

# THE SENTINEL

MARCH / APRIL 2026  
CIRCULATION 1400



CLARENCE TOWN • GLEN OAK • GLEN MARTIN • GLEN WILLIAM • LIMEBURNERS CREEK • WALLAROBBA • BROOKFIELD

## Our War On Waste - Let's Talk Trash

It's not the most glamorous front-page topic, but when you look at the numbers, it's certainly the heaviest.

Last year, our Shire delivered 9,600 tonnes of waste to the landfill. To put that in perspective, 9,600 tonnes is roughly equivalent to 1.3 Eiffel Towers. That is a massive amount of "stuff" sitting in our local backyard.

Why does this matter to your wallet? Aside from the environmental impact, there is a literal cost to our "throwaway" culture. Last year alone, we paid the NSW Government a staggering **\$504,694 in waste levies**. That is over half a million dollars leaving our community just for the privilege of putting things in the ground. Because our waste operations are cost-neutral—meaning the

Council doesn't make a profit—those costs are shared directly by us, the ratepayers.

It's not all doom and gloom! We successfully diverted 820 tonnes from landfill last year through scrap metal and e-waste recycling. Plus, there are two big changes on the horizon to make our lives easier:

**FOGO is coming: By 2027, a third bin for food and garden waste will arrive, potentially extending our landfill's life by 8 years.**

The "Lid" Legend: You can finally stop agonising over plastic bottle tops! You can now leave them on the bottle when you toss them in the yellow bin. The facility at Tuncurry has some clever new tech that flattens, flakes, and separates them automatically.

*As you read through Councillor Steve Low's report on page 13, keep that half-million-dollar levy in mind. Every bit of recycling we get right is money that stays in the Shire rather than going to the state government. THINK new roads! - Cathy Schneider*

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

### Rainfall Report\* (mls)

2026

Jan 99.6

2025

Dec 67.6

Nov 21.2

Oct 23.8

Sept 47

Aug 118.4

July 71

June 22.6

May 406.6

April 205.6

\* Source: BOM, Clarence Town Rainfall Station 061010

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### BOTTLE LIDS



Leave plastic lids ATTACHED to your bottles.

### BLISTER PACKS



Can't be recycled UNLESS taken to specialist pharmacy recycler

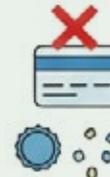


### SOFT PLASTICS



(ie. Bread bags & choc wrappers) Can't be recycled.

### SMALL ITEMS



Plastics smaller than a credit card (like loose lids) Can't be recycled

# Clarence Town HOME Hardware

# Let's grow!

## Growing season is upon us!

### Feed, mulch & have fun!



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# What's On

Welcome to the heart of Clarence Town!  
Discover local happenings, events and opportunities. To list your local event for free, email [thesentinel2321@gmail.com](mailto:thesentinel2321@gmail.com)

## MARCH

**05 THURSDAY**  
6.30pm: **Clarence Town Progress Association** meeting. NEW VENUE: CT Senior Citizens Centre.

**20 FRIDAY**  
2pm: **Kimberley Rock Art, A Decade with June Ross** at the James Theatre Dungog. *Hosted by the Country Women.* \$10 at door, no booking needed. More info: [facebook.com/CWADungogClarencetown](https://facebook.com/CWADungogClarencetown)

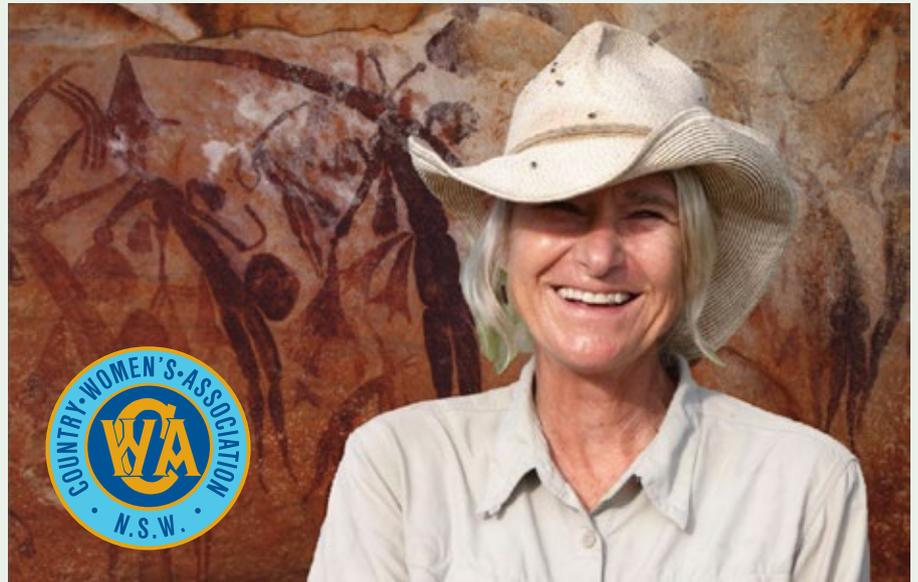
**26 THURSDAY**  
**Dungog District Chamber of Commerce's Networking Dinner.** See their website or FB site.

