

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

## Graffiti Won't Define Us!

There's something pretty special about a community that refuses to sit back and accept damage to the place it calls home.

In August, Clarence Town was hit by a spate of graffiti, with tags appearing across the heart of town on signs, roller doors and walls — and, most disappointingly, across our new bridge and the walkway beneath it.

The graffiti was particularly upsetting given how hard our community fought to see the bridge become a reality after more than 20 years of campaigning. To see it defaced so soon after opening was incredibly disappointing.

But rather than simply shake our heads and complain, Clarence Town snapped into action. We want to acknowledge and thank **Damian Morris and Dungog**

**Shire Council** for responding so quickly and arranging for the graffiti to be removed. Some of which is ongoing due to environmental considerations.

We also thank our local **Home Hardware**, owner Vince, and the legendary Lana, who generously donated graffiti-removal products to help get the job done.

And, as always, it was local people who rallied. Residents spoke up, offered assistance and made it clear that this sort of behaviour is not acceptable. Graffiti is more than an eyesore. The cost of supplies and staff time to remove it has exceeded \$8,000 — money that could be better spent elsewhere in our community. Police have been notified and are investigating the incident.

*We care about our streets, our bridge, our businesses, our public spaces and, most of all, the people who live here. That community spirit is something no graffiti can take away.*

— *Clarence Town Progress Association*

### Rainfall Report\* (mls)

#### 2026

July 61.4  
June 27.6  
May 164.6  
April 8.6  
March 53.2  
Feb 38.4  
Jan 99.6

#### 2025

Dec 67.6  
Nov 21.2  
Oct 23.8

\* Source: BOM, Clarence Town Rainfall Station 061010

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



Dungog Tea Party  
Exhibition 9-13 Sept

SEE AD PAGE 2



Lion's Welcome  
new president!

PAGE 6



St Johns Anglican  
celebrates 120 years

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CTPS represented at  
Parliament House!

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# Dungog Tea Party

ANNUAL TEA COSY & TRIVET EXHIBITION



9th – 13th September 2026  
James Theatre, 6 Brown Street Dungog

FREE ENTRY  
OPEN DAILY 10am - 4pm  
[www.dungogteaparty.com.au](http://www.dungogteaparty.com.au)

Find us on Dungog Tea Party

**ERRINGHI HOTEL**  
CLARENCE TOWN  
EST. 1912

# PIG RACES

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**12<sup>TH</sup>**

**FIRST RACE**  
**1.30 PM**

CHEER ON YOUR FAVOURITE PIG!

LIVE MUSIC BY **TONY FERGUSON**

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO **CLARENCE TOWN PS**

GOOD TIMES ALL DAY!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**GRAB YOUR CREW & COME ON DOWN!**



SHARE THE PASSION

**RARE**  
**SPARES**



# HUNTER VALLEY SHOW & SHINE

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026, 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



Hosted with Maitland Classic Motor Association

Burns & Co



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VEHICLE ENTRY

# 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)

## SEPTEMBER

# 02

THURSDAY

6.30pm: **Clarence Town Progress Association** meeting. Clarence Town Senior Citizens Centre.

# 06

SUNDAY

FATHERS DAY

# 09

9-13 SEPTEMBER

10am-4pm: **Dungog Tea Party Annual Tea Cosy & Trivet Exhibition**. FREE Entry. James Theatre, 6 Brown Street, Dungog. [dungogteaparty.com.au](http://dungogteaparty.com.au)

# 12

SATURDAY

9am-4pm **Creative Mann's 'Tea Party Creations' Workshop**. Choice of small craft projects \$20 per item. Dungog Uniting Church Hall Allow 1 hour. No bookings required – just drop in! Everything included. Facebook @Creative Mann

SATURDAY

1.30pm: **Pig Races!** at Erringhi Hotel raising funds for **Clarence Town Public School**.



*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.*



# 26

SATURDAY

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

SATURDAY

6.30pm: **Tennis Club Trivia**, at Clarence Town Bowling Club. Hosted by the Clarence Town Tennis Club. For more info follow on FB: @ Clarence Town Tennis Club

# 28

MONDAY

**SPRING School holidays** start for public schools.



Nancy Knudsen

## OCTOBER

# 04

SUNDAY

**DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS.** CLOCKS MOVE FORWARD

# 05

MONDAY

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY** LABOUR DAY

# 13

TUESDAY

**BACK TO SCHOOL** for public schools.

# 17

SATURDAY

2pm: Join **Nancy Knudsen**, Logie Award-winning television personality, entrepreneur, journalist, author and ocean sailor – as she shares her remarkable journey through changing times. \$10pp online or at the door. Hosted by Clarence Town-Dungog CWA.

# 31

SATURDAY

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

Clarence Town Progress Association

## Woofs, Wheels & Wellbeing

Progress would like to thank Dungog Shire Council for their prompt response and resolution of the relocation of the Clarence Town Dog Leash Free Area which was conflicting with the children's playground and outdoor gym on the Village Green.

