

That's A Wrap On 2026!

Well, Clarence Town, another year has flown by. As we head towards Christmas, it's a chance to take stock of the year that was, catch up with family and friends, and enjoy a few days without watching the clock.

For those on the land, of course, the livestock will have other ideas.

September and October gave us plenty to talk about. The Newcastle Knights played their hearts out in a nail-biting grand final that had us on the edge of our seats. It was agonisingly close, but what a fantastic effort. Meanwhile, the world continues to feel unsettled, with conflict and uncertainty making it hard to ignore what's happening beyond our own backyard. It's a reminder to appreciate the people around us and the community we're fortunate to call home.

Closer to home, the Clarence Town Public School received an incredible \$16,251 donation following the highly successful pig races. And Dungog has won the NSW Tidy Towns award, earning the honour of representing our state at the 2027 Australian Tidy Towns Awards. Two terrific achievements worth celebrating.

As we wrap up 2026, please support our local businesses this Christmas wherever you can. Buying a gift, enjoying a meal or using a local service helps keep our town ticking.

A big thank you to the volunteers, community groups, local businesses and everyone who has pitched in throughout the year. So much of what makes a small town special happens because people are willing to give their time and get involved.

From all of us at The Sentinel News, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Look after one another, enjoy the break where you can, and we'll see you in 2027!

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



SHOW & SHINE
at Glen Oak Hall
SEE EVENTS PAGE 3



Calling All
Tug O War Teams
COMMUNITY BUILDERS PG 5



Historic PO Lights Up
for the Knights
PAGE 6



Pig Races Raise
\$16,251 for CTPS!!!!
PAGE 22

Rainfall Report* (mls)

2026

Sept 24
August 34.4
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

* Source: BOM, Clarence
Town Rainfall Station 061010

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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

NOVEMBER

05

THURSDAY

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

07

SATURDAY

10am: Join **Clarence Town Community Builders** at the *Erringhi Hotel* to help establish a **local paddling group**. Follow @Clarence Town Community Builders

08

SUNDAY

9am-1.30pm: **Hunter Valley Show & Shine**. Calling all car enthusiasts! Show off your vehicle or admire the cars at Glen Oak Hall, 1998 Clarence Town Rd. Facebook: Glen Oak Community Noticeboard.

SUNDAY

2-6pm: **Clarence Town Community Builders FUNDRAISING FUN DAY** at the Village Green (bottom of Gray Street). Enjoy live music, a Lions BBQ, snow cones, raffles and old-fashioned games for all ages. Bring a chair or picnic rug, water and a hat!



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.



Clarence Town RFS's annual Christmas run with Santa, pictured last year.

11

WEDNESDAY

11am: **Remembrance Day Service** hosted by the *Clarence Town Anzac Committee*. At the Cenotaph, Cnr. Gray and Queen Sts, Clarence Town. LEST WE FORGET.

27

FRIDAY

From 4-7pm: **Dungog Shire Christmas Street Party**. Dowling Street comes alive with music, markets, food and Santa for a festive Christmas celebration. @Dungog District Chamber Of Commerce.

28

SATURDAY

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



DECEMBER

03

THURSDAY

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

18

FRIDAY

Summer School Holidays Start for public schools.

19

SATURDAY

2pm: **Clarence Town Christmas Carols**. Gather the family for an afternoon of Christmas fun at the Erringhi Hotel! Enjoy a Lions BBQ, live music, a special visit from Santa, jumping castle and plenty of activities to keep the kids entertained. Follow on FB: @Erringhi.

25

FRIDAY
CHRISTMAS DAY

28

MONDAY
BOXING DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Clarence Town Progress Association

Good Things Growing Locally

Presidents report 2025/26.

I would like to thank the members of the executive committee whose hard work has achieved a productive year for the Association.

Of particular note our work with Dungog Shire Council in relocating the dog leash free area from the Village Green to the Wharf Reserve. Progress funded the footpaths and a shelter pad committing \$35k for this work. The Association installed 2 Community Notice Boards on the RTC Building which are proving popular.