**28 SATURDAY**  
8am-12pm: **Clarence Town Markets**, at Clarence Town Bowling Club. *Hosted by the Lion's.*



**A massive thank you to the local businesses who advertise with us, funding The Sentinel. Please support them – without their help, we wouldn't be here!**

*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.*



## APRIL

**02 THURSDAY**  
6.30pm: **Clarence Town Progress Association** meeting. NEW VENUE: CT Senior Citizens Centre.

**03 GOOD FRIDAY**  
**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

**05 EASTER SUNDAY**

**06 EASTER MONDAY**  
**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

**07 TUESDAY**  
**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS START** for public schools

**11 SATURDAY**  
8am-12pm: **Lion's Club Car Boot SALE** at Clarence Town Bowling Club.

**17 FRIDAY**  
**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FINISH** for public schools



**25 SATURDAY**  
5:30am sharp: **Clarence Town ANZAC DAY Dawn Service.** March departs Bowling Club to the Cenotaph on the cnr. of Grey and Queen Streets. All welcome. Join us for Maria's Kitchen breakfast, Bowls and Two-Up at the Club following the service. *For more see ad pg 5.*

**27 MONDAY**  
**ANZAC DAY**  
**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**



*Clarence Town Community Builders*

# A Blueprint for Clarence Town

Behind the scenes, the Community Builders Task Team worked hard to refine and finalise the Community Development Action Plan!

In January, it was issued to Rural Aid for design and printing of 200 copies. Soon we will have these beautiful community documents in our hands! Stay tuned for our official launch party to celebrate this journey.

Through extensive engagement, we have harnessed our community, ensuring this plan reflects the aspirations of those who live, work and play in Clarence Town. From our March 2025 workshop to 'Big Idea' cards and surveys, your input has formed the plan outlining our vision, challenges, and actions.

Reaching this milestone makes us eligible for \$10,000 in seed funding from Rural Aid! For success, we rely on the collaboration of individuals and organisations. The launch workshop will allow groups to take ownership of initiatives – including river festivals, art installations, village beautification, and playground upgrades. *With many hands joined in purpose, we make exciting things happen!* Contact us at [ctowncommunitybuilders@hotmail.com](mailto:ctowncommunitybuilders@hotmail.com)

*Kind regards, Sacha Anderson & Trudy Balstad*

*Clarence Town Community of Gardens Initiative*

# Sow, Grow, and Gather Together

Did you know that Clarence Town has its own community garden?

Did you know Clarence Town has its own community garden? Established in October 2024, our garden is nestled between the Tennis Courts and the Senior Citizens Building. It is open to anyone in the community to plant, harvest, and weed in true collaborative style. Born from Rural Aid's 'Community Builders' program, the project was initiated by Michael and Sacha Anderson, Trudy Balstad, and others, with generous support from the Seniors group.

To date, we've hosted sunny planting days, community working bees, pick-your-own flowers, and even 'microbial magic' for Youth Week! By the time this goes to print, a summer working bee will have applied a thick layer of forest mulch to improve topsoil and make future weeding easier.

Our major upcoming project is installing a rainwater tank to collect water from the Seniors building, making watering more efficient. This upgrade is possible thanks to a successful Hunter Water 'Love Water' grant!

**Our garden is open 24/7—please feel welcome to contribute or just call in the next time you are at the monthly markets. To join our mailing list, email [ct.communityofgardens@gmail.com](mailto:ct.communityofgardens@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook: Clarence Town Community of Gardens.**



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Clarence Town Lions Club Report

# From the Lion's Den



The Clarence Town Lions Club Markets are held on the last Saturday of each month at the Clarence Town Bowling Club from 8am to 12pm. Our markets are a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together – whether you're looking to browse local stalls, enjoy a chat with friends, support small businesses, or set up a stall of your own.

We are always welcoming new stallholders, community groups and local creatives. Thinking about having a stall? Now is the perfect time to join us. The markets are friendly, relaxed and a great way to connect with others while supporting a good cause. Please note that there will be no market in April this year, as it falls on Anzac Day. Importantly, all funds raised from the markets go straight back into our community.

For over 10 years, Clarence Town Lions have been planting crepe myrtle trees throughout the township. Completed in three stages – and continuing again this year – these trees have become a much-loved feature of Clarence Town. They are absolutely stunning at the moment in full bloom.

Beyond the markets, Clarence Town Lions quietly support a wide range of local and national initiatives. From sponsorship of local schools and support for community groups, to assistance during times of hardship, Lions are committed to strengthening our town. The Club contributes to disaster relief efforts including flood and fire relief, and supports programs such as Lions Hearing Dogs and childhood cancer initiatives.