The Leash Free Area is now located on the Wharf Reserve near Fotheringay Rd. Council signage is in place. If you are exercising your dog on the Village Green please ensure it is on a leash. The Association has funded the new footpaths at the Rotunda, picnic shelters and into Wharf Reserve. A pad has been laid for a shelter and seating in the new leash free area, We expect installation of the shelter in the near future.

At our last meeting Brad Elloy, the Community First Responders Co-ordinator sought support for an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to be installed in the IGA under the Good Sam programme. We would like to thank Barry Jackson for a very generous donation to this initiative. If you are interested in the Good Sam programme, emergency response to heart attack victims, please contact Brad on 0417 651 577.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to participate in the Sentinel survey. Congratulations to Leanne Welsh, who was randomly drawn as the winner of the \$100 voucher! Watch this space as we introduce some exciting changes to the Sentinel, both in print and online.

Also look for a new bike rack outside the IGA to be installed shortly – a boon to bike security and pedestrian safety.

John Moyes, President CTPA

**Robyn Kellar**

Religious Marriage Celebrant  
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[robynak@aapt.net.au](mailto:robynak@aapt.net.au)



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\$50**

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\* Pricing is per edition, including gst.

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**ANNUAL DISCOUNT 10%**

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*Clarence Town & District Historical Museum Assoc.*

## A Remarkable Discovery!

Clarence Town Public School K-2 classes visited mid-July, arriving at midday and spending several hours exploring the museum and completing worksheets complied by their teachers. Most of the students seemed particularly impressed with the old dolls in one of the rooms. Many thoughtful questions were asked, a reminder of the natural curiosity of the young.

During our July Meeting, the code for the safe was located and tried and the safe unlocked. While there was neither money nor gold, the safe did contain a great treasure. Inside, were two foolscap-sized notebooks. These are the Minutes of the Clarence Town Country Women's Association, known by their initials as the CWA, from its inception at a Public Meeting in May of 1938 to the end of 1955.

A quick skimming of these records shows the vital interest the women of Clarence Town took in the progress of Clarence Town, in areas neglected by their menfolk. They invariably meet in daytime. Of early note are their efforts to create a Baby

Health Centre. As they thank the Department of Justice in one of their meetings, it seems the back room of the Courthouse became the Baby Health Centre.

In its first year, there are twenty-one members from Clarence Town, two from Glen William and one from Glen Oak; the next year Glen Martin has a membership.

Only recently did Clarence Town CWA join the Dungog branch. And they celebrate 100 years in 2027.

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

## The Tooth Whisperer

Horse Dentist Brad Whalan EqDT

[www.thetoothwhisperer.com.au](http://www.thetoothwhisperer.com.au)

CLARENCE TOWN 0417 245 244



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Clarence Town Lions Club Report

# Working With Our Community



We welcome **Shaun O'Connell** who is now **taking on the role of President**. Clarence Town Lions Club is continuing to focus on supporting local groups and working together to make Clarence Town a great place to live.

We're proud to be working alongside groups including Clarence Town Community Builders and Landcare.

Lions also supported the recent Village Green clean-up in July by cooking a **free sausage sizzle for the volunteers**. We're sure you'll agree the Village Green is looking great, with more work still to come. This also compliments the works completed by Clarence Town Progress Association.

Our **Father's Day raffle** will be drawn **Saturday 5 September**. Tickets are available at our local markets and at the IGA on the day.

Our monthly markets are held on the **last Saturday of each month, 8am-12pm, at Clarence Town Bowling Club**, or the School of Arts Hall in bad weather. *Come and say hi, or contact Trudy for more information on 0409 645 469.*

*Trudy Balstad, Secretary, Clarence Town Lions Club 0409 645 469. Follow us on Facebook: @Clarence Town Lions Club*

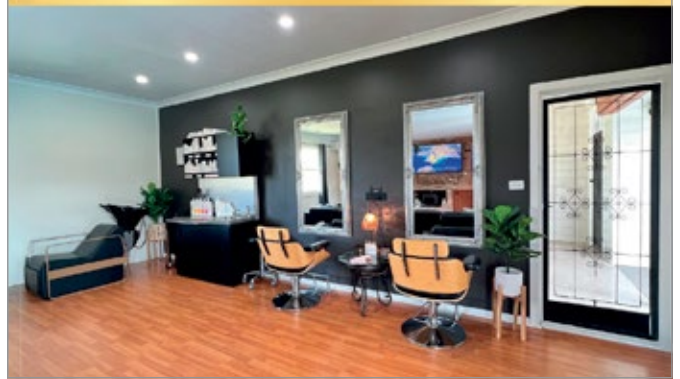


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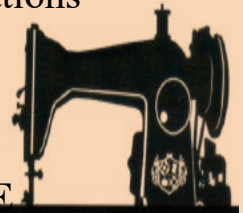
- ☎ 0450 041 936
- 📍 Boatfalls Estate, Clarence Town NSW
- 🌐 [www.facebook.com/homesteadhairAU](http://www.facebook.com/homesteadhairAU)



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



## A Caring Hand, When You Need It

*Here to support you, your family and carers*

Living with a life-limiting illness can be challenging. Our friendly volunteers are here to offer non-medical support and a helping hand.

