



Guyra Gazette

Wednesday April 8, 2020

Circulation `1680

P: 6779 2132

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www.guyragazette.com.au

Learning to learn online



Students from Years 5 and 6 at St Mary of the Angels learning online (above) and Lachlan Cruickshank(below) completing some of his work at home

Staff and students at St Mary of the Angels have adapted extremely well as they have moved toward a new style of learning.

Principal Sharon Wittig said that a school day at home looks very different to a normal day at school.

“Our students have worked very hard on the learning packs and online classes our

teachers have prepared for them, Mrs Wittig said.

“We’ve seen photos of students who have complimented these lessons with their own style of learning incorporating various aspects of our Key Learning Areas.”

“There are new veggie gardens popping up, cooking lessons and lots of art and craft.”

“Our students have also made cards and penned letters to our friends at Kolora and have sent thank you letters to businesses who are providing essential services to our community.”

“We hope everyone in our community stays safe and well during these uncertain times.”



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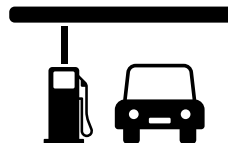
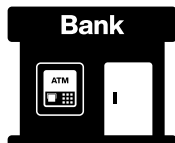


Australian Government

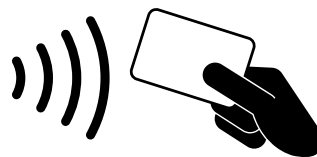
OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

Coronavirus: You must take action to save lives in your community.

Stay at home unless absolutely necessary. Banks, supermarkets/groceries, petrol stations, medical services and suppliers will remain open. You must avoid non-essential travel.



If you can, work from home. Use phones for meetings and stop handshaking. Tap to pay where possible instead of using cash.



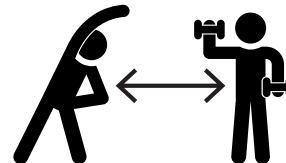
Gatherings of 2 people max are being enforced, with the exception of households, work and education.



You must stay 2 arms lengths away from others and wash your hands for 20 seconds.



Exercise away from others.



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CUT OUT AND KEEP

Lamb & Potato Festival scores \$130,000 for new space

The Guyra Lamb and Potato Festival committee are celebrating news that they have received a \$130,000 State Government grant to help construct a permanent undercover performance and dining area in Rotary Park.

The new shed will provide a permanent and secure venue for musicians and diners and remove the need for the festival's organising committee to spend thousands of dollars each year hiring a giant marquee.

In previous years, up to two marquees have had to be hired, to provide shelter and undercover seating for patrons at a cost of \$6,000 each. The installation also involved many volunteer man hours to put them up and take them down.

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall said that the grant will allow the construction of a 10 metre by 18 metre shed to be built on a concrete slab directly behind Guyra's famous Big Lamb.

"The permanent building will be equipped with plastic pull down shutters which can be utilised during Guyra's torrential summer storms or opened during a sweltering January afternoon," Mr Marshall said.

"Each year the Lamb and Potato Festival is a quality showcase of what the Guyra area has to offer and hopefully



Guyra Lamb and Potato Festival Committee President Steve Mepham and Secretary Julie Gittoes with Adam Marshall in January. The marquee will be replaced with a permanent structure in time for the 2021 Festival

this new building will support the committee to grow and develop the event into the future."

Lamb and Potato Festival President Steve Mepham said the building would greatly reduce the workload for volunteers during the annual 13-day event.

"Like most committees in bush communities, we only have a relatively small volunteer base with many people taking time away from their

farms and businesses to lend a hand," Mr Mepham said.

"This new shed will be an absolute Godsend, because it will mean we don't have to spend half-a-day before the festival putting it up and another half-day pulling it down again.

"The festival runs on the smell of an oily rag each year and so the \$6,000 we save on hiring a marquee will be able to be spent improving other facilities like our kitchen.

"I cannot thank Adam and

the State Government enough for their support of the Lamb and Potato Festival and hopefully come 2021 our big new shed will be built and ready for use."

This funding was made available through the State Government's Community Building Partnership Program, which will see \$300,000 spent on 12 different projects across the Northern Tablelands.

Growing tomatoes is an essential service

As one of Australia's leading suppliers of fresh vine-ripened tomatoes, Costa Tomatoes wants to reassure consumers that it remains open, producing and supplying fresh tomatoes to the local community and beyond.

Costa's Tomato Category is one of the biggest private sector employers in the New England region, currently employing over 650 staff and continuing to grow. Costa remains dedicated to providing economic and social benefits to the local community through the ongoing

production of tomatoes, employment opportunities and engaging with local suppliers.

Whilst Costa takes pride in supplying tomatoes to all major and independent supermarkets, the health and safety of employees, customers and the community is always the first priority.

Operations Manager and Guyra resident, Peter Davis said that as a company, Costa is taking the COVID-19 situation extremely seriously.

"The federal and state governments have classified agri-

culture as an 'essential service' so it is important that we keep operating and supplying fresh produce to all Australians," Peter said.

"We are doing everything possible to keep our people, community and business safe by introducing a number of added measures. This includes enforcing social distancing on the worksite, increasing our current regime of cleaning and hygiene measures and temperature testing all people entering our Guyra site."