We are proud to have supported the following community organisations this year. Clarence Town Scouts, Clarence Town Lions Club, Clarence Town Rural Fire Brigade, Dungog Early Learning (a 5 year commitment), the Cancer Council and the Good Sam AED program. I would like to acknowledge the generous donation by Barry Jackson to the AED being installed in the IGA. A total of over \$10k was distributed to these worthy volunteer groups.

A big "Thank you" to Cathy Schneider for her professional expertise in producing the Sentinel Newsletter, now distributing 1400 copies per issue. The newsletter is an important part of our community fabric relying on advertising to remain viable. If you have a business to promote please consider using the Sentinel. You can contact Cathy at the sentinel2321@gmail.com .

Included in our plans for 2026/27 is the provision of a Picnic Shelter and furniture at the leash free area on Wharf Reserve and the replacement of the bike rack at the IGA. We are pursuing a greater on-line presence to provide a portal for local community groups and broader information on Clarence Town and its environs.

John Moyes, President CTPA



Clarence Town Accommodation

Clarrie's Green

Two cabins

Each with 2 bedrooms/ensuites/kitchen/living room



www.clarriesgreen.com.au

CLARENCE TOWN SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL

OUR HALL, OUR COMMUNITY

Local volunteers. A valued community space.
A shared responsibility.



WHAT IS A SECTION 355 COMMITTEE?

A Section 355 Committee is made up of local volunteers appointed by Dungog Shire Council to help manage a community facility on Council's behalf. For Clarence Town School of Arts Hall, the committee helps keep the hall running day to day and supports its continued use by local residents, groups and hirers. It is a practical way for the community to have a say and play an active role in caring for a valued local place.

WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

Committee members share responsibility for the hall's everyday operations. This can include responding to booking enquiries, coordinating bookings and supporting hirers, arranging cleaning and minor maintenance, and managing the hall's income and expenditure. The committee's financial activity is reported to Council. Members work together to make sure the hall remains welcoming, usable and available to the community.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES	COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES
- Bookings and hirer support - Cleaning and minor maintenance - Hall income and spending, with reporting to Council	- Major maintenance and building works - Insurance for the hall and committee - Safety, compliance and protection of the building

THERE'S A ROLE FOR YOU

A committee needs people with different strengths. The **Chairperson** leads meetings and represents the committee; the **Secretary** looks after correspondence, agendas and minutes; the **Treasurer** keeps track of income and spending and reports to Council; and **committee members** help share the workload and plan for the hall. The committee is required to meet at least **four times each year**. You don't need special qualifications — just a willingness to contribute, work with others and support the hall.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST COMING SOON

Council will be calling for expressions of interest for new committee members in the near future. Keep an eye out for Council's notice and consider being part of the team that helps care for Clarence Town School of Arts Hall.

Questions in the meantime?
Contact Dungog Shire Council
shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au

Clarence Town Community Builders

Games, Grub and a Great Cause!

Mark your calendar for Saturday 8 November, from 2pm to 6pm, when Clarence Town Community Builders hosts a fun-filled fundraising afternoon at the Village Green, at the bottom of Gray Street.

Bring the family and get ready for some friendly competition with old-fashioned games for kids and adults. There'll be a Lions BBQ, snow cones, live music and a raffle, making it the perfect excuse to get outdoors, catch up with friends and enjoy an afternoon together. Whether you're keen to join in the games or simply relax and soak up the atmosphere, there'll be something for everyone to enjoy.

But it's about more than just a good time. The funds raised will help Clarence Town Community Builders get the organisation properly established and begin allocating funding to project teams working to make Clarence Town an even better place to live. Every dollar raised will help turn local ideas into action and support projects that benefit our community. It's also a great opportunity to find out more about what the group is working towards and how locals can get involved in shaping the future of our town.

Games cost just \$5 per family, with raffle tickets only \$2 each.