**Our service is FREE to anyone living within the Dungog Shire with a life-limiting illness.**

*We can help with:*

- Transport
- Equipment
- Linen and laundry
- Respite for carers



**Email: [admin@dungogcarers.com.au](mailto:admin@dungogcarers.com.au)**

**Call/text: 0457 846 806**

**Dungog Shire**  
*Palliative Care Volunteers*



**[dungogcarers.com.au](http://dungogcarers.com.au)**

*Clarence Town Op Shop & Treasure Centre*

## Fill Your Bag for \$15!

Our winter bargains are still “fill-a-bag” for just \$15 (clothes, shoes, hats). We’re changing over to Spring/Summer fashions, so come in from 19th August and grab a bargain. Bags of white cotton waste also available.

Our Treasure Centre has an amazing range of household needs, toys, books and much, much more. You will be surprised at what you could find. Too much to list.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who are so reliable to help us keep the centre running. You will never know just how valued and loved you all are. Keep warm everyone.

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



### 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!

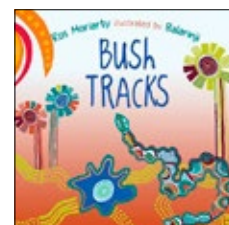
### ***The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak – Reviewed By Anne Higgins**



A Turkish writer well worth trying and if you haven't read any of her books then perhaps start with this one. It is set on Cyprus and is the story of a love between a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot which is forbidden on this divided island. The story uses two timelines with dual stories. First set in London in 2010, the story of 16 year old Ada. The second timeline follows Ada's parents on Cyprus in the 1970's, much of it set in a Taverna in the courtyard of which grows a fig tree watching over characters as the story unfolds. Here lies a touch of magic realism, the presence of the fig tree makes the story a unique one. Themes of loss, grief, devastation and hope underpin the story following the cultural history of Cyprus and its consequences. It speaks to all friendships and relationships that suffer because a country is divided by conflict.

### ***“The Snow Wombat” by Susannah Chambers, illustrated by Mark Jackson – Reviewed By Anne Fisher***

“Bush Tracks” is a picture book written by Ros Moriarty, featuring vibrant illustrations by Balarinji, an Australian Indigenous design studio. It is a lyrical, fun story inviting readers to take a bush walk down to the sea, tracking the plants and animals along the way.



The striking artwork and descriptive language draw children's attention to the world around them. The illustrations, using colours of the natural environment and patterns of the tracks, link with text urging readers to move and take action - walk, dig, watch, wade. This is a call to venture outdoors, to be aware of what's around us on the ground and in the sky. As readers watch out for snakes and crocodiles, guided by the moon and stars, they are encouraged to wonder about their place within the universe and the natural world. “Bush Tracks” is a challenging and satisfying adventure celebrating the sights and sounds of life in nature.

**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.**



## YOGA

Begin your journey to a better life!

Improve your Strength & Flexibility

Nourish your Body, Mind & Spirit

Thursdays 5pm in the Anglican Church Hall

**Please call Maggie 0467 325 034**

## 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**

## CLARENCE TOWN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

Open Tuesdays from 9am  
and the last Saturday of  
every month 8am–12pm

Please join us to...

MEET NEW PEOPLE

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GET CREATIVE WITH  
RELAXED CRAFTING

SORT & SELL 2ND  
HAND CLOTHING

### PLUS ENJOY MORNING TEA & AN AMAZING LUNCH

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



## Clarence Town Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club

Ph- (02) 49964222

Email - admin@clarrobowlo.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!**

Clarence Town Tennis Club

## Club AGM & Trivia Night



Our AGM was held on Saturday the 8th of August. I want to thank the committee for everything they have done and continue to do to keep the tennis club operating and functioning well.

I have continued on as President, Matt Hicks is the Vice President and WWC officer, Gai Gorton returns as the Secretary, Kathryn Flannery retained the Treasurers position, Dannii Jeffery is the Public Officer and Cherie De Losa and Gai Gorton are the Risk Managers. Tennis NSW have suggested clubs also have someone in the position of Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) and I thank Peter Horn and Cherie De Losa for taken on this role for our club. There was some great thoughts and ideas that come out of the meeting for growing the club and increasing court usage.

Our annual Tennis Club Trivia night will be held on Saturday the 26th of September and will again be held at the Clarence Town Bowling Sport & Recreation Club. Get your teams together for another awesome night of fun and trivia.

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

# BIKE SERVICE SALES & HIRE





Enjoy the Ride!