Lions also play an active role in community events including Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Christmas Carols at The Museum, and community BBQs. Whether it's helping at events, planting trees, weeding the community garden, raising funds, or simply volunteering time, Lions are dedicated to giving back and helping ensure Clarence Town remains a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

Looking ahead, Lions are planning a Barefoot Bowls Day (Friday 27th March), The Biggest Morning Tea on Friday 22nd May and are also exploring a possible event for International Men's Day in November.

**When you support the Clarence Town Lions Markets, whether by attending, having a stall, or volunteering – you are helping make all of this possible.**

*Lions Club meetings are held monthly at Clarence Town Bowling Club on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.00pm.*

**Contact: Trudy Balstad – 0409 645 469.**

**Follow us on Facebook: @Clarence Town Lions Club**

**CLARENCE TOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Open the 2nd Sat of each month, 10am till lunch or by appointment

115 Prince St, Clarence Town  
0491 346 491

**ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE CLARENCE TOWN**

25/04/26, 5.30am sharp  
March leaves from the Bowling Club, Prince Street.  
**ALL WELCOME**

*You are invited to attend the Clarence Town Dawn Service on ANZAC Morning. Please help us pay our respects to our Diggers. LEST WE FORGET.  
\* Service wet weather venue: Bowling Club*

**For more information contact  
Di Bennett OAM 0428 964 398**

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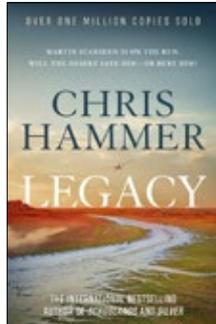
Book Recommendations

# 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!

**Legacy by Chris Hammer**  
**Published September 2025**  
 – Reviewed by Anne Higgins

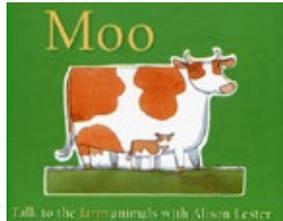
Chris Hammer has once again written an edge of your seat and thrilling read. A master of Australian crime fiction whose books are full of twists. Martin Scarsden appears again as a journalist in this 8th book of the series. This story is set in a remote, arid and isolated area.



Martin is on the run. Two families who have been feuding for generations enter the plot along with links to early Australian explorers and the desolate nature of the setting where surprising events take place. Well drawn locals emerge; the pub and motel come alive. Will Martin survive all the threats?

**“Moo” by Alison Lester**  
 – Reviewed By Anne Fisher

What sounds do farm animals make? “Moo” is part of a delightful series “Talk to the Animals” written and illustrated by Australian, Alison Lester. It is ideal for babies and toddlers learning about farm animals and language. They will respond to the rhyming text and the bright, colourful images as they are introduced to a variety of animals. “I see a big brown horse chewing on his hay. What do you say, big brown horse? Neigh, neigh, neigh”. This is an engaging, interactive book which focuses on the animal sounds and encourages the child to respond and repeat.



**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.**

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## Expressions of Interest MID WEEK TENNIS

Anyone interested in playing Mid-week tennis,  
which will begin in Term 2 (if enough interest)

Could you please contact Kathryn Flannery with your  
preferred day 0477 940 165.



## YOGA

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For more details contact:  
Owen Giggins 0409 603 995



Clarence Town Tennis Club

# Drop the Kids, Grab a Racket



What a great summer of tennis in Australia and what a great use of our Courts over summer.

Plenty of social tennis was being played. Our courts are looking good and the weather is still great to get out and have a hit with friends and family.

The Summer Social Night Comp is up and running with 5 teams. Tremendous to have so many people playing with a few new players as well. Kids Hotshots has returned to Saturday mornings and we are seeing some nice numbers there and having some fun with the big and little kids.

The tennis club is always keen to get as much use out of the courts as possible. We would like to see a mid-week social tennis get together happening. This is ideal for mums and dads looking to catch up after the school drop-off for an hour or two of exercise and social interaction at the club. We have no set day in mind but are open to suggestions. If you would be interested in this please call Kathryn on 0477 940 165.

*For general court hire please call or text Gai 0419 600 219 or Brad 0417 651 577.*

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## Clarence Town Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club

Ph- (02) 49964222  
Email - [admin@clarrobowl.com.au](mailto:admin@clarrobowl.com.au)

Socials - FB: Clarence Town Bowling Club  
IG- @clarencetownbowlingclub\_



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

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

**WEDNESDAY**- Happy Hour 4-6pm

**THURSDAY**- Bingo 11:30am start, \$12 for 20 games & 2 jackpot sheets  
Happy Hour - 4-6pm

**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)  
Happy Hour- 2-4pm

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

**OPENING HOURS:**  
Monday-Sunday - From 11am

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



**COURTESY BUS RUNS EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY FROM 5PM! DONATIONS APPRECIATED, CALL THE CLUB AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS TO BOOK A RIDE!**

New South Wales Rural Fire Service

# AIDER Program

Assistance for Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents : **A one-off free service to reduce bush fire hazards.**

Do you know any Aged or disabled people in the community you may be concerned for because of the overgrown growth around their home? If yes, then read on.

