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Wellington & District
LEADER

Covering news and views from within the Wellington, Eucharanea, Geurie, Goolma, Gollan, Mumbil, Stuart Town, Wongarbon and Yeoval districts.

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WELLINGTON RACE CLUB
Wellington Boot Carnival
Friday 10 April
Sunday 12 April

Beyond Best Before founders
Australia Day Ambassadors
- P3

Father Carl McKander
Farewell party photos
- P4

SafetyCollar cricket shirt set
to stifle neck & head injuries
- P13

Looking to the future



Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club president Robyn Edwards and general manager Stephen Hodge present the club’s “Looking to the Future” club enhancement four-page centre spread insert in today’s edition.

A DECADE of building financial strength now enables the modernisation of key spaces within Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club and the delivery of long-term community benefits as this club continues to grow alongside its members.

Following an in-depth review of the club’s strengths and weaknesses through a Strategic Plan conducted by the club’s board of directors with general manager Stephen Hodge, priorities were established including the adoption of the ‘Looking to the Future’ strategy which plans to

rejuvenate existing areas and modernise within to enhance an enjoyable customer experience while establishing a more family-friendly atmosphere.

Redevelopment has been aligned with financial viability and will be staged over the next several years.

Centre Spread Liftout
 Inserted in today’s edition is a four-page liftout detailing the Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club (WSMC) vision of proposed future designs of Gaming, Bar

and Bistro areas within the club.

As well, enhancement of the Wellington Golf Club facilities since the amalgamation with the Soldiers Club to establish the Wellington Soldiers Memorial and Golf Club enterprise.

In recent months the opportunity arose to purchase the Wellington Information Neighbourhood Service (WINS) land in Swift Street which adjoins the back of the Soldiers Club.

This recent acquisition enables further future planning including a four-rink

bowling green.

Golf Club
 The amalgamation of the golf club with WSMC was deemed essential by golf club members to ensure the near-century-old golf club continued profitably while members and visitors enjoy the superb 18-hole course facility, according to WSMC president Robyn Edwards.

“I’m very excited, and the Board is also excited about the progress made since the

... Continued on Page 7

Special
Insert

Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club
An insight to progress

Cost shifting now costing \$500 per ratepayer

Welcome back to 2026

I HOPE that everyone had a safe and restful Christmas and New Year, and is excited to see what 2026 brings.

It's obviously going to be another big year at Council as Councillors once again seek to 'do more with less' by continuing to provide the services without a big rate rise, whilst also having costs shifted onto us by the State and Federal Government.

The recent Local Government NSW survey of councils found that the Cost Shift from the other two tiers of government onto local councils is approaching \$500 per ratepayer.

This means that ratepayers through their Council are funding services that were previously fully provided by State and Federal Governments.

This is obviously financially unsustainable in the medium to long term, with many other councils in NSW looking to reduce service levels or apply a Special Rate Variation in some form.

(Another) Fire at a Solar Farm
Once again, a fire has started at a solar farm in our LGA.

These events are disturbing and worrying

for neighbouring landowners who could potentially be burnt out by a fast-moving grassfire. I have already written to relevant NSW Government Ministers before Christmas asking for a full investigation into the well-publicised Wellington North Solar Farm fire, but obviously haven't heard back yet due to the ongoing investigation and the holidays.

The community really does need some answers on the management practices, fire-fighting plans, and grass control strategies of solar farms, especially when they start incorporating large lithium Battery Energy Storage Systems into the projects.

Feral Deer
Imagine my surprise when I rounded a bend on the hill down into Moonbi, near Tamworth, and there were three Fallow Deer standing in the middle of the Oxley Highway like they owned the place.

That evening when driving between Mulaley and Coonabarabran I also saw a decent sized red doe on the side of the road.

Feral deer are going to be a massive problem for farmers and motorists in our part of the world in a few short years.

A comprehensive strategy is required from the NSW Government to control deer numbers before they explode to levels seen in the alpine regions of NSW and Victoria.

Summer fun at Wellington Library!
There's lots happening at the Macquarie Regional Library in Wellington, suitable for ages 5 to 12 years, including: Big Summer Beads: Design and decorate clay beads to create a bracelet, necklace or windchime - 10.30am to 12pm, Tuesday 20 January, and, Gumleaf Mobiles: Be creative with gum leaves, gumnuts and beads to make a bush mobile - 10.30am to 12pm, Thursday 22 January

Activities are free however bookings are required. Book at Wellington Library on 6840 1780 or online www.mrl.nsw.gov.au/kids

Free Tip Voucher
Access your tipping voucher online anytime. Download your tipping voucher online before your next visit to one of our waste facilities, they're ready when you are. The perfect way to get rid of your Christmas and New Year rubbish! Get

started at: <https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/tipping-vouchers> or call into the Front Desk at Council.

Jobs at Council
Join our team and provide high-quality services, support and facilities to the growing communities. There are 17+ positions available, open now for application Casual Assistant Gardeners – Multiple positions; Functions Officer – Wellington Civic Centre; Water and Sewer Reticulation Labourer – Multiple positions To find out more or apply for one of these positions head to: <https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/careers>

What goes in your green lid FOGO bin
Some residences have a green lid FOGO bin, that is only for home food scraps and garden waste. NO PLASTICS! The food and plant material in your FOGO bin are turned into great compost that is used to grow more food, so it is really important not to allow plastic contamination to go into that bin.
Josh Black

Stray Notes calls for more singers

Are you passionate about singing and looking for a friendly, welcoming group to join?

Then people of all ages and experience levels are invited to try out for Wellington's community choir, aka 'Stray Notes'.

They rehearse Monday evenings, 6 to 7.30pm at St John's Anglican Church Hall, 43 Warne Street.

Go along to a 2026 rehearsal commencing Monday, February 2, to see what the choir is all about, and find out where your voice sits (i.e. soprano/alto/tenor/bass?).

Get in touch to express your interest.
Lindy Email: lblekie@gmail.com or Mobile: 0418426865
Dionne Mobile: 0414815110

Roger Everett reflects on host of memories after reading the Walmer story in December

READING THE article from Kel Wykes written by Mrs Wykes from the Walmer Village shop (WDL December 18, 2025) brought back a host of memories to Roger Everett

The installation of the petrol bowser at the shop was a particular "masterpiece" for us pre-teens, where we watched the required fuel hand pumped up to the upper glass chamber and then run into a vehicle.

The pony rides from "Karoo" to the Wykes's shop and then the Post Office, run by Mrs Parkes at the time, was an adventure and to collect the fresh hi-top bread loaves from the mailbox on return was an absolute treat when we got back. Wonderful people in wonderful times.

Who could forget the truck lines, with their skewered hemp bags, at the wheat silo's that were a social get together, and good trading days for the shop.

Invariably the trucks were overloaded and had to be jacked up overnight to stop the springs inverting. Often kids were left to move the truck in the line whilst dad continued the harvest at home.

Hard work was what ensured survival.

Mrs Wykes's reference to the Baird Family at "Karoo" has a history of its own and started when Samuel Lane and his 11-year-old nephew Frank Shepherd came to Australia on the advice of Samuel's Doctor.

On the voyage they became friendly to Dr Stokes and Mr Basset who ventured on to Wellington with their families, whilst Samuel was admitted to Bathurst Hospital to recover from a life-threatening

episode on the voyage.

After recovery he apparently worked for several years as the Bathurst Hospital Administrator and in good health he sent for his wife and young son Harold to join him.

The Lanes decided to visit the Stokes and Basset families in Wellington, and Dr Stokes offered to show them land for purchase in the "Bushranger infested Walmer Area" and they subsequently moved to "Happy Valley" and built a wattle and daub cottage and Samuel created an "amazing English garden including fruit trees" that visitors reportedly admired.

On Sundays Samuel made the trek to play the organ at the Curra Creek church and was apparently highly regarded for his advice.

The Lanes purchased "Old Karoo" and eventually lived in a quarried stone house much to the pleasure of Mrs Lane. The Lane-Shepherd partnership provided land for the School, formerly at Smokey Camp, adjacent to the village.

Douglas Baird the son of Presbyterian Minister from Exeter in NSW arrived on the scene and ultimately married the Lane's only daughter Olive Lindrea Lane.

Douglas and Olive took over the now substantial "Karoo" property and then their son Darvel took over the property with one daughter marrying Harold Morley and taking over a portion of "Karoo" adjacent to the village.

The Baird's other daughters including my mother Lucy Everett, all married locally.

The 11-year-old nephew of Frank

Shepherd ultimately purchased "Acton" in the Narromine district, and son Harold Lane married Elsie Stevenson from "Terrabella" and purchased "Goolbinga" ultimately part of "Redlands".

The Lanes owned significant residential and commercial real estate in Wellington and in subsequent times the Bairds owned a number of residential properties in Wellington.

Darvel Baird was very active in the Wellington community particularly Apex, and served as a Councillor and Shire President and his wife Muriel remained active on the retained portion of "Karoo" until her death a few years ago.

Editor's note:
Further sections of The Walmer Story compiled and written by Neil Wykes OAM, Roseville, will be published in future editions of the "**Leader**".

The price of a "**Leader**"
is only half the cosy
of a coffee

Funeral Notice

Dorothy Pearl PARKES

Aged 84 years
Late of Wellington

Adored wife of Ernest (dec)
Loving mother to Kyle (dec)

Relatives and friends are warmly
invited to attend the graveside
funeral service for Dorothy
to be held at the

Wellington Lawn Cemetery
on Monday 19th January 2026
Commencing at 10.30am

H Logue & Sons Funerals, Wellington NSW
0268451946

Obituaries of our loved ones
are welcomed for publication in the
"Leader"
Contact: mark@wdleader.news

Wellington & District
LEADER

In Memory of Beryl O'Brien

Covering news and views particularly from within the Wellington region, which now runs from Eucharéena to Elong Elong within Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area.

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Editor: Mark Griggs
0456 940 999
email: mark@wdleader.news

Advertising Manager
Sharon Wilson
0407 935 998
email: sharon@wdleader.news

Community input and feedback is welcomed. Story leads, prepared articles and photographs can be forwarded to the publisher.

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In lodging an advertisement with us you agree that we may publish the advertisement on our website. The general terms and conditions that apply to publication of advertisements in our publication apply also to publication of material on our website. Advertising conditions of the Wellington & District Leader are available on request by phoning 0407 935 998.