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New South Wales Rural Fire Service

# Don't Get Caught Unprepared

Every year at this time I remind you that you really do need to be preparing your home and property for the fire season which is just around the corner starting 1st October.

## Preparing your property for grass fires.

If you live in an area near long grass or paddocks, you're at risk.

Grass fires can start in pasture grass, crops and areas of undisturbed natural grasslands. The taller and drier the grass, the quicker the fire will move and more intensely it will burn. A grass fire can cut roads and threaten property with very little warning.

Therefore it is important that you have a plan so you and your family will know what to do when a grass fire is close by. Get the simple Guide to Making Your Bush Fire Survival Plan which can be found at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

## Be Prepared

- Keep grass short – you can mow it, graze it or slash it
- Maintain your machinery.
- Know where you can move your animals to safety.
- Check and maintain fire fighting equipment like pumps and hoses.

- Make sure a fire truck can access your property – think about gates, bridges or obstructions.
- If you're using fire on your property, get to know the team at your local RFS and find out if you need a permit.
- Permits are required for ALL fires as of the 1st October unless changed by the NSW RFS. Until the 1st October you still have to notify the RFS of all burns BEFORE you light up. You can use the QR code below to notify the RFS of your burns... AFTER 1st October there will be a new QR code for you to be able to apply for a permit.

Machinery can start fires but there are things you can do to prevent them. You should ensure that machinery is:

- Free from any faults or mechanical defects that could start a fire.
- Fitted with an approved spark arrestor.
- Carrying fire suppression equipment such as a working 9L water fire extinguisher or 0.9kg dry powder fire extinguisher, or a 16L knapsack spray pump filled with water.

Tractors, slashers and harvesters should not be used unless conditions are mild and are accompanied by an independent means of extinguishing a fire (as listed above).

Grinders, welders and chainsaws shouldn't be used unless conditions are mild, the immediate area is dampened down and clear of any materials that may cause an ignition.

## PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE.

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

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

**PLEASE USE  
QR CODE  
TO NOTIFY US  
WHEN BURNING**

1800 NSW RFS | [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)



Clarence Town First Responders (CFR)

## CFR Team: Growing Stronger

Hi everyone. I firstly want to congratulate our two newest members on and Alice for successfully completing their initial training through Ambulance NSW to be fully qualified members of our CFR team.

They have both shown great skills and competence and are valuable members of our team to help the community.

I also want to congratulate one of our original members of ten years, Wendy, who was recently named as a finalist in the **Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards** for her dedicated work with the CFR unit and extended support to the RFB and community in general. Well done Wendy.

The Clarence Town RFB is holding its 'Get Ready' open day event at our station on Saturday the 20th of September. There will be a lot of great fire related activities happening and we will also have some displays and medical emergency related activities to highlight the CFR team and what we do. Make sure to get along for this event. Till next time. Brad

*If anyone has an interest in joining our team and helping the community, please give me a call, Brad 0417 651 577.*



DUNGOG & DISTRICT

# Neighbourcare

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 4992 3348




# ALISON PENFOLD MP

**FEDERAL MEMBER** for *Lyne*

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  Taxation

 Aged Care
  Immigration

 NDIS
  Foreign Affairs and Trade

 Post and Telecommunications
  Defence



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 (02) 6586 4462

 Cnr High and Hastings Streets (PO Box 244), Wauchope NSW 2446

**TAREE OFFICE**

 (02) 6557 8910

 144 Victoria Street, Taree NSW 2430

 [Alison.Penfold.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alison.Penfold.MP@aph.gov.au)

 [alisonpenfold.com.au](http://alisonpenfold.com.au)

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

 [alison\\_penfold\\_for\\_lyne](https://twitter.com/alison_penfold_for_lyne)

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

*Dungog Councillors Report*

# The Wheels Are Turning

## **A New Local Environment Plan (LEP) for Dungog Shire.**

The NSW Government has endorsed the Dungog Shire Housing and Infrastructure Master Plan (HIMP), which includes the Local Housing Strategy, Rural Lands Strategy, Infrastructure Capacity and Prioritization Plan, and the Local Strategic Planning Statement.

The NSW Government will require such plans and strategies before accepting changes to the Dungog Shire LEP 2014. These documents were produced with a \$1.89 million Commonwealth grant and involved twelve months of strategic planning, community engagement and collaboration with State agencies.

They will shape the future of our towns, villages, and rural areas under the NSW Government's Hunter Regional Plan 2041, which requires Dungog Shire to deliver 2400 new homes by 2041. This is quite an ask because we currently have a total of 4,503 homes. The previously endorsed Clarence Town Structure Plan identifies land that can deliver 650 new homes.

Meeting these housing targets will depend upon governments playing their part in funding the supporting infrastructure in order for development to occur in a coordinated manner that reflects community aspirations.

The next step is to incorporate the HIMP into Council's planning documents. The Dungog Shire Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP), the Development Control Plan and the Infrastructure Contributions Plan will all be reviewed and upgraded in line with current legislation.