With the coronavirus dis-

rupting the employment landscape across the New England region, it is even more important to provide job opportunities for those impacted locally. Costa Tomatoes are always on the lookout for good staff and offer a broad range of career opportunities across a variety of roles; from machine operation, quality control, trades, technical growing, safety, HR and administration.

To find out more about current roles available or to set up a job alert visit: <https://costa-group.currentjobs.co/job>

What's HOT

EASTER - Church services adapting to current restriction and going online

STAYING AT HOME - remember that taking a 'holiday' is considered non essential travel

BEING KIND to workers providing essential services

HOT CROSS BUNS and Easter Eggs - [in moderation](#)

SHOPPING LOCAL

What's NOT

FIRST FROST of the year, with more to come

ANOTHER WEEK without sport and no end in sight to current restrictions

QUOTE of the week

Well done is better than Well said

Bureau of Meteorology

Weather

WATCH

Gyura MPS

Date	Day	Min	Max	Rain
31	Tues	10.1	21.5	5.0
1	Wed	8.7	20.4	0
2	Thurs	10.0	21.0	0
3	Fri	13.5	20.0	0
4	Sat	10.8	18.5	12.8
5	Sun	4 . 3	16.8	9.8
6	Mon	3.6	19.0	0

Rain this week	27.6 mm
Mar. rainfall	77.2 mm
Rainfall YTD	404.6 mm
Rainfall last YTD	157.4 mm
Ave. rain to April	349.4mm

Information supplied by Jeff Martin, Observer for Bureau of Meteorology

Drought, bushfires, coronavirus - What's next?

First it was drought. And then it was bushfires. Then, at last, good rain! But now the Coronavirus. What's next?

Is there a God out there, and is He in control?

Prominent atheist Richard Dawkins is sure: 'In a universe of blind physical forces ... some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, ... there is, (in the universe), no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.'

What a cold, lifeless worldview!

Christians know that the

universe is not just blind physical forces, but that God is there, and that He made and designed the world, and that He has a wonderful purpose for His creation.

At Christmas we celebrate that He is not indifferent to His world, but that He became a real human being, living life in all its good, bad, and ugly.

And at Easter we celebrate that God in Jesus died, defeating evil and then He gloriously came to life again, defeating death.

So what about the tough things in life? Well, Christians

aren't immune from drought, fires, or illness; but we are sure that there is a God, the God out there and that our God cares.

He is God who loved the world so much He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3v16).

That gives us hope, even in these difficult times!

Andrew Campbell
St. Columba's
Presbyterian Church

New words come to mind as Easter nears

How are you going at the moment? With the changes to daily life that have recently come upon us, many new words come to mind. We're quickly becoming acquainted with regularly hearing things like 'virus', 'social isolation', 'distance', and living on the New England highway we're noticing how quiet Guyra has become! For our church community, being unable to meet has been a great sadness. During the season of Easter, this is heightened, because it one of the highlights of the church calendar.

The coronavirus poses an increasing risk to human life, a danger that is difficult to com-

bat. The instruction from our leaders is to stay at home, and rightly so. The outcome of this instruction, though, is that we now live in a world that is struggling to maintain hope. Though if we were to reflect on the season of Easter seriously, we would find a source of hope that provides comfort.

During Easter, we celebrate that Jesus came to offer lasting hope to a hopeless world, and in Matthew 11 His invitation... 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my

yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

In a world that longs for hope, Jesus invites us to look to Him for what we desire. People search for hope in all kinds of places, though Jesus tells us that real and lasting hope is to be found in trusting in Him. The lasting hope that He invites into is about gaining entry into heaven, which is the fullest expression of life. I pray that in this season, with so much uncertainty, you might look at Jesus again and find lasting hope in Him.

Blessings, Rev Tim Stevens.
St James Anglican Church

Stay at home and save lives this Easter

As the Easter long weekend and the school holidays approach, police are reminding the community that travelling for holidays is not considered 'essential' travel.

Under the Public Health Act, NSW residents are not permitted to leave their homes without a reasonable excuse.

Everyone must stay home unless they are going to the supermarket and pharmacy, going to and from work if they cannot work from home, going to medical appointments, or leaving for some brief exercise in their own neighbourhood.

NSW Police Force Commissioner Mick Fuller is reminding the community that while these

reasons are legitimate, travel and holidays are not essential at this time.

"To help contain and slow the spread of COVID-19, we all have to work together and that means staying in our homes and our neighbourhoods for the time being," he said.

"While it's understandable for families to want to come together and celebrate during these times, we all must do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"Travelling unnecessarily means risking further spread, particularly to smaller communities whose health systems will be put under immense pressure if the virus is introduced into

their town.

"With the upcoming holiday period approaching, we continue to see some owners and operators of short-term accommodation facilities promoting non-essential travel. This is not in the spirit of the orders and sends mixed messages to the community.

"Our message is clear - the safest thing you can do right now is to stay at home. Stay at home and save lives."

Individuals who fail to comply with the Public Health order could face six months jail or a fine of up to \$11,000 (or both), plus a further \$5500 fine each day the offence continues.

MPS has plans in place for pandemic

Health professionals in the HNEH area, which includes the Guyra MPS, have plans in place if the current COVID-19 crisis escalates. HNEH Executive Director, Rural and Regional Health Services, Susan Heyman said that local health professionals have been working on a pandemic plan since January.