## AIDER SERVICES MAY INCLUDE

Thinning vegetation. Removing leaves, sticks and fallen branches. Trimming branches from around and overhanging the home. Mowing or slashing long grass. Cleaning gutters.

## What is AIDER?

AIDER is a once off FREE service, supporting residents to live safely and confidently in areas where bush fires may start. The property must be bush fire prone, meaning an area of land that can support a bush fire or is likely to be subject of bush fire.

## Who is eligible?

Aged residents and residents with disabling conditions who have limited domestic support from family, relatives, friends or other services.

## Are you prepared for a bush fire?

Aged and disabled people in the community may be at higher risk during a bush fire. The NSW Rural Fire Service recommends that you have a Bush Fire Survival Plan. An assessment of your property will be completed by NSW Rural

Fire Service staff.

Advice will be given about completing your Bush Fire Survival Plan. All works are completed by Rural Fire Service teams. This is a Team within the RFS - NOT YOUR LOCAL Brigade.

**Email: [aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au) or Call: (02) 8741 4955 to request an assessment of your property.**

Your Bush Fire Survival Plan, Fire Danger Ratings, Bush Fire Alerts and Neighbourhood Safer Places can be found at **[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**

Members of the public can now use their mobile phone or desktop computer to lodge their notifications about planned hazard reductions or burn offs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify)**. It is preferred that you do it online. Scan the QR Code for easy access.



PLEASE SCAN HERE TO NOTIFY

You cannot light a fire without a permit. Permit season ends on the 31st of March but this could be extended. **It is an offence to do so and penalties apply.** In and out of Fire season you must notify the RFS and your Neighbours 24 hours before lighting your fire.

Also keep in mind that Dungog Council has a Clean Air Policy so you might want to look that up: **[www.dungog.nsw.gov.au/live/open-burning-dungog-shire-council-area](http://www.dungog.nsw.gov.au/live/open-burning-dungog-shire-council-area)**

**PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE.**

*Stay safe until next time, Di Bennett OAM  
Lower Hunter Zone Community Engagement Team  
New South Wales Rural Fire Service*



# Dave Layzell MP

## MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER

## HOW I CAN HELP YOU

**Upper Hunter Electorate Office**

📍 94 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

☎ (02) 6543 1065 ✉ [upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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Clarence Town First Responders (CFR)

# Team Updates & Respiratory Care

A lot of our CFR members enjoyed a nice break over the Christmas and New Year period whilst we still maintain a presence in the town and responded to 000 calls.

The team has returned to scheduled ongoing training with Ambulance NSW to maintain our level of skills and knowledge. The great news is we have three wonderful new members who have joined us and are about to commence their initial training. We are looking forward to having them in our team.

There has been quite a few fires over the past months and could still be some around the district and you may have noticed the smoke from these fires in our area. Often this smoke has travelled a long way to get to us. The smoke can be an issue for anyone with respiratory concerns.

If you notice smoke in the area, try and stay inside with doors and windows closed to protect yourself from the affects of the bushfire smoke. Make sure you have your medications and asthma plans ready to use. Seek help if it gets too bad.

*Please give me a call to discuss – Brad Elroy, 0417 651 577.*

DUNGOG & DISTRICT

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# ALISON PENFOLD MP

FEDERAL MEMBER for Lyre

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- NDIS
- Post and Telecommunications
- Banking and Finance
- Taxation
- Immigration
- Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Defence

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**TAREE OFFICE**  
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 144 Victoria Street,  
 Taree NSW 2430

Alison.Penfold.MP@aph.gov.au  
[alisonpenfold.com.au](http://alisonpenfold.com.au)  
 AlisonPenfoldMPforLyre  
 alison\_penfold\_for\_lyne

Authorised by Alison Penfold MP, National Party of Australia, 144 Victoria St, Taree NSW 2430.

*Dungog Councillors Report*

# Waste Reduction – Landfill and Recycling

Far reaching changes are coming to all aspects of the waste stream. By 2030, Commonwealth and State legislation will require a reduction in total waste generated in Australia of 10% per person and a resource recovery rate of 80%.

In order to address these issues, Dungog Shire developed the Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2043 that is available on Council’s website, which also details what can be placed in the recycling bins and the services are available at the landfill.

The strategy considers options for extending the expected life of the Dungog landfill, which is a major issue because remediating the site will be expensive as will options for replacing it in a drinking water catchment.

The introduction of a third kerbside bin for food and garden waste (FOGO) would significantly reduce waste to landfill and the material would be converted to compost. FOGO could extend our landfill by up to 8 years, and it will become mandatory for all Councils anyway. So Council is investigating options to introduce it when the current kerbside waste collection contract expires in October 2027. Our team will be assessing what has worked and not worked in other Councils

Last year, the total waste delivered to our landfill was 9,600 tonnes, of which kerbside & municipal waste totaled 3,080 tonnes. General mixed, construction & demolition materials and flood waste added 2,840 tonnes. About 3,600 tonnes of soils were used to cover the putrescible domestic waste.