This will involve a comprehensive process involving further community consultation as each new document is prepared and adopted by Council. And it will take about two years before the Draft LEP would become part of NSW legislation when signed off by the relevant Minister.

## **RFS Red Fleet**

Funding of the NSW RFS is made up of contributions from the insurance industry (73.7%), NSW Government (14.6%) and Local Government (11.7%). Most assets purchased under this arrangement such as buildings, vehicles and fire fighting equipment are assigned to local Councils, which have always supported the work of the RFS and recognize that it is a world leading fire fighting service.

But Councils have been required to record these assets in their financial statements and absorb the depreciation expenses as well as the associated accounting costs. The Rural Fire Service operates the vehicles (Red Fleet) but councils have absolutely no control over their operations, which is unreasonable and illogical.

We are very pleased that the NSW Government has finally agreed to return the "red fleet" assets to the state government from 1 July 2027 and not be accounted for in Councils books.

While this might seem like a "storm in a teacup" this has been a 20 year battle and a typical example of how local government struggles against cost shifting from higher levels of government, which erodes our ability to provide local services.

### **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)**



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## Farms, Festivities & the Future

The latest Future of Farming Forum was held recently at Dungog RSL Club with approximately 50 people in attendance, including approximately a dozen first time attendees. There was a line up of fantastic speakers from variety of rural businesses who gave their time so generously. This was our ninth future of farming forum and we look forward to showcasing more rural businesses and topics in the future.

We heard from Karissa from Hunter Valley Goat Hire, educated us on goats and hiring them out for weed control. Finalist in Woman Changing the World, Kristen Nicol from Allynview Farm who runs a paddock to plate beef enterprise locally with husband Ben. Emma Spartalis from Spartalis Consulting, local Clarence Town business, spoke of the benefits of Artificial Intelligence program being introduced to manage aspects of your business. Liam Dooley from NSW DPI's Farm Business Resilience Program gave an overview of this relatively new and well-resourced program to assist farmers. Participant in this program local grazier Adam Turner from Spring Hill Beef was able to tell us about the benefits and practical aspects of being part of this program.

Planning for the 2026 Dowling Street Xmas Party is well underway. The Dungog Christmas Street Party is one of the region's most anticipated community celebrations, bringing the heart of the town to life with festive entertainment, local markets, delicious food, children's activities, and Christmas cheer for all ages. Save the date (Friday 27 November 2026) and keep an eye out as more details are released over the next few months.

The DDCC will be holding it's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 17 September, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Dungog RSL. This will be a critical AGM for the Chamber as, like many other volunteer organisations, we struggle to attract members prepared to step forward and help run the organisation. The Gloucester Chamber folded earlier this year for the same reason.

*Our recent membership survey confirmed that our members appreciate the services and functions we provide, along with lots of great ideas for making things even better. However, nothing is possible without people being prepared to make it happen.*

**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)**

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Phillica IT Tips

# Microsoft Help FBI Track Windows User

Mobile phone tracking was introduced in the early 2000's. Windows Location Tracking was introduced into windows in 2015. Although you can turn this feature off, it is still on behind the scenes, as app can still force windows to disclose your location even if your using a VPN. You now can't even install a printer without having location turned on.

In July 2026 the FBI Used GDID, Windows Global Device ID to track and arrest a teenage hacker.

Peter Stokes, a 19-year-old who is suspected of being a member of the notorious criminal hacking group Scattered Spider, was extradited from Finland to the United States and accused of hacking "Company F, a luxury-jewellery retailer.

Stokes used a VPN to hide his online activity, But Microsoft was able to identify Stokes' computer thanks to its Global Device Identifier (GDID), a "device-level identifier designed to uniquely identify an installation of a Windows operating system on a device.

This may be the first Microsoft has been involved in tracking someone. But it is very common for them to disclose your data

From July to December 2025 Microsoft received 27,412 requests for access to customers Files and emails

Similarly VPN companies have to keep records of your traffic in case they are requested by Government, Each country has different reason for disclosure some must be from Police some can be by Government requests.

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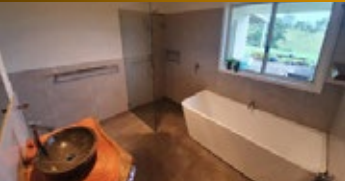


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# From the Parson's Pen

Christianity is not just one religion in a pantheon of competing traditions. It is the one true revelation of the living God, who made Himself known through creation, Scripture and, the person of Jesus Christ. This conviction is not rooted in mythology or cultural preferences, but in God's own self-revelation.

The Bible tell us that there is only one true God, Creator of heaven and earth. And because of that, there is only one true way of knowing him and, worshipping Him the way he describes.

Many religions contain moral insights, arising from mankind's attempts to find God according to human wisdom, rather than according to God's revealed truth. Scripture describes fallen humanity as exchanging the worship of the Creator for the creation itself.