Beyond Best Before founders are Wellington's Australia Day Ambassadors on Sunday 25th

AUSTRALIA DAY Ambassadors Katie, Maggie and Michael Quach will deliver inspiring messages to Wellington communities during the Australia Day event this year.

Council (DRC) will host the Wellington Australia Day 2026 event on Sunday, January 25 in Cameron Park, starting at 5pm, and will include children's activities, a free barbecue, and the official ceremony.

Katie, Maggie, and Michael Quach are the visionary siblings behind Beyond Best Before, a social-impact enterprise tackling food waste and promoting sustainable living.

In 2025, their work earned international recognition with a place on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list for Social Impact, highlighting their leadership in sustainability and innovation.

Founded in 2021, Beyond Best Before intercepts surplus stock and near-date grocery items destined for landfill,

reselling them at affordable prices through a national e-commerce platform, a flagship store in Sydney, and an emerging wholesale marketplace.

Their model reduces waste, saves consumers money, and educates Australians about food sustainability.

The Australia Day 2026 event in Wellington is supported by Belgravia Leisure, who are offering free entry into the Wellington and Geurie pools on Monday, January 26.

Free entry is from 10am and 1pm at Wellington, and 11:30am and 6:30pm at Geurie.

Council encourages the community to attend the Cameron Park celebration on Sunday before spending Australia Day on Monday, January 26 in a way that is meaningful to them.

RIGHT: Katie, Maggie and Michael Quach will officiate at Wellington's Australia Day celebrations.



Peter Lewsam was Wellington's 2025 Citizen of the Year.



Marion Trounce was Wellington's 2025 Senior Citizen of the Year.



The traditional cutting of the Australia Day cake by awardees.

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Australia Day 2026 in Wellington!

Cameron Park Sunday 25 January from 5pm

Come along and recognise Australia Day 2026 with your community.

The evening will include children's activities:

- Face painting
- Bubble fairy

Plus a FREE barbecue!

The official ceremony, including the Australia Day Awards, will commence at 6pm.

Plus enjoy FREE entry to Wellington and Geurie pools on **Monday 26 January** thanks to Belgravia Leisure.

- Wellington 10am - 1pm
- Geurie 11:30am - 6:30pm



DUBBO.NSW.GOV.AU

Wellington bids ‘farewell’ to Father Carl

WELLINGTON REGION’S popular Catholic parish priest, Father Carl McKander was farewelled to his retirement in grand style by some 90 parishioners and friends at the Infant de Prague Hall on Saturday, January 3.

The evening became a truly successful social event enjoyed by all and catered for by Wok Sheridan and Kellie from the Cow & Calf Hotel, while special entertainment was provided by Wellington’s own Stray Notes singers.

Two presentations were on the agenda as not only Fr Carl retiring, but also the parish secretary, Enid Simpson.

Fr Carl made special thanks to everyone he has met while serving the parish in Wellington and would take many wonderful memories with him to Mudgee where he will retire to.



Sue Knowles presents Enid Simpson a gift of a painting by local artist Louise Sallustio in gratitude of her untiring work as Parish Secretary.



Father Carl McKander delivers his farewell speech.



Bernard and Barbara Spargo.



Delma and Ray Gersbach.



Enid Simpson, Fr Carl, Sister Marjorie and Michael McMahon.



Neil and Anne East with Kathy Martin.



Michael and Del Brien with Chrissie Wilkins.



Stray Notes members entertained during the evening.



Terry and Karen Melhuish.



Stuart and Anne Edwards with Bill Redfern.



Allan and Halley Jones with George and Paddy.



Fr Carl with some of his Thursday coffee group mates. Norm McCure, John Bullock, Michael White, Peter Sheridan and Bill Redfern.



Michael and Peta Williams.



Katrina, Wendy and Peter Sheridan.



Ian and Karen Horton.



Sue Knowles Anne Mason and Kathy Taylor.

State records highest number of women murdered in domestic/family violence

NSW AGAIN records highest number of women murdered in a domestic and family violence context in 2025

Specialist DFV services report average waits of two-months for support. DEMAND FOR support to manage, leave and recover from domestic and family violence continues to rise.

With NSW once again recording the highest number of women killed in a domestic violence context in the country, Domestic Violence NSW said the failure of the NSW Government to invest in frontline services, many of which had not received an increase to their base operational funding in more than a decade, was placing lives at risk.

According to Domestic Violence NSW, the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence (DFV) services in the state, the NSW Government can no longer ignore calls for a 50 per cent increase to core funding for the DFV sector, as services are at crisis point and women and

children are being turned away from life-saving support.

DVNSW CEO Delia Donovan said the situation was untenable and required immediate government action.

“In early 2025, our members reported average wait times of up to two months for people seeking support,” Ms Donovan said.

“This is essential work and for some women and children, it’s the difference between life and death.

“Imagine the public outcry if there were a two-month wait to be treated in an Emergency Department.

“Where is that same urgency when women and children are trying to access safety?”

Specialist DFV workers report that many services are being kept afloat through unpaid overtime, fundraising, and staff covering basic costs out of their own pockets.

As referral rates continue to climb, DVNSW warns that goodwill is being relied on to prop up a sector stretched bey-

ond capacity.

“For more than five years, we have consistently called for a 50pc increase to baseline funding so frontline services can meet demand, retain skilled workers, and provide safety and healing to those in crisis,” Ms Donovan said.

“This call is backed by researchers, experts, workers and victim-survivors – yet successive governments have failed to listen and act.”

The crisis is even more severe in regional and remote NSW, where modelling shows some services require up to 8.94 times their current funding simply to remain operational.

“The data is clear and the solutions are known.

“What’s missing is political will,” she said.

“NSW is the wealthiest and most well-resourced states in the country, yet women and children are being forced to return to violence because we cannot commit just 0.1 per cent of the state budget to properly fund the services that save their lives.”

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Reopening

Sunday, 1st February

Empathetic Counselling by Appointment 6845 4661



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The festive season
isn't always easy,
and that's okay

Whether you've had a tough year or endured some recent setbacks, it's okay to pause and reach out for support.


Looking after your mental health and wellbeing doesn't mean making big changes. Often, it can start with something simple like checking in with yourself, or someone you care about.



For more information to support your mental health and wellbeing, visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/support or call the Mental Health line on 1800 011 511.



Public Notice



WELLINGTON LOCAL ABORIGINAL
LAND COUNCIL (WLALC)

**Notice of
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(AGM)**

Notice is hereby given of an Annual General Meeting for the Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council.

DATE: 22nd January 2026
TIME: 5:30pm
PLACE: WLALC Hall, 163 Simpson Street

AGENDA:

1. Welcome/apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Election to fill casual vacancies on Wellington LALC Board
4. Receipt of the 24/25 Audited Financial Statements and Management letter Response.
5. General Business
6. The conduct of any other business placed on the agenda before the commencement of the meeting.

Please note: A voting member of the Wellington LALC Board is not entitled to vote, nominate, accept a nomination, or be elected to office in elections for Board Members if the voting member has not attended at least 2 meetings of the Wellington LALC in the preceding 12 months as a voting member

All inquiries about this meeting should be directed to the Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council office staff during business hours.

Authorized: Helena Stanley (Chairperson)

Tell our advertisers you saw it in the 'Leader'

Positions Vacant



We have a new position available for an **ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT**

This position would suit a young person, maybe straight from high school, looking to establish a career in registered club administration.

Needs to be: Punctual, well presented, have typing skills and willing to participate in a TAFE Administration course.

Must hold an RSA and RCG or willing to obtain both.

**CONTACT: General Manager,
Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club
stephen@wellingtonsoldiers.com**

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Church Services

Anglican Parish of Wellington

WELLINGTON – St John the Baptist Church
Sunday 9am
Sunday 5pm - The Gathering

MARANATHA
11am on 2nd & 4th Friday of month.

Wellington Baptist Church

77 Swift Street
9:30am Sunday mornings
6pm Evening Service

Wellington Uniting Church

Sunday at 9.30am

St Patrick's Catholic Parish

Saturday
6pm – Mass, St Patrick's Church, Wellington
8.30am - Stuart Town

Sunday
8am – Our Lady's Church, Yeoval first, third and fifth Sundays of the month
10am – Our Lady's Church, Yeoval second and fourth Sundays of the month
10am – St Patrick's Church, Wellington first, third and fifth Sundays of the month
8am – St Patrick's Church, Wellington second and fourth Sundays of the month

Weekday mass
Please check parish bulletin

In Christ Chapel
2pm Sunday

Riverside Church Inc.
170 Thornton Street
Sunday: 10.00am Service
Thursday: Bible Study for Men and Women 10.30 am

Everyone looks at the classifieds.

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Around the electorate with our State Member **Dugald Saunders**



Welcome to 2026
CAN YOU believe it's already the middle of January?
I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year period with loved ones. I'm excited to see what 2026 holds and look forward to representing the wonderful people of the Dubbo electorate.
My office has now reopened after a well-deserved break. If there's anything that I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to reach out by calling 6882 3577, sending an email to dubbo@parliament.nsw.gov.au or visiting in person at 1/18 Talbragar Street, Dubbo.

Summer Safety: Be SunSmart
It's pretty well known that skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia, but did you know that the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can also cause premature ageing and eye damage?
The good news is you can lower your risk by being SunSmart. When the UV level is 3 or above, remember to be SunSmart by using all 5 sun protection measures, even if it's cloudy: SLIP on some sun-protective

clothing; SLOP on SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum and water-resistant sun-screen; SLAP on a broadbrimmed hat; SEEK shade; and SLIDE on some sun-glasses.
Make sure to check your skin regularly for any new spots or changes in shape, colour or size of existing spots. If you notice anything unusual, see your doctor as soon as possible. Most skin cancers can be successfully treated if found early.