*We diverted 820 tonnes of waste from the landfill including 560 tonnes of scrap metal, 85 tonnes of various materials like batteries, oil, e waste, paper and soft plastics etc that*

*were collected at the landfill. There was about 170 tonnes of green waste. The 4,258 yellow lid bins of the recycling service diverted 622 tonnes from our landfill.*

The NSW Government’s Waste Levy requires Council to account for waste added to the landfill. This levy was introduced to encourage waste reduction, and charges are expected to increase markedly by 2030. Last year, we paid the NSW Government a staggering \$504,694 under the waste levy.

Ratepayers share the cost of managing our waste operations and charges are essentially cost neutral as Council does not profit from them. We need increased efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle if we are to meet government targets and contain the cost of operating waste services.

At the present time local communities have to deal with packaging at the wrong end of the waste stream and far too much goes into landfill at our expense. Strong government action is required in that regard.

Problematic and unnecessary plastics were to be phased out by 2025 but this did not happen. We are told that “new legislation will require packaging to be reusable, readily recycled or compostable, and require a 50% content of recycled material in plastic packaging. Problematic and unnecessary plastics will be phased out. New laws will require packaging to be reusable, readily recycled or compostable, and require a 50% content of recycled material in plastic packaging”. We hope so.

## Plastic Bottle Tops

The lids can now be left on plastic bottles when placed in the yellow recycling bins. The JR Richards Waste Recycling Facility at Tuncurry now crushes and bales them with the lids attached. They are sent to partner organizations where they are reduced to plastic flakes and separated in water tanks where lid-related flakes float and the bottle flakes sink.

## Your local B Ward Councillors:

**James Campbell** 0484 599 709

[james.campbell@dungog.nsw.gov.au](mailto:james.campbell@dungog.nsw.gov.au)

**Steve Low** 4996 4022 [steve.low49@gmail.com](mailto:steve.low49@gmail.com)

Accepted in your recycling bin





Glass bottles & jars (lids off)



Paper & cardboard (including pizza boxes)



Plastic bottles & containers (lids on)



Steel tins, aluminium cans & crumpled foil

**All recyclables must be LOOSE in the bin, NEVER BAGGED.**

Not accepted in your recycling bin





Food



Soft plastics (bags, wrappers & packets)



Nappies, wipes, tissues & paper towel



Polystyrene/foam



Textiles & shoes



Crockery, glasses & ceramics



Non-packaging plastic items

*The Dungog District Chamber of Commerce*

# The Pulse of the Shire

February marked an important milestone with the delivery of the Community Action Plans for Dungog and Clarence Town.

We look forward to seeing the outcomes of these plans unfold over the coming months. The Paterson team launched their Action Plan last year, which has already led to the establishment of a Community Hub in the village. This is a fantastic achievement by the team, led by Julie Overton, and a great example of what can be accomplished when a community works together.

Over the past two years, DDCC has been closely involved with the Community Builders program across the Shire. Feedback from residents highlighted the need for a Welcome Pack for new and prospective residents. In partnership with the Dungog Shire Visitor Centre, DDCC has produced information folders containing a range of useful resources about life in our Shire. Each folder also includes a QR code linking to [www.ddcc.org.au](http://www.ddcc.org.au), where additional information can be found, including a directory of local organisations such as service, social, and sporting clubs. If your organisation is not listed, please contact us and we will be happy to add it.

A Youth Council is currently being established in the Shire and will be auspiced by DDCC. We are proud to support this initiative, which will provide young people aged 12 to 25 with a meaningful voice in local matters. Our thanks go to Cheryl Royle and Jim Doyle for their tireless efforts in helping make the Youth Council a reality.

Our February networking dinner meeting was held at the Clarence Town Bowling Club, where guest speaker Tony McLeod provided an overview of a major new development planned for Clarence Town.

**The March networking dinner meeting will be held in Dungog on Thursday 26 March at the Royal Hotel. For further details, please visit [www.ddcc.org.au](http://www.ddcc.org.au) or our Facebook page.**

Dungog Shire Council's draft Housing and Infrastructure Strategy was released for comment in December 2025. DDCC submitted a comprehensive response to this draft strategy and looks forward to reviewing the final version.

*So good to see the Clarence Town bridge progressing so well, great achievement and will improve Clarence Town's residents connectivity immensely, and the world to Clarence Town. Speaking of water the Dungog Shire Council exhibition of Clarence Town Flood Study has now closed. We look forward to view the resulting plan.*

**Stay tuned to DDCC's social media channels for updates on these exciting events. Contact [secretary@ddcc.org.au](mailto:secretary@ddcc.org.au) or visit [www.ddcc.org.au](http://www.ddcc.org.au)**

**Would your organisation benefit from more volunteers?**

**We have received funding and are organising Youth Volunteer events, activities and expo's to help our youth volunteer in our community.**

**If your organisation would like to be involved, in the**

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*Phillica IT Tips*

# Windows 11 is killing legacy printer drivers in 2026

A Windows update that was released on January 15, will no longer support legacy V3 and V4 printer drivers. Now that support has officially ended, printers that rely exclusively on V3 or V4 drivers may fail to install or stop working altogether.