After humanity fell into sin through Adam's disobedience, God did not abandon creation. He established a covenant that promised redemption. All through the Old Testament, God revealed this covenant through Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David and Jesus Christ, who fulfilled all the promises of God. Christ is the mediator of the new covenant, accomplishing salvation through His perfect obedience, his atoning death and resurrection and ultimately ushering in a new heaven and a new earth yet to come.

Jesus himself made exclusive claims regarding salvation. He declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" The apostles said, "There is salvation in no one else". This doesn't leave much room for religious pluralism, a false religion can be sincerely held but still be sincerely wrong.

Salvation is by God's unmerited favour. Other religions will present salvation as something to be achieved through personal merit. The message of the Bible, is that sinners are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone. The Bible exalts God's sovereignty and at the same time, humbles human pride.

The God of the Bible doesn't change according to the whims of the surrounding culture.

When all else is shifting sand, God's Word is the sure foundation we can depend on. The Bible's the final standard for faith and life. Rather than ever changing human philosophies or mystical experiences, Christian faith rests upon God's trustworthy revelation of himself. The unity, fulfilled prophecy, historical reliability and its transforming power to change lives (overwhelmingly for the better) all testify to its divine foundation. We declare that in Him alone is found forgiveness, eternal life, and everlasting hope. Now that truly is good news!

**Rev Allan D Welch, Clarence Town Presbyterian Church**

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## Clarence Town Presbyterian Church

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

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*Service Times: 10am Gathered Worship every Sunday, with live music, prayers, kids talk, sermon and morning tea provided.*

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Mainly Music (every Wed), SRE (Scripture) at Clarence Town Public School (every Wed); Glen William Public School (every Thursday); Dungog Public School (every 2nd Wed), Craft & Chat (1st Sat of Month 10am-2pm at the Church), ladies fellowship group meets each Thursday at various locations.

Gents are invited to attend the annual Recharge men's conference on 12th September at Grace EV Church, Glendale – Stephen McAlpine is keynote speaker. Go to: <https://www.hgm.org.au/recharge> for details. Contact Allan for transport options.

Growth Groups (Bible study) on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:30pm at the church where we are exploring the Lord's Prayer – 'Talking to our Father' to be followed by a study on 'The Five Solas' in October.

From the pulpit we are drawing to the end our series on the letter to the Hebrew Christians. Excitingly in mid August, we'll be starting a series on the awesome book of Esther, where we will see how God fulfils his covenant promises through his providence. The next celebration of the Lord's Supper is on 27th September followed by our usual bring and share fellowship lunch. All welcome and stay warm peeps!

***"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*

---

My, how the year is flying. Our gathering at Dungog for the Parish Assembly, commenced with a well-attended Mass, followed by a cuppa to warm us up and a positive meeting regarding pertinent matters of the Parish. We will be advised of developments as they come to fruition. Our little church is desperately in need of some repairs and maintenance.

We attended a service and luncheon with our Anglican brothers and sisters to celebrate their big anniversary. A lovely occasion. We wish Father Andrew a wonderful pilgrimage to Ireland in September. May he return safely. May the good Lord send us regular rain and a beautiful Spring and continue to bless our beautiful town.

***God Bless, Marilyn Amos***

## 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.*

What a wonderful celebration we had for the 120th Anniversary of our church. It was lovely to see so many people come along, including many past ministers, to help us celebrate this great occasion and to give thanks to God for this lovely church and for the faithful people who have loved and cared for it over all those years.

It was good to catch up with people we haven't seen for some time. Lovely music, thank you Judy Schmitt, and an amazing banquet in the hall following the service.

Thanks also to Julie Vasic, who put together an amazing gallery of photos of people and events at St. John's over the years. Lovely memories, especially of those no longer in our midst. It was wonderful also to have Barrie Edwards, a long time parishioner, with us to cut the cake. Thank you Kathleen for bringing him and thank you to Lyn Mosely who organised the cake from Clarence Town Bakery. Also a huge thank you to Di Bennett who made and presented us with a beautiful plaque to commemorate the occasion, which will now live in St. John's for all to see. Thanks to Rev. Amanda and all who so beautifully decorated the church and the hall and also prepared the delicious meal. Such an amazing variety of food. A wonderful celebration indeed!

As Mr. Grace from 'Are you being served' would say – "you've all done very well"

Thanks also to Alwyn who always has our grounds looking loved and Dungog Council who cleaned and levelled the gutters for us before the day.

*Our services are always at 10.30am each Sunday, followed by morning tea in the hall. Please come along and join us on any Sunday. You will be most welcome. Keep warm and stay well. Blessings to all.*

**Sue Flannery**



## 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*

At last we have had a frost! Not very often that it is July before you see one!!

