

2508

FREE

APRIL 2021

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District news



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New home for Helensburgh Sunday Social Golfers

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Meet Our Contributors



Dr Chris Reid lives in Helensburgh and works in the Australian Museum as a research scientist specialising in beetles. His job is a combination of research, teaching or supervising students, and dealing with public enquiries. A NSW government beetle expert, Chris describes his identifying beetles as "a bit like detective work". "Working on insects means I get to indulge in two favourite pastimes: travel and bushwalking."



Dr Trevor Kemper is a GP who was born and raised in the Northern Illawarra. After decades working locally he founded Equilibrium Healthcare in Helensburgh, gathering together a lifestyle focussed team to help realise his ambition to create a healthier community. When not doing GP things, he can be found swimming at local rockpools and beaches, or cycling in the National Park, often with a camera in tow.



Dr Lorraine Jones came to NSW after an internship in the Royal Brisbane Hospital. She worked at the Prince Henry Hospital before going into general practice in Regents Park in Sydney. Lorraine moved to Stanwell Park in 1970. After retiring, she joined the Helensburgh and District Historical Society and has published a number of booklets, including one on the 1919 influenza epidemic.

2508

**NEXT
DEADLINE
April 21
for the May
edition**

EDITORS Gen Swart, Marcus Craft

CONTACT editor@2508mag.com.au. Ph: 0432 612 168

f **@** 2508mag. PO Box 248, Helensburgh, 2508.

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NEXT DEADLINE April 21

COVER Helensburgh Sunday Social Golf Club. Photo: Anthony Warry

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SOCIAL GROUP OUTINGS

APRIL - MAY 2021

Bookings made through the office. Please call in advance as some tickets need to be pre purchased. Limited number on buses, and bathroom breaks for long trips will be included.



KANGAROO VALLEY

MONDAY, 12 APRIL
Kangaroo Valley day trip
(Hampdon Deli lunch)

Transport \$20 plus lunch
Pick up from 9.30am



BATHURST OVERNIGHT TRIP

WED-THURS, 21-22 APRIL
Bathurst overnight trip

Pick up from 9am
See Bathurst brochure



PREMIERS GALA CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, 21 APRIL
Premiers Gala Concert –
ICC Aware Stadium

Transport \$10 (limited no.)
Concert tickets free
Pick up from 10am



PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

MONDAY 3 MAY
National Geographic Nature
Photographer of the year (2020
exhibition (Australian Museum)

Transport \$15 Entry free
Pick up from 10am

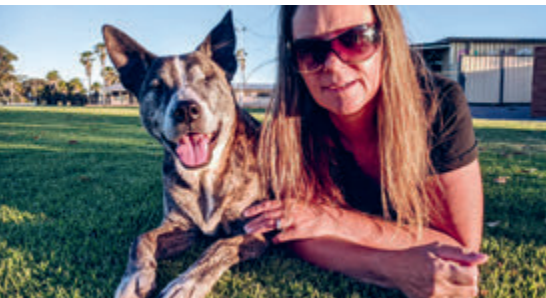


BELLE PADDLE BOAT CRUISE

FRIDAY 21 MAY
Nepean Belle Paddle Boat
lunch cruise (Nepean River)

Transport \$15, Cruise/lunch \$53
Pick up from 9am

Monday–Friday (9am–5pm) | telephone 02 4294 1900
18 Walker Street, Helensburgh



Helping animals via silent auction

Last month Kim Lee organised a Facebook auction that raised \$2185 for our local pet rescuers.

I used to volunteer for Country Companion Animal Rescue (CCAR) when I was in Helensburgh and it was a love/hate scenario.

I loved going and helping out with the animals that were rescued from country pounds, but hated seeing what horrific things had been done to these helpless animals that only wanted to be loved.

I was always passionate about fundraising for Julie-ann from CCAR as it is a non-profit organisation. As you can imagine there are so many bills involved with rescuing and then, after

the rescue, there are the endless bills for food, medication and veterinary services.

Currently, I am away in WA and thought I could possibly help by arranging another silent auction. Wow! I was absolutely blown away with the support I received from local business that wanted to donate vouchers and gifts.

Would you believe I had a total of 36 businesses that wanted to donate! In the end with a few cash donations the community and I raised \$2185!

I had people saying what a wonderful job I had done, but I couldn't have done it without the support of businesses and the community bidders. I think some of them actually liked trying to outbid each other!

CCAR is always looking for volunteers over the age of 18 and foster carers, and donations are always very welcome and needed.

My next goal is to see if I can get people to sponsor an animal each month. If I could get 100 people to donate \$5 per month permanently that would be an amazing help.

If you are interested in doing so, or making a donation, send me an email and I would happily arrange this for you.

Email kimmy.p2508@gmail.com

Thank you again to everyone for the wonderful support! **2508**

2508 District News donated \$129 of advertising space to the fundraiser – check out our winning bidder, **Cake Designs by Moramay**, on page 37!

Women supporting women

By Lauren Martin

An International Women's Day fundraiser organised by Independent Body Shop at Home Consultants in 2508 and surrounds has raised \$1100 for The Salvation Army's Carinya Women's Services, supporting women and children impacted by violence and homelessness in the Illawarra.

The evening, titled 'Rise Up', was hosted at Thirroul Bowling Club and attracted 61 women, who were pampered and heard speakers discuss International Women's Day themes and the impact of family violence in the local area.

The Manager of The Salvation Army's Carinya Women's Services thanked those in attendance, saying the money raised would be used to purchase new, good-quality toys for the children who stay at Carinya Cottage. She said family and domestic violence impacts all levels of society, and can take many forms. She said it was a privilege in her role to journey with women who were rebuilding their lives.

One of the Independent Consultants, Janine, is also an Activist Ambassador with The Body Shop

at Home. She told the group she was part of the first group of women in her local surf club when rules changed many years ago to allow girls to participate. She encouraged women to keep supporting each other and advocating for equality. **2508**



2508 Salvos Mission Leader Lauren Martin (left) presents Body Shop at Home Independent Consultant Lee with a certificate of appreciation for her ongoing support.

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Phase 1B begins

Helensburgh's Covid-19 Clinic is shifting from testing to vaccination, 2508 reports.

It's a sign of a turning point in the coronavirus pandemic that Helensburgh's Covid-19 testing clinic will now also become a vaccination clinic, set to deliver 6400 vaccines a month.

Helensburgh Respiratory Clinic, a government-funded GP-led initiative, opened in May 2020 in a temporary building behind Parkes St Practice.

"We have completed 10,000-plus Covid tests so far," said Dr Cindy Htet, owner of Parkes St General Practice, which runs the clinic.

"From 24 March, we will be giving over 6000 vaccinations per month."

Dr Htet thanked her wonderful team, who have all been "working tirelessly" during the pandemic.

"Vaccination days and testing days will vary depending on the Covid-19 outbreak.

"We will be following the government's phased roll out. The initial phase will be Phase 1B."

This phase includes people aged over 70.

The next phases will be 2a, 2b and 3.

To find out when you may be eligible, check the government's website: covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/check-eligibility **2508**

How vaccines have changed our lives

By Dr Lorraine Jones, vice president of Helensburgh and District Historical Society

Throughout our lives we have taken for granted the immunisation of our children so that they do not die of diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis or other diseases such as measles, mumps or chickenpox.

If you are under 50 you would be unaware of how terrifying it was to be parents before polio immunisation when an epidemic occurred.

In 1950 the *Helensburgh Scarborough News* warned people of the polio threat and advised everyone of the importance of hand-washing and general cleanliness.

Epidemics of poliomyelitis would sweep through communities. Babies and young and old would be paralysed. When the victims lost the ability to breathe, they were placed in an "iron lung". This was an oblong machine where the patient's chest was enclosed and air was pumped in and out of the lungs using pressure on the chest. Some people lived in one for years. In 1951, 357 people in Australia died of polio.

There was great excitement when a vaccine became available in 1956. The first vaccine was an injection, the Salk vaccine. I received mine when I was at medical school. This was followed later by an oral live vaccine, the Sabin vaccine.

In a 1961 Wollongong outbreak, 200 people were hospitalised with poliomyelitis.

The vaccine's effectiveness is demonstrated by the fact there has been no local transmission of the disease in Australia since 1972. Let's hope we have a similar result with the Covid-19 vaccine here and around the world. **2508**

First for Pfizer

Garrawarra Centre staff were among the first frontline staff in the state to receive the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccination on Monday, 22 February.

