY HOUR - Wednesday & Thursday 4-6pm & Saturday 2-4pm

OPENING HOURS:
Monday - From 2pm
Tuesday-Sunday - From 11am



Maria's Kitchen Opening Hours:
Lunch: 12:00-2:00 Thursday- Sunday
Dinner: 5:30-8:00 Tuesday- Sunday

Courtesy Bus runs Every Friday & Saturday from 5pm! \$5 per person return trip, call the club and follow the prompts to book a ride!

COST OF LIVING ASSISTANCE

The NSW Government has programs to assist with cost of living expenses.

Call Service NSW on 13 77 88 or visit your local Service Centre.

Check the Savings Finder:

www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder



Dave Layzell MP
MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER



Authorised by Dave Layzell MP,
20 Bridge Street,
Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

Clarence Town First Responders (CFR)

Be the Help Until Help Arrives

Whilst spring is in the air, Frosty is hanging around as long as he can, with temperatures still staying quite cool — a perfect recipe for lingering flu viruses.

On top of that, hay fever and seasonal allergies are flaring up for many. So, take care of yourself during this change of seasons: rest well, stay hydrated, and avoid close contact with anyone showing signs of illness.

Our CFR team has remained active and committed, continuing to respond to calls for emergency medical assistance across the region. We're always looking for more community-minded people to join us.

If you've ever thought about learning valuable first response skills — and using them to help others when it really matters — now's a great time to get involved. Full training and support are provided, and the impact you can make is truly meaningful. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more about joining our amazing team. We'd love to hear from you!

You can call Brad (CFR) on 0417 651 577 or Shaun (RFB Captain) on 0429 540 422.



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Clarence Town Tennis Club

Over 100 Join Trivia Night Fundraiser



Wow... what a great night! The tennis club held its annual fundraising trivia night on 16 August –probably our biggest and best yet.

Over 100 people came along to enjoy trivia, raffles, games, and activities, making it a fantastic evening. We really appreciate the support from our wonderful community.

Funds raised will go toward both small and large upgrades to the courts and surrounds – improvements that will benefit all players.

Our Spring social night competition is starting soon, so if you're interested, please get in touch. New faces always welcome!

To make a court hire booking or for more info contact Brad (0417 651 577). Follow us on facebook or visit our webpage play.tennis.com.au/clarencetownanddistricttennisclub



Image: Quiz Master Brad Elroy in fine form.



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NEED A VENUE FOR A PARTY, WEDDING OR FUNCTION ?

Why not hire the Hall?

The Clarence Town School of Arts Hall in Grey Street has everything right in the heart of town.

If you want to have your function at home, why not hire tables, chairs and anything else we can help you with.

Phone: Robyn Barco 0412 673 386

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Dungog Shire Housing and Infrastructure Master Plan

Dungog Shire is at a real turning point. Our towns and villages are growing, new opportunities are on the horizon, and more people than ever are discovering the amazing lifestyle we enjoy here.

To help guide this exciting period of change, Council is developing a long-term strategy to ensure our growth is well-planned, sustainable, and true to the rural charm that makes our shire so special.

Council obtained a \$1,895,000 grant under the Commonwealth Housing Support Program to develop the Dungog Shire Housing and Infrastructure Master Plan in order to meet Commonwealth guidelines for housing diversity (rural and village living), tourism, community infrastructure, rural lands and agricultural activities, biodiversity and rural character.

We have commenced a comprehensive planning process, which includes the delivery of:

- A Rural Lands Strategy
- A Local Housing Strategy
- An Infrastructure Capacity and Prioritization Plan
- A Dungog Strategic Centre Structure Plan
- A Growth Management Strategy in the form of an updated Local Strategic Planning Statement
- An Executive Summary and Delivery Plan

This will also address the requirements of the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 and state planning dwelling targets.

Extensive community consultation will take place as each plan or strategy is developed and an online Spatial Viewer tool will be available for community members to understand how any proposed changes to planning controls could affect them before submitting comment.

While these documents will set a strategic planning framework (as with the Clarence Town Structure Plan), they do not change planning controls or zoning. Their purpose is to support preparation of a new Local Environmental Plan and Development Contribution Plan.