Christ Church has been busy as usual and we had a wonderful day on Tuesday 28th July when our Mother's Union welcomed 9 new members to our group. Mother's Union was started 150 years ago and we also celebrated that. It was started in England by Mary Sumner and it is concerned about family and community. Our Diocese has a Baton going around the Diocese at the moment for the 150 years and that was the day we got it and we then had to hand it to our Lone Member rep on M U for them to have. We had our M U Chaplain Rev Nicole Baldwin conduct the service and induct our new members which included our priest Rev Amanda Brockwell. We had a cake and our longest serving M U member cut it. We had a lovely lunch and fellowship.

Our Op Shop continues to be busy and thank you all for your wonderful donations and coming to see us and purchase our goods. We are open each Friday 8 am to 2 pm and the First Saturday with our Markets from 8 am to 1 ish.

Although not a Church event we have in Dungog our Tea Party at the James Theatre ( Brown Street, Dungog) from Wednesday 9th to Sunday 1 th September. You can see lots of Tea Cosy's and Trivets, you can get inspired so that you can make one next year. Open 10 am to 4 pm and entry is free.

Service times continue at Christ Church with Friday 10.30 am, Sunday 8.30 am and on the Fourth Sunday 5 pm in the hall. St Peter's at Bendolba have a 5 pm service on the First Sunday of each month with supper to follow.

*Cuppa N Chat is on each Friday from 9.30 to 11 am and all are welcome. As it says go and have a cuppa and fellowship with those who are there.*

**Love and Prayers, Margaret Flannery**

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*Glen William Public School*

# Learning, Sports, and Community Activities

Glen William has been busy with learning, sports, and many more activities this term. Our touch football team has proudly made it to the state competition at the end of this term. Students have also participated in the Basketball Gala Day and the Zone Athletics event. This term, netball is the focus for our sports program.

In literacy, Glen William has started its Leader Reader Program, where students read to local preschools, fostering a love of reading in younger children.

To celebrate Education Week, the school hosted an Open Day. Additionally, our students participated in the Education Week Awards Assembly at Dungog High School – a lively dance performance during the Education Week assembly, congratulations to all award recipients!

During Science Week, our primary class enjoyed an exciting day at Clarence Town, engaging in fun and educational activities. To celebrate the importance of science, Glen William held its own Science Day.

Our Breakfast Club operates every morning, providing a nutritious start to the day.

***Enrolments for 2026 and 2027 are now open – families can enrol online or visit the school office for more information.***

*Glen William continues to nurture a supportive and engaging environment where students thrive in learning and extracurricular activities.*

***If you would like more information or to enrol, please call the school office on 4996 5507 or visit our website to enrol online.***



## Upper Hunter Electorate Office

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# Dave Layzell MP

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Clarence Town Public School

# A Term of Big Milestones – Learning, Culture & Discovery

Term 3 has begun with a huge array of special activities to celebrate culture, technology and public education at Clarence Town Public School!

## Celebrating 100 Days of Kinder

This term our littlest learners celebrated being '100 days brighter'! Kindergarten dressed up in bright colours and engaged in a fun day of learning activities. Congratulations to all our Kindergarten students, who have had a fabulous start to their school journey at Clarence Town Public School.

## NAIDOC Week

During our first week back CTPS spent a day learning about First Nations cultures and histories and celebrating '50 Years of Deadly'.

Students had a fantastic time participating in a range of activities including a smoking ceremony, rock painting, art, outdoor games, singing and storytelling.

Our special guest, Mr Leigh Ridgeway, led a smoking ceremony and taught all students words in the Gathang language. Our Clarence Town P&C also provided our staff and students with a free hot dog lunch.

## Education Week

We took great pride in opening our school for an afternoon celebrating public education, with a special assembly to recognise student achievement through this year's theme 'Inspiring Excellence'. Families were then welcomed into classrooms to see the wonderful learning taking place every day.

Dungog & District Community of Schools combined awards ceremony at Dungog High School, where we celebrated the achievements of so many staff, students and community members that make invaluable contributions to our public schools. Congratulations to the following award recipients from CTPS:

- Evie Gentle (Student Achievement)
- Taylah Bultitude (Excellence in Teaching)
- Fiona Pickard (Non-Teaching Staff)
- Jessica Cunningham (School Community Member)
- Tawny Voice Student Council (School Program)

## Science Week

Sheridan Thomas attended the Science Teacher's Association of NSW's launch of National Science Week, Science in the House, at Parliament House in Sydney. Sheridan received a scholarship to attend the launch and Clarence Town Public School was also selected to exhibit our Project Humble bee program. As one of two public schools to attend, Sheridan was proud to demonstrate our Science program to NSW parliamentarians and schools from across the state. The experience was a fantastic opportunity to network with other Science teachers and students, share ideas about programs, and to collaborate on the new Science and Technology syllabus. Schools and members of parliament were extremely impressed with the Science programs at CTPS, and Sheridan had a busy day fielding questions and demonstrating how the Project Humble could be incorporated into school Science programs across the state.

Students participated in Science Week activities at the Clarence Town Sports Ground, thanks to a grant provided by Hunter Local Land Services. Workshops included beetles and bugs, terrariums, natural fibres, Hunter water and reptile education.