“All of our facilities, including the Guyra MPS, have done pandemic planning and are prepared if suspected cases present to the facility,” Ms Heyman said. “Staff have been trained to prevent the potential spread of the disease and if someone presents with symptoms they will be isolated from others patients and swabs will be taken.”

Ms Heyman said that these protocols are in place to protect staff as well as other patients. Testing is currently available for those in high risks categories or who present with symptoms such as a dry cough and high temperature.

“If anyone is concerned about their symptoms it is important that they contact their normal GP for assessment,” she said. “The good news is



Susan Heyman with Guyra GP Dr Jey at the official opening of the Medical Centre Extension in 2017

that they can do this without leaving their home by phoning and setting up a telehealth consultation.”

“After testing they are advised to self-isolate until their results came back – if they are positive, and have mild to moderate symptoms, they will be medically assessed and could remain at home and be monitored by phone as to how

their symptoms progress,” she said. “We will maintain regular contact and if their condition deteriorates, we will then reassess and provide the appropriate care they need.”

Patients requiring hospitalisation will most likely be treated at either Armidale or Tamworth Hospital depending on their condition. With a high proportion of aged care resi-

dents there are currently visitor restrictions in place at the Guyra MPS to ensure the safety of everyone.

“The MPS is basically their home and we need to ensure appropriate protections are in place, which means restricting visitors,” Ms Heyman said. “As of the weekend no visitors are allowed and while this is a strong move it is important for residents and their families.”

“We are also screening everyone who comes into the facility to see if they are in the high risk groups and, as you would expect, we are encouraging a high level of hygiene amongst everyone who enters.”

“Personal Protective Equipment is available for all staff and they have been trained in how and when to use it. I would encourage everyone to continue to follow advice such as regular hand washing, social distancing and staying at home. This will help prevent the spread of illness and keep our smaller communities healthy for as long as possible.”

Flight lifeline needed after Qantas halts service

Armidale Regional Council is calling for State and Federal Government backing to maintain a passenger air service to the Armidale region, following news Qantas Airlines will suspend its flights to the area from April 10th until May 31st.

The decision by Qantas follows similar moves by the other carriers providing regular passenger services to Armidale Regional Airport, as measures to control the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus reduce passenger numbers. REX Airlines has stopped its flights from Sydney from April 6th and Fly Corporate ceased its link to Brisbane from last week. It will leave the Armidale region without any air passenger services for the foreseeable future.

“While we fully understand and respect the tough decisions these carriers must make to protect the future viability of their

businesses, it is vital this region is not left without a regular service,” Armidale Regional Council Mayor Simon Murray said. “We’re looking to Federal and State Government for a commitment to underwrite at least a daily air passenger link between Sydney and the Armidale region.”

“People are responsibly heeding government directions to avoid non-essential travel, significantly reducing passenger numbers,” Cr Murray said. “However, a reliable air connection is essential for professional services needed by our community, such as hospital and health services.

He said just one daily flight would be invaluable in protecting the welfare of our community and helping to minimise the impacts the COVID-19 crisis will inevitably have on the region’s economy.

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall said that while this news is a bitter blow for our region, it does not come as any surprise with passenger numbers on the route, along with almost all other domestic routes, dropping by more than 70 per cent in the last few weeks as COVID-19 travel restrictions tightened.

“Realistically, under the new restrictions, there is hardly anyone permitted to catch a flight to Sydney,” Mr Marshall said. “I have spoken with Qantas Airways Australia senior management urging them to continue a minimum daily service to Armidale, for essential travel, including medical specialists and staff – who are almost the only people still flying at the moment.”

“Given the current adverse conditions, I told Qantas management that the service did not have to be direct to Sydney, but

it would be acceptable to triangulate with Tamworth or Coffs Harbour, or a combination to the two.

“Qantas has advised it was working on a minimum viable service model for its QantasLink network, which includes Armidale and it is currently in discussions with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, which regulates air travel in Australia, with a view to gaining approval for the new network operating model.”

“Despite the COVID-19 crisis and the tough, but needed, travel restrictions in place, we still need our air link to ensure essential travel can occur. It’s not just the city of Armidale which relies on this air link, it’s the entire region.”

Trains not lost

I suspect residents of Guyra are, like me, heartily sick of the futile debate about the rail trail versus the train, but I feel obliged to answer the question posed by Mr. Evans regarding the name of the town we have visited on a number of occasions in Victoria where the trail has brought prosperity.

The town is Bright and the figures stated to me by the motel owner, a barman at the hotel where they were rushed off their feet serving meals, and one of the real estate agents, are anecdotal.

I agree with Mr. Evans that the closure of a railway line is a great economic and social loss to small towns, almost as much as the closure of the banks. Like him, I bemoan the loss of any railway, as I love trains, and use that form of transport whenever I can. Perhaps he is unaware of this, but, fortunately we do still have that opportunity in Guyra.

The old folk who, he claims, would use the train if it came back have no excuse for not doing so now. At 81 years I think I qualify as one of those old folk. I regularly travel to Sydney for medical reasons and am very grateful that I can walk up to Bradley St. (much more convenient than the railway station) to meet the comfortable coach that will take me on the short ride to Armidale to catch the train.