Bring a chair or picnic rug, a hat and some water, and come ready for a great afternoon of community fun while helping build a better future for Clarence Town.

Please note: this is a cash-only event. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information follows us on Facebook @Clarence Town Community Builders

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To book please email The Sentinel News team at
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Advertising includes insertion in both the print and online versions of The Sentinel, for the 2 month duration of the edition.

Annual Subscription includes Ad typesetting (if required). Please supply good quality logo, photos and text. Otherwise supply your own artwork as a high-res PDF or JPG.

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Clarence Town & District Historical Museum Assoc.

Preserving Our Past, Sharing Our Stories

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

Those were the last two sentences of the previous Report and it evoked a response from a current member, namely that it's inaccurate. As membership declined in recent years in both branches, Clarence Town and Dungog amalgamated. For years monthly meeting were held in even months (February, April ...) in Dungog, and odd months (March, May ...) in Clarence Town.

The process has begun of returning the cinema equipment to its original home in the School of Arts. It would be wonderful if anyone has any photos which could be copied, taken when the Empire Theatre, as it was known, is showing a movie. The Cinema and Theatre Historical Society of Australia states that films were shown here from 1915 to 1962.

Dungog Tourism's proposal to construct podcasts about Dungog Shire, to be aired initially on Radio Dungog, has now reached fruition. By the time of publication of Sentinel, you may have heard one or all!

The Museum has gladly contributed to this.

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

Clarence Town Op Shop and Treasure Centre

Summer Bargains & Hidden Treasures

I think we are in for a hot Summer. Come in and check out our Spring/Summer fashions. Lots of bargains to be had. 'Fill-a-bag' for \$15 is still on.

We have cleaning towels, bags of rag, pet rugs, thongs, shoes, hats and lots more. Also Clarence Town school uniforms available.

Please continue to save the ring-pulls. We are now supporting the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. You can drop them in to the Op Shop or leave them on the table at the back of the hall.

We are moving towards totally weather-proofing the Treasure Centre which will make it easier for our volunteers, and much safer as well. Hopefully we may be able to do this during the Christmas break. There are such a lot of treasures in the Treasure Centre to see, so do come in and browse.

Our last day this year will be **Wednesday 9th December**. Not sure of the re-opening date in January yet. We will put that date in the Jan/Feb 2027 Sentinel, so be sure to look there. Thanks to everyone for your support and donations and we hope you all have a safe and Holy Christmas with family and friends.

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

Local Pride, Knights Style!

To everyone in Clarence Town,

As owners of the old Clarence Town Post Office, we've felt so welcome and have loved getting to know the locals over the years.

We were thrilled to see the Newcastle Knights make it to the 2026 NRL Grand Final, so we lit up the Old Post Office in red and blue to celebrate!

Thank you for all the lovely responses and positive feedback, in person and on social media. It's wonderful to know how much you enjoyed it.

Congratulations to the Knights. The whole region should be proud! Here's to another great season in 2027 and, hopefully, a premiership next year!

A big thank you to Tony from City Staging for supplying the lighting.

With thanks,
Carlos and Jenny ❤️



Clarence Town Lions Club Report

Community Connections



Clarence Town Lions are pleased to support community activities bringing locals together, including the Biggest Tradie Breakfast at Clarence Town Hardware and the Community Swim In held on 31st October. Events like these are a great way to encourage community connection, enjoy time together and celebrate the wonderful spirit of Clarence Town.

Lap the Map – Sunday 8 November

We're excited to be joining Clarence Town Community Builders at the Village Green on Sunday 8 November for a fun family afternoon celebrating our wonderful community, with games, live music and Lap the Map for Lions Assistance Dogs.

As part of the event, Clarence Town Lions will be hosting our Lap the Map fundraiser in support of Lions Assistance Dogs. We're inviting families, children, dogs (on leash and under effective control) and community members to come along, walk or run a few laps of the Village Green, and make a donation to support this fantastic cause.