Located in Waterfall, Garrawarra Centre is a residential aged care facility designed for those with dementia. Its staff travelled into the city to receive their vaccinations at the Liverpool Hospital Vaccination Hub.

Staff from Garrawarra Centre, St George and Sutherland hospitals were vaccinated, including medical, nursing, allied health, administrative, orderly, security, transport and cleaning staff. **2508**



A group of Garrawarra staff received their vaccinations on Monday, 22 February – day one of the roll-out in Australia.



Vaccines are here!

We're set to give 6400 per month

**At Helensburgh Respiratory Clinic
(behind Parkes Street General Practice, entry via Club Lane)**

Phase-1B Rollout began on March 24. Patients eligible include:

- people 70 years of age or older;
- health care workers;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over 55 years;
- Younger people with an underlying medical condition, including people with a disability; and
- critical and high risk workers, including Australian Government officials about to be deployed overseas on official government business.

Book your appointment via www.psgp.com.au



- Dr Cindy Htet (Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday)
- Dr Martin Gellatley (Mon, Tues, Friday)
- Dr Meng Chen (Thursday)
- Dr Shantiban Shanmugam (everyday)
- Dietitian Rachel Watson (Saturday)

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- Aviation Medicals

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Orange hues for Harmony Day

By Annaye Blakey, Classroom Teacher at Helensburgh Public School

On March 19, schools across the nation celebrated Harmony Day with the theme 'Everyone Belongs'.

From March 15 to 19, all classes at Helensburgh Public school engaged in a range of activities that celebrated multiculturalism and inclusiveness.

Students read texts with themes of belonging and cultural diversity and shared where their families are from.

We discovered that within any classroom, our ancestors represented countries from all around the world. It helped us understand that our differences make us special and unique.

Helensburgh students and staff celebrated by dressing up in orange or cultural attire. A beautiful sea of orange flooded the school playground.

All classes created posters for a competition. A video of all of our exciting and wonderful celebrations was shared on our school Facebook page. [2508](#)



Meet the newest members of our team.



From left to right:
(back) Shae, Natalie,
(front) Cassidy, Eoghan.

Stanwell Park

	AM	PM
Monday	7.30-11.30 (group class 9.30am) Jill	3-8 (7pm group) Jill
Tuesday	7-11 Eoghan	3-8 (4pm, 7pm group) Cassidy
Wednesday	7-11 (10am group) Laura and Natalie	3-8 (4pm group) Shae
Thursday	7-11 (10am group) Eoghan	2-7.30pm (5.30pm group class) Natalie
Friday	6.30- 11.30 Eoghan	-
Saturday	6.30-11.30	-

Cassidy Dunn is our Physiotherapist who has moved to our area from Orange. Cassidy can assist you with musculoskeletal pain and injuries including acute and chronic back pain, neck pain, sporting injuries, shoulder injuries and overuse injuries.

Eoghan Rosser has joined our Exercise Physiology team. He is here to help with strength building, exercise for injury prevention and post injury rehabilitation. If you would like to come in for a pre season assessment, Eoghan can provide you with an individualised injury prevention program to help keep you in action through the season.

Helensburgh

	AM	PM
Monday	7-10 Natalie	3-8 Eoghan
Tuesday	7-10 Shae	12.30-1.30, 4-7 Laura
Wednesday	7-11 Cassidy	4-8 Eoghan
Thursday	8.30-10.30 Cassidy	2.30-7.30pm Shae
Friday	7-2 Shae	-
Saturday	-	-

Shae-Lyn Phipps is also an ESSA accredited Exercise Physiologist who enjoys assisting patients for chronic pain management, pre/post natal exercise plans and exercise/mobility programs for people with disabilities.

Natalie Robson is an Exercise Physiologist who works with us as well as tutoring and completing a Masters in Public Health at Wollongong University. Natalie has years of experience working with exercise rehabilitation for musculoskeletal injuries, community health and aged care.

Services available at The Physio Pilates Movement:

Physiotherapy / Exercise Physiology / Private, semi private and group reformer Pilates / Falls Prevention Exercise Classes / Parkinsons Disease Exercise Classes

Our team are registered to claim through health funds, work cover, EPC plans or DVA and are available Monday to Friday and Saturday by appointment only.

For bookings call 4294 3173.

Lions on track to host fun-filled Brick Fair

By Fran Peppernell, publicity officer for Helensburgh Lions Club

Hi Everyone,

I hope all our community bunkered down safely during last month's 100-year weather event. We certainly have had to overcome lots of obstacles the past 18 months or so. As long as we're all safe that is the most important thing. Due to these times, the Lions have also supported the wonderful CWA with mental awareness training courses.

Our Lions clubs will be out there supporting communities, assisting the clean-up where possible, then providing financial support via the Australian Lions Foundation, which helps communities after natural disasters.

Brick Fair is back on April 17 and 18

On a much brighter note, we are pleased to confirm the Annual Brick Fair is scheduled to take place at Tradies Helensburgh on 17 and 18 April in the function room.

Importantly, as we need to comply with a Covid-19 safe plan, the fair is a ticketed event.

The tickets are available online through Lions' Facebook page or scan the QR code to access the booking system. Tickets are \$5 per person over age 3 for a 45-minute session. There will also be colouring-in competitions and raffle prizes to be won on the day and terrific exhibitions to view.



ANZAC service at Stanwell Tops

On Sunday, April 25, we will be holding our ANZAC Day Service at 10am at the Stanwell Tops Memorial Park to honour the brave service personnel and civilians who served our country. Afterwards tea, coffee and, of course, ANZAC biscuits will be provided.

If you would like to contact us, please visit our website at www.helensburghlions.org.au, follow @helensburghlions on Facebook or email us at info@helensburghlions.org.au **2508**

Tired? Check your iron levels

By Dr Trevor Kemper, of Equilibrium Healthcare

Are you feeling like the past year has taken all the energy out of you? Exhausted by the relentless Covid everything... It might actually be iron that is the problem.

Iron is a vital trace mineral that is needed in your red cells to help carry oxygen around your body and for muscle development.

Both high and low iron levels in your body can cause similar symptoms, so it's worth investigating.

If you have low iron, you might experience fatigue, weakness, pale skin, shortness of breath or a fast heart rate. It's very common, especially in women, infants and children, vegetarians, vegans and in frequent blood donors.

Common causes of iron deficiency include blood loss, low dietary iron, poor iron absorption and pregnancy. But don't just start taking iron supplements, because if you're suffering from iron excess the supplements will make it worse.

Iron excess is most commonly caused by a



genetic condition called Haemochromatosis. It's common and carried by one in seven Australians. Initially it can be asymptomatic, but the body isn't great at getting rid of iron so, in excess, it is deposited in all the wrong places, like the liver and heart, and can cause cirrhosis, diabetes and heart failure.

For iron deficiency we find and correct the cause of the deficiency. If it is dietary, we increase iron-rich foods, such as green leafy vegetables and red meat. When this isn't enough, we try iron supplements – all enhanced with vitamin C intake. If this fails, then iron infusion can be of benefit.

For Haemochromatosis we do the opposite; reduce iron-rich foods and vitamin C and perform venesection (just like blood donation) to help offload the excess iron.

So, if you're feeling fatigued, speak to your GP. We perform iron infusions as well as venesections, so you needn't go far from home to get help. **2508**



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Meet our new Salvos store manager

By Lauren Martin

With more than 20 years' experience in retail, including owning the popular Helensburgh boutique 'Ambiance', Tracey Noonan brings style, warmth and passion to her new role at Helensburgh Salvos Store.

"I'm excited to be back working in the local community," she said. "I have missed that connection and I'm loving seeing friendly faces call in, and working alongside our great people and volunteers."

Working alongside 2508 Salvos Mission Leader, Lauren Martin, Tracey has plans to create spaces of community within the store. Regular 'Better Yourself, Better the Future' events focussing on 'Dressing for your Body Shape', 'De-Cluttering' and 'Up-Cycling' are being planned.

"We are also keen to meet new people who would like to join our great team of volunteers."

"Your contribution will assist The Salvation Army to continue its work giving hope where it's needed most."

"Plus, it's great fun volunteering in store!" **2508**



To find out about upcoming events, 'Like' the 2508 Salvos Facebook page. To ask about volunteering, phone Tracey in store on (02) 4294 9059.

Discover Yesterday Stories

2508 reports



A Wollongong entrepreneur has launched a new app that's like YouTube for history videos, featuring the coast's ocean pools, Coalcliff Cokeworks and the Dreamtime story of Mt Keira.