Specialist Menopause Service
When women experience severe or complex menopausal symptoms it can have a big impact on both their quality of life and health, including heart and bone related issues.
For these women, more expert advice, direction and treatment options from the NSW Specialist Menopause Service can help.
Women in the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) may be eligible to access this service, if they meet one or more of the following eligibility criteria:
* Experience perimenopause/menopause

symptoms before the age of 40; or,
* Experience perimenopause/menopausal symptoms after the age of 40 but also have a history of any of the following medical conditions:
* Cardiovascular (heart) disease or stroke
* Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) or known thromboembolic disease
* Cancer (current or past history or genetic risk of breast/gynaecological cancer)
* Migraine with aura
* Symptoms of menopause not improved 6-8 weeks after initiating therapy
* Acute liver disease
* High risk of fracture or history of minimal trauma fracture
The WNSWLHD Specialist Menopause Service is a referral service, with a care coordinator assessing and triaging patient referrals and helping patients to navigate care locally. The service also assists with additional referrals as needed, both locally and through the South-Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) Specialist Menopause Hub Service as part of NSW Health's state-wide Menopause Network.
General practitioners, medical specialists

and nurse practitioners can refer eligible women to the WNSWLHD Specialist Menopause Service for advanced care. If you're experiencing complex menopausal or perimenopausal symptoms, speak to your care provider to find out whether a referral is right for you.

Tertiary Student Scholarships
Students studying an accredited course through TAFE NSW, a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), University or a similar institution may be eligible to apply for financial assistance through OCTEC Limited's Glenn Taylor Scholarship.
Valued up to \$20,000, this opportunity is designed to alleviate financial hardship for regional and rural Australian students.
Those living with disability, First Nations people, mature-aged students heading back to school, and people who have excelled in their studies are encouraged to apply.
Applications close February 28, 2026.
For more information, visit:
<https://octec.org.au/glenntaylorscholarship/>

Until next time, Dugald

Soldiers Club enters rejuvenation program looking to the future

...From Front Page
amalgamization,” Ms Edwards said.
“The Board, like golf club members, believed the ongoing success for the golf club was essential to the benefit of the whole Wellington community.
“And trading and profitability has already increased.”
Ms Edwards said she saw the golf club as a hidden gem with much potential.
“We now have plans to upgrade the clubhouse area which will result in attracting more community engagement, particularly in functions like wedding ceremonies and breakfasts, plus other celebrations as well as encouraging more family-oriented engagement.”

WINS block
With the acquisition of the WINS block the Soldiers Club has reviewed its strategic plan to fulfil a long-time dream of developing a new bowling green facility at the rear of the club’s premises.
“A bowling green will also offer members an additional sporting attraction,” Ms Edwards said.
“The synthetic lawn rinks will be easy-care, and an opportunity to acknowledge local sporting and community members with the area and rinks named after them.”

Keeping ahead with the times
WSMC general manager Stephen Hodge said that as the club’s finances and savings were in a positive position, the club’s financial viability and continued savings enabled modernisation of areas within.
“Some stabilising work by the club’s previous general manager David French and club directors during the past 10 to 15 years has placed this club’s finances into a very positive position which now enables a phase of restructuring to keep ahead of a challenging club business income future,” Mr Hodge said.
“From the board’s strategic plan the first three stages of modernising club areas have been identified and design plans are now ready to head to the regional council as development applications.
“The first stage is an upgrade enhancement of the gaming outdoor smoking area together with a new club bar arrangement availing easier service in keeping with member’s needs.
“Following this will be a complete restructure of the kitchen area to include a multi-national cuisine Bistro enabling patrons to increase their dining experience by viewing their meals being cooked and prepared from their tables.
“The dining area enlargement will include



An upgrade including a fresh design to simplify customer service is one of the first three stages of the Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club’s “Looking to the Future” strategy. Pictured is club president Robyn Edwards and general manager Stephen Hodge looking over the special four-page centre-spread feature inside today’s paper.

a larger play area for the youngsters encouraging a family dining engagement environment.”
Mr Hodge said there were also future plans to expand the downstairs area.
“Downstairs has not been utilised for a decade or more, however, this could be revitalised into a sports bar styled entertainment area with more kids playground equipment,” Mr Hodge said.
“These improvements with the proposed bowling green which will be viewed from the ground floor and upstairs facilities will add further to the progressive club the Soldiers Club has progressed into.
“Take the time and carefully read the “Looking to the Future” club insert in today’s paper to view where your club is positively heading.”

Lions introduces new school achievement award Top borrowed books in 2025



Wellington High School student Jarrod Morris is presented the first Lions Outstanding Achiever award by Lion Deavelyn Besterwich.
WELLINGTON LIONS introduced a new award to the annual Wellington High School annual awards presentation night last year, and hopes to introduce the same award at every school in Wellington.
The monetary award and perpetual shield is presented to a child nominated by the school and recognising students who demonstrate resilience, personal growth, and determination

in the face of significant challenges.
This award celebrates students who remain engaged in their education and continue to work towards a positive future despite adversity.
Deavelyn Besterwich presented the new Lions Outstanding Achiever Award to Jarrod Morris.
Denim Ah See was presented the 2025 Outstanding Achiever Award – Highly Commended award.



Denim Ah See is presented the 2025 Outstanding Achiever Award – Highly Commended award by Lion Deavelyn Besterwich.

CRIME THRILLER author Lee Child has taken out to most book borrowed from the Macquarie Regional Library in Wellington and Dubbo for the third year running.
Ms Child’s books are on the library’s top 10 borrowed books in 2025 for both fiction and non-fiction and borrowed the most times by members at the Dubbo or Wellington Libraries.
Library Manager Kathryn McAlister said over the past few years crime fiction and Australian authors have dominated the top 10 borrowed adult fiction category.
“Crime thriller author Lee Child has taken out of the top spot for the third year running whilst Karly Lane and James Patterson are also consistent authors featured in the top 10 year on year,” Ms McAlister said.
Top adult fiction borrowed books:
1. In Too Deep, by Lee Child
2. Strangers In Time, by David Baldacci
3. The Hidden Girl, by Lucinda Riley
4. Twist of Fate, by Karly Lane
5. Out in Nowhere, by Fleur McDonald
6. Resurrection Walk, by Michael Connelly
7. The One That Got Away, by Karly Lane
8. Holmes is Missing, by James Patterson
9. Looking Out, by Fiona McCallum
10. Raised By Wolves, by James Patterson

Top adult non-fiction books borrowed:
1. Handfuls of sunshine: perfect bite – sized bakes, by Tilly Pamment
2. A knock at the door, by Rob Parsons
3. Food noise, by Jack Mosley
4. Plug in! the electrification handbook, by Saul Griffith
5. The let them theory, by Mel Robbins
6. Australian gospel: a family saga, by Lech Blaine
7. Eating together: a recipe for healthier, happier



Librarian Margot Drake from the Wellington Library with some of the 2025 top borrowed books.
families, by Clare Bailey
8. Original sin: President Biden’s decline, by Jake Tapper
9. The warrior: Rafael Nadal and his kingdom of clay, by Christopher Clarey
10. A short history of modern internal medicine, by Kerry Breen
Macquarie Regional Library has an extensive range of fiction and non-fiction titles available in physical books or the online library through apps such as Libby, BorrowBox, IndyReads and U Library.
To access the library’s great collections, become a member. It’s free to join. Visit your local library branch or www.mrl.nsw.gov.au

15 billion containers recycled in Return and Earn

NSW RECYCLERS have benefited from \$1.5 billion in refunds by returning a record 15 billion containers through Return and Earn.
Enthusiasm for Return and Earn has seen the tally of bottles, cartons and cans returned through the network soar from 14 billion to 15 billion containers in less than six months.
The estimated environmental benefits of the scheme, which launched in December 2017, include: energy savings equivalent to powering 204,750 homes for a year; water savings equivalent to 35,186 Olympic swimming pools; and CO2 emissions equivalent to taking nearly 1.1 million cars off the road for a year. The staggering 15 billion milestone has been reached as the state government prepares to expand the scheme to accept wine and spirit bottles and larger drink containers from mid-2027. The scheme expansion will divert an estimated 27,000 tonnes of materials from NSW landfills annually, and make an additional 362 million containers eligible for the 10 cent refund each year.
Return and Earn was first introduced as a litter reduction initiative and has become an integral part of NSW’s circular economy, with glass and plastic bottles processed and back on the shelves within weeks of being returned.
The program has also become a key fundraising platform for charities and community groups, with over \$91.5 million in container refund donations and fees from hosting return points to support worthy causes since 2017.



6.00 Morning Programs. **10.30** The Weekly With Charlie Pickering. **11.30** Changing Ends. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Miss Austen. **2.00** Restoration Australia. **2.55** Would I Lie To You? **3.25** Nigella At My Table. **3.55** Grand Designs: The Streets. **4.45** Long Lost Family. **5.30** Antiques Roadshow. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** 7.30. **8.00** Grand Designs Transformations. **9.00** Amanda & Alan's Italian Job. **9.30** Goolagong. **10.40** ABC Late News. **10.55** Grand Designs: The Streets. **11.40** Late Programs.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Escape To The Country. **2.00** Home In WA. **2.30** Young Elizabeth. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** Million Dollar Minute. **4.30** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Father Brown. **8.30** The Inspector Lynley Mysteries. **10.30** Murdoch Mysteries. **11.30** Late Programs.

Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.05** ER. **2.50** Heartbreak High. **3.35** A Bite To Eat. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Car S.O.S. **6.15** Portrait Artist Of The Year. **7.00** House Of Games. **7.30** QI. **8.00** Would I Lie To You? **8.30** Hard Quiz. **9.05** Gruen. **9.40** Late Programs.



6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show Summer Series. **12.00** MOVIE: Sweet As Maple Syrup. (2022) **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News @ 6.30. **7.00** Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 36. Melbourne Renegades v Perth Scorchers. **10.30** Seven's Cricket: The Spin. **11.15** Boyzone: Life, Death And Boybands. **12.15** MOVIE: A Criminal Affair. (2021) **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** The Force: Behind The Line. **3.30** Full Custom Garage. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** American Pickers. **8.30** MOVIE: The Last Of The Mohicans. (1992) Daniel Day-Lewis. **10.55** MOVIE: Resident Evil: Extinction. (2007) **12.55** Late Programs.

Family **6.00** Kids' Programs. **6.05** PJ Masks Power Heroes. **6.25** The Adventures Of Paddington. **6.45** Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom. **7.05** Batwheels. **7.35** Ninja. **8.00** Deadly 60. **8.30** Secrets Of The Zoo. **9.30** Secret Life Of The Tasmanian Devils. **10.00** The Wonderful World Of Puppies. **10.40** Late Programs.