Lions Assistance Dogs help change lives by providing specially trained dogs to assist people living with conditions such as diabetes, as well as people who are deaf or hard of hearing and those living with PTSD. Every lap and every donation will help support this important work. Lions Assistance Dogs are 100% funded by Lions Clubs.

By joining forces with Clarence Town Community Builders, we're also celebrating the importance of collaboration and working together to create a connected, welcoming and vibrant community. So bring the family, enjoy the afternoon and help us support a worthwhile cause!

Snow cones have arrived at the markets!

If you've visited the Clarence Town Lions markets recently, you may have noticed a new addition to our stalls – snow cones! They're a refreshing treat, especially as the warmer weather arrives, and we look forward to serving plenty more over the coming months, these snow cones will assist us in being able to do more community events and projects. But did you know you can hire our snow cone machine, imagine your school fete or sporting event and having your very own snow cones, send us a message on facebook to find out more.

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

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:

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- Respite for carers



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Dungog Shire
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Shop Local: Inspired By Design

Make your Christmas shopping count.

With 30 years of history behind it, Inspired By Design found a new home in Dungog in 2020, settling into the charming JA Rose Building on Dowling Street.

Step inside and discover a thoughtfully curated collection of treasures for the home, personal treats and gifts with a difference. Owner Katherine brings a designer's eye and genuine passion for creativity to every product she selects, balancing quality, sustainability and affordability.

From Australian-owned and made Ghost and Lola jewellery to Mint by Michelle paints and papers, locally made Dungog curiosities, Lazybones clothing and homewares, and Miss Rose Sister Violet clothing, the store is filled with unique finds sourced from the Hunter and beyond. You'll also discover candles, cushions, throws, lighting and plenty more to inspire.

As Christmas approaches, supporting local shops matters more than ever. Behind every independent store is someone investing their time, passion and livelihood in our community.

Pop into Inspired By Design and discover something special.

Inspired By Design : 146-150 Dowling Street, Dungog
Open Thurs to Sat 10am-3pm.



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A Treasure Trove of - Curios - Fashion
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**Open Thurs - Sat 10am-3pm
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Saturday by appointment only



Clarence Town
HOME
Hardware

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PROMOTION

When you purchase Christmas Lights in store, place your name & contact number on the back of the receipt, to go into the draw to win that transaction amount (LIGHTS ONLY) back as a GIFT CARD to spend in store!

2nd NOVEMBER – 24th DECEMBER 2026

DRAWN – CHRISTMAS EVE

Terms & Conditions apply

22 Grey Street, Clarence Town
Ph: 4996 4555

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facebook**

Clarence Town Tennis Club

A Winning Season!

It has been a busy time for the Tennis Club, with fundraising, social tennis and exciting opportunities for our players.

We held another very successful fundraising Trivia Night at the Clarence Bowling Sports Recreation Club on 26 September. Around 60 people attended, enjoying trivia, a 100 Club, a range of activities and a terrific raffle. I particularly want to thank all the local Clarence Town businesses who contributed prizes for the raffle. I am always amazed by how much the community supports its own, and we are very grateful for this generosity.

Our Spring Social Night Competition is currently running, with four teams playing. With favourable weather, I hope everyone enjoys the tennis and the opportunity to get together for some friendly competition.

On Saturday 24 October, Clarence Town Tennis Club held an AO 1 Point Slam event. This is the first level of a major event that culminates at the Australian Open Tennis in Melbourne in January. Players entering the event put themselves in the running for a chance to win \$1 million, while clubs can win up to \$50,000. It's an exciting opportunity to be part of the Australian Open experience at a local level.

Our club was also successful in receiving a Facility Enhancement Funding grant through Tennis NSW. This grant will see the club install a complete solar power system, reducing electricity costs while helping lessen our impact on the electricity grid and the environment. This is a welcome improvement for the club and its future.

Warmer months are with us, so we encourage the community to come and enjoy the tennis courts with friends and family. Whether you're a regular player or simply keen for a hit, everyone is welcome!