Founded by documentary filmmaker Sandra Pires, Yesterday Stories will use maps, geolocation technology and crowdsourcing to help communities share their histories and help travellers tap into local knowledge. So app users can upload videos, or they watch them.

About 200 stories are live. "There's indigenous history, buildings, paranormal, political stories, and there's personal stories," Sandra says. "The indigenous stories are amazing. There's the Whale Cave, which has artwork that's between five and 15,000 years old, in Wollongong."

Yesterday Stories has received a Wollongong City Council grant to film local histories. "So please, if you've got a story to share, contact us."

Email info@yesterdaystories.com.au **2508**

Crafting a 'forever chest'

By Paul Blanksby, of Helensburgh Men's Shed

Here at your Men's Shed we get many requests: repair an old chair, create a cherished toy, bring a mirror back to life or restore an old baker's oven.

A recent commission was truly a privilege. A local lady, who had sadly lost her beloved husband, asked us to create a forever chest, a safe and beautiful resting place for his remains. We designed something simple and elegant, using beautiful Australian hardwoods rescued from old logs. Thank you for trusting us to carry out this job.

A huge thank you for some very generous donations goes to Greg and Lorelle Watts of the Burgh Post Office, Chris Rolfe from Innovation Body Works, and Mike and Gail Tribe from The Best Hardware Store in Town.

Now, were you born on Wednesday the 19th of May, 1954? Please contact us, and I'll show you why it's a special day...

Visit helensburghmennsshed.org.au or find us at 199A Parkes Street, 9am-3pm Monday and Tuesday. Call Michael Croft 0413 401 522; Ron Balderston 0410 564 752. **2508**

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Neighbourhood Forum 1 report

By NFI convenor Warwick Erwin

Helensburgh Library and Community Centre update

Jenny Thompson, Manager Library & Community Services, gave an update on the new Helensburgh Library and Community Centre. NF1 was told Wollongong Council are considering 1 of 3 options for the new site. The existing site is considered unsuitable and Council will no longer be considering acquiring the property next to the current Library. Council say they need 4000m2 for a combined Library and Community Centre. There will be a community consultation session in mid 2021, with construction to start in 2025. Where is 4,000m2 in the CBD? That was the subject of discussion after Council officers left the meeting.

Helensburgh Town Centre Plan update

Felicity Skoberne, Landscape Architect WCC, provided an update on phase 2 design of Walker Street, which will be levelled out on the west side of the street and terraced with a footpath running alongside the kerb. Walker Street will have a gentler slope on the eastern side to allow car doors to be opened on the passenger side without scraping the door on the pavement. A small roundabout will be built at the intersection of Lilyvale and Walker Streets. Three community consultation/workshop sessions were conducted on March 23 to discuss phase 2; Council officers left with a great deal of community feedback, especially about parking and disabled access issues. Lane 10 and the old Pizzarama shop were points of discussion. Work on phase 2 is due to commence in July (2021) and be completed during the next financial year.

Wilsons Creek construction fill site

Transport for NSW is proposing to move construction fill from the Waterfall station platform lengthening project through Helensburgh and stockpile it at a site between Wilsons Creek Road railway bridge and the track to the old mushroom tunnel, which is a protected site for a micro bat colony. Truck movements were proposed for Monday to Friday 7am-5pm until the end of 2022. Residents of Wilsons Creek road appealed to State member Lee Evans opposing the proposal and Transport NSW "reconsidered" their proposal and now will use Cawleys Road from the Princes Highway through the Garawarra State Conservation Area (Zoned E1 – National Park) to the same site. Transport NSW has now asked for community feedback, go to [https://yoursay.](https://yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/mtms-helensburgh)

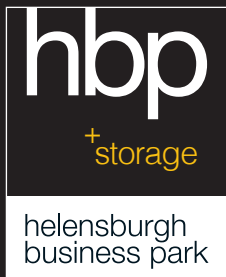
[transport.nsw.gov.au/mtms-helensburgh](https://yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/mtms-helensburgh)
Residents of Wilsons Creek Road and NF1 ask 2508 residents to use this to object to both the transport paths and the stockpile site location. The site potentially endangers not only the national park but also the endangered colony of Micro Bats in the old tunnel as the dumping and "proposed retrieval" of the stockpile and the transport router endanger the environment at either end of the tunnel. Feedback closes 9am, 6 April 2021. Email projects@transport.nsw.gov.au and copy Lee Evans (heathcote@parliament.nsw.gov.au) and Council (records@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

Buses and Trains

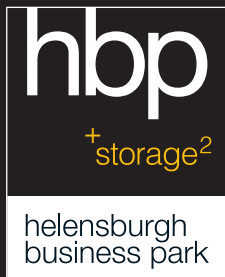
A letter from Andrew Constance, NSW Transport Minister, was passed on by Lee Evans in response to residents' concerns about buses not waiting for trains at Helensburgh station. The minister said the buses are required to wait 15 minutes for trains to arrive before leaving the station. The exception to this being if the schedule requires the bus or driver to start another service at the end of the service waiting for a train – in other words, if Premiers don't have any waiting/delayed time built into their driver/bus roster. There was no specific answer to the students having to wait at the station for nearly 30 minutes because the bus was timetabled to leave 10 minutes before the train arrived from Bulli.

General Business

- There are more development applications for multi-dwelling developments along the coastal strip, particularly around Thirroul, putting more traffic on Lawrence Hargrave Drive, increasing the traffic issues in Thirroul and at the intersection at Bald Hill. That intersection currently has a traffic survey camera trailer monitoring the intersection.
- Wollongong Council responded to a resident's question regarding street trees by referring them to the council's urban greening strategy.
- Illawarra Credit Union branch in Helensburgh does not handle cash any more but will process coins for members. The branch will accept cheque deposits (which can clear in as little as three business days) during their open hours, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-1pm. Cheques deposited via the Post Office into members accounts take a minimum of seven business days to clear – be aware.
- Liquorland Licence application– waiting for official application then the community feedback to the Licencing Board should start.
- Short Lane DA still being assessed – current status is "Waiting Information". It has come to light that this laneway was "gifted" to the community as open space during the Bulli Council era and there are attempts to find the documents. Bulli Council documents were apparently lost in a flood. **2508**



&



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 29 Cemetery Road, Helensburgh



We are already picking Granny Smith and by the second week of April we will start picking Pink Lady apples! Look out as Persimmons will be following later in April.

Pick Your Own apples experiences will be running during school holidays but bookings are essential. Check availability via the 'What's On' page within our website, www.darkes.com.au

Pink Lady apples are awesome to juice, cook or eat fresh. Here's a heartwarming farm recipe to inspire you to start baking.



April is Pink Lady time!

Jo Fahey reports from
Darkes Glenburnie Orchard

APPLE CAKE (WITH RUM)

Ingredients

- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 125g unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 tablespoons dark rum (optional)
- 2-3 large pink lady apples, peeled, cored and cut into big chunks if you are just folding them in. (Or slices if you'd rather make pretty patterns)

Method

1. Begin by combining the flour, baking powder and salt in a small bowl. Set aside.
2. Then in another bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy (by hand or with an electric mixer).
3. Add the eggs one at a time.
4. Beat in vanilla (and rum if you wish to add a bit of a twist)
5. Add the dry ingredients and mix together.
6. Fold in chopped apples.
7. Scoop into your baking tin. (Alternatively you can layer the apple in slices on bottom of the tin in pretty patterns or poke apple into batter in pretty patterns.)
8. Grease, flour and line with baking paper on the bottom of a baking tin or a 23cm springform tin.
9. Sprinkle with a tablespoon of sugar.
10. Bake for 40 mins at 180°C until brown on top.

Serve warm with dollops of double cream or vanilla ice-cream.



Photos: Oliver Risi

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Left: a trap full of flightless *Amphistomus*, February 2021.
Right: Chris with 'the tree that got away' in Washpool National Park. Photos: Aidan Runagall-McNaull



Beetling About

The north-east forests, part 2: mysteries of the organism.
By entomologist Dr Chris Reid

It seems strange to be talking about fires when we are in the middle of floods, but that's the nature of the beast here in Australia. Which makes it such an interesting place for a biologist. I'm still studying dungbeetles in burnt forests of north-east NSW with my assistant, Aidan, and these are notes after our second trip.

We've now spent four weeks in some of the most remote wilderness forests of NSW and my head is full of the experiences. Vast burnt forests that are almost silent. The stark contrast of the lush green undergrowth with black tree trunks. Magical little patches that somehow didn't burn.