*We look forward to another term full of amazing learning at Clarence Town Public School!*

**Kim Smith, Principal**

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|                    |                                |              |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Thomsen Automotive | Mechanical repairs & servicing | 0466 384 613 | thomsenautomotive.com.au |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

|                                         |                                         |              |                      |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Dungog & District Neighbourcare         | Aged care, nursing, respite & transport | 4992 3348    | neighbourcare.org.au |
| Dungog Shire Palliative Care Volunteers | Palliative care & carer support         | 0457 846 806 | dungogcarers.com.au  |
| Yoga with Maggie                        | Yoga, strength & flexibility            | 0467 325 034 | —                    |

## HOSPITALITY & VENUES

|                                   |                                |           |                         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Clarence Town Bowling Club        | Bowling, meals & entertainment | 4996 4222 | facebook.com/Clarrobowl |
| Maria's Kitchen @ CT Bowling Club | Bistro                         | 4996 4222 | Facebook @mariaskitchen |

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

|                                 |                                                 |              |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Amy Martin Legal & Conveyancing | Conveyancing, property law & estates            | 4992 1166    | amlegal.net.au                |
| Flinn Accounting                | Tax, accounting & SMSF                          | 0407 956 264 | flinnaccounting.com.au        |
| Greenhills Conveyancing         | Residential, commercial & rural conveyancing    | 4933 3748    | greenhillsconveyancing.com.au |
| Phillica IT                     | Computer sales, repairs, upgrades & accessories | 4987 0188    | phillica.com.au               |
| W J Enright & Prentice          | Solicitors & conveyancers                       | 4992 1730    | mail@felixprentice.com.au     |

## RETAIL & SERVICE BUSINESSES

|                             |                                                |              |                                     |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Clarence Town Home Hardware | Hardware, garden supplies and gifts            | 4996 4555    | Facebook @Clarence Town Home        |
| Clarence Town Post Office   | Post, banking, bill payments & retail services | 4996 4109    | admin@clarencetownpostoffice.com.au |
| Dressmaker                  | Dressmaking & alterations                      | 0448 999 625 | —                                   |
| Hawley Funerals             | Family owned & operated funeral business       | 4992 1572    | jandehawleyfunerals.com.au          |
| Homestead Hair              | Hair stylist & colour technician Kurt Burnett  | 0450 041 936 | facebook.com/homesteadhairAU        |
| Inspired By Design          | Homewares, gifts, fashion & haberdashery       | 0429 694 506 | inspiredbydesign.com.au             |
| Marriage Celebrant          | Robyn Keller – Religious Marriage Celebrant    | 0400 033 873 | robynak@aapt.net.au                 |
| Shine Hair & Beauty         | Hair, beauty & wellness treatments             | 0491 209 114 | shineclarencetown.com.au            |
| Speedy Cycles Dungog        | Bike sales, servicing & hire                   | 0408 607 272 | speedycycles.com.au                 |

## RURAL SERVICES

|                                  |                                                 |              |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Paterson Valley Water Cart       | Water cart services                             | 0407 250 355 | t_giuffre@bigpond.com         |
| Stockers & Partridge             | Agricultural, irrigation & lawn-care equipment  | 4938 5154    | stockerspartridge.com.au      |
| The Tooth Whisperer              | Equine dentistry                                | 0417 245 244 | thetoothwhisperer.com.au      |
| Williams River Veterinary Clinic | Veterinary care for pets, farm & equine animals | 4996 4441    | williamsrivervetclinic.com.au |

## TRADES

|                                       |                                              |              |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Aussie Air Refrigeration & Electrical | Air-conditioning, refrigeration & electrical | 0483 950 133 | aussie-air.com.au               |
| Built With Integrity                  | Building, renovations & carpentry            | 0402 260 166 | builtwithintegrity.com.au       |
| Flannery Earthmoving                  | Earthmoving, excavation & site works         | 0417 475 844 | flanneryearthmoving.com.au      |
| Get Spruced Painting                  | Painting & pressure cleaning                 | 0404 682 759 | getspruced.com.au               |
| Grand Entry Concreting                | Concreting                                   | 0467 051 502 | facebook.com/samcreteco         |
| Guardian Security                     | Security doors, blinds, shutters & awnings   | 0421 422 617 | guardiansecuritydoors.com.au    |
| Limeburners Plumbing                  | Plumbing, gas fitting & hot-water services   | 0451 734 739 | limeburnersplumbing.com.au      |
| Pixel Pest Control                    | Pest & termite control                       | 0492 856 369 | pixelpest.com.au                |
| RRC Constructions                     | Residential, Rural and Commercial Building   | 0448 095 767 | instagram.com/rrc_constructions |
| Wisemans Excavations                  | Driveways, dams, excavation & equipment hire | 0427 292 092 | wisemansexcavation@gmail.com    |

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

The Sentinel is proudly  
brought to you by:



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