6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra Summer. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** MOVIE: Love's Fast Lane. (2023) **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** Tennis. Australian Open. Exhibition match. Carlos Alcaraz v Alex De Minaur. **10.00** A+E After Dark. **11.00** Chicago Med. **12.00** First On Scene. **12.30** Tipping Point. **1.30** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **2.30** Global Shop. **3.00** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** It's Academic. **7.30** Get Arty. **8.30** Flushed. **9.00** Home Shopping. **10.00** The Great Day Out. **10.30** My Kitchen Rules. **12.00** Britain's Got Talent. **3.00** Dodger. **4.00** Lopez Vs. Lopez. **4.30** Bondi Vet. **6.30** Judge Judy. **7.30** Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back. **11.30** First Dates UK. **12.30** CSI: New York. **1.30** Late Programs.

NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** ABC News Afternoons. **4.00** ABC News Summer. **6.00** ABC News Hour. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30** 7.30. **8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.25** Australian Story. **9.00** The World. **9.30** Foreign Correspondent. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** If You're Listening. **11.00** ABC Late News. **11.30** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **7.30** Farm To Fork. **8.00** Lingo. **9.00** The Finish Line. **10.00** Ent. Tonight. **10.30** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Australia. **11.30** My Market Kitchen. **12.00** Farm To Fork. **12.30** Family Feud. **1.00** News. **2.00** Deal Or No Deal. **2.30** The Finish Line. **3.30** Lingo. **4.30** The Bold And The Beautiful. **5.00** 10 News. **6.00** 10 News+. **6.30** Deal Or No Deal. **7.30** Attenborough's Parenthood. **8.30** The Graham Norton Show. **9.40** Law & Order: SVU. **10.40** 10's Late News. **11.10** 10 News+. **11.40** Late Programs.

10 drama **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** Reel Action. **9.00** The Living Room. **10.00** JAG. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.45** The Young And The Restless. **1.30** The Dog Academy. **2.30** JAG. **4.30** The Living Room. **5.30** JAG. **7.30** NCIS. **10.20** Matlock. **12.15** Home Shopping.

Gem **6.00** Danger Man. **7.00** Creflo Dollar Ministries. **7.30** Thunderbirds. **8.00** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **10.30** Pointless. **11.30** Tennis. Adelaide International. Day 4. **6.00** Tennis. Adelaide International. Night 4. **11.00** Poirot. **1.00** Creflo Dollar Ministries. **1.30** Major Crimes. **2.30** Mrs Schu Investigates. **4.30** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **5.00** Motor Racing. Dakar Rally. Stage 10. Highlights. **6.00** Mastermind Australia. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.35** Toronto Airport Uncovered. **8.25** Robson Green: World's Most Amazing Walks. **9.20** In Flight. **10.15** Great British Railway Journeys. **10.50** Before We Die. **11.45** Outlander. **2.05** The Eco Show. **3.00** Designing Paradise With Bill Bensley. **3.55** My Unique SBS. **4.30** Bamay. **5.00** NHK World English News Morning. **5.30** ANC Philippines The World Tonight.

10 comedy **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Ridiculousness. **2.00** The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. **3.00** Becker. **3.30** Frasier. **4.00** Farm To Fork. **4.30** Frasier. **5.00** Becker. **5.30** Frasier. **6.30** Friends. **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.30** Becker. **10.00** Frasier. **11.00** Ridiculousness. **11.30** Late Programs.

VICELAND **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.30** Insight. **3.30** WorldWatch. **5.30** Freddie Flintoff's Field Of Dreams Tour. **6.40** Jeopardy! **7.35** 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. **8.30** Genius Game. **9.30** The Unexplained Mysteries Of The Universe. **10.20** The Handmaid's Tale. **11.25** Homicide: Life On The Street. **12.15** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **1.00** Muster Dogs: Where Are They Now. **1.50** Goolagong. **2.55** Would I Lie To You? **3.25** Nigella's Cook. Eat, Repeat. **3.55** Grand Designs: The Streets. **4.45** Long Lost Family. **5.30** Antiques Roadshow. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** All Creatures Great And Small. **8.15** Art Detectives. **9.05** Hard Quiz. **9.25** The Weekly With Charlie Pickering. **10.35** A Life In Ten Pictures. **10.55** ABC Late News. **11.15** Silent Witness. Final. **1.00** Late Programs.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Escape To The Country. **2.00** Home In WA. **2.30** Sydney Weekender. **3.00** The Great Australian Doorstep. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.00** Escape To The Country. **6.00** Bargain Hunt. **7.00** Better Homes And Gardens Summer. **8.30** Escape To The Country. **11.30** Late Programs.

Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.10** ER. **2.55** A Bite To Eat. **3.20** Heartbreak High. **4.05** Would I Lie To You? **4.40** MythBusters. **5.30** Car S.O.S. **6.15** Portrait Artist Of The Year. **7.20** Claire Hooper's House Of Games. **7.50** QI. **8.20** Would I Lie To You? **8.50** MOVIE: Fight Club. (1999) **11.05** ER. **11.50** Late Programs.



6.00 Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show Summer Series. **12.00** MOVIE: The Secret Sauce. (2021) Tori Anderson. **2.00** Bridge Of Lies. Celebrity Specials. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** Seven News At 4. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** 7News Local. **6.30** 7News @ 6.30. **7.00** Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 37. Sydney Sixers v Sydney Thunder. **10.30** Unfiltered: Cricket. **11.00** MOVIE: Wild Things. (1998) Kevin Bacon, Matt Dillon, Neve Campbell. **1.15** Travel Oz. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** Million Dollar Minute. **5.00** NBC Today.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.00** American Pickers. **3.00** Timbersports. Aust. C'ship Pt 2. **3.30** Full Custom Garage. **4.30** American Restoration. **5.00** Storage Wars. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Road Wars. **8.30** MOVIE: Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw. (2019) Dwayne Johnson. **11.15** Late Programs.

Family **6.00** Kids' Programs. **6.25** The Adventures Of Paddington. **6.45** Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom. **7.05** Gardening Australia Junior. **7.40** Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. **8.05** Scooby-Doo And Guess Who? **8.30** My Adventures With Superman. **8.50** Robot Wars. **9.50** TKO: Total Knock Out. **10.35** Late Programs.



6.00 Today. **9.00** Today Extra Summer. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** MOVIE: A Missed Connection. (2023) **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** MOVIE: The Mighty Ducks. (1992) Emilio Estevez. Joss Ackland. **9.35** MOVIE: D2: The Mighty Ducks. (1994) Emilio Estevez, Joshua Jackson, Kathryn Erbe. **1.35** Law & Order: Organized Crime. **12.25** Tipping Point. **1.15** My Way. **1.30** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** The Great Day Out. **10.30** My Kitchen Rules. **12.00** Britain's Got Talent. **3.00** Dodger. **4.00** Lopez Vs. Lopez. **4.30** Bondi Vet. **6.30** MOVIE: Nim's Island. (2008) **8.30** MOVIE: Filthy Shades Of Grey. (2015) Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan, Jennifer Ehn. **11.00** MOVIE: The Invisible Man. (2020) **1.40** Late Programs.

NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** ABC News Afternoons. **4.00** ABC News Summer. **6.00** ABC News Hour. **7.00** ABC National News. **7.30** 7.30. **8.00** ABC News Tonight. **8.30** If You're Listening. **9.00** The World. **9.30** Foreign Correspondent. **10.00** ABC Nightly News. **10.30** Asia News Week. **11.00** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **8.00** Lingo. **9.00** The Finish Line. **10.00** Ent. Tonight. **10.30** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Australia. **11.30** My Market Kitchen. **12.00** Farm To Fork. **12.30** Family Feud. **1.00** News. **2.00** Deal Or No Deal. **2.30** The Finish Line. **3.30** Lingo. **4.30** The Bold And The Beautiful. **5.00** 10 News. **6.00** 10 News+. **6.30** Deal Or No Deal. **7.30** Selling Houses Australia. **8.40** Love It Or List It Australia. **9.40** The Graham Norton Show. **10.50** 10's Late News. **11.20** 10 News+. **11.50** Late Programs.

10 drama **6.00** Home Shopping. **8.00** Reel Action. **9.00** The Living Room. **10.00** JAG. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.45** The Young And The Restless. **1.30** The Dog Academy. **2.30** JAG. **4.30** All 4 Adventure. **5.30** JAG. **7.30** NCIS. **10.20** Matlock. **12.15** Home Shopping.

Gem **6.00** Danger Man. **7.00** Creflo Dollar Ministries. **7.30** Thunderbirds. **8.00** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **10.30** Pointless. **11.30** Tennis. Adelaide International. Day 5. **6.00** Antiques Roadshow. **7.00** Tennis. Adelaide International. Night 5. Semi-finals. **11.00** New Tricks. **12.00** MOVIE: Tango & Cash. (1989) **2.00** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** WorldWatch. **2.00** Britain's Most Expensive Houses. **2.55** Going Places With Ernie Dingo. **3.35** The Cook Up With Adam Llew. **4.05** Jeopardy! **4.30** Letters And Numbers. **5.00** Motor Racing. Dakar Rally. Highlights. **6.00** Mastermind Australia. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.30** The Great House Revival. **9.30** Isle Of Wight: Jewel Of The South. **10.25** Great British Railway Journeys. **11.00** Sisi. **11.55** Babylon Berlin. **1.45** Silent Road. **3.50** Designing Paradise With Bill Bensley. **4.20** Late Programs.

10 comedy **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.00** Ridiculousness. **2.00** The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. **3.00** Becker. **4.00** Farm To Fork. **4.30** Frasier. **5.00** Becker. **5.30** Frasier. **6.30** Friends. **7.30** MOVIE: How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days. (2003) Kate Hudson. **9.30** Becker. **10.00** Frasier. **11.00** Ridiculousness. **11.30** Late Programs.

VICELAND **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.20** The Swiping Game. **2.40** Mastermind Aust. **3.40** WorldWatch. **5.40** If You Are The One. **6.40** Jeopardy! **7.35** 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. **8.30** The Man With A Penis On His Arm. **9.30** Sex Tape Germany. **10.25** The Handmaid's Tale. **11.30** Shoreline. **12.00** Homeland. **1.05** Late Programs.