To find out more visit Council's website and subscribe for updates. <https://www.dungog.nsw.gov.au/Projects-Works/Other-works/Housing-and-Infrastructure-Master-Plan>

New Clarence Town Bridge

Council's website has a comprehensive suite of information about this project. Visit: www.dungog.nsw.gov.au/Projects-Works/Major-works/New-Clarence-Town-Bridge

Your local B Ward Councillors:

James Campbell 0484 599 709

james.campbell@dungog.nsw.gov.au

Steve Low 4996 4022 steve.low49@gmail.com





DUNGOG HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN

Community Focus Groups

Help shape the future of Dungog Shire!

Dungog Shire is growing, and Council wants to make sure we do it right.

We are creating a long-term Housing and Infrastructure Master Plan that will help guide our growth and protect the things we love about our towns and villages while planning for the homes, rural industries, roads, and services our communities need.

One of the best ways to get involved is by joining a community focus group. These interactive workshop sessions are your opportunity to reflect on what makes your area great, share local knowledge, and talk about the challenges and changes you are seeing. Whether it's housing, infrastructure, transport, or rural lands, your insights will help shape a plan that reflects our local needs and priorities.

Register your interest to join us at one of the sessions below by visiting our website: dungog.nsw.gov.au/HIMP



DUNGOG

Thursday 4 September
4.30pm - 6.30pm
Doug Walters Pavilion

VACY

Saturday 6 September
10.30am - 12.30pm
Vacy School of Arts Hall

PATERSON

Saturday 6 September
3pm - 5pm
Paterson School of Arts Hall

CLARENCE TOWN

Sunday 14 September
8.30am - 10.30am
Clarence Town School of Arts Hall

dungog.nsw.gov.au



ALISON PENFOLD MP
FEDERAL MEMBER for *Lyne*

Thank You

I'm honoured to represent
Clarence Town and the
Lyne electorate

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✉ alison.penfold.mp@aph.gov.au
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New South Wales Rural Fire Service

Prepare Your Home NOW For the Fire Season

Wait until the fire is on top of you and you may die

In case of big fires there will not be enough trucks and Fire Fighters to protect everyone so you need to learn how to look after yourself for a period of time until help arrives.

Look at your local town... How many properties? What is the population? How many **ACTIVE** Fire fighters - mid week, maybe 4 or 5 if you're lucky? How many trucks - maybe 1 or 2?

What are the chances of a Big Red Fire Truck turning up at your place when the big one hits...Very slim!

Remember that all Fire Fighters in the RFS are Volunteers and may be out of town at work during the week when the big one hits so the odds drop dramatically of help arriving quickly if everyone is under threat so please prepare yourself and your property. It is your responsibility to prepare your property by removing as much fuel as possible. Fuel is anything that will burn e.g. piles leaves, branches etc.

Here are a few things you need to start now.

PREPARE : You must make important decisions

before the fire season starts.

You are at risk from bush fires if you live or work near bushland, grassland, scrub, or farmland. A fire can be terrifying, with strong winds, intense heat and flames, and thick smoke. Don't make rushed and dangerous decisions.

Prepare your **Bush Fire Survival Plan.**

- Relocate aged, young and sick family members early from areas likely to be impacted by fires.
- Leaving early is the safest option. Where will you go?
- Your well-prepared home will increase the safety of fire fighters and is more likely to survive even if you leave early.
- Make sure you have an Asset Protection Zone which is a cleared area around your structures, to give the Fire Fighters a safer place to fight the fire from.
- Get rid of leaves and branches, move wood piles away from the house or any other structure, prepare your emergency kits and tools you will need to fight a fire.
- In case of fire will you leave or will you stay and defend, if staying, who will stay, where will you go if you are leaving early, lots of decisions to make to keep your family safe.

Your Bush Fire Survival Plan, Fire Danger Ratings, Bush Fire Alerts and Neighbourhood Safer Places can be found at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE.

Stay safe until next time, Di Bennett OAM

Lower Hunter Zone Community Engagement Team



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The Dungog District Chamber of Commerce

'Dungog Shire Welcome Pack' for New and Potential Residents

The Chamber is pleased to be working with the Dungog Shire Visitors Centre to produce a comprehensive 'Welcome Pack for New or Potential Residents and Investors'. This pack will include a range of print information and QR codes that direct readers to more information on Visit Dungog www.visitdungog.com.au and Dungog District Chamber of Commerce www.ddcc.org.au websites.