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



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Dungog Councillors Report

Planning Changes & Tidy Town Triumph

What's Going On Next Door?

The NSW Government has introduced a state wide Community Participation Plan intended to provide clearer, more consistent public notification and exhibition requirements for planning matters, while reducing mandatory exhibition requirements for some lower-impact development application types.

The intention is to streamline the development process but it remains to be seen whether property owners will accept not being told about development before it happens next door.

Council's current notification procedures will be reviewed to ensure consistency with these new Government requirements.

Unfortunately, the following types of development applications will no longer be advertised or neighbour notified:

Ancillary development to existing residential accommodation

such as pools, sheds, pergolas and carports; bed and breakfast accommodation; demolition; dual occupancy (up to two storeys); attached dwellings (up to five dwellings); dwelling houses (up to two storeys); multi-dwelling housing (up to five dwellings); secondary dwellings; farm buildings; home businesses, home industries and home occupations; industrial retail outlets; internal and external alterations and additions to existing residential accommodation resulting in no more than two storeys; kiosks; roadside stalls; rural workers' dwellings; subdivision of land resulting in no more than five new lots; and tree removal on private land.

Tidy Towns WINNER

Congratulations to Dungog town, winner of the 2026 Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards! The town was recognised across six categories, following nominations by community members.

A special congratulations to Councillor James Campbell, who was named the town's "Young Legend" for his active involvement in numerous initiatives supporting Dungog and its environment.

Your local B Ward Councillors:

James Campbell 0484 599 709

james.campbell@dungog.nsw.gov.au

Steve Low AM 4996 4022 steve.low49@gmail.com

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!**

New South Wales Rural Fire Service

Holiday Fire Safety: Be Prepared, Stay Safe and Know The Rules

Many of you will be going on Holidays over the next few weeks and you need to be prepared to keep your family safe.

Caravan and Camping Bush Fire Safety

Before travelling you should check:

- ☐ Fire Danger Ratings and Bush Fire Alerts at rfs.nsw.gov.au or on the Fires Near Me Smartphone app.
- ☐ Weather conditions at www.bom.gov.au
- ☐ Caravan has a smoke alarm, fire extinguisher and fire blanket.
- ☐ Electrical and gas equipment is secure, appropriately fitted, in good working order, and turned off while travelling.
- ☐ How you can call for help.
- ☐ Survival kit includes a working battery operated radio, protective clothing, woollen blankets and water.
- ☐ Let someone at home know your plans and contact them if the plan changes so they know where you are.
- ☐ Secure and prepare your home. Don't put on FB that you are going away but tell your neighbours if you trust them.
- ☐ Don't forget plans for your pets and stock.
- ☐ Survival kit packed, including a working battery operated radio, protective clothing, woollen blankets and water.

Don't travel through remote areas on Total Fire Ban days. If the conditions aren't good, DON'T GO!

Setting up your camp fire or BBQ:

IS IT A TOTAL FIRE BAN DAY?

- Place fires and barbecues at least three metres from flammable materials, on an existing fire site or cleared area where the wind will blow flames away from tents.
- Fires should be attended by a responsible adult at all times.
- Have a water supply ready. Extinguish fires, candles and lanterns before bed.

A fire can be terrifying, with strong winds, intense heat, flames, and thick smoke. If you're caught in a fire: Call Triple Zero (000).

Park off the road in a clear area away from trees. Face your car towards the fire. Turn off the engine and turn on headlights and hazard lights. Close windows and air vents. Stay low in the car to protect yourself from radiant heat. Cover yourself with

a woollen blanket. Drink water and cover your mouth with a damp cloth. Stay down until the sound of the fire has passed. Carefully leave the car (it will be hot) and head for a safe burnt area- no trees - and drink water.

FIRE PERMITS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

With the Bush Fire Danger Period underway, fire permits are required for certain types of burning across our area.

Q. HOW DO I APPLY FOR A FIRE PERMIT?

Fire permits are free and can be arranged through the NSW Rural Fire Service. **Find out more:** nswrfsprod.service-now.com/guardian_csp

WHAT CAN WE ISSUE A FIRE PERMIT FOR?