6.00 Rage Charts. **7.00** Weekend Breakfast. **9.00** Rage. **10.30** Rage Vault Guest Programmer. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **12.30** Call The Midwife. **1.30** Art Detectives. **2.15** All Creatures Great And Small. **3.10** Extraordinary Escapes. **4.00** Human. **5.00** The ABC Of. **5.30** Dr Karl's How Things Work. **6.00** Back Roads. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** ABC News. **7.30** Call The Midwife. **8.30** Vera. **10.00** Goolagong. **11.00** The Jetty. **12.00** Rage.

7two **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.30** This Rugged Coast. **1.30** Wildlife ER. **2.30** Better Homes And Gardens Summer. **4.00** Better Homes And Gardens. **5.00** Bondi Vet. **6.00** Horse Racing. Magic Millions Raceway. **7.00** Dog Patrol. **7.30** The Yorkshire Vet. **8.30** Lewts. **10.30** Escape To The Country. **11.30** Late Programs.

Entertains **6.00** Morning Programs. **2.55** ER. **3.40** Would I Lie To You? **4.10** Heartbreak High. **4.55** MythBusters. **5.45** Car S.O.S. **6.35** Portrait Artist Of The Year. Final. **7.00** Spicks And Specks. **7.30** QI. **8.00** Would I Lie To You? **8.30** Richard Osman's House Of Games Night. **9.00** Live At The Apollo. **9.50** Late Programs.



6.00 NBC Today. **7.00** Weekend Sunrise. **10.00** The Morning Show Summer Series. **12.00** Air Crash Investigations: The Accident Files. **1.00** Horse Racing. Magic Millions Raceway. **6.00** Seven News. **7.00** Border Security: Australia's Front Line. **7.30** MOVIE: A Knight's Tale. (2001) Heath Ledger, Rufus Sewell, Shannyn Sossamon. **10.15** MOVIE: Green Zone. (2010) Matt Damon, Brendan Gleeson. **12.30** Cycling. Santos Tour Down Under. Women's. Stage 1. Highlights. **1.30** Harry's Practice. **2.00** Home Shopping. **4.00** Late Programs.

7mate **6.00** Morning Programs. **11.30** Cycling. Santos Tour Down Under. Women's. Stage 1. Willunga to Willunga. 137.4km. **4.00** Desert Collectors. **5.00** Counting Cars. **6.00** Pawn Stars. **7.00** Storage Wars. **7.30** MOVIE: The Rock. (1996) Sean Connery. **10.20** MOVIE: Mercury Rising. (1998) **12.40** Late Programs.

Family **6.00** Kids' Programs. **6.05** PJ Masks Power Heroes. **6.25** The Adventures Of Paddington. **6.50** Andy And The Band. **7.05** Phippenguins. **7.30** Hard Quiz Kids. **8.00** Chopped Junior. Final. **8.40** Shaun Tan's Tales From Outer Suburbia. **9.25** Fresh Off The Boat. **10.30** Abbott Elementary. **10.30** Merlin. **11.15** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **6.30** A Current Affair. **7.00** Weekend Today. **10.00** Today Extra Summer. **12.00** Our State On A Plate. Final. **12.30** Find My Beach House Australia. **1.30** Ready Vet Go: The Vet Paramedics. **2.00** MOVIE: Practical Magic. (1998) **4.00** Taronga: Who's Who In The Zoo. **5.00** 9News First At Five. **5.30** Find My Country House Australia. **6.00** 9News Saturday. **7.00** A Current Affair. **7.30** AO26: Opening Ceremony. **10.30** MOVIE: Unbreakable: The Jelena Dokic Story. (2024) **12.40** Late Programs.

7flix **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** Ed And Karen's Recipes For Success. **11.00** Extreme Weddings: Australia. **12.00** Blow Up. **1.20** Starstruck. **2.40** Dancing With The Stars. **4.20** Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud. **5.20** MOVIE: The Boss Baby: Family Business. (2021) **7.30** MOVIE: Titanic. (1997) Leonardo DiCaprio. **11.30** Late Programs.

NEWS **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** News. **3.30** Deep Time. **4.00** News. **4.15** Boyer Lecture Series. **5.00** News. **5.30** Asia News Week. **6.00** Evening News. **6.30** Culture By Design. **7.00** National News. **7.30** News. **8.00** News Tonight. **8.30** News. **9.00** Nightly News. **9.30** If You're Listening. **10.00** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **8.00** I Fish. **8.30** On The Fly. **9.00** 4x4 Adventures. **10.00** My Market Kitchen. **10.30** GCBC. **11.00** Airport 24/7. **12.00** Everyday Gourmet. **12.30** Farm To Fork. **1.00** Cook With Luke. **1.30** The Yes Experiment. **2.00** The Dog Academy. **3.00** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Australia. **4.00** All 4 Adventure. Final. **5.00** 10 News. **6.30** The Dog House Australia. **7.40** Love It Or List It Australia. **8.50** Location, Location, Location Australia. **9.50** Ambulance UK. **11.00** Elsbeth. **12.00** Late Programs.

10 drama **6.00** Home Shopping. **9.00** IFISH. **9.30** The Dog Academy. **10.30** JAG. **4.30** Soccer: A-League Men. Round 13. Western Sydney Wanderers v Newcastle Jets. **7.00** Football Tonight. **7.35** Soccer: A-League Men. Round 13. Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory. **10.00** NCIS. **12.50** NCIS: Origins. **1.45** Home Shopping.

Gem **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.00** The Avengers. **1.00** Tennis. Adelaide International. Day 6. Finals. **6.00** Tennis. Adelaide International. Night 6. Finals. **8.00** Death In Paradise. **9.00** MOVIE: Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull. (2008) Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf. **11.25** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** WorldWatch. **2.00** Going Places. **3.00** Cycling. Westbridge Funds Road National Cships. Women's Elite and Under-23 Road Race. Highlights. **4.00** Sailing. Sail Grand Prix Perth. **5.30** Motor Racing. Dakar Rally. Highlights. **6.30** SBS World News. **7.30** Secrets Of Britain's Historic Houses. **8.40** Swiss Alpine Rail Journeys. **9.40** The Secret DNA Of Us. **10.50** Scottish Islands With Ben Fogle. **11.55** House Of Promises. **3.25** The Last Camps Of The Third Reich. **4.25** Late Programs.

10 comedy **6.00** Morning Programs. **9.30** The Neighborhood. **10.00** Frasier. **11.00** Farm To Fork. **11.30** Deal Or No Deal. **12.00** The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. **2.00** Inspired Unemployed (Impractical) Jokers. **3.00** Friends. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** Frasier. **11.00** The Neighborhood. **11.30** Late Programs.

VICELAND **6.00** Morning Programs. **3.00** WorldWatch. **5.00** Planet A. **5.45** Mastermind Australia. **6.45** The Mysterious Havana Syndrome. **7.35** Abandoned Americana. Return. **8.30** Plastic People: Crisis Of Microplastics. **10.05** Dark Side Of The '90s. **11.00** Dakar: Race Against The Desert. **12.35** Late Programs.



6.00 Morning Programs. **12.00** ABC News At Noon. **12.30** Maggie Beer's Big Mission. **1.25** Gardening Australia. **2.25** Muster Dogs: Where Are They Now. **3.15** The Assembly. **4.00** Poh's Kitchen On The Road. **4.30** Amanda & Alan's Italian Job. **5.00** Antiques Roadshow. **6.00** Grand Designs Transformations. **7**



Looking to the future



AS the leading and largest venue in town, the Wellington Soldiers Memorial & Golf Group (WSMG) continues to play a very important role in the social fabric of the town and Wellington’s surrounding region.

It is the primary place for people to meet and socialise, and this is especially true for the older members of the community who value the Club for its safety and friendly atmosphere.

But the club must keep up with the times and changes in the social fabric and to survive, it must expand its services to cater to the upcoming generations.

With this knowledge the club’s Board of Directors worked with consultants for some months, starting in October 2024 to prepare its **Strategic Plan** for the future 10 years and beyond.

The Plan builds on past inhouse

improvements in the past 30 years and proposes to update the facilities while also broadening its scope to endure competition, and keep abreast and in front of potential financial impediments by expanding entrepreneurial assets.

These include investing in real estate in Wellington, and already has a solid portfolio of residential and commercial property which provides for strong diversification against the risk of gaming regulatory changes.

Immediate-past General Manager, David French worked hard for 15 years to bring the Club’s finances into positive savings and handed over the role two years ago to current General Manager Stephen Hodge, saying he left a rough gem for Stephen to hone into a shining diamond.

The **Strategic Plan** was developed under Stephen’s guidance together with further property acquisitions and the amalgamation of

this Club with Wellington Golf Club.

This move not only keeps one of the Central West’s best golfing venues active, but has already turned profits around for the benefit of golfers, and WSMG members.

The recent acquisition of the WINS Community Centre and property is seen as a key addition to the club’s portfolio and enables further expansion and the establishment of a three to four rink lawn bowling green.

When WINS found itself in financial difficulty this Club went to their assistance making sure this community did not lose a necessary vital link in assisting the people of this area.

Inside the Soldiers Club, we expand on plans which are now in place with building upgrades in the gaming and bar area the first two stages followed by a brand new look Bistro dining area, an expansion enticing families to enjoy our club facilities.

“Wello Soldiers – The Place to Be”

WELLINGTON SOLDIERS MEMORIAL & GOLF GROUP - Looking to the Future



Where we came from...

The Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club was formed on the 29th of November 1947 when a small group of Returned Servicemen met at the School of Arts building in Swift Street with the idea of forming a Club to cater for the needs of Ex-Servicemen and their families.

The Club used the School of Arts building until 1961, when they moved into the present Club in Arthur Street.

The club has 78 years of history and continuous service to the community of Wellington (NB. there is opportunity to plan for the 80th year celebration in 2027).

In the 1990's, the upstairs disco area was very popular with the younger generation.

In the early 2000's the dining room was moved upstairs and there was Chinese food downstairs.

In 2007, the club underwent a major refurbishment and new layout. This included the upstairs foyer, the large bar upstairs as current, and an upgrade of the toilets.

In 2015, the current restaurant and the kids play area were developed.

Two smoking areas were added when the smoking laws changed approximately 15 years ago.

The revamped entrance with the covered awning was

developed 10 years ago providing comfort and protection for members as they enter and leave the club.

In 2018/19, the alfresco area to the rear of the club was developed.

The gaming smoking area was added four years ago (approx. 2019/20).