The drivers are invariably courteous and helpful with my luggage, booking it through to Sydney for me and assisting me on board if I am not well. I find it amusing that you would consider me an elitist in that I would like to see the abandoned line put to use by the community. I would rather wear that, though, than be called a backward looking, selfish old man who does not put the wellbeing of the younger generations before my own.

So come on then, Mr. Evans, help me spread the good news that we haven't lost our train, and then we can put this tedious debate to rest.

John Ross

Thank you

I would like to thank Gala, Janelle and Martha for keeping the production of the Gazette going. This is a great publication

to keep the community up to date with the happenings and at this time of social isolation an extremely necessary commodity. Thank you.

Dot Vickery

Family Day Care

I am writing to you regarding the COVID-19 child care relief package (CRP).

As a Family Day Care (FDC) educator of 16 years in Guyra NSW, servicing under Armidale and District Family Day Care (AFDC), I want to share the impact this package will have on all FDC services across Australia.

Families across Australia are rejoicing with the news of free childcare for everyone. It's a relief that families have finally been given support from the government during this COVID-19 crisis.

The government is no doubt patting themselves on the back for helping to keep the doors of thousands of struggling centres across Australia open. These centres have seen a marked exodus of child enrolments, since the social distancing protocols have come into place. This bailout package will be perfect to keep them operations.

However, what families and the public need to know is that this childcare relief package (CRP), only serves to suit the struggling services and will decimate services that remain fully booked. The Early Childhood Education and Care sector is made up of Centre based care (private, community based, and council run), Preschools, In home care and Family Day Care. All these services are vastly different in their daily operations, staff numbers, management and most importantly how they are financed. When offering this package, the government has blindly placed all these unique services in one basket. This cannot work.

Family Day Care (FDC) is one sector or Early childhood education and care that will suffer the most. While what is behind their veil of 'free childcare for everyone' is the horrifying truth that FDC Early Childhood Educators have been forced to continue working, despite being on the front line with no social distancing, as an ESSENTIAL service.

All the while taking a MINIMUM of 50% pay cut, most cases much more.

What the government propose to do is pay ONLY 50% of revenue to educators based on the attendances between 17th February and 2nd March 2020, capped at 11.10/ child/hour. This equates to \$5.55/hour/child. After this measly amount, educators must take our expenses such as insurance, service fees, superannuation, educations resources, membership fees and care supplies, and then, with what insignificant amount that is left over, is supposed to be enough to support educator's own families. An additional concern is that educators who had fewer enrolments or were taking leave during this period, their future payments will reflect this, regardless of any new enrolments or extra hours worked.

This plan is set in place to help struggling services, however those that were fully booked, and business as usual have taken a massive hit. Some FDC services are receiving over 70% less income. How is this fair?

Families are now deciding to send their children back into FDC because it is now free. The real kicker is that none of these new enrolments will be paid for. Neither will any new enrolments that educators were receiving income for between 2nd March and 5th April. These will not be paid as apparently these don't factor into the CRP. This is no incentive to provide extra positions from new enrolments, or to provide essential school holiday care, as educators will simply not get paid.

Yet educators are still expected to work to provide care to families through this global pandemic, with no PPE and no social distancing. FDC educators are having multiple families into their homes daily, so social distancing is compromised. They are having to spend many extra hours cleaning (buying extra cleaning materials at their own cost) and practicing perfect hygiene (many extra hours of unpaid work). The government is expecting FDC educators to work on the frontline, having people in their homes, for half the price.

The government then, in a

back handed effort to placate educators, have announced that educators are expected to apply for the job keeper allowance as a sole trader. This allowance will not be available to some educators, due to tight criteria, leaving their services of the brink of closure. Also, at this point, this allowance has not even been mandated yet, and if it is, and if educators qualify, will not be available till sometime in May. How can FDC services continue to operate on over 50% less income?

The flow on affect is that coordination units, who support educators and monitor the provision if Early Childhood Education and Care amongst their educators, risk closure, resulting in FDC educators losing their schemes. It's a lose-lose situation.

This policy is not targeted, equitable or appropriate. It is a poorly designed and thought out package simply to gain popularity amongst families using childcare. Essentially all it will succeed in doing is forcing the closure of over 18,000 FDC services Australia wide and 688 coordination units, affecting the care for over 170,000 children and their families.

Whilst FDC educators understand that we all must do our bit in this COVID 19 crisis (yes I have been told that I should shut up and be grateful to have a job during the current pandemic), I'm sure you'll agree, FDC is doing more than enough to keep essential workers working, but of these essential workers, would you expect any of them to take a pay cut and be forced into working 50+ hours a week for half pay? I think not.

FDC educators are entitled to be paid appropriately, not be treated as an afterthought in the process of the government trying to gain points for giving free childcare.

If, as a concerned member of our community you would like to refute this package please contact Barnaby Joyce MP, or Education minister Dan Tehan MP.

Thank you for your attention

Val Hume
Registered Educator
Armidale and District
Family Daycare

A potted history of the Mother of Ducks Lagoon

Pre 1830s Tribal groups Anaiwan and Banbai travel through the region, camping beside the wetland and hunting.

1830 Europeans first settle in the **New England region**.

1850s – 1860s Mother of Ducks Lagoon and its perimeter was used for cattle grazing.

1860s The Lagoon was declared a water supply source.