During the Bush Fire Danger Period, a fire permit may be issued for certain types of burning, including:

- Burning piles of vegetation and garden waste, where permitted.
- Burning vegetation associated with land management activities, where permitted.

Q. WHAT you CAN'T burn

A. Prohibited waste or materials. This includes, but not limited to; Building and demolition waste - Tyres and rubber products. - Mattresses and old furniture. - Household rubbish* and plastics. - Painted or chemically treated timber.

BEFORE YOU LIGHT A FIRE

Even if you have a fire permit, you must comply with all permit conditions and applicable restrictions. A permit does not allow you to burn during a Total Fire Ban. You will also need to notify your neighbours and the relevant authorities before burning. For further information, visit rfs.nsw.gov.au

PERMITS NEEDED NOW! Merry Christmas from all at the RFS. Stay safe and be happy.

PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE.

Stay safe until next time, Di Bennett OAM

Lower Hunter Zone Community Engagement Team

New South Wales Rural Fire Service rfs.nsw.gov.au



RFS
ONLINE
Fire Permits Available

APPLY for a Fire Permit
Go to www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
Or use the QR Code below
Permits are required from
1st Oct – 31st March every year.



Clarence Town First Responders (CFR)

A Decade of Making a Difference

Our Clarence Town RFB Community First Responders (CFR) unit has turned 10.

September this year saw the unit click over ten years of service. While members have come and gone, six have been part of the unit since the beginning. The unit will celebrate this great milestone later in October with a formal event, with NSW Ambulance and the Rural Fire Service helping to commemorate the achievement. The recognition is not just for the CFR Unit but for our whole brigade, with all members actively supporting the unit in what we do.

Our CFR Unit has been invited to have a promotional display at the Clarence Town Community Builders fundraising event at the Village Green on Sunday, 8 November.

We have also been invited by NSW Ambulance to join their display at the Emergency Management & Community Resilience Expo at Maitland Showground on 14 November. This is a great opportunity to showcase our work and promote the GoodSAM program. The Expo will bring together emergency services representing the Maitland, Dungog and Port Stephens council areas. Come along and say hello!

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

CLARENCE TOWN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

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

Please join us to...

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📘 AlisonPenfoldMPforLyne

📷 alison_penfold_for_lyne

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

The Dungog District Chamber of Commerce

A New Chapter for the Chamber

Our Annual General Meeting held on 17 September, 2026 turned out to be a fairly small affair. Unfortunately, only a handful of members attended.

Nonetheless there was some good discussion about the future of the Chamber and we managed to elect three members for an ongoing Committee (the minimum necessary to retain the Chamber's incorporated association status). With such a small Committee we will have to scale back on the Chamber's activities, until we can rebuild a larger Committee with more resources. In the meantime we will do what we can with the resources and people we have available.

Planning for the 2026 Dowling Street Xmas Party (being managed by a separate event specific committee of volunteers) is progressing well, being held on Friday 27 November 2026. The usual festive entertainment, local markets, delicious food, children's activities, and Christmas cheer are proposed.

We will be having our next networking and dinner event on Thursday 15 October, probably our last one for the year. We will start with presentations from the various Community Builders committee's from around the Dungog Shire at 6:00pm at the Doug Walters Pavilion, Dungog. Afterwards we will move up to the Dungog RSL for dinner.

Stay tuned to DDCC's social media channels for updates on these exciting events. Contact secretary@ddcc.org.au or visit www.ddcc.org.au



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Phillica IT Tips

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More Age Verification

As of 24 September 2026, Discord now requires age verification. If using a phone, tablet or notebook, the built-in camera can be used for facial age estimation. If this option is unavailable or insufficient, you may need to provide scans of identification documents.

To check your current age group, open Discord and go to User Settings > Account Status. If you have not completed verification, check the instructions provided in your account.