To make this pack as useful as possible, we are compiling a database of all community, sporting, social, special interest, and other not-for-profit groups across the Shire.

We believe that having all this information in one place will be particularly helpful for new or potential residents, as well as those who have lived here for a while. It will make it easy for them to reach out to a club or organization they wish to be involved with.

We kindly request you to complete the form linked below to provide details of your organisation:

<https://form.jotform.com/251821447358057>

Would be great to have Clarence Town well represented on this database.

Red and Black Networking Dinner

We are very excited to announce the Red and Black Networking Dinner Meeting Thursday evening September 18th Royal Hotel Dungog. This dinner is being generously sponsored by The Mutual Bank.

The Mutual Bank wants to thank the business and community members of Dungog Shire for their incredible support through their local branch. It's also a fantastic opportunity for us to learn more about The Mutual Bank, with the CEO, Mark Williams, and staff members in attendance. Enjoy a complimentary two-course dinner! Tickets are limited, so make sure to secure your spot for this special evening.

www.trybooking.com/DEOJQ

Dungog District Chamber of Commerce endeavours to represent and support business and community across the Dungog Shire. If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of our organisation and its benefits, please contact secretary@ddcc.org.au or visit www.ddcc.org.au



Director Positions Available

Help Shape Tourism in the Dungog Region

Dungog Regional Tourism Inc. is seeking passionate individuals to join our skills-based board of seven directors dedicated to growing tourism throughout the Dungog region.

We seek directors who are:

- Knowledgeable and passionate about tourism opportunities and challenges
- Skilled in one or more of the following areas:
 - Business development
 - Marketing and promotion
 - Corporate governance
 - Financial management
 - Strategic planning
- Committed to the Dungog Region with demonstrated local interest and involvement

The role and commitment:

- Voluntary positions with meaningful impact on regional tourism development
- Minimum 11 meetings per year plus additional commitments as required
- Directors will be selected by an appointed selection committee and formally appointed at a members' meeting
- Appointments are for 3 years

For complete details about the organisation and application process, visit our website at www.drt.org.au. Any queries and applications submit to info@drt.org.au.

Join us in promoting and developing tourism opportunities that showcase the best of the Dungog region.

Applications close at cob on Friday 26 September 2025

YouTube's New Monetization Rules

Effective from July 15, 2025 YouTube will only pay for original content in an effort to encourage higher quality content and to reduce all the AI generated videos.

This will also include all the reaction videos, that just replay other people's content and limiting the earnings of channels that publish mass-produced, repetitive, or low-effort videos. You tube will not take down or ban the videos, but won't pay money or encourage them.

YouTube has outlined two specific rules that explain the kind of content the platform considers unfit for monetisation:

First, content borrowed from other sources must be significantly altered to be considered original.

Second, repetitive content must serve a purpose beyond gaining views. It must be either entertaining or educational.

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MyGov Scams Out of Control

myGov-related scams are now so widespread in Australia that Service NSW has reported a surge in people needing help to reclaim their identity.

These scams usually arrive via email or text message, with messages like:

- "You have an unclaimed reward"
- "You're owed a tax refund"
- "You have an unread myGov message"
- "Your emails will stop working unless you confirm your details"

Each one contains a link to a fake website that tricks you into entering your personal information. A common example is a scam email disguised as Telstra, warning that your terms are changing and your email will stop working unless you "confirm" your details. Once you enter your login, the scammers gain access to your Telstra account. They then request a new SIM card, which gives them control of your phone number. With that, they can bypass two-factor authentication and reset passwords for all services.

Why target myGov? Because once inside, scammers can access your medical, driving, and tax records – everything they need to steal your identity and apply for loans or services in your name.

The End of Support for Windows 10

Just a reminder windows 10 support finishes October 14 2025. After this date no more security updates and by January 2026 a lot of programs will not run on windows 10. If your computer is 4 years old or younger it should be possible to upgrade to windows 11. Paying Microsoft to continue support for windows 10 will not make these programs work. If you have not seen us about updating, do it soon.

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From the Parson's Pen

The new season approaches. There seems to be change in the wind. Have you heard people saying that lately. I know I have.