1870s Extensive clearing began in the region with swamp-land often the first areas to be reclaimed for grazing.

1890s A travelling stock and camping reserve was declared over what is now the Reserve and water supply revoked.

1894 Declared a Public Reserve (due to the presence of waterbirds).

1900s (early and onward) the Guyra Shire Council and the NSW Faunal Panel had the joint responsibility of managing the Lagoon.

1900s – 1920 The northern perimeter of the Lagoon served as a horse racing track.

1901 A peat fire that burnt for three months is recorded as occurring, indicating a dry lagoon bed.

1901-02 Exceptionally dry conditions prevailed through to the 1940s – Guyra common occupied about 15 ha of the Lagoon.

1902 The Lagoon was completely dry.

1904 The Lagoon was declared a Town Common.

1906-08 Site of the Guyra Show Ground – later used for grazing until disputes disrupted the communal use.

1907 A tourist guide of the time promoted the Lagoon as a “large lake interspersed with weed beds which give cover to innumerable flocks of wild duck



Bird life is abundant on the Lagoon during wetter seasons

and swan, etc., the shootist (sic) can depend on good sport at Guyra.”

1914 The area was declared a Fauna Protection Area, however more for the establishment of a racecourse/showground, than for any wildlife protection values.

1917-1919 A drought period occurred which led to a fire in the peat bed.

1919 The Lagoon was completely dry.

1923 The original outflow of the Lagoon was first excavated by 30-60cm to open up land for ex-servicement settling the area.

1923 The golf club moved to its present location on the eastern perimeter of the Lagoon at this time presumably using the vacated race track land.

1928-early 1930s The

northern perimeter of the Lagoon served as a horse racing track.

1939 Until this time the Lagoon filled comparatively regularly.

1950 Lagoon completely dry.

1950-52 By placing a pipe under the Badersleigh Road the Guyra Shire Council lowered the outlet by 170cm. The work was carried out under licence from the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission to expand grazing land and reduce the inundation of the golf course.

1963 A control weir was placed on the outlet of the Lagoon to expand the golf course into the Lagoon bed which reduced the water level a further 75cm.

1966 A drought period occurred which led to a fire in the

peat bed.

1973 Part of the Lagoon dedicated as a Nature Reserve.

1976 It was estimated that these successive drainage events left the maximum Lagoon water level about 1 metre below its original height. Water levels in the Lagoon have always fluctuated widely with extremes in precipitation.

1978 Grazing rights on the Lagoon were revoked.

1988 Earthen levies constructed around the Nature Reserve with the aim of raising its water level and effecting a more persistent, though still ephemeral water body.

2003-Present Additional properties acquired to Mother of Ducks Lagoon Nature Reserve.

Free TAFE courses on during pandemic

TAFE NSW will provide a suite of 21 fee-free online short courses to assist people across the region who wanted to upskill during the COVID-19 pandemic. The courses will allow people to pursue a new area of study or expand their existing skill sets during these difficult times.

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall said that the State Government has made it a priority, while

the pandemic continues, to do what it can to keep as many people as possible in jobs, or support those currently experiencing unemployment to re-enter the workforce.

“For some this could mean utilising this period of social distancing to hit the books and learn skills areas like business, computing, social media, administration and writing and personal presentation,” Mr Marshall said.

“TAFE NSW’s website has the list of all the fee-free courses currently on offer and I urge anyone who may be interested to jump online and see if there is something available which suits them.”

The 21 short courses include:

- eMarketing for Small Business;
- Engaging Customers Using Social Media;
- Writing and Presentation

Skills:

- Computing Skills;
- Team Leader Skill Set; and
- Administration Skills for Team Leaders.

More information, including a full list of courses, is available by calling 131 601 or visiting the website www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses

Small publishers funds should be used as intended

Country Press Australia has welcomed an announcement this week by the Morrison Government to release \$5 million from the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund.

However, CPA has called on the Government to release all of the \$48 million from the fund and ensure it is only used as intended, for small and regional publishers of public interest journalism.

“The fund was established in 2017 as a direct result of the large media companies lobbying the Federal Government to make changes to Media Laws,” the President of CPA, Bruce Ellen said “Despite the Government claiming that the release of funds had been brought forward, the vast majority of these funds should have already been distributed as part of the three-year funding agreement to sustain small publishing companies.”

“We are concerned about the Minister’s statement that more organisations will be eligible to apply. It is vital this fund continues to be for small and regional publishers and is not once again handed to the large public company media organisations who have scale and diversity that small publishers do not have.”

Many publishers with low overheads have already had a significant boost with the JobKeeper Allowance. Online businesses with low overheads and large salaries will benefit,” Mr Ellen said “Newspapers, on the other hand, have large overheads with printing and distribution and the fund was largely established to assist traditional small news media businesses.”

The Department of Communications website clearly states the intention of the fund: “The Regional and Small Publishers Jobs and Innovation Package is designed to help small metropolitan and regional publishers adapt to the challenges facing the contemporary media environment, create employment opportunities for cadet journalists and support regional students to study journalism.”

“Country Press Australia alone has 140 member newspapers and the current allocation of \$5 million will not be enough to sustain those members beyond a very short time frame,” he said. “The Morrison Government needs to release all the funds and maintain the intentions of the fund for smaller independent operators.”