What I've seen is that the rainforest mostly hasn't burnt and, if it has, generally the forest floor has burnt, together with all saplings and vines and the more sensitive trees but leaving some canopy intact. However, even such living fossils as the southern beech tree (*Nothofagus*) have produced ground-level shoots from their burnt stems. Outside rainforest patches, the fringing tall, wet sclerophyll forests are often severely burnt, as is much of the drier forest.

What I've also discovered from talking to locals is that the New England tablelands were in terrible drought before the fires – 11 years, they say in Glen Innes, where some are still shipping in water. The fires were an outcome of that. The horse skeletons at campgrounds in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park are from starvation during the drought. And the lovely picnic glades and campsites in Washpool are empty of animals; the rangers said there used to be 20 to 30 wallabies a night.

So, how to explain some of the phenomenal numbers of dungbeetles in the forests? At various sites in Mount Hyland Nature Reserve we frequently collected more than 30 individuals of the same flightless species (of *Amphistomus*) in each roo-baited trap (jam-jar sized) in one night.

We used three traps per site, separated by 4m each, so 120 individuals per small patch of forest. This species is flightless, it can't fly to the trap. We never heard or disturbed wallabies or kangaroos in the forests and it's hard to imagine huge densities of possums or other mammals. Birds, reptiles?

Nothing is known about the biology of *Amphistomus* species except that they are attracted to poo baits and the adults are only active in summer. If they are like other dung beetles, they have an annual life cycle – so the adults seen now are the product of eggs laid last summer in the middle of the fires and drought. No reason for large numbers from that. Perhaps like another odd Australian dung beetle (*Cephalodesmus*, found in the Illawarra) they use dung when it's available and make their own when it isn't.

Intriguing. So I'm going to look for vertebrate DNA in the guts of the specimens we have. The Australian Museum has one of the best labs anywhere for identifying vertebrate DNA and hopefully a little fishing expedition in the beetle rear ends will be fruitful.

Once again I'm extremely grateful to the mammal people at Symbio Wildlife Park – Jake, Jilie, Elizabeth and Naomi – for providing me with the baits. **2508**

Heathcote Community Update

A letter from Lee Evans – your State MP



As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic I would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents of the Northern Illawarra on the support for their families and community during this unprecedented event. I would also like to update you on a couple of local matters.

Regarding delays in the Helensburgh Police Station upgrade. For those who may not be aware, there has been an

Aboriginal Land Claim on part of the site therefore until finalised, unfortunately, the project cannot progress. Currently no time-line has been offered however I will update the community as soon as more information comes to hand.

Ongoing traffic issues on Lawrence Hargrave Drive are not easily resolved. Residents rightly require an easing of traffic to enable them to go about their daily business, however, local businesses thrive on visitation to the area. All on a roadway geographically nearly impossible to extend.

In early February I chaired a round table with Ryan Park MP and stakeholders in an effort to address the various components

of this issue. Attendees included representatives from NSW Police, TfNSW, EPA, Business Illawarra, Destination Wollongong and Council. Transport will be conducting a public consultation on proposed solutions by the end of the financial year when the group will meet again to discuss strategies.

Finally, I remind you of a range of NSW Government cost-saving initiatives including the Active and Creative Kids Vouchers, Dine and Discover Program and the Cost of Living Service. I urge families to take full advantage of these programs – find details at www.nsw.gov.au/living-in-nsw.

Lee Evans,
Member for Heathcote

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Be Weed Wise

With horticulturalist Merilyn House

Remove it: *Dietes* spp., butterfly iris, or just dietes

Dietes is in the Iris family. It is native to eastern and southern Africa. Dietes has recently been appearing in bushland in south-eastern Australia. It still seems to be commonly planted by Councils.

Plants consist of clumps of erect sword-shaped leaves, with short-lived, iris-like flowers that are white, yellow and mauve. The flowers are followed by a green, three-celled capsule containing numerous hard angular seeds.

Dietes is spread by seed via water, humans, contaminated soil (earthmoving equipment, car tyres etc) and garden refuse dumping. Remove spent flowers to stop seeds developing. Remove any seed-heads, and place any seed-heads or plant roots/rhizomes in your green waste (FOGO) bin.

Grow Me Instead

Grass flag (*Libertia paniculata*). Australian native that forms a grass-like clump with masses of white flowers in spring, for moist, semi-shaded positions.

Blue flax lily (*Dianella* spp.). Flax lily is native to Australia and many garden cultivars stem from four native strains. The richly hued blue flowers with delicate yellow anthers perch like chandeliers on the end of wiry stems and contrast well with the long linear form of the leathery leaves.

Kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthus* species and varieties.) Kangaroo paws originate in Western Australia. They have clumps of strappy leaves. The varieties vary in colour, height and hardness.

Visit <https://www.helensburghlandcare.org.au/pi/be-weed-wise.html> 2508

Hello Fish

With Duncan Leadbitter

To say it's been a crappy summer for snorkelling and diving is somewhat of an understatement. As I write this contribution, it's been raining for days, which will make the water filthy along the entire coast for some time to come. All summer the intermittent rain and the persistent north-east swell has made opportunities to get into the water rare indeed.

Is all this rain bad for the marine environment? Absolutely not. There is a saying amongst fishermen that a drought on land is a drought in the water. For many species of fish and shellfish (like prawns) there is a strong and positive relationship between rainfall and catches, but this relationship may take a few years to become apparent.

For prawns the catch is higher during periods of large river flows to the sea and this effect may be seen within weeks as prawns are pushed out of the estuaries to the sea.

Rivers also supply a lot of nutrients to the coastal zone and these are important for fish and prawn larvae. For some species of fish, which may be several years old before they are old enough to be caught, the benefits of high river flows may not be seen for years.

But the effects of dry and wet may be driven in



other ways. During dry times the distribution of some species will shift. Some may contract their range in the estuaries and this reduces habitat availability and thus populations. Others may benefit.

Biological productivity is often linked to changes in the environment. Where the environment has regular seasonal changes and occasional major changes, productivity is highest. The cycle of wet and dry helps sustain coastal rivers, which is why fishermen commonly oppose major dams as these dampen the cycles and reduce the productivity.

The La Nina that is making us all wet will have some lasting benefits for many species of fish and prawns. Once the water cleans up and the swell settles down it will be time to go and see for myself. 2508

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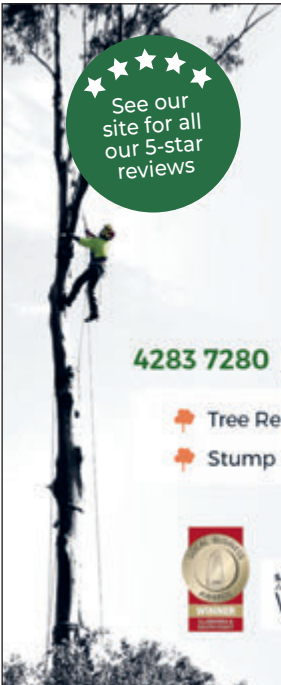


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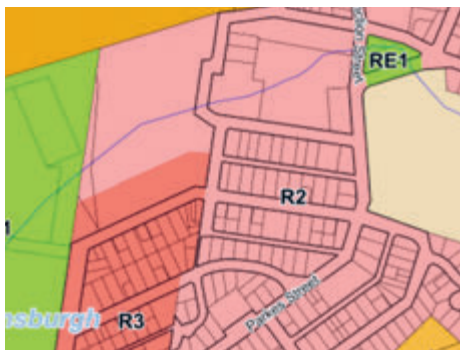


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Please keep off our land

Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council issues plea to the community. 2508 reports

The Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (ILALC) – new owners since April 2020 of about five hectares of land between Robertson and Sutherland streets – has issued a plea to the Helensburgh community to keep off its property.

Lot 500 in Deposited Plan 836394 contains informal walking and biking tracks that have never had an official stamp of approval.

Paul Knight, chief executive officer of the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, said: “It’s private land, so there’s a liability that now sits with the Land Council if people are accessing that land.

“We don’t want to be paying out insurance claims if people injure themselves, so if people could remain off that land that’d be appreciated.”

Residents may unwittingly have been trespassing on the bushland, which is next to Helensburgh’s sports fields and its popular bike track.

Ownership of Lot 500 (about 5.2 hectares), as well as Lot 502 (about 6847m²), in DP836394 was transferred from Crown Lands to ILALC on 7 April 2020, as the world was reeling in the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

“We will potentially be putting some fencing around there, or some indication that it is private land,” Mr Knight said.

The Land Council CEO has spoken out in the past against mountain biking on Mount Keira, a sacred place of cultural importance akin to Uluru.