The exact change is difficult to put your finger on though. Perspectives are still divided, opinions are like bottoms (everyone has one) societies are fracturing, protests and counter protests. An article I read recently was commenting on how young people today (those under 21 say) have only lived in a world where there is warfare, extreme acts of terrorism, a financial crisis, little prospect of home ownership and a health pandemic. They have never known a world without social media, and all the benefits and dangers that it presents.

But even so, it seems people are searching, and that is normally a good thing, especially when it involves the truth. Ah I hear you say – 'what is truth?' Without going all Pontius Pilate on you, it's a valid question. What is it, where does one find it and when you do, what pray tell are we to do with it?

There're murmurings in that wind that a certain cohort of people (particularly overseas, but also in Oz) are seeking after God more than at any time in recent history (and the God of the Bible no less!) It's only a dribble of information at the moment, but it seems Christianity is being recognised as counter cultural again in a big way, and so is gathering support from the latest generation of hipsters who love all things radical. And from the very age group mentioned above it seems. And why shouldn't it appeal to the latest generation? Christ came to offer salvation to all, including the poor and marginalised and so I suspect that's exactly how they feel.

And when we talk about all things radical, it has to be said Christianity really is the most radical of all. Why? Well let's face it, how on earth did a tiny sect of Judaism, from a Middle Eastern backwater, with only 12 original followers (a very motley crew at that), end up being the official recognised religion of the Roman Empire, and spreading to every corner of the known world. Pretty radical right? Well, that's not all, because what makes it so radical, is that it is so very different to every other world religion too. All (and I mean all) other religions have a version (doctrine) that tells the story of a prophet/leader/head-honcho who has come to show others the way to God/enlightenment/nirvana. Christianity, is the only (and I mean only) religion in the world that says: I am God, come to find YOU.

Jesus Christ the Trinitarian Son, came and lived among humans not just to be a good moral teacher (even though he was – check out that awesomeness in Matthew chapter 5 for starters), nor just to fulfil the Law of the Old Testament (though he did), but also to save humanity from their sins (the bad stuff we do), for an eternal paradise to come in a new

heaven and a new earth, where there is no crises, no suffering and certainly no death. Many religions claim to be right, but only in Christianity does its founder claim to be the way, the truth and the life, with a salvation wrought by the death and resurrection of God who became man. In fact, they were Jesus's own words found in John 14:6. Radical, radical words.

So seeking the truth, seems like a worthy thing to search for, especially when things are looking a bit grim as they have been, especially over the last 20 or so years. Jesus doesn't claim to just have the truth, but the be the truth. Interesting concept? You bet. What's better, it's true!

Jesus came to save sinners just like you and me, by being the conduit for everyone who believes in him. In this way he brings all into a relationship with him that lasts for eternity. To every punter in Claro, why not dust off that old Bible and rediscover (or discover for the first time) the wonder of what the Truth is, who the Truth is, where He is to be found, how to begin your new life in him and what wonders come next in His awesome plan for you! (If you haven't got a Bible, drop around to the church and I'll give you one. And just like Jesus's gift of salvation – it's free!)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

*Rev Allan D Welch, Clarence Town Presbyterian Church
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AUSTRALIA
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Christ Church, Dungog

Dowling Street, Dungog

Service Times: Every Friday 10.30am, Sunday 8.30am

Sunday night service: 4th Sunday of every month at 5pm

We have Fr. Neville to look after us now till we go through the process to hopefully get a new Priest. We have met with Bishop Sonia to start this process.

Our services will continue the same. Friday 10.30am, Sunday 8.30am and for Dungog Sunday Nite on the 4th Sunday at 5 pm and St Peters' in the Paddock on the 1st Sunday at 5 pm when the weather will let it happen!!

We are still holding our monthly Markets on the first Saturday of each month. It has been too wet to hold them outdoors, but we still have as many stalls as we can fit in the hall on that day with a place to sit and chat. A lovely lot of cooking and tasty delights, including our BBQ, which is also cooked in the hall now, so do come along.

The Op Shop and Cuppa 'n Chat continue with lots of conversations at both.