If no supported driver exists, users may need to consider replacing the printer or switching to a newer printing solution before installing the non-security update (KB5074105) released in January, or before installing the February 2026 Security Update to avoid disruptions.

From July 1, 2026, Windows will change its internal driver ranking order rules to “prefer” the built-in Microsoft IPP class driver when multiple options are available. A year later, on July 1, 2027, third-party printer driver updates delivered via Windows Update will be restricted to security-fixes only.

This only affects old printers. V3 drivers were from the year 2000 and V4 from 2012.

Following the release of Windows 10 21H2, in 2004 which removed the need for print device manufacturers to provide their own installers. Prior to this windows would not identify a printer without installing the software from the manufacturer. All manufacturers were required to submit signed driver files to Microsoft through WHCP (Windows Hardware Compatibility Program).

If available you still should install the manufacturers software otherwise not all function will work such as scanning.

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# From the Parson's Pen

Easter is coming. About Boxing Day, if my memory is correct, Hot Cross Buns were back on sale, and now the Supermarkets are full of Easter Bunnies and Easter Eggs. And when Good Friday comes, the queues for fresh fish will be enormous.

I am not sure about bunnies, no Christian symbolism there, but with the other treats, their origins represent Christian symbols. Plain fare for people during Lent are represented by the buns, and we are reminded of this by the cross marked on each one, recalling the death of Jesus Christ on a cross.

The long wait for fresh fish on Good Friday carries on the Lenten Fast. Many people still follow the tradition of always abstaining from meat on each Friday of the year, and most especially during the 40 days of Lent and especially on Good Friday.

Chocolate in its many forms is very central as we celebrate Easter Day, following the fasts of Lent many during Lent leading up to Good Friday and Easter Day. Having chocolate Hot Cross Buns requires a bit of confusion of ideas of the doing without rich food in Lent and celebrating with chocolate on Easter Day!

Of course, Easter Eggs have a long tradition of Christians using them on Easter Day to celebrate New Life as we recall Jesus Christ rising from dead. Indeed in many cultures the eggs are actual hen eggs beautifully decorated.

I may fuss a bit about symbols and what they mean, but what did really take my breath away, was when visiting our family who lived in China at that time. There amongst a whole wall of Christmas decorations, perfect to purchase to decorate your Christmas Tree, was a cross with Santa affixed! Then again, China has only a very small number of Christians, and as a society would not be aware of the implications of Santa on a cross!

But you know, we live in a society in which science and factual information is central to our understanding of the world. It is good to remind ourselves that language can be used in many other ways as well: in love, poetry, prose, music, worship for example. Symbols are central we speak of, and try to understand, the divine. Words and facts are not enough. Which is why we use so much music, so many symbols, like candles to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world, to try to convey our meaning of which are beyond simple words.

We are fortunate to live in a country where churches abound and we have so many beautiful ones around us in Clarence Town, Dungog, and surrounding towns. Even if you are not a regular churchgoer, you may like to go to Church at Easter, to celebrate the faith all these symbols relate to: Jesus Christ, God with us, who shows us how to live. You can find church times from your local denomination. I know you will find a warm welcome wherever you go. Easter Blessings,

**The Rev'd Beatrice Pate**

Locum Priest at Dungog Anglican Parish

---

## 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.*

---

We welcome 2026 as an overwhelmingly 'better year', full of hope and peace. We are happy to report that the construction of the new 120 seat church building has finally commenced.

Praise God! Once complete this will give us enough space to start kids church (Sunday School) which has been a long-term hope for our congregation. Our 1905 church building will be rejuvenated back to new and original condition, (long overdue we know!) where it will continue to be used as a hall for all manner of ministry activities. Completion of new Church building due around Easter time!

Sermon series' in John and Hebrews coming up in February through April.

*Sunday services, Mainly Music (every Wed), SRE (Scripture) at Clarence Town Public School (every Wed) Dungog Public School (every 2nd Wed) and Growth Groups (Bible study) will continue as usual during construction.*

***"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***

---

## St. Patrick's Catholic Church

41 Rifle St, Clarence Town  
Pastor: Rev Andrew Doohan

---

*Service Times: Every Sunday 8am*

---

2026 is already flying by and we are commencing the season of Lent in preparation for Easter.

We have recently welcomed four young parishioners into our church family on 2 separate Sundays during Mass. It was wonderful to be part of the celebration. Congratulations to those young people and may they be always blessed.

Thanks for the recent rain we have had and please bless those who have been fighting fires and keeping us safe. Our prayers are also with the people who have been flooded in northern Australia. Dorothea Mackellar was sure right in her poem when she speaks of 'drought and flooding rain'.