“There are concerns with cultural sites within the national parks where mountain biking is occurring, in the Royal National Park and Garrawarra Conservation Area, but not in the land [in Helensburgh],” he said.

Lot 501 in DP836394 – also former Crown Land that has been claimed, assessed and transferred as part of non-discretionary statutory processes

required by the Aboriginal Land Rights Act – was transferred in freehold title to ILALC in 2004.

Mr Knight said he welcomed news of the transfer of Lots 500 and 502 in April 2020, almost two decades after ILALC’s Aboriginal Land Claims were lodged in November 2001.

“It was exciting, potentially a good opportunity for the Land Council to have a presence, and to actually look at what we can be doing with some of our lands,” Mr Knight said. “Anything that we can get, because we’re not government funded, always helps our operations.”

The Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council is a charity with its headquarters in Wollongong.

Mr Knight said: “The Land Council, in its essence, is part of a process really to provide recognition that Aboriginal people had custodianship of this land, and to make reparations for the loss of the land, through a land claim process, where Crown Lands are returned back to the Aboriginal community, for use as they see fit.

“But obviously as per whatever the constraints are in the normal planning process that everybody else has to conform with as well.

“In addition to that, we are expected to advocate on behalf of the Aboriginal community.

“As a Land Council, we actually see our role a bit more extensive than that, in that we think we should be advocating and taking leadership for the whole community, in terms of the way we look at managing our landscapes, our cultural heritage and providing for the community at large.”

Mr Knight said there were no “concrete plans” for the land.

“One of the challenges that we have, as a Land Council, even though we can get title to the land, we have to work through Native Title, which is a

continues on p24



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A group photo of the Ray White Helensburgh team. There are nine people in total, five men and four women, dressed in business casual attire. They are posed in two rows, with some sitting on a light blue sofa and others standing behind them. The background is a bright, modern interior with large windows and framed artwork.

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separate legislation and is federal legislation.

"The state's legislation that we're formed under is subservient to that. Therefore, we have to work out whether that Native Title has been extinguished before we're allowed to do anything with the land."

Mr Knight said this limbo period could go on for "years, could be up to 10 years".

A section of Lot 500 opposite homes on Robertson Street is zoned R3, Medium Density Residential, under the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009. Dual occupancies and residential flats are among about 30 uses permitted with consent on R3 land.

The remaining land in Lot 500, and all the land in Lots 501 and 502, also owned by ILALC, is zoned R2, low-density residential.

Mr Knight said while residential housing was a potential use for the land "because that is what it's zoned for", the Land Council had not made any decision on the land's future.

"We're not even remotely at that position at this stage, so I would rather not [comment]."

Heathcote MP Lee Evans also told 2508 that any

development of this land was likely "years away".

Community members, unwilling to speak on record, have expressed concerns that Lot 500 could host a multi-million-dollar flat development.

The potential for development has existed for 30 years. All three lots were zoned residential in 1991, a Wollongong City Council spokesperson said.

Asked about plans for the town's growth, the Council spokesperson referred 2508 to Helensburgh's Town Centre Plan 2020-2045, approved in October 2020.

While this plan focuses on the 'town centre', where Walker and Parkes streets intersect, it also notes the town's 'rich history' and village 'character'.

The plan states: "Future development driven by housing demand must meet the needs of a changing population whilst balancing protection of the area's ecology, character and unique setting."

In addition: "Safety, the protection of land and water resources, and preparedness for emergency and natural disasters particularly fires - are important to consider in parallel with this Plan."

2508

Boom in the 'Burgh

Housing demand is high, 2508 reports

Helensburgh's popularity soared over the pandemic, with both the town's real estate agencies reporting a surge in demand for homes.

"Our database of buyers for Helensburgh has grown by 220% in the past year, this doesn't even include Otford, Stanwell Tops or Stanwell Park," said Raine & Horne principal Julie York.

"Limited properties available and high numbers of interested buyers means incredible prices are being achieved," Julie said. "A real seller's market!"

In March, Ray White Helensburgh's Ian Pepper checked their database and said: "Incredible to see there are 311 current buyers who have made contact with our office or visited an open inspection seeking a house in Helensburgh.

"It's no surprise then that open houses have 20 to 50 groups through at the first open and sell on the first weekend," Ian said.

"And that's properties that make it to market - around 30% are selling prior to going on the market. This is happening all up and down the coast from Helensburgh to Corrimall."

Helensburgh's location and character are attracting Sydney buyers. Council's Town Centre Plan 2020-2045 recognises its appeal: "There is a strong view within the community that, regardless of its formal classification as a town centre, Helensburgh's character is that of a village."

At press time on March 26, there were just three Helensburgh properties listed for sale on RealEstate.com.au. 2508



30KM/H TRIAL AHEAD

Helensburgh can look forward to a game-changing reduced-speed zone trial in April 2022. The aim is to create a safer town centre for pedestrians and cyclists.

"Transport for NSW is working with Wollongong City Council to investigate a 30 km/h speed zone trial in the Helensburgh town centre as part of the Helensburgh Masterplan," a Transport for NSW spokesperson confirmed.

"The Masterplan is focused on developing Walker and Lilyvale streets into a place that supports and encourages people to walk around their community.

"This will be achieved by Wollongong City Council implementing suitable landscaping and infrastructure prior to the introduction of the reduced speed zone.

"This trial will be carried out in the Helensburgh town centre only and will not affect roads immediately connecting to the Princes Motorway." 2508

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Theatre group set to Climb Ev'ry Mountain in 2021

By Stanwell Park Arts Theatre's Rod Lander, director of *The Sound of Music*



It's been a year of empty stages and struggling communities. The arts community in particular has never before faced such a year of hardship, and small businesses and volunteer organisations have been feeling the pinch.

Yet, despite all this, there is some glimmer of hope on the horizon. The clouds are parting, the sun is shining... and is that a choir of angelic voices we hear? Well yes, but rather than some manna from heaven ... it's actually the very talented local cast of SPAT's upcoming production of *The Sound of Music*!

Late in 2020, three young women who had been involved in our production of *Grease* in 2019 presented the SPAT committee with an interesting proposal: another musical.

Following the success of the *Grease* production, it was difficult to say no, especially when Tamlyn, Ashley and Eryn sang so sweetly for us at one of the committee meetings. And so, our production of the ever-popular family musical is coming to a stage near you in April and May.

The Sound of Music will be our first stage show for 2021! But can we pull it off amidst a pandemic? We're pretty confident, but you'll just have to come along and see for yourself!

When we called for auditions at the end of 2020, the response was a little scary. How would we accommodate so many people in the little CWA hall in Stanwell Park? The spirit of can-do is the foundation of all of our shows, and, although some modifications are necessary to handle the many scene changes, we have the basics of a production that is true to the original stage play, although some audience members might find that the play is quite different to the movie!

The sets are being built, the scripts are being learned and the costumes are being sewn; though we're using material, instead of curtains! Many of the songs are already sounding almost ready for the performances. We have the genesis of a great show. The last thing we need to complete the production is a keen audience!

I am sure it will be a very popular show, so book early. Tickets are \$20 for Adults, \$15 for concessions and \$60 for a family (2A & 3C). We are looking forward to seeing excited faces in our audience once again!

Bookings can be made at www.spat.org.au 2508

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Guides upcycle bottles to boats

By publicity officer Sophie Miller

As we drift into autumn the Guides have been working towards their boating trefoil, a skills-based badge that gives the girls an opportunity to challenge themselves, learn and excel in a new area.

As any good sailor knows, the key to a successful journey is the quality of the vessel! So the Guides built their own, mighty vessels (sea crafts) using their wits, knotting skills and everyday objects like popsicles, straws and bottles. It was a perilous journey down the river that few survived, but lessons were learnt for next time.

The Guides soon found that larger boats tended to get stuck on the riverbed and in trees, top-heavy boats toppled, and some simple stick-rafts floated best. Also, that you can 'park' your vessel by tying it to a branch, an important skill for distracted 'sailors'. While most struggled across the finish line, some boats went a little too far downstream.

Back in the hall, our sailors tried out an important means of communication for any sea farer to master, Semaphore flag signalling. Used to send messages between boats, the flag's position can communicate letters and numbers, if done right... The Guides picked it up in no time, but they found it funny that if you don't get your flags the right way around neither does your partner.

Battling the wild weather, the Guides also managed to visit the Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour. They saw some historic boats, such as the 'Duyfken', a merchant ship belonging to the Dutch East India Company, as well as the Endeavour Replica. While they learnt about the history of sailors and found the bunk beds a bit too tight for comfort, they also found the parts about the modern maritime clime interesting.