The current caterers providing Chinese and classic club food commenced with the club towards the end of 2021.

Raffles and Badge Draws have always been big on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

These nights are important for the social fabric of the town, and Bingo has always been popular for young and old.

President's message

"To improve is to change; To be perfect is to change often."
Winston Churchill

Wellington Soldiers Memorial & Golf Group are on the verge of a major upgrade to the Club's facilities.

The upgrades come on the back of an extensive and professional "strategic planning" process undertaken by the Board in October 2024, with a staged upgrade planned for the entire Club, whilst taking into consideration ongoing responsible financial management of the business.

2026 will see the commencement of a new look gaming room, in keeping with a modern design

including furniture, fittings and outdoor appeal.

Bar, Bistro and Auditorium have all been covered in the planning process.

The commencement of the renovations has been delayed to accommodate work by the architects, and council planning approvals.

The recent purchase of WINS adjoining property will almost certainly see major change to the initial plans, to improve the offerings of your Club for our members.

I hope you will join me in looking forward to the completion of the development of Stage 1 and 2.

Robyn Edwards,
On behalf of the Board of Directors.

Club Presidents

Col. N.D Barton C.B.E. – E.D. President 1947-1956
L/Col. R.F. R.F. Oakes. President 1956-1967
R.S. (Bob) Scott. President 1967-1970
R.T. (Bob) Setter. President 1970-2003
James (Jim) Carberry. President 2003-2012
Timothy (Tim) Parker. President 2012-2015
Shirley Dysdale. President 2015-2018
Victor Howe. President 2018 – 2023
Robyn Edwards. President 2023-



Club Board of Directors

President Robyn Edwards	Vic Howe
Vice-President Herb Smith	Terry Dray
Treasurer David King	Barry Jeffery
	Stephen Jones
	Warren Hurst
	Mark Griggs



Club redevelopment stages: 1A Gaming area. 1B Bar. 2A Bistro Kitchen. 2B Bistro dining area and Coffee/Snack Lounge. 2C New Toilets. Stages 3 and 4 will be put on hold for future.





Recent acquisition

Last month, the club purchased the WINS land enabling further plans to be established.

During sale negotiations this club offered WINS 12 months free rent to allow the organisation to reshape its future.

To assist in this the club's General Manager Stephen Hodge was invited to become a director of WINS and later elected chair of the WINS board.

It had long been an ambition of this club's board to obtain the back section of the WINS land to build a three or four rink Bowling Green.

Now this plan can also be included .

The bowls section and rinks would be named after local sporting champions of Wellington.

The whole redevelopment is oriented towards the years to come in which the present and future young people will recognise, accept and utilise.

While looking at the downstairs area, the inside is envisaged as a sports area with plenty of room for adults and an intense play area for their children making a visit to the club a whole of family affair.

The upgrades will be introduced in stages after the main upgrades to the Gaming Room, Bar and Bistro.

First three upgrade stages

THE first stage is an enlargement of the smoking area in the gaming room area giving more privacy to players.

The second stage is a complete redesign and refit of the bar area.

The two stages are estimated to cost in the vicinity of \$2.5M.

Then a brand new kitchen and bistro style area complete with cooking at front for diners to feel part of the whole food preparation and serving process.

Menu will be enlarged to offer Australian, European and Asian cuisine.

A good steak, pizza, pasta and many other dishes..

The kitchen upgrade will be close to \$1.5million.

These are the three main upgrades which will take up to three years to complete.

Then the focus will be on the downstairs area which is planned to start in the third to fourth year.

By that time the club would have saved enough money to pay for the fourth stage.

Management has been investing funds each week, building up reserves for the construction account, which will mean the club will not have to borrow large amounts to pay for the upgrades.

With the gaming room upgrade, by giving patrons more privacy while playing, it may mean we have less gaming machines on the floor.

It is a priority that our customers are comfortable and more importantly feeling safe while in the room.

Players will also gain the benefit of staff providing a more customer-focused service out from the bar.



Future plans for Auditorium

AUDITORIUM redesign and new club main reception are the last areas in the vision.

The manager has outlined what could be achieved by turning the auditorium into a family-oriented area with a play area where families or mums and bubs and toddlers and/or locals and visitors could frequent away from club bar areas for leisurely drinks and eats while youngsters play in another nearby new play area.

The Arthur Street front of the building and current side walkway to main entrance will become an alfresco area with bi-fold glass doors and windows facing Arthur Street and the car park, while inside the current auditorium bar will be transfer to a café counter which will serve both sides of the new area.

The new entrance will include a very large reception foyer with an escalator taking patrons up to the main floor replacing the existing stairs.

The lift will stay where it currently is.

The auditorium would be moved to above the bowling green and large enough for continued use like the present area.



WELLINGTON SOLDIERS MEMORIAL & GOLF GROUP - Looking to the Future



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By acquiring the Wellington Golf Club and 18-hole course, this club can now increase functions and entertainment utilising the golf club premises and the acclaimed course facilities just a few kilometres out of town and next to the world famous Wellington Caves and tourist park.

This enables an expansion of this club's scope of potential income streams while servicing the whole community in town and throughout the Wellington region with an ultra-class golf course and indoor and outdoor facilities ready for any type of function from weddings to

christening parties to wakes.

ABOVE: An artist's impression of the club's outdoors area fitted with sundeck and shading, making the club an ideal venue for any function.



Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

G		A		S
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A		O		E
	H		U	
S		N		E

Place each of the tiles of letters into the blank jigsaw below to create four six-letter words going across and down.

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OR

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There may be more than one possible answer.

Insert each number from 1 to 9 in the shaded squares to solve all the horizontal and vertical equations. Multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

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LAST WEEK we experienced extreme hot weather with temperatures of 37 to 42 degrees and overnight lows of 25 with very dry conditions. El Nino incoming? Forecasters see signs of big changes ahead.

Harvest is done and dusted in the western region, Coonamble had the highest wheat yields for the western area followed by Gilgandra and then Wellington. NSW produced the most wheat out of all states with SA producing the most barley.

Why has China introduced new tariffs on Australian beef? In Dec 2024, China lifted a ban on two Australian beef producers, signalling the end of a four-year trade dispute between the two countries. However, when China announced new trade restrictions on Australian beef last week, concerns from both Australia and the red meat industry have been raised around whether China is plotting another trade war against Australia.

China's commerce ministry introduced a quota on beef exports, and exporters who exceed the quota will be subject to a 55 per cent tariff.

As Australian beef is protected by the China-Australia free trade agreement (ChAFTA), the commerce ministry also announced that it would pause compliance with the relevant measures in the agreement. The Tariff is set to last three years starting 1st January 2026.

Trade Minister Don Farrell said the government was disappointed by this decision calling on China to respect Australia's status as a "valued free trade agreement partner". While Australia's Red meat industry is yet to estimate the potential impacts of the tariffs, Australian exporters may be better prepared in comparison to previous trade changes.

China's most recent tariff announcement is mainly aimed at appeasing China's domestic producers. Chinese media reports dating back to 2023 found the country's red meat sector had been facing an oversupply crisis, which has led to a drastic price drop in Chinese beef. However, the overall import of beef into China has been rising, sparking concerns and complaints from China's red meat sector.

Wool Markets reopened this week but we will miss the market report which comes out Thursdays. Some facts: Sheep numbers in Australia 24/25 are 56.5 million head down or 12.4pc. Average fle wt 2025 was 4.43kg.

Cattle market.. CTLX Carcoar no sale last week. Sheep market.. CTLX Carcoar:-1590 sheep, 3490 lambs. Lamb supply remained steady and quality was mixed with some well finished shorn lambs. Mostly trades penned, a few heavy weights and stores in reasonable numbers. All buyers present and operating and market firm to a little cheaper for lambs mutton prices strong.

Light lambs to restockers \$145 to \$210, heavier lines \$220 to \$227. Medium and heavy lambs firm to a little easier, ave 1050c to 1100c/kg cwt. Heavy trade 23 to 24kg \$236 to \$265. Heavy lambs firm, ave 1050c to 1140c/kg cwt. Extra heavy \$312 to \$336/kg. Mutton quality varied, mainly ewes and prices stronger. Heavy Merino ewes \$180 to \$206

STOCK CLEARANCE:-All stock must go



**Plasto
& Company** Livestock and Property
Pty Limited

Stock report by Ross Plasto

Dubbo Prime Cattle sale yarded 3300.

It was a fair quality yarding with good numbers of yearlings suitable for the backgrounders and feeders along with good numbers of weaners to suit the restockers.

There were fair numbers of well finished grown steers and heifers and cows were well supplied.

Young trade cattle were firm with prime yearlings selling from 414c to 470c/kg.

Feeder steers were firm while feeder heifers were 13c to 24c/kg dearer. Feeder steers sold from 410c to 506c while feeder heifers sold from 400c to 467c/kg.

With the season remaining very dry young cattle to the restockers were 10c to 20c cheaper with young steers selling to 510c and young heifers sold to 478c/kg.

Grown steers finished 9c to 12c cheaper while grown heifers were firm. Prime grown steers sold from 422c to 475c while heifers sold from 400c to 468c/kg.

Cows were 15c to 32c dearer with 2 and 3 scores to processors selling from 220c to 405c/kg. Prime heavy weight cows sold from 380c to 428c to average 410c/kg. Cows to restockers sold from 150c to 400c/kg. Heavy bulls sold to 396c/kg.

Dubbo Prime Lamb sale yarded 19,000.

Quality was fair with a large yarding of lightweight and trade lambs, along with good heavy lambs mixed throughout.

There were large supplies of Dorpers and limited numbers of Merino lambs. Most regular buyers were operating and the market sold cheaper.

Lightweight processing lambs to 18kg sold from \$100 to \$195/head. Trade weights 20kg to 24kg were back \$20, selling from \$210 to \$259/head, averaging between 1020c and 1050c/kg cwt.

Heavy lambs over 24kg sold from \$245 to \$345/head averaging 1030c/kg cwt.

Merino lambs sold to \$217 and lambs to restockers, to \$245/head. Heavy hoggets reached \$290/head.

Mutton. 12,000 yarded and prices were strong, particularly light to medium weights.

Merino ewes sold from \$80 to \$294, and crossbred ewes, \$114 to \$236/head.

Merino wethers sold from \$196 to \$236, and rams sold to \$220/head.