***Blessings to all from St. Patrick's***  
***Marilyn Amos***



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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*

---

Well, the year has started off with a rush. The Op Shop has kept us busy in January.

One Saturday we opened for the Scout Corroboree Weekend. They had to find a sign that is on the side of the Op Shop and the Lyche Gate on the corner. They had all these photos and had to get a photo of it with them in the photo. What a great event! They also bought a variety of items (especially soft toys!).

Cuppa 'n Chat has started back with all happy for this to start up. Our February markets were great with 26 Stallholders as well as the BBQ in the hall and Op Shop open. March Markets will be on the 7th March and April will be the 4th April beginning at 8am. **There will be a Garage Sale held at 78 Mary Street on Saturday the 21st March, from 8am. Lots of electrical appliances etc**

On Thursday 26th March we will welcome our new Priest, the Reverend Amanda Brockwell at Christ Church at 6 pm, all welcome to attend. We are all excited for this to happen. She will then be busy as the next week will be Easter.

Our Op Shop that week will open on Thursday 2nd April and as it is Maundy Thursday there will be a service in the Church that night.

Services as usual Friday 10.30 am. Sunday 8.30 am and on the 22nd February we had Sunday Nite for the first time this year at 5 pm. There will be no Sunday Nite on the 22nd March as that is the day we will farewell Rev Beatrice Pate and Dennis who have been with us since September. We are having a Combined 9 am service only that day.

*Thanks Margaret Flannery*

---

## St. John's Anglican Church

36 Grey St, Clarence Town

Pastor: Rev Beatrice Pate

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

---

At this year's Australia Day celebrations in Dungog, our beloved Gillian Finch was awarded co-recipient Australia Day Citizen of the Year, being recognized for her work in our community with the Op Shop and Treasure Centre which would not exist if not for her vision, passion, determination and hard work. Congratulations and well done Gillian, you are a true disciple of our Lord.

We are hoping to have the central panel of our beautiful stained glass window of the Good Samaritan re-installed very

soon. It will be lovely to have it all back in place again.

Our pancake night on the 17th February was again a lovely evening with many attending to enjoy fellowship and of course, great food.

The annual Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 15th March with our service at 10.30am and the auction of produce and cooking after the service. Once again, these proceeds will go to our Mission Projects, both domestic and overseas. Do come along and join us.

Our grateful thanks to the Rev. Beatrice Pate and husband Dennis for looking after our parish until a new minister could be appointed. This has happened and the Rev. Amanda Brockwell will be commissioned as Rector of our Parish on 26th March, in Dungog. More information in the Christ Church report. We will be having a farewell and thank you service and morning tea for Rev. Beatrice and Dennis on Sunday, 22nd March at 9am in Dungog. This is a combined service – there is no service here at St. John's, Clarence Town on that day.

Our Easter services will be – Good Friday at 10.30am and Easter Morning at 10.30am also.

Later in the year – 16th August, we will be celebrating 120 years of our current building. A great time to remember all those faithful parishioners who worked so hard to build this church after the fire of 1906, and who, over the generations, have cared for and maintained our lovely church so that it can continue to serve the community.

*Our weekly services are 10.30am each Sunday, with morning tea in the hall following the service. Everyone most welcome.*

*Sue Flannery*



*Dave Layzell MP, presenting the award to Gillian Finch*



*Clarence Town Op Shop & Treasure Centre*

# The Fifteen-Dollar Fill: Bag a Summer Bargain

After a lovely well-deserved break, we are back in full swing at the Op Shop. A happy and healthy New Year to you all and we look forward to welcoming you and serving our community for many years to come. It is a privilege to get to know everyone.

We have some great Summer bargains, so do come in, have a chat and check out the fashions – at the moment ‘fill-a-bag for \$15. We have work clothes and also Clarence Town School uniforms. Welcome to new volunteers, Julie and Leonie. Great to have you both join us.

## WANTED – FOAM BOXES WITH LIDS FOR STORAGE PLEASE

We will be changing over to Autumn/Winter stock on 1st April, so there’s plenty of time for you to get your Summer bargains. Blessings to all.

*Gillian Finch 4994 9168 / 0477 326 142*  
*St. John’s Anglican Church, Cnr of Grey & Queen Sts*



*The CTPS School Gardeners!*



*Welcome new kinders for 2026*

*Clarence Town Primary Public School*

# Welcome to the 2026 School year!

We began the year with four staff development days, a crucial time for us to come together to prioritise teacher professional learning.

Our staff joined staff from all schools within the Hunter Principals Network for a day of learning at Francis Greenway High School, we completed a full day of First Aid training and teachers prepared teaching and learning programs and organised their classrooms, ready to start another wonderful year of learning at Clarence Town Public School.