Particularly sobering were the statistics about the amount of rubbish in the ocean and the long-term impacts on sea-life. Despite this, the Guides still had a giggle about the olden-day toilets or 'holes' with nothing but old rope for toilet paper!

If you're interested in joining the Girl Guides, please inquire via girlguides-nswactnt.org.au 2508

New View team

By Barb Kitson, publicity officer for Helensburgh View Club

We are going to crank up the old engine and resume View meetings. They will be a little different to start with, but we will see how we go.

Our March meeting was our second meeting as our February meeting was our AGM and, on behalf of our members, I would like to thank our 2020 team leaders so much.

You did a great job, ladies, under difficult circumstances. This election was a bit sad because our darling programme officer Chris wanted to relinquish her position. Chris was one of the founding members of our club and has been programme officer since the year dot and what a great job she has done.

Any programme that was suitable for children Chris would bring her grandchildren along, so we had the pleasure of seeing them grow into beautiful young mature people – thank you, Chris, for sharing that with us and thank you for all of the

wonderful shows that you have organised.

Now back to the AGM. Patty Hamilton, the trivia queen, is our 2021 president; Pauline Milott is programme officer; Nerida is our delegate; Lorraine Docherty is welfare officer.

Our first meeting with the new committee was Tuesday, March 16 at Tradies. Our club has been able to meet all of our financial commitments over Covid thanks to our very generous members. Our president for 2020, Cathy Edwards, did a great job leading our club through the Covid period – a sincere thank you, Cathy.

We are looking for new members to boost our club so we can fund our Smith Family students, which, at the end of the day, is what we do and what we are about. If you would like to be part of our commitment to the Smith Family Australian disadvantaged student programme, please contact Lyn on 4294 1815, or just turn up at our meeting at the Tradies at 10am on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and speak to one of the members.

The meetings don't drag on and we always have an enjoyable, informative time, including lots of laughs. 2508

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Insatiable Demand

The lack of stock, being houses for sale on the market, that I wrote about last month seems to have worsened this month.

There are now even fewer houses for sale and even more buyers.

I ran a report from the Ray White database to match a property in Helensburgh with current buyers. It returned 311 active buyers currently hunting a house in Helensburgh. The same report for Thirroul returned 347 buyers.

So it seems the pressure on prices that has been evident all year so far is bound to continue for some time yet until more stock comes on the market.

Alternatively, there is a chance the Government may intervene like has happened in New Zealand to avoid an asset bubble or the Reserve Bank may raise interest rates.

However, any such changes seem a while off yet.

Helensburgh Sunday *Social Golf*

Now that Helensburgh Sunday Social Golf Club has moved to a new course its members are having more fun than ever before. The following yarn is a club history and overview by club captain Robert Jones and club president Tony Gersback



Helensburgh Sunday Social Golf Club has existed for about 40 years. It began as the Helensburgh Bowling Club Social Golf Club in the days when the bowling club had greens and a dedicated group of members who enjoyed golf, as well as the support and amenity of the bowling club at the time. During the early years there was even an annual event – Bowlers vs Golfers – during which

I'm sure chipping on the green was outlawed on both venues.

Helensburgh Bowling Club Social Golf Club's earliest records, some of which are still held today, date back to 1984 when 21 members played on 17 March 1984 and the balance on the books at day's end was \$15.

Donations by the club at the time matched the

number of players, \$1 per player. Following on, after a round of golf, a lunch of snags, homemade bread, potato mash and peas, along with the “Bell’s” special coleslaw, was served at the club.

As a Helensburgh institution, the club over the years has enjoyed playing locally at Boomerang Golf Course and the Illawarra Country Club at Darkes Forest. In the early 2000s, the bowling club needed to revamp its operations and, with the aid of the Engadine Bowling and Recreation Club, it continued to trade. The social golf club’s records show monthly profit-and-loss accounts for August 2002 being aligned to Helensburgh Social Golf Club (Engadine Bowling and Recreational Club) and not too long after the Helensburgh Workers Club, a resident of Walker Street at the time, stepped in to keep the front door open. It was around this time the social golf club, as it exists today, separated from its affiliations with the club scene in Helensburgh.

Places and times also move on and we now patronise Kareela Golf Course in the Shire. We wish we could have stayed at Boomerang, our home course since the demise of the Illawarra Country Club, but, unfortunately, try as we did, we were grudgingly compelled to leave Boomerang – and ours wasn’t the only social club to do so. It was certainly a sad day in our history when it was time to say farewell.

Membership has fluctuated over the years, having 50-plus members at times, whereas today we have around 40 members. They turn out on the first Sunday of each month, coming from near and far, in some instances from up to 100km away, to congregate at tee-off time. Since our move north Helensburgh Sunday Social Golf Club has gained new members from Helensburgh’s northern neighbours. A recent influx of younger players, alongside early members and one of our original members, has the average playing age sitting at 45.

Events are varied, from the standard Stableford to fun events such as Mulligans, Survival, Irish Four Ball, Par, 2 & 4BBB, which are interchanged annually, a members’ championship and match play. On course every month, members vie for Nearest the Pin, Drive and Pitch, Longest Drives and the ultimate prize – “Strike It Lucky” (with \$500 cash up for grabs) – coupled with various perpetual trophies to honour stalwarts including Joe Doherty (“The Joe Doherty Mug”) and Norm and Brenda Bell (“The Norm and Brenda Bell Plate”). Additionally, sponsored days including the “Gentleman Jim O’Connor Cup” (keeping alive the O’Connor family memories), “Gersey’s Gazillions” (a nod to the Gersback brothers and their off-spring), and the “Burgh Bowl” (to recognise our roots), which comes with a roll of paper, another example of our club’s ever-present sense of



Opposite page (from left to right): Jose Hernandez, Tony English, club president Tony Gersback, beverage and BBQ bo-ordinator Mark O’Connor, and club captain Robert Jones. Below: Longest-serving HSSGC member Kerry Gardner (in the club for “40, 41 years”) and his wife, Joan. All photos: Anthony Warry



humour. Each year is rounded off with the, unusual to say the least, President's Cup.

Annually, for the not-so-faint-hearted, we hold a trip away. The Tree Valley Golf Course near Liverpool appears to have been a popular destination during the 80s and early 90s. More recently, trips away have taken members to Mollymook, Nowra and this year, hopefully without Covid restrictions, a trip to the Southern Highlands will be a feature of 2021. Such trips are usually held in the latter part of the year over three days and the bus trip to the destination is a party in itself, alongside the actual golf and evening fun for those who can take time to party and play.

Our end-of-year gala presentation is always the forum for the President's roast and a generous serving of fine food. It pays tribute to our stand-out performers, be they stars of golf, or stars of

memorable incidents that have brought laughter and amusement to fellow members. This event has been held in various locations over the years: at the old Bowling Club, community and sporting facility halls in and around Helensburgh and in 2020 at "Sharks at Kareela", our new golfing home.

Today, the club is self-funded and continues to run and prosper through the hard work of devoted members, surviving on raffles, BBQs (pre-Covid, after each game), "Blotto" (our own version of lotto using Monday draws), and we also Return & Earn, doing our bit by recycling members' bottles to keep the environment in tip-top condition for golf. A sausage sizzle at Bunnings was character-building. Game-day fees – coupled with an annual member registration, which was instituted more recently – covers ongoing expenses and our end-of-year festivities and guarantees the legacy established by





the founding members Brenda, Norm and Joe.

We welcome new members with open arms, joining us whether they are new to golf or old hands at the game, just as we have been welcomed by the Kareela Golf Club “Sharks at Kareela”, following our move north. A small increase in time and distance for some and a tee time of 10.30am has not deterred members who have enjoyed a change in venue and post-game surroundings.

Together young and old, social golf is what the club is about, to enjoy a good laugh, good company and on most occasions enjoy fine weather on the first Sunday of each month. – Robert and Tony

Q&A with club president Tony Gersback

What do you think makes your club so special after all these years?

The administration and efficiency in the way the club is managed and run. A lot of effort and dedication is put into ensuring every event runs smoothly and members are catered for in every aspect. This compassion has undoubtedly rubbed off throughout the club. Each member has a say in how the club operates. This, in turn, has created a strong ‘mateship’ and ensured the club’s success and future growth.

How has the forced change of playing venue impacted the club and its members?