Although not a Church activity many of us at the Church are involved with the Dungog Tea Party at the James Theatre. Entries of Tea Cosy's and Trivets are due in at the Visitor

Centre by 24th August and the Event will be on from the 10th to 14th September and will be open each day from 10 am to 4 pm. Entry is free so come and have a look.

Blessings Margaret Flannery

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

41 Rifle St, Clarence Town

Pastor: Rev Andrew Doohan

Service Times: Every Sunday 8am

Heavens above!! It is still raining. In my 36 years in this area, I cannot recall a wetter period. Great for making big potholes in the road.

Father Andrew has returned from two weeks holiday and we sincerely thank Father Greg Arnold for taking his place while he was away. We hope to see Father Greg again in November.

Our last morning tea was a non-event because of the rain. The Feast of Our Lady's Assumption was celebrated on 15th August and we said Mass at Clarence Town.

We always remember our fellow parishioners who cannot make it to Mass because of health problems and look forward to seeing them back in the congregation very soon.

In Jesus name, Marilyn Amos

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St. John's Anglican Church

36 Grey St, Clarence Town
Pastor: Rev Neville Schofield

Service Times: Every Sunday, Holy Communion at 10.30am, followed by morning tea.

We had a lovely farewell for Rev'd Kim at our service on 20th July with a lunch together in the hall following the service. Our organist, Judy, quilted a beautiful wall hanging of a Cross and a Dove, all backed with material which had the names of dozens and dozens of Hymns.

Sal also gave Rev'd Kim a framed picture of our lovely stained glass window of The Good Samaritan. If you haven't seen this window, it is best viewed from inside in the daytime, with the light against it. Do come along and see it. It is magnificent. It was a gift from the family of Stephen Thwaites and Mary Ann Robards, who were parishioners of this church at the time it was built. and is in memory of them.

On the following Sunday, we had a combined service at Christ Church, Dungog, which was the Parish's final farewell for Rev'd. Kim. Lovely speeches and more beautiful gifts, including an amazing painting of Rev'd Kim with the 3 churches in our Parish which was done by Karen. Absolutely amazing. Sad to Kim go and we wish her well for her future ministry.

We now welcome the Rev'd Neville Schofield will be looking after us until a new Rector is appointed. Rev'd Neville lives in our Parish, and has agreed to be our 'Locum' in the meantime.

Our Op Shop car park has now been extended and graveled which will hopefully, prevent bogging, and speaking of our Op Shop, we will be celebrating 25 years in October. See Gillian's report in this edition of the Sentinel.

I notice that the Glen William Cemetery sign has not yet been returned to its post If you have seen it anywhere, please encourage whoever has it, to return it. Thank you.

Sue Flannery

Clarence Town Presbyterian Church

29 Marshall Street, Clarence Town (Opposite the School).
Pastor: Rev Allan D. Welch

Service Times: 10am Gathered Worship every Sunday, with morning tea provided.

From the pulpit we are well underway with a new series on the book of Romans – 'a righteousness from God that comes by faith.' It's an awesome ride!

In other news, the men of CTPC will be travelling to Grace EV Glendale for their annual Recharge conference, on Sat 13 Sep, 7.30am hot brekky start. All welcome, tickets at <https://www.hgm.org.au/recharge> (Contact Allan on number below if you need a lift.)

All ladies are invited to a beaded necklace and keyring making day on Sat 30th August, contact Leanne for details 0428 549 792. Sue Warner from Tea Gardens Anglican will be giving a talk on being 'fearfully and wonderfully made' in the image of God.

We have finally broken the ground to commence our new Church building! Exciting times ahead.

Mainly Music (every Wed), SRE (Scripture) at Clarence Town Public School (every Wed) Dungog Public School (every 2nd Wed) and Growth Groups (Mon and Tue evenings) are all back in the swing.

"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

*"Thank God for dirty dishes
they have a tale to tell,
while others may go hungry
we've eaten very well.
With love, and health, and happiness,
we shouldn't want to fuss,
for by the stack of evidence
Gods been very good to us"
From St. Andrew's Seaham, recipe book.*



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Clarence Town Primary Public School

Celebrating Public Education

It has been a busy but exciting start to Term 3, celebrating Public Education Week 4-8 August. This year's theme was 'Ignite Your Potential' and it was a wonderful opportunity for Clarence Town Public School to showcase the engaging learning experiences happening every day.