Most sheep sold in the range of 720c to 780c/kg cwt.

*Around the tracks
with Col Hodges*

Erin Molloy rides a winner at Wellington Boxing Day races while on holidays

WHILE VISITING family in Forbes over Christmas, talented apprentice jockey Erin Molloy took the opportunity to accept mounts at the Wellington meeting on Boxing Day and impressed with a winner and a second placing from her two rides.

Now based at the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Erin Molloy produced a great front running ride on the Sharon Jeffries, Parkes trained Zillions to win the 900 metres Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club BM 50 Handicap.

Quickly away, Zillions (\$8) turned for home in front and when seriously challenged held on under strong riding from Erin Molloy to win by a short head from Press Gaze (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$3.80) with over two lengths to the third placed Houdini Spirit (Jacob Stiff, \$3.50).

Sharon Jeffries has now won five races with Zillions which came to

her without a win from well over 30 starts.

This was the 50th win for Erin Molloy and she followed with a good ride on the Wayne Martyn, Coonabarabran trained \$21 outsider The Hoff in the 1100m Elders Insurance Western Plains Class 1 Handicap.

Given a charmed run behind the leader, The Hoff tried hard but was outclassed and beaten over two lengths by the Angus Stewart, Bathurst trained Gail Jeanette (Ashleigh Stanley, \$1.70 favourite) while Champ De Mars (Jacob Stiff, \$2.80) filled third place.

Among the very big crowd at Wellington was a sizeable group of the Molloy clan supporting Erin Molloy including her grandfather Tom Molloy and her uncle, Danny Molloy, both from Forbes and former leading jockeys on the Picnic races circuit.

Real estate heats up in Wellington Real estate prices in Wellington

Highest price in October this year was 53 Maughan Street at \$1,230,000.
11 Raymond St, \$825,000 in August
87 Gisborne st, \$575,000 in March
11 Arthur St \$550,000 in August
35 Curtis St \$535,000 in March.
According to Realestate.com.au

*Around the tracks
with Col Hodges*

Racing at Parkes

BRED AT his Billabong Creek property at Tichborne by John Davis, the five-year-old mare Billabong Rose unleashed a tremendous finishing burst to win the final event on Friday at Parkes.

Trained for the owner John Davis by Brett Thompson at Wellington, Billabong Rose, a last start Wellington winner, had Jake Pracey-Holmes in the saddle for the 1200 metres Parkes Elvis Festival Benchmark 50 Handicap.

Winning chances were looking slim in the straight when a long way back in the 12-horse field however Billabong Rose (\$3.20 to \$2.90 favourite) charged home to win by a long-neck from Fruit Of De Vine (Jordan Stiff \$19) with a half-length to the third place dead heaters Loud (Mathew Cahill, \$9) and Box Of Crackers (Mikayla Weir, \$6.50).

Well promoted by Parkes Jockey Club the meeting on a very hot day attracted a good crowd, drawn from a wide area including interstate with many of the racegoers being Elvis Presley fans, Priscilla lookalikes and Elvis tribute artists.

Last or near last in four barrier trials in Sydney, Fierce Luva was recently transferred to Brett Robb and first up for the Dubbo trainer won the 1400m Commercial Hotel/Kennards Hire Maiden Plate.

Patiently ridden by apprentice Izzy Neale, Fierce Luva (\$4.40 to \$6) came from well off the pace to score in the last stride from The Bullet (Mathew Cahill, \$2.30 to \$2 fav) and Nortoko (Wendy Peel, \$6.50).

Unplaced at Orange three days prior to Parkes, the Jane Clement, Mendooran trained Hardyo turned the form around and as a \$61 rank outsider and with apprentice Ryan Bradley aboard, led throughout to win the 1600m McPherson's Parts & Service "Memphis Mile" BM 50 Handicap from the second place dead heaters Bill Peyto (Grace Palmer, \$17) and Hasime (Jacob Stiff, \$2.80).

Well known media identity Michael Dumesny is impressed by the organisation of Parkes races and through Professional Food Distributors became a first time sponsor along with Parkes Courier Service of the 1400m Class 1 Handicap won by In The Nic Of Time for the Todd Smart stable at Canberra.

In The Nic Of Time (Adrian Layt, \$2.45 fav) led all the way and scored by over three lengths from Notleanormean (Mikayla Weir, \$11) and Pampuni (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$10).

The talented Dubbo-based apprentice Jacob Stiff and Orange trainer Alison Smith combined to win the 1200m Railway Hotel-Orange Vet Hospital Maiden Plate with Argyle Laird (\$2.60 fav) which swooped in the straight to account for the leader Spectacular Star (Mikayla Weir, \$12) and Big Bad Bob (Ellen Hennessy, \$17).

A string of good bets were landed when the Gratz Vella, Canberra trained Prophet Time (Coriah Keatings, \$6) ran home strongly from midfield to beat Press Gaze (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$11) and One More Thing (Ashleigh Stanley, \$17) in the 1000m Telescope Tyres-Parkes Real BM 58 Handicap.

Parkes will next race on Saturday, January 24 while the Cowra Cup is on this Sunday, January 18.

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Around the tracks with Col Hodges

Racing at Gilgandra

APART FROM contributions by Santa Claus, supporters of the Kieren Hazelton stable had their Christmas expenses covered when the local trainer won three races on the first day of the Gilgandra summer racing carnival.

In true Christmas spirit, Kieren Hazelton shared his trio of winners amongst different jockeys, Jake Pracey-Holmes (Invincible Phantom), Izzy Neale (Dao Sun) and Kody Nestor (Order Of Merit).

Kicking off the carnival in front of a big crowd, Jake Pracey-Holmes sent his mount to the lead as the field settled down in the 1000 metres Wayne Mallison Painting & Decorating Maiden Plate and Invincible Phantom (\$3.80 to \$3.20) ran out a convincing winner from Outlaw Annie (Clayton Gallagher, \$1.40 favourite) and Long Time Lovers (Zoe Hunt, \$14).

Apprentice Izzy Neale had the reins when Dao Sun (\$2.10), coming from fourth position, surged down the outside to beat Box Of Crackers (Mikayla Weir, \$4.40) and Big Shot Legend (James Rogers, \$17) in the 1100m Royal Hotel Benchmark 50 Handicap.

Kody Nestor was wearing the green and white Bowman Racing colours when Order Of Merit completed the Kieren Hazelton treble in the 1600m Western Farm Machinery Benchmark 50 Handicap.

Steadily making ground from midfield, Order Of Merit (\$8) reached the lead on the home turn before winning by over a length from Hasime (Zoe Hunt, \$4.60) and Beg Me (Jake Pracey-Holmes, \$26).

After sharing the lead, the Clint Lundholm, Dubbo trained Beauty Edge (Zoe Hunt, \$4.40) broke away to win the 1200m Railway Hotel BM 50 Handicap while the other winners were the Brett Robb, Dubbo trained Snowball (Izzy Neale, \$2.25 to \$2 fav) and Magic Sorcerer (Jacob Stiff, \$3.50 to \$2.70 fav) trained at Gunnedah by Sally Torrens.

Gilgandra Cup raced January 4

Another big crowd for the second day of the

summer racing carnival which featured the \$50,000 Gilgandra Services Club-Gilgandra Cup ((1600m) won by Wealthy Investor.

Celebrating the win by the \$26 outsider were a big western area syndicate including several committee members of the Coonamble Jockey Club.

Wealthy Investor was ridden a great race by Jake Pracey-Holmes for Damien Lane, formerly from Coonamble and now a successful trainer at Wyong.

Settling midfield, Wealthy Investor powered home to win the Cup by almost two lengths from Tainui (Shannen Llewellyn, \$6) and Rouge Moulin (Clayton Gallagher, \$2.60 fav) with Order Of Merit (Zoe Hunt, \$41) a good run for fourth after winning on the first day of the carnival.

Feature sprint, the 1100m Northwest Tanks-Bob Foran Memorial Town Plate was won by the speedster Chandon Star from the Jane Clement stable at Mendooran.

Away quickly under apprentice Chelsea Hillier, Chandon Star (\$14) led all the way to score by over a length from Enterprise Legend (Siena Grima, \$3.90 equal fav) and Brief Statement (Clayton Gallagher, \$10).

Sponsored by Ahrens, the \$50,000 Walter Prout Memorial Super Maiden Handicap (1200m) saw an all the way win by the Clint Lundholm trained Tropic (Kody Nestor, \$1.26) from Revenue Raiser (Ella Drew, \$5.50) and Real Housewives (Mikayla Weir, \$26).

Following a last start win at Dubbo the Brett Robb trained Imastatement (\$5) was given a nice run behind the leaders before beating Nevermista (Daniel Northey, \$4.60) and My Boy Scout (Kody Nestor, \$6.50) in the 1100m Three Rivers Machinery-Kate Smith Memorial Benchmark 58 Handicap.

Next racing at Gilgandra with the Tooraweenah Cup meeting on Saturday, February 7.

Meanwhile racing at Cowra Cup on Sunday followed by Parkes on Saturday, January 24, Bathurst on Friday, January 30 and Dubbo on Monday, February 2.



Groundbreaking Aussie invention called the Safety Collar that is set to eliminate cricket related neck and head injuries and deaths.

Safety Collar cricket shirt is set to eliminate cricket related neck and head injuries and deaths

ACCORDING TO respected Australian materials engineer and inventor Charisma Wickham, her Safety Collar invention involves the incorporation of an innovative collar into a standard cricket shirt providing critical protection to one of the most vulnerable areas of the body: the neck and lower head.

The shirt is designed to be worn by cricketers at all levels from juniors and club players to professional and international athletes to provide critical protection.

“We have helmets, pads, boxes and gloves, but the neck has remained dangerously exposed,” she said. “One ball, one bad bounce, one moment can change a life.

“This shirt is designed to help prevent that.”

The Safety Collar cricket shirt looks and feels like a normal lightweight playing shirt, but the collar has been engineered to absorb and disperse the impact of a high-speed cricket ball, helping to shield the neck from serious trauma.

The protective system uses:
* Two high-density foam tubes with hollow centres
* A lightly padded resin backing layer

The tubes are designed to take, spread and deflect impact around the neck area.

Because the centre is hollow, the ball’s force is diverted away from the body rather than directed into it.