Students returned to school on Monday 2 February, including 18 new Kindergarten students, bringing our school enrolment to over 160! It has been a lovely couple of weeks watching our newest CTPS learners settle in, making new friends, exploring their classroom and giving everything a go. From big smiles on the first day to hands-on learning, play and discovery, it has been fantastic to watch their confidence grow.

## School Leaders 2026

This year our school will be led by our captains Zahli and Levi, along with student leaders Bentley, Grace and Seth. These students have some outstanding leadership capability and will do a magnificent job supporting our students.

## Around the school grounds

Ms Thomas has kept the school garden in fantastic shape over the holidays. Our student gardeners have been busy in the garden since returning to school, exploring the summer crop, weeding and saving seeds. Our tomatoes and cucumbers have been prolific, but nothing like our Trombonino harvest!

Our beehives have made a new home in Woodville and through the ‘Humble Hive Collective’, our honey has been entered into the Maitland Show. We are very much looking forward to visiting the hive this term.

## Kim Smith, Principal

[clarenceto-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:clarenceto-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) / (02) 4996 4156



Glen William Primary Public School

# Welcome Back to a New & Exciting Term!

We are thrilled to welcome back all our students, parents, and families to the new school term! After a restful break, it's wonderful to see our school community come together again, ready to learn, grow, and achieve great things.

A special warm welcome goes out to our new Kindergarten, Year 1 students and their families. Starting school is a big step, and we are so excited to have you join our school family. Our teachers and staff are here to support you every step of the way, making sure this first year is full of fun, friendship, and learning.

This term promises to be an exciting one, especially with the return of our sports program. We're looking forward to seeing our students participate in a variety of sporting activities that promote teamwork, health, and school spirit. Don't forget, Ruby will be leading sports sessions every Wednesday be sure to come prepared and ready to get active!

To all our families, your continued support is invaluable to our school community. Together, we can make this term a positive and successful experience for every student.

*Here's to a fantastic term ahead filled with learning, laughter, and lots of sporting fun! Welcome back!*

## OOSH

Our Oosh is up and running again for 2026. If we do not use it, we lose it.

If you are wanting to enrol your child into before or after school care for 2026, please phone school office on 4996 5507 for more information.

## Fruit Break (Crunch & Sip)

Crunch & Sip® is a time for students to 'refuel' on vegetables, salad and fruit and 'rehydrate' with water. Students who are not hungry and are well hydrated perform better in the classroom, show increased concentration, and are less likely to be irritable and disruptive. Student's will have time for this after daily PE.

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will run every day this year at Glen William Public School.

## Sport

The students at Glen William will be doing Rugby for Sport this Term.

*We are taking Enrolments for 2026. Please contact the school office for an information pack, visit the school website to complete an online enrolment.*

**Phone:** 4996 5507

**E-mail:** [glenwillia-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:glenwillia-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Website:** [www.glenwillia-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://www.glenwillia-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)

### 2026 STAFF

**K-2 classroom teacher** – Mrs Kristy Bultitude (M-W) & Ms Rachael Forde (Th-F)

**3-6 classroom teacher** – Ms Bianca Parr

**APCI** – Mrs Georgie Rains (T-W)

**SLSO** – Miss Sophie Bultitude (M-T-W-Th)

**SAM** – Mrs Robyn Keller (F)

**SAM/SLSO** – Mrs Christine Reeves (M-T-W-F)

**GA** – Mr Craig Smith (W-T)

**Principal** – Ms Kristy Marsh (REL. Principal Term 1)

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# Contact Directory

**EMERGENCY (life threatening) 000**

**POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE 131 444**

**CRIME STOPPERS 1800 333 000**

## Animal Welfare Contacts

WIRES Emergency Rescue	1300 094 737
Wildlife Rescue	0418 628 483
Williams River Vet Clinic	4996 4441
WINC	1300 946 295

## Snake Catchers

Bill from Largs	0408 301 544
Dylan from Medowie	0466 694 540
Ryan from Medowie	0431 100 177

## Community Contacts

Country Women's Assoc: Helene Leane	0403 733 776
Clarence Town Scouts: Robyn Keller	4996 4061
Clarence Town Lions Club: Trudy Balstad	0409 645 469
Fire Permits : Scan the QR code top right to apply online	
Neighbourcare Bus	4992 3348
School of Arts Hall: Robyn Barco	0412 673 386

## Church Contacts

Anglican: Pastoral Ministry	0491 007 193
Dungog Baptist	4992 2122
Dungog Uniting: Joy Shelton	4992 1508
Presbyterian: Allan Welch	4025 5638
Roman Catholic:	4992 1477

## Medical/Health Contacts

Clarence Town Medical Centre	4996 4003
Prince Street Surgery	4009 5991
Clarence Town Pharmacy	4996 3300
Health Services	4931 2003
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Lifeline	13 11 14
Samaritans	1300 656 336
Destiny Haven Women's Shelter	4996 5558
AL-ANON	4969 3889

\*To list your community service email: [thesentinel2321@gmail.com](mailto:thesentinel2321@gmail.com)

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