Windows computers will also require age verification, although the start date depends on your location. In the USA, some states begin in January 2027, others in January or July 2028. In Australia, rollout started in August 2026 and will take time to reach everyone.

Verification methods may include email, a secure selfie, credit card or government-issued ID, such as a driver's licence or passport. These checks are intended to confirm your age and may affect what you can view, install or download through Google, Apple and Microsoft stores.

Microsoft No Longer Sending Text Messages

Microsoft is moving away from SMS and voice authentication because these methods are no longer considered secure. It is moving towards passkeys to verify your identity when signing in. A passkey provides an alternative to entering a code sent by text message.

From 1 September 2026, users relying on SMS or voice are being prompted to register a passkey when completing multi-factor authentication (MFA), which adds another layer of security to your account.

From 1 February 2027, users whose only MFA method is SMS or voice will be blocked from signing in until they register a passkey. There is no opt-out from this requirement, which applies across all tenants.

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From the Parson's Pen

A Christmas Story

The stories of the ancestors are very important in understanding the context and meaning of Jesus' birth, these stories are recorded in the Old Testament. God's Christmas gift of the holy child is a gift of love. A gift of love for you and me, a gift of love for all people in all times and places, and for all of creation. Jesus the Christ is above time and above creation, but came to be with us, so that we would know we are loved.

The traditions that surround the holy story of the birth of Jesus that took place in a far away time and place help us to make it ours, and to remember that the story of Jesus is for everyone, in every time and place, on every day of the year.

In the Christmas of 1936, a young couple were struggling to make Christmas special for their young family. They had found a pine branch, cut it and brought it home and decorated it. They had a little boy who was three and a half, a little girl who had just turned two and another baby girl.

They lived in Cowra towards the end of the Great Depression. Many things were scarce then, for them and many others, and they could not afford to buy toys for their children that Christmas.

But as it turned out, they won a raffle on Christmas Eve, and when the little girl woke up on Christmas morning - there was a life size Shirley Temple doll under the Christmas tree for her, resplendent in a beautiful frilly outfit of the latest fashion, with her blond curls gleaming softly in the early morning sunshine. She still lives at my Mums house and brings joy and a reminder that love was what mattered most that Christmas, and every Christmas.

Santa Claus has always put an orange in my Christmas stocking and in my children's Christmas stockings - a family tradition which began because oranges were very precious during the Great Depression years.

This family tradition, and many others of yours and mine, remind us that the greatest gift is love, and that we need to remember to value ordinary things we often take for granted.

What are some of your family traditions? How will you pass those on, to help you and others embrace and be changed by the gifts of God?

The Gospel of the birth of Jesus calls us to re-assess our values, and to remind us that the greatest gift is love. May we have courage to question the false values which enslave us.

May this Christmas season be filled with love given and received unconditionally. Amen.

Reverend Amanda Lea Brockwell



Reverend Amanda Lea Brockwell

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 live music, prayers, kids talk, sermon and morning tea provided.

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.

Growth Groups (Bible study) on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:30pm at the church is in recess at the moment, returning 21/22 October, where we will be exploring the 'The Five Solas' of the Reformation.

From the pulpit we are midway through the awesome book of Esther, where we are seeing how God fulfils his covenant promises through his providence. Christmas Day service will be 10am at the church.

"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

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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.

Where has the year gone?

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the health and well-being of St. John's throughout the year - the cleaning, the delicious morning teas, the music, the intercessions, the readers, the care of the grounds, the bell-ringers – everyone, thank you so much.

I would like to say a special 'thank you' to Wayne Brorson, who lovingly maintains the cemetery grounds at Glen William. I receive so many comments of how peaceful and quiet it is and how lovely it looks. Thank you Wayne.

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the painting of our church hall on the outside and the inside ceilings. The building is in much need of some TLC.

Our Services are at 10.30am each Sunday morning followed by morning tea in the church hall. You would be made most welcome.