To be honest, the impact has been negligible – the locals only have an additional 15 minutes in the car to our new home north at Kareela and the new tee time has given us extra time to enjoy a sleep-in on a Sunday. The course itself is somewhat ‘quirky’

and has provided a challenge or two, but is proving to be more fun to play than our previous course.

The club is being supported by the local Pro and Sharkies Club (who can’t do enough for us)... offering special pricing on games, carts, prizes and looking after us with catering etc for our presentation day. The team in the Pro shop are always smiling and welcoming and nothing is too much trouble.

The facilities are truly superb – making the 19th the place to be at the end of the round.

Why should people join your club?

Research suggests that golfers who are part of a club/membership are statistically better golfers, our members often comment on how they like to play with their friends and have the opportunity to play and make new acquaintances. Members are provided with a handicap after a qualifying period – our member range of handicaps currently ranges from 10 to a max of 36.

Our club is very social and the camaraderie among the members only supports the longevity of a club which has been operating for 40-plus years.

Our members also enjoy the chance to escape the daily grind and enjoy the new surroundings that Kareela has to offer – the course layout is something to behold. We run various ‘fun events’ and competitions and, as mentioned in the main yarn, we even have a ‘Strike It Lucky’ hole where members have the opportunity to win \$500.

We help each other out (when needed), particularly on our annual trip away. At the end of the day we are there for the good company and to have a hit and giggle.

We welcome all those keen on having a hit: young, old, male, female. **2508**

Have a say

Write to editor@2508mag.com.au

TIMELINE OF THE WILSONS CREEK CONTROVERSY **4 March: Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor, I received a leaflet from a neighbour about the new spoil storage site that is to be used at Helensburgh. They were going to start this week and the way of informing the residents was to do a letter box drop.

They propose to bring soil and waste from their Waterfall site down Parkes Street and then down Wilsons Creek Rd from 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday until late 2021. On their flyer they say that this will have very little impact on local residents.

Wilsons Creek Road has a single lane bridge that is the only access for pedestrians. School children and residents, lyrebirds and echidna cross daily. Parts of Wilsons Creek Road does not allow for passing. Parts of Parkes Street are also very narrow.

The roads are not made for this sort of traffic.

If you have issues it advises us to call the railway complaint line. They had no idea a flyer had even gone out on their letterhead. The woman who did get back to me had to look up what a lyre bird was.

If their spokesperson has no idea about this area or what lives here it is a real concern.

Originally they had planned to take their trucks through Cawley Rd, which is just as ludicrous.
Concerned Helensburgh resident, Ruth O'Toole

10 March: Residents' protests published in local news media and Neighbourhood Forum 1 weighs in. Read the NF1 meeting report on page 14.

24 March: 'Transport Route to Wilsons Creek Road site revised' – Heathcote Electorate Office

Member for Heathcote Lee Evans announces that Transport for NSW has proposed an alternative route for transporting crushed sandstone and clean material to a storage site within the rail corridor in Helensburgh. According to a media release:

“Material is being excavated as part of a rail infrastructure upgrade project at Waterfall Station and currently taken to two nearby sites which are almost at capacity. Lee Evans said Transport for NSW presented a plan on how it would transport about 35,000 tonnes of excess material to a third site at Helensburgh. The material would be reused to upgrade roads, walking tracks and fire trails, saving NSW taxpayers up to \$6 million.

“The proposed option would see vehicles travel along the Princes Highway and exit near Cawleys Road to get to and from the storage site.”

9am, 6 April: Deadline for community feedback:
yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/mtms-helensburgh

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

5.45am on April 25 at Charles Harper Park, Helensburgh. Registration and social distancing will be essential to ensure it's a Covid Safe event.

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DZOPALIC, Zivota (Dick): passed away on 22 April 1988. In loving memory of our father and grandfather. Forever in our thoughts and hearts. Sadly missed always. – Maria, Rick and family.
DZOPALIC, Zorka: passed away on 14 May 2015. Forever in our hearts and thoughts and sadly missed everyday by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Together again with her loving husband. – Maria, Rick and family.

WHAT'S ON IN TERM 2 AT U3A

The University of the Third Age meets on Mondays at Hillcrest House. All welcome. 9.30am-noon. Call Jenny Lee-Robins on 0406 350 025.

April 19: Coal Mining in our Water Catchment Area: Is it wise? – Ann Brown

April 26: Anzac Day; Postcards, Shell Shock, War Poems – Jenny Lee-Robins

May 3: Seeking Satori – Jan Brown

May 10: Perceptions of Arthur Phillip and Lachlan Macquarie in a Contemporary Cancel Culture – Kerrie Christian

May 17: My Family in British History – David Christian

May 24: The Uluru Statement From the Heart- Whose Time has Come – Jenny Lee-Robins

May 31: Portugal and Spain – Jim Powell

June 7: Covid Censorship – Dr Brian Martin

June 14: Queen's Birthday Weekend

June 21: Matthew Flinders – Jacqui Brough

HOLIDAY FUN WITH HELENSBURGH LIBRARY

All activities at Helensburgh Community Centre. Bookings via Eventbrite are essential. Visit www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/whats-on/events

Wed, 7 April, 3.30pm: School Holidays Activity, Lego, free, ages 5+

Wed, 14 April, 3.30pm: School Holidays Activity, Yarn Turtles, free, ages 5+

Fri, 9 April, 10.30am: Knitting and crocheting group, free, all welcome

Fri, 30 April, 10.30am: Preschool Story Time, which is free. **2508**

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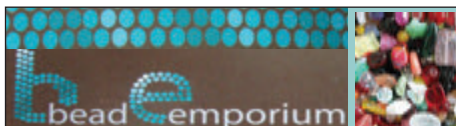
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Club raises \$5k for fire victims

By Lauren Martin



HORCC's Ride2Rebuild raised \$5100.
Photos: Aaron Taplin



More than 100 mountain bikers hit the local Helensburgh Mountain Bike Track on Saturday, 6 March in a six-hour event to raise money for people impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires and drought.

The fundraiser, which ultimately raised \$5100 for The Salvation Army's Disaster Relief Fund, had been more than a year in the making, with Covid-19 squashing plans to hold the event in March 2020. The Salvation Army continues to have chaplains on the ground in bushfire- and drought-affected areas, offering long-term assistance to people who have been impacted.

Lead organiser, Chris Bye, was moved to act after the 2019-2020 bushfire disaster claimed the home of a close friend's parents. He said seeing so much hardship, he knew it was "time to give back" and got a crew of fellow Helensburgh Off Road Cycle Club (HORCC) members around him to organise a fundraiser.

He said it was a great feeling after so much planning and obstacles to finally see the Ride2Rebuild taking place.

"It was great to see so many people from the local community and surrounding areas – men, women, families – outdoors riding and just having fun. The track was in great condition on the day," Chris said.

HORCC expressed appreciation to the new owners of the bushland adjoining the grass track, the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, who kindly gave permission for the club to access trails on their land for the event.

The event couldn't have occurred without the support of many local businesses who donated goods-in-kind for a raffle, and others who attended on the day to assist, including Leanne Morgan from Jannali Massage, who offered free massage therapy to riders, and Roseanne, from The Morning Brew coffee van, who sold much-needed caffeinated drinks to participants.

Thirty teams entered the event, with four riders who rode the six-hour event solo, some clocking up close to 100km! There was also a kids' ride, with The Salvation Army mascot 'Shieldy' waving the kids on! **2508**

Comp goes ahead despite Treachery conditions

By Scarborough Boardrider Ian Pepper



Thanks to the true believers who made the trek to Treachery this year, on the wettest weekend in 50 years apparently. Despite the somewhat challenging conditions, the comp was split into two with A-Grade held in grinding inside Treachery, while the rest surfed at novelty Boat Beach with a fun running right hander.

A-grade saw Fin McLaren and Josh Pepper going pound for pound with barrels, vertical hacks and Larry's galore with Fin taking the spoils, while Kieren Anderson and Jackson Forbes took 3rd and

4th, but on the same points.

True to form, Anna Chamberlain had a breakthrough win to claim the top prize money in the Open Women's, while Oscar Hargreaves looked at home with the A-Graders at Treachery, but went on to win the 18s at Boat Beach. His old man Tristen took out an in-form Dave Fitz to win the 35s.

Special thanks to those who helped set up and carry stuff in the rain and to the judges, and a shout-out to the parents trying to keep the kids dry.