Man charged with multiple offences after police pursuit

A man has been charged following a police pursuit in Guyra on Thursday April 2nd. Officers attached to New England Police District were patrolling the Guyra township at around 5.25pm, where it is alleged they saw a black Holden Commodore utility on White Street accelerate away at speed. Police attempted to stop the vehicle; however, the utility allegedly failed to stop, and a pursuit was initiated.

The utility entered a driveway on Ollera Street, where it was alleged he reversed into the police vehicle and drove towards Ebor Road. Officers attempted to block access on Ollera Street where the driver of the utility allegedly collided with the front of the police vehicle before coming to a stop, and the man was arrested. When police searched the ute they seized a knife, an electronic stun device, ammunition, cannabis, unauthorised prescription medication.

Following further inquiries, it will be alleged the man broke into a shop on Bradley Street, Guyra about 3.30am on Sunday 22 March 2020, where he took cash and goods. It is further alleged he broke into a hotel on Bradley Street Guyra about 3.55am on Monday 23 March, where cash and keys were stolen. The 27-year old man was taken to Armidale Police Station where he was charged with 10 offences:

- Police pursuit - not stop - drive dangerously (Skye’s law)
- Drive recklessly/furiously or speed/manner dangerous
- Drive motor vehicle during disqualification period
- Custody of knife in public place
- Possess or use a prohibited weapon without permit
- Possess ammunition without holding licence
- Possess prohibited drug
- Possess prescribed restricted substance
- Break and enter house steal value (2)

Guyra Sheep & Lamb Sale

April 1st - There was a reduced penning of just 850 lambs and 880 sheep. There was a good supply of well finished lambs along with plainer condition lambs to suit restockers. The usual processors were in place and there was strong re-

stocker competition. Demand increased for restocker lambs with the better quality lots selling from \$160 to \$195/head. The plainer quality light weights made from \$91 to \$120/head. Merino lambs to restockers sold from \$31 to

\$117/head. Lambs to process sold to cheaper trends, the heaviest lambs sold from \$220 to \$250/head with the latter weighed on farm at 60kg live weight, as reported by the agent. The majority of the well fin-

ished lambs sold from \$180 to \$200/head. Crossbred ewes were well supplied, while the supply of Merino ewes to suit restockers was well down. Market trends showed little change with odd dearer sales. Quality did impact some price change.

Armidale Cattle Sale

Weekly Wool Sales

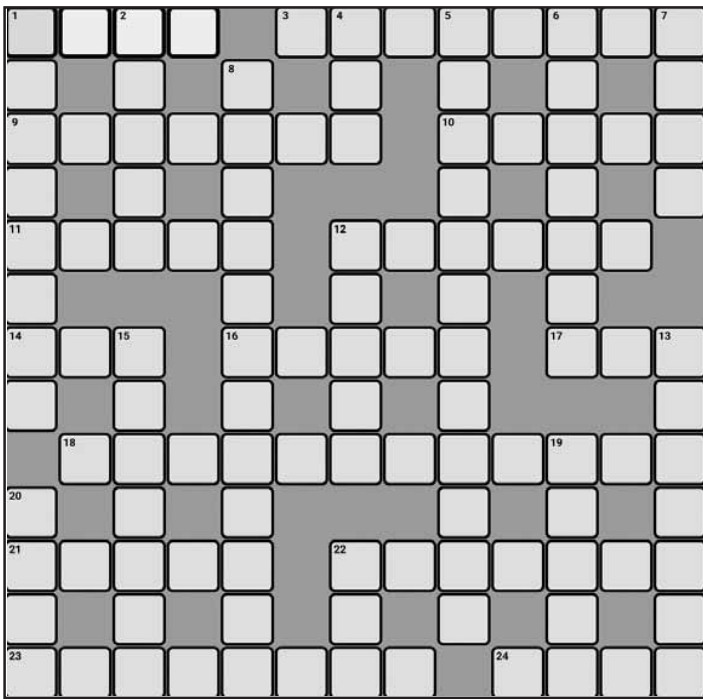
April 2nd - There was a reduced penning with cows, vealers and yearlings making up a large percentage. There was an increase in the number of bulls penned, making up almost 10% of the total. From all reports the quality was quite mixed. There was similar processor and feedlot competition, a couple of returning orders replacing some absentee’s. Local restocker activity was strong. Light and medium weight vealer steers to restockers sold on a firm to dearer market trend, up

10c to 16c/kg. The heifer vealers to restockers sold to cheaper trends. There were cheaper trends also through the yearling steers to restock and feed. Quite a large price range depending on breed and quality. Odd better quality pens of yearling heifers were dearer, the plainer quality lots selling to a cheaper trend. Cows were again cheaper with medium weights down around 6c/kg. The heavy weight cows were as much as 13c/kg cheaper.

April 3rd - The dark cloud spoken of last week became a storm this week as the world focuses on a global pandemic. Shipping restrictions into the second and third largest destinations (India & Italy) for Australian wool remain restricted and major retailers around the world have closed the doors of their physical stores for a yet to be determined amount of time. The Aussie dollar once again shot up higher against the US dollar, with all the above factors combining to drive the wool market down to near a four year low. 100 cent loses on the first day of sales were followed by a

further 60-70 cent reduction on the final day. Of the 37,713 bale national offering just 20,782 bales were sold, translating to an extremely large 44.9% passed in rate. Major buyers included Tianyu, Kathaytex and Techwool. The Crossbred sector was hit particularly hard with the 28 micron indicator falling almost 20% during the course of the week. AWTA test data released on Wednesday is showing a 6.9% reduction in the volume of wool tested for the season to date. Sales continue next week in the Tuesday Wednesday format with in excess of 44,000 bales expected to be offered.