St. John's Christmas service will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve with a bring and share supper in the hall to follow the service. Always a lovely time of fellowship following the service of celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus. Everyone always enjoys singing the carols and giving thanks to God for His amazing gift to us all. One never tires of the miracle of the Christmas Story. *May that story touch your hearts this Christmas in a very special way and that you and your family will be surrounded by peace and love.*

Sue Flannery

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

41 Rifle St, Clarence Town

Pastor: Rev Andrew Doohan

Service Times: Every Sunday 8am

Well, Father Andrew is on Pilgrimage to Ireland and we have had Father Dennis holding the fort admirably.

Our town and surrounding areas need good rain to sustain us during the coming summer. I know the good Lord hears our prayers, please just give me patience while I wait!

Like everyone in 'Our Town' we congratulate our Newcastle Knights on their great performance this year. They were most courageous. Christmas is coming around quickly and we will soon be planning social functions. Let us not forget the 'real' reason for the season.

God bless and good health to all, Marilyn Amos

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

Christ Church continues to be busy with all we do.

The Op Shop had a hiccup in the last month when the people who used to collect our extra goods told us that they were to cease doing it. We were panicked as to what to do with our excess goods. After many phone calls and help from another source we have now found a new group who will pick up our goods. We are so lucky to have lots of donations that we need to pass them onto others.

Our markets for October were a bit quieter but we still had 18 stalls as well as our BBQ and Op Shop.

We have our Friday morning events with Cuppa 'n Chat from 9.30 to 11 am, all welcome. We have our 10.30 am Church service and of course the Op Shop is open 8.30 am to 2 pm.

We had blessing of the Animals on 4th October with 4 dogs, 2 rats and many photos of animals that do not want to come to Church!

We are doing our Mango Fundraiser this year as usual for our 3 Mission projects and we will be holding a Stall in Dowling Street on the 27th November when the Chamber of Commerce hold their Street Party where we will sell our usual Christmas goods.

We will be collecting goods for the Mission to Seafarers and will get the shoe boxes covered in Christmas paper so we can put the goods in them for a ship that will come into the Newcastle port over Christmas. The Seafarers love their Christmas goods (Beanies, socks, lollies, puzzles, calendar, batteries, note pads and pens, toothpaste and toothbrushes and the list goes on).

Our next Markets are on the 7th November and 5th December then it will be Christmas!! **No markets in January.**

Wishing you all the best for a great Christmas and New Year.

Blessings - Margaret Flannery



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Clarence Town Public School

A Whole Lot Happening!

Excursion fun

Our K-2 students also enjoyed a wonderful day in Newcastle, visiting the museum and seeing a show at the Civic Theatre. Staff were so impressed with the level of engagement and exemplary behaviour shown by our K-2 students.

Students in Stage 2 attended The Great Aussie Bush Camp in Tea Gardens. Some of the most popular activities included the zipline and the giant swing. A delicious breakfast of pancakes also seemed to be a particular highlight!

Stage 3 students enjoyed an amazing camp at Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. From an early morning bus to a beautiful top deck ferry ride, students engaged positively throughout camp and have made lifelong memories. Some of the highlights included kayaking, archery, fishing, trivia & games night.

Celebrating student behaviour

To reward excellent student behaviour, all students got to celebrate with a crazy hair day! We loved seeing the creative hairstyles that students and their parents came up with. We are now working towards a zooper dooper day in Term 4.

Amazing community support

Our Clarence Town P&C, alongside members of our wonderful school community, gathered at the Erringhi Hotel in October to receive an incredibly generous donation of \$16,251 following the highly successful pig races.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Steve and Kate for their generosity and support of our school. Their contribution is a wonderful example of the strong community connections that make our small community such a special place.

This was a reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared goal. The support, generosity and connection shown by our local community is helping turn our vision into reality, bringing us one significant step closer to installing air conditioning in our school hall.

Enrolments open for 2027

Our front office staff are ready to welcome all new and prospective students and families to Clarence Town Public School in 2027. Please contact us to arrange a school tour or if you have any questions about the enrolment process.

Kim Smith, Principal

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