Meanwhile, earlier in the month we sent a team to the Kirra Teams Challenge on the Gold Coast where 36 boardriding clubs from all over Australia competed. Overall, six seniors and two juniors went to represent the club and all performed well, with the club finishing 23rd. Best wishes go to junior club representative Charlie Tiromoana-Kelly, who dislocated his knee not 10 minutes into his heat. Thanks to all who helped him on the sand and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Our next pointscore will be Sunday, April 18 and for those wishing to book Treach early for next year the date is Saturday, 19 March 2022. **2508**

Follow @scarboroughboardriders on Instagram

Sea Eels poised for 33rd winter swim season

By Peter McDonald, president of the Sea Eels winter swimming club

After a disappointing year with no swims in 2020, what with Covid-19 and the closing of Bald Hill for two months, the Sea Eels are about to begin our 33rd year of winter swimming.

Our club is a family club open to all swimmers who can swim 50 metres unaided. We swim at Coalcliff pool every Sunday from the first Sunday after Anzac Day (02 May) up until September.

Swims are 50m, 100m and a relay. All swims are handicapped and as competitive as you may wish your swim to be.

After the swims we head to Helensburgh-Stanwell Park SLSC for delicious soups and drinks and plenty of socialising. This is also where we raise funds for charity by means of fines, raffles and Joker Poker.

Our main charity is CRAM Foundation, which provides a caring service to disabled adults and children. We have been supporting CRAM since

1999 and have made many friendships with the residents. Each year we entertain them at Helensburgh Tradies and make a substantial donation so they can purchase much-needed equipment. We also donate to worthy local causes.

Our club enjoys inter-club visits to Bulli Sea Lions and the ladies from the Bondi Icebergs visit us. We also compete at the Southern Metropolitan Winter Swimming Championships at Bondi, the South Coast, and the Australian Championships, which will be held in Orange this year.

Our club welcomes all community residents, as well as surf club members. Join the Sea Eels and you become an "Associate Member" of the Helensburgh-Stanwell Park SLSC and covered by the surf club insurance.

Our club is a very friendly club and all of our members enjoy a cool swim and socialising. Hope to see you on the blocks 2 May. **2508**



Winners Amy and Matt Logan. All photos: Damian Lloyd, Sea Salt Studios

Logans win Beach to Bombie

By Chris Farmer, Coalcliff SLSC events coordinator

Thanks to all the competitors who showed up to take part in the Beach to Bombie ocean swim on Sunday, 28 February. After a couple of weeks of massive swells and awful weather, conditions were picture-perfect.

Following feedback from last year's event the course was extended from 1.2km to 1.5km, making this a much more challenging swim. Competitors ranged from age 13 to 60+, and we had a 100% finish rate.

Special mentions go to Matthew and Amy Logan for another successful year, mother and son Rowena and Kyle Lisk, and first-timers Jean Gormley, and father and son Marc and Owen Pederson.

Congratulations to all!

Results:

1	Matthew Logan	17:34
2	Amy Logan	20:14
3	Darryl Green	20:31
4	Tiana Massey	20:42
5	Kevin Morton	20:58
6	Tim Lloyd	23:04

First 3 men:

Matthew Logan, Darryl Green, Kevin Morton

First 3 women:

Amy Logan, Tiana Massey, Cara Van Wyk **2508**



Beach to Bombie 2021 swimmers

Men's results: Matthew Logan (1st), Darryl Green (2nd), Kevin Morton (3rd)



Dave Winner with his granddaughters



Port Kembla Tidal Chart

April 2021

TIME	M	TIME	M	TIME	M	TIME	M
1 0558 0.27 1202 1.50 TH 1755 0.41		10 0101 0.53 0712 1.59 SA 1334 0.38 1944 1.50		19 0025 1.52 0733 0.60 MO 1333 1.10 1842 0.81		28 0258 0.22 0901 1.61 WE 1457 0.33 2120 1.94	
2 0021 1.77 0700 0.33 FR 1300 1.35 1842 0.53		11 0143 0.49 0749 1.56 SU 1404 0.40 2015 1.55		20 0124 1.48 0840 0.59 TU 1449 1.11 ● 1957 0.83		29 0354 0.20 0957 1.51 TH 1542 0.42 2209 1.95	
3 0115 1.73 0809 0.39 SA 1408 1.23 1936 0.64		12 0220 0.47 0825 1.52 MO 1432 0.42 ● 2046 1.59		21 0232 1.48 0944 0.54 WE 1600 1.17 2115 0.79		30 0453 0.23 1056 1.40 FR 1630 0.52 2300 1.90	
4 0215 1.66 0825 0.43 SU 1427 1.16 ● 1945 0.72		13 0258 0.46 0900 1.46 TU 1500 0.46 2117 1.62		22 0342 1.52 1038 0.47 TH 1655 1.26 2225 0.71			
5 0227 1.61 0941 0.45 MO 1550 1.16 2104 0.74		14 0336 0.46 0936 1.40 WE 1527 0.51 2148 1.64		23 0442 1.59 1125 0.39 FR 1741 1.39 2324 0.60			
6 0342 1.58 1046 0.43 TU 1659 1.21 2221 0.71		15 0415 0.47 1014 1.33 TH 1556 0.57 2221 1.63		24 0535 1.66 1208 0.31 SA 1823 1.52			
7 0448 1.59 1140 0.41 WE 1750 1.29 2324 0.65		16 0456 0.50 1054 1.26 FR 1627 0.63 2258 1.61		25 0018 0.47 0626 1.71 SU 1250 0.26 1905 1.66			
8 0544 1.60 1224 0.39 TH 1832 1.37		17 0541 0.53 1139 1.19 SA 1702 0.69 2338 1.56		26 0111 0.36 0716 1.72 MO 1331 0.25 1949 1.78			
9 0016 0.58 0630 1.60 FR 1301 0.38 1910 1.44		18 0632 0.57 1230 1.14 SU 1745 0.76		27 0204 0.27 0808 1.69 TU 1414 0.27 ○ 2033 1.88			

TIMES AND
HEIGHTS OF HIGH
AND LOW WATERS
LAT 34° 29'
LONG 150° 55'

MOON PHASE SYMBOLS New Moon ● First Quarter ◐ Full Moon ○ Last Quarter ◑

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Golf news

Tradies Social Golf

Barry Thompson reports

Dave Astill and Garry Overton are off to Helensburgh Butchery and Gallardo's Pizzeria after their credible 59% Ambrose win. I suspect that Mark Ryan lifted Terry Maney's game to bring them home in second place with a 61 score.

This was Mark's second placing in a row after a very long drought, but he assures me he will not be turning professional. Jammu Fagerstrom and Ian Briss bagged a 66 1/4 for third, while Jerry Reilly won the Helensburgh Driving Range voucher, as well as the B grade longest drive. Ron Easton took out the A grade equivalent.

There were several other interesting combinations and since everybody was friendly and I didn't observe any black eyes back at Tradies, the team event must have been played in good spirit.

The new Kiama date is Sunday, May 23rd. Please advise Mick if you wish to cancel your booking from the washed-out event.

Our weather Guru, Rod Vaughn, is confident that conditions will be ideal for our next Boomerang outing on Saturday, April 17th. We tee-off at 7am for a Stableford event.

If you would like to join a group who enjoy their golf in a friendly but competitive manner, give Mick Carroll a ring on 0414 734 353 – you will be given a warm welcome. **2508**

Helensburgh Sunday Social Golf Club

Robert 'Indy' Jones reports

Our latest contest was a Par event, which proved a surprise for some and a reward for those who posted the greater number of holes "won" to holes "lost", with the result on each hole based on the player's handicap-adjusted score.

With that explanation out of the way, March 7th saw Phil Wilson rise to the occasion from Peter Gardner and Blake O'Connor, who incidentally all scored "-1" after 18 holes to pick up the prizes. We enjoyed the company of a new face, that of Justin Mealing, as well as the return, after a long absence, of John Brunton, who exuded all his wit and charm of old, and Mitchell Hesford, who was returning after injury.

Players relaxing at the 19th witnessed a stray shot striking the club above the windows, as well as some fine shots targeting the flag on the 18th, whilst members shared driving and pitching and nearing the pins. I expect our monthly outing will have been overshadowed by pieces of more than 40 years recalled and a look at the club today.

As always, new players are always welcomed – please contact Tony on 0418 863 100 for membership information and to secure your spot on game day. Keep an eye on our reports here in *2508 District News* and via emails to members.

Thanks to our sponsors, Christian's Premium Meats and the Helensburgh Golf Range and other local businesses that support the local community.

Our next events are to be held on by April 11th, May 2nd and June 6th.

Indy signing off: When is it too wet to play golf? When your golf cart capsizes. **2508**

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