Rural Market Reports



CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1. Chances
- 3. Follow the course or trail of someone
- 9. Conceited, self-centred person
- 10. At no time
- 11. Furniture item
- 12. Drug derived from opium
- 14. Pouch
- 16. In what place?
- 17. Kind of hot tub
- 18. Producer, maker
- 21. November birthstone
- 22. Where horses are kept
- 23. Financial obligations that are unlikely to be repaid
- 24. Spoken or verbal

Down

- 1. Take too much medication
- 2. Falls
- 4. Common type of rodent
- 5. Information that is meant to be kept secret or in private
- 6. Requests the presence of
- 7. Female child
- 8. Game consisting of a picture that has been cut into interlocking pieces (6.6)
- 12. Last letter of the Greek alphabet
- 13. Spray can
- 15. Applauded
- 19. King, e.g.

WORDSEARCH - Sports

E L O P E Q S K
 I S K I T T E E
 C N E T A R A K
 L W N D K F Z J
 U G I I S L S O
 B U H N N O T G
 M A Z O S G A G
 V R T T O R E E
 P D I A U P L R
 S C U B A L C B
 K U N I F O R M

- Bat
- Baton
- Cleats
- Club
- Golf
- Guard
- Hoop
- Inning
- Jogger
- Karate
- Lutz
- MVP
- Pole
- Scuba
- Skate
- Ski
- Stadium
- Stick
- Tee
- Uniform
- Win

SUDOKU - Easy

5		3	4	7		8		
1				9		7	4	
	2	4		1			3	
		7			9	1	2	
	5		7		3		8	
	3	9	8			6		
	6			8		4	5	
	1	8		5				7
		5		3	4	2		8

JOKES

Why don't chefs find coronavirus jokes funny? They're in bad taste.
Finland just closed its borders. You know what that means. No one will be crossing the finish line.
What do you tell yourself when you wake up late for work and realize you have a fever? Self, I so late.
Did you hear the joke about the germ? Never mind, I don't want to spread it around.

CROSSWORD CLUES

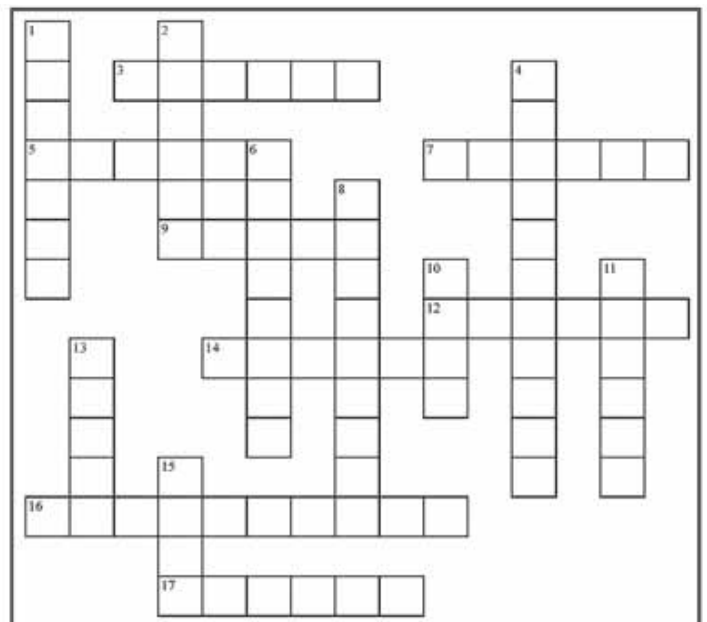
Across

- 3. Home for the aged
- 5. ____ Parade. Leads to Show-ground
- 7. Local poet and raconteur
- 9. Creek with common name
- 12. Nickname of corner pub
- 14. Teams up with lamb in January
- 16. Highway that divides town
- 17. Surrounded by rocks and home of Tigers

Down

- 1. In the main, this is a boy's name
- 2. They grow something round and red
- 4. Tiny village to our north
- 6. Sporting house and street
- 8. Blooms beautifully in January
- 10. Water falls near here
- 11. Burgess family sold these
- 13. Longest serving Guyra Shire President (surname)
- 15. Combusted on the golf course in 2019

HINT: Local knowledge needed





Classifieds Trades & Services

HOME DELIVERIES

To keep our community safe, local businesses will home deliver. Phone your requirements to:

- Guyra Pharmacy 6779 1192
- Kirk's IGA 6779 1555
- Spar 6779 1991
- Dasha's Hardware 6779 2444

IN MEMORIAM

Bertie Bryant

30.10.1926 - 6.4.2016

A special person, a special face
Someone we love and can't replace
Never selfish, always kind
These are the memories he left behind
Loved & missed always ~ Lily & family

In loving memory of ...