A special assembly was held where staff, students and families came together to acknowledge student achievement, followed by open classrooms to share student learning experiences.

Education week was also the perfect time to reflect on how we can all help to ignite children's potential by;

- **Encouraging Curiosity:** Ask your children about their day, what they learned, and what they're excited about. Show interest in their hobbies and passions.
- **Setting a Positive Example:** Let your children see you pursuing your interests and continuing to learn new things. This can inspire them to do the same!
- **Celebrating Efforts:** Recognise and celebrate your child's efforts, not just their achievements. Encouragement can boost their confidence and motivate them to keep trying.
- **Creating a Supportive Environment:** Make sure your home is a place where it's safe to take risks and try new things. Let them know it's okay to make mistakes as they learn.

- **Reading Together:** Share stories and books with your children. Reading opens up new worlds and ideas, sparking their imagination.

The special week culminated in a combined Dungog Community of Schools event, recognising the contributions of staff, students, teachers and community members that support our public schools.

Congratulations to our award recipients:

Student award: Matilda B

Teacher award: Mrs Russell

Non-teaching staff award: Mrs Jones

Community member award: Sacha Anderson

School program award: Peer Support

Tawny Voice Student Council

This term we also launched our new Tawny Voice student council. Tawny Voice is designed to empower students to voice their ideas, opinions and aspirations. Representatives from each class have been selected, along with the school leaders and sporting house captains to formally engage in meaningful discussions and initiatives that impact our school, representing students' interests and needs in various ways. Tawny Voice members take action to bring about positive changes that will benefit the students and the whole school community.

Congratulations to all our Tawny Voice student representatives!

Kim Smith, Principal

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Glen William Primary Public School

A Term Full of Success, Spirit and Celebration

It's been a big and exciting Term 3 at Glen William Public School, with students, staff and the wider community achieving incredible milestones and celebrating all that makes this small school shine.

Students have been recognised and rewarded for their outstanding attendance efforts, with a large number of students attending school more than 90% of the time this year. To celebrate, the school organised a much-anticipated excursion to Gravity X – a fun-filled day of trampolining and laughter that reinforced the importance of being at school every day.

In preparation for Education Week, students and staff have been hard at work refining their performance for the upcoming Education Week Awards. The excitement around the performance is growing, and the school community is eagerly awaiting the chance to showcase their talents and teamwork.

A huge congratulations goes to the Glen William Education Week Award recipients:

Student Award: Kyron – for his consistent effort and enthusiasm across all areas of school life.

Non-Teaching Staff Member Award: Darren Wheway – recognised for his tireless work behind the scenes to support our school every day.

Community Member Award: Kylie Clarke – honoured for her incredible dedication to the school's 175th anniversary celebrations and the creation of a historical film documenting the rich history of Glen William.

Teacher Award: Mrs Bultitude – for her leadership and passion, particularly in implementing the successful SpellEx program, which is having a positive impact on student literacy outcomes.

The term has also been packed with major events, including **Science Week** and the highly anticipated **Small Schools Athletics Carnival**. Glen William students gave it their all, taking out **Overall School Champions for the day** – an amazing achievement! A special mention goes to **Desmond, who was named Age Champion for the 11 Years Boys**.

Looking ahead, Glen William will proudly send 10 students to the **Port Stephens Zone Athletics Carnival** on August 22. We wish all competitors the best of luck – you're representing our school with pride!

Meanwhile, Year 6 students have taken the lead on fundraising activities, with the next event being a **fun-filled Pyjama Day**. The whole school is getting behind the initiative to support their peers as they prepare for the next step in their learning journey.

Enrolments are now open for Kindergarten 2026, as well as for Years 1 to 6. Glen William Public School welcomes new families to become part of its thriving community. For more information, please contact the school office on (02) 4996 5507 or submit an enrolment form via the school website.

It's clear that Glen William is more than just a school – it's a connected, caring, and thriving community where every student is celebrated and supported to succeed. We are taking Enrolments for 2025 & 2026. Please contact the school office for an information pack or visit the school website to complete an enrolment.

Glen William Public School

Phone: 4996 5507

E-mail: glenwillia-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.glenwillia-p.schools.nsw.gov.au



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School of Arts Hall: Robyn Barco	0412 673 386

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