Despite its protective performance, the collar remains lightweight and comfortable, making it suitable for regular match wear.

Prototype shirts have already been created using standard cricket shirts modified to integrate the in- built protective collar for demonstration and early testing.

“The beauty of this invention is that it’s not a bulky add-on,” Ms Wickham said.

“It becomes part of the garment. “Players put their shirt on as usual and gain an extra layer of protection without having to change their routine or compromise comfort.”

Your sport can record results in the “Sport” section.

Just contact: mark@wdleader.news



with Mathew Dickerson, Axxis Comworld



I REMEMBER many years ago sitting beside my son while he was deep into a first-person shooter.

To me, it looked like the usual blur of digital chaos - loud sound effects, frantic movement and enemies popping up from nowhere.

Then I noticed words appearing along the bottom of the screen.

He typed a reply without missing a beat. I asked who he was talking to. “One of my mates,” he said. I asked how he knew that for sure. He shrugged and said, “Because they sound like them.”

It highlighted how blurred the lines had already become.

What looked like a game was also a chat room. What sounded like a friend could just as easily have been someone else entirely. Direct messaging was a doorway through which poor behaviour, bullying or people with ulterior motives could walk straight into a child’s bedroom.

Fast-forward to today and Australia’s under-16 social media ban has arrived with

plenty of fanfare.

The aim is clear enough: protect young people from online grooming, cyberbullying, harmful content and algorithms that seem to know far too much about developing brains.

But while the ban has targeted familiar social platforms, gaming has largely slipped through the cracks.

Modern gaming isn’t just about playing anymore. It’s about chatting, streaming, trading, building virtual worlds and spending hours inside digital communities.

Many games include private messaging, voice chat and massive shared spaces where young people interact with strangers every day. In practice, the social experience of gaming can look remarkably similar to social media - just with more explosions and better graphics.

This isn’t about declaring games “bad”. Far from it. Gaming can be creative, social and genuinely positive.

But pretending there are no risks doesn’t help anyone. Australia’s only publicly funded gaming disorder clinic, based in

Perth, is already seeing hundreds of patients, many of them teenagers.

Some were gaming for 10 hours a day or more, struggling to disengage from online worlds that are expertly designed to keep them playing.

Gaming disorder is now recognised by the World Health Organisation, and Australian research suggests a small but significant percentage of children are affected.

Add direct messaging, anonymous voice chat and user-generated content into the mix and the concerns multiply.

Law enforcement agencies have warned that gaming chatrooms can be hotspots for grooming, radicalisation and exploitation. Parents often assume games are safer than social media because they look like entertainment, not communication tools.

The challenge is that gaming isn’t one thing. There’s a vast spectrum, from gentle creative sandboxes to platforms that are effectively ecosystems of user-made experiences, some of which are clearly not designed with children in mind.

A blunt ban doesn’t make sense - but neither does ignoring the issue.

Regulation based on age-appropriate design, stronger moderation, clearer defaults for young users and better parental controls would be a start.

The government has described the social media ban as a “treatment plan”, not a cure. That’s probably the most honest description we’ll hear.

Technology evolves too quickly for simple solutions. As social media, gaming, streaming and AI continue to merge into one always-online experience, the lines lawmakers draw today will keep being tested.

The real question isn’t whether kids should game — they will. It’s whether we’re willing to admit that gaming is now part of the social internet, and deserves the same careful thought and safeguards.

Sitting beside my son all those years ago, I didn’t see a threat - just a glimpse of a future that arrived faster than we expected.

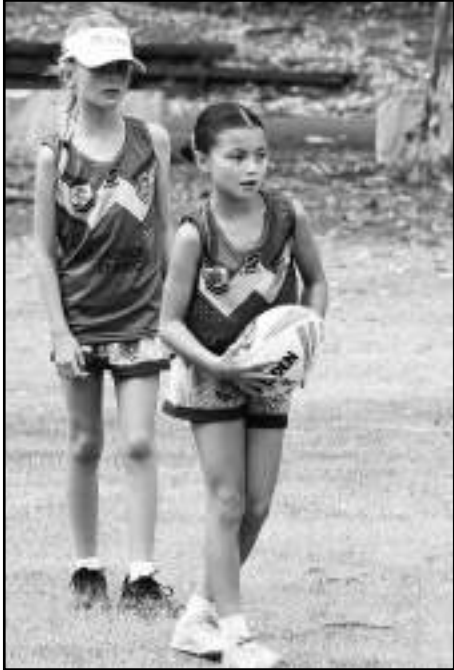
Now that it’s here, we need to decide how we deal with it.

Under 10s Touch Footy

Alysha Spradbrow photos

Under 10 girls Sunday Touch matches

WELLINGTON UNDER 10 girls representative touch football team enjoyed a fantastic Sunday morning of training matches against teams from Dubbo and Mudgee. The games provided a great opportunity for players to develop their skills while having plenty of fun on the field. There were lots of impressive passes, strong defence and exciting tries, with coaches offering helpful tips and encouragement throughout the matches. The girls showed great teamwork, sportsmanship and enthusiasm as they took on the friendly competition. Wellington representative teams are now preparing to travel to Griffith and Nelson's Bay in coming weeks to compete in upcoming touch football competitions. These training matches were a valuable lead-up, helping players build confidence, refine skills and strengthen team connections ahead of the tournaments. With smiles all round, the Sunday morning games were a great learning experience, and a big thank you goes to the Dubbo and Mudgee teams for a wonderful morning of touch football.



Squad Training - Carmen Gain Photos



Golfing News

Doug Ney and Paul Hannelly top score

HOT TEMPERATURES haven't stopped an influx of golfers on the course during the Christmas-New Year holiday break.

Last Saturday's events were an Individual Stableford plus Round 6 of the Wellington Mowers and Chainsaws Summer Competition.

Winner of the Stablefordn on a countback was the very hot golfer Doug Ney with 38pts with Paul Hannelly also 38pts the runner-up.

Prize winners were Charles Kensit from Mudgee 38pts; Mathew Reid, Steven McCarroll, Trent Forrest 37pts; Peter Payne, Rod Pedron, Wendy Slack-Smith, Matt Ringland 36pts; Ben Kiss, Ashley Bullock 35pts; Damien Bell, Rod Miller, Rod McMahon, Blake Ferguson 34pts on c/b.

Nearest the Pin on the 3rd Brad Conn, 8th Denise Haesler, 14th Paul Hannelly, 16th Charles Kensit.

Jespresso Cafe longest drives went to Jeremy Barton in A grade and Paul Hannelly in B grade.

Brent Eather Encouragement award was taken out by Russell Pullen with a very small total of 16pts.

Wednesday's ladies played an Individual Stableford with Kathy Martin the winner with 39pts. Runner-up was Cheryl Royal with 35pts on c/b.

Prize winners were Cathy Loo-Shui 35pts, Jan Payne 31pts on c/b.

Thursday's an Individual Stableford winner was Joe Ryan who put together an excellent round to finish with 42pts.

Runner-up was Warren Williams who also had a great day out to finish with 40pts.

Prize winners were Josh Bullock 39pts; Trent Forrest 36pts; Drew Stone 35pts; Stephen Whiteman, Ashley



Doug Ney sporting a beard in 2023. He won last Saturday's Individual Stableford on a countback.

Bullock 34pts; Adam Ryan Nathan Stewart 33pts; Paul Hannelly, Steven McCarroll 32pts on c/b.

Iberdrola, Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club 9-hole win went to Scott Francis who came away with the days victory with 32nett. Runner-up was Brock Harland with a 33nett. Raffle winner was Paul Hannelly.

Back nine to be played this week.

Leaders at the moment are Adam and David Ryan on -7, but there are still plenty of rounds left to play.

Results for Round 6 of the Wellington Mowers and Chainsaws Summer Competition: The Masters defeated Bell River Bandits 5up, Pheonix defeated Maulers 2up, Dirty Birds defeated Used Groceries 5up, Power Rangers defeated Lion of Waterloo 4up, Soldiers Memorial Club defeated Dirt Diggers 5up, Kevaliers defeated WMC 3up, Railway Boys drew with Snipers.

Draw for Round 7: Bell River Bandits v Maulers, The Masters v Power Rangers, Pheonix v Used Groceries, Lion of Waterloo v Soldiers Memorial Club, Dirty Birds v WMC, Dirt Diggers v Snipers, Kevaliers v Railway Boys.

Points table will be available at the golf club.

All golfers are reminded to get their memberships finalised by the end of January. Find out more information at the Soldiers Memorial Club during office hours.

This Saturday's event is to be confirmed, but Round 7 of the Summer Competition will be played.

19th Hole



In Their Sights



Fashions Mount Rifle Club results

Saturday, January 3 at 500 yards:

B. Hollow 114.9; J. Haberecht 113.5; S. King 100.3; L. Hough 100.2; R. Downton 83.3.

Next Shoot January 17 at 600 yards

The Rifleman.



Tracie, Mick and Deb

SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY
STARTS FROM 7.30PM



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SUNDAY 18 JANUARY
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ARTHUR STREET, WELLINGTON | INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUEST



If you are aged 18 to 30 years on April 10, 2026
You are invited to enter the
2026 TOOHEYS
GUYS & DOLLS
Challenge

There are 14 places to match 14 horses eligible to run in the
2026 Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club
Wellington Boot race
to be run on Sunday, April 12.

All entries will be placed into a barrel and 14 names will be drawn during
the Wellington Boot Calcutts at Wellington Soldiers Club
from 7pm Saturday, April 11

Each person drawn from the barrel will then draw a horse
entered for the Boot race. Bonus prizes for the
first three placegetters.

Conditions of entry:-
Nominees must be at the Calcutts night and must be at the Boot Races
on Sunday as guests of Tooheys, Wellington Soldiers Club,
Wellington & District Leader and Wellington Race Club

Nomination Forms
at the Soldiers Club from 2nd February, 2026.
Further conditions of entry of nomination form



CASH
Fever
\$6,100
FRIDAY 16 JANUARY
**FRIDAY &
SUNDAY NIGHTS**
DRAWN BETWEEN 6.30PM TO 8.30PM



**MEMBERS
BADGE DRAW**
\$2500
TUESDAY 13 JANUARY
DRAWN BETWEEN 6.30PM TO 8.30PM
**TUESDAY, FRIDAY &
SUNDAY NIGHTS**