Jeanette Agnes Mayled

6.10.1945 - 11.4.2017

As time has passed, we always have beautiful memories that will forever last of someone so special and always in our hearts.
Your loving family

TRADES & SERVICES

Geoff Kane EARTHMOVING

For all your ...

- Earthmoving
- Excavating &
- Timber needs

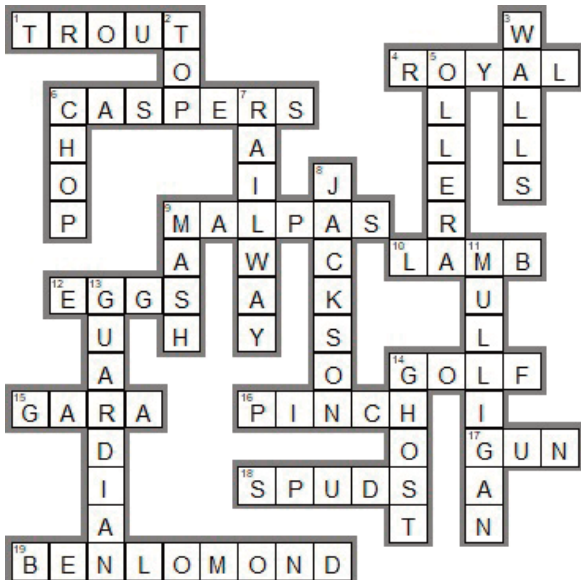
0413 046 398

geoffkane@auzzie.net
Locals Supporting Locals

PUBLIC NOTICES

GUYRA HISTORICAL MUSEUM will be CLOSED until further notice. Enquiries: 6779 2132.

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS



PET OF THE WEEK

PET OF THE WEEK



Larry is a gorgeous 14 week old Domestic Short Hair x Ragdoll boy. He has a beautiful soft coat with amazing markings. Larry is litter trained and well socialised.

His adoption fee of \$100 includes desexing, vaccination, microchipping, worming and a flea treatment.

For more information please call or text:

0423 685 694

or message the

Friends of Fred Animal Rescue facebook page for more information

ADVERTISE your For Sales, Raffle Results, Motor Vehicles, Positions Vacant, Livestock, Public Notices, etc. Call in to 136 Bradley Street or phone 6779 2132

Electrical Contractors

Essential Energy Level 2 Contractors

- Reverse Cycle Air/Con
- Slab Heating • TV Aerial Repairs
- Household & Stock Pumps • Generators

Commercial
Domestic

Industrial
Rural

CT Electric Phone: 6779 1273
101 Bradley Street, Guyra
A/H: 6779 1463 or 0427 791 273

CLAIM THE DATE

***NOTE: Postponed until further notice.**
SATURDAY, 4th APRIL: at Wandsworth "Celebration of Resilience" for recovery from drought and bushfires. Entertainment, live band, BBQ, educational stalls, mental health. Also will be held on 16th May at Bald Blair, 13th June at Guyra and 11th July at Ben Lomond.
SUNDAY, 8th NOVEMBER: Guyra Cup (note postponement from 19th April).

CLAIM THE DATE

For your event
or function
Phone: 6779 2132

**Advertise
here**

This could be your space.
If you are reading this, then
SO ARE OTHERS!!!
CALL US ON 6779 2132



Australian Government

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Financial assistance is now available to support individuals, households and businesses.

From keeping Australians in jobs and businesses in business with the **\$130 billion JobKeeper Payment**, to assisting individuals and households with a doubling of income support, we're helping Australians during the Coronavirus.



To find out more,
visit australia.gov.au

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



Easter Opening Hours

Good Friday	Closed
Saturday	7.00am–12.00noon
Easter Sunday	Closed
Easter Monday	Closed

Get ready for your winter heater

Smart Burn
\$52.25

Soot Loose
\$4.50



Dasha's Hardware & Building Supplies
61 Ollera Street, Guyra

Phone: 6779 2444

EASTER TRADING HOURS

Good Friday	8.00am - 6.00pm
Easter Saturday	8.00am - 7.30pm
Easter Sunday	8.00am - 6.00pm
Easter Monday	8.00am - 6.00pm



Open on ANZAC Day
12.00noon - 6.00pm

- Groceries • Bread • Milk
- Fruit & Veg

Hot food - take away

- Hot Chickens
- Pizzas • Burgers
- Fish & Chips



134 Bradley Street,
Guyra

Phone: 6779 1991



from all at Kirk's IGA Easter Trading Hours

Good Friday	Closed
Easter Saturday	8.00am - 1.00pm
Easter Sunday	Closed
*(Papers will be at the truck stop from 8.30am)	
Easter Monday	8.00am - 12.00noon

Please note: Kirk's IGA may enforce entry control to regulate the number of customers in our store. Please be understanding to our staff.

Kirk's



94 Bradley Street
Guyra

Phone: 6779 1555

Easter Trading Hours

Good Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	CLOSED
Easter Sunday	CLOSED
Easter Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday, 13th	8.00am - 5.30pm
<i>Vu & the staff at Guyra Pharmacy wish everyone a safe & Happy Easter!</i>	



Our Home Delivery Services ...

- FREE home delivery available daily to Guyra township



- Delivery via the mail services on Monday, Wednesday & Friday for those out of town

Pharmacist Advice



- **Call us on: 6779 1192**
- **106 Bradley Street, Guyra**