

The Manning Community News

JUNE 2024

SHARING COMMUNITY NEWS AND VIEWS

FREE

This paper is being published as a community service to provide readers with factual and independent coverage of news, people and events in our district.
If you have a story idea please contact us. PO BOX 7, WINGHAM NSW 2429 editor@manningcommunitynews.com



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WINGHAM**

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THIS IS GOODBYE....

The time has come . . . after almost a decade I am closing down this newspaper.

It's been exciting, fulfilling and mostly, a special experience.

I'm pleased, and proud, that this paper has been able to help so very many in the community who told me they had nowhere else to turn, to be heard or helped.

I started this newspaper following the successful campaign by The Manning Alliance (led by Peter Epov) to stop Transgrid's transmission towers going through our electorate. ABC TV's "Australian Story" did a segment on our success.

It was then clear to all of us involved that there was a lack of information about issues affecting our area in any local media, and we needed an independent newspaper. The community felt then that they had no voice telling truth to power, no one asking questions where others would not, no seeking to shine a light in dark corners, telling it like it really is.

SO THE MANNING COMMUNITY NEWS WAS BORN.

This paper has been a labour of community love and commitment. It has covered local news and views, presented international and regional features, book reviews, current affairs, columns by nationally well-known people and most importantly, has always paid heed to the deep concerns of the local community who say they have nowhere else to raise their voices.

I worked on the Women's Weekly, wrote for of the Daily Mail in London and worked for Network Ten TV for many years. So used this experience to start a local newspaper.

Much of my family before me and after me have also worked in journalism and television.

I was born in Wingham and lived as a child in the home my grandfather Jack Revitt built – it's still there, little changed.

My grandparents taught me that

you give back to your community, friends and neighbours.

This paper was a free, truthful and widely circulated community publication -Port Macquarie to Hawks Nest, (and hill and dale between.)

As a voice reflecting truth and community, despite many obstacles, this publication has stood its ground supported by readers who respect independent journalistic integrity and balanced presentation of local matters. Free and independent journalism.

THANK YOU.

And a very heartfelt thank you also to everyone who has contributed to this paper gratis: loyal book reviewers, columnists, forest fighters, whistleblowers and environmental groups trying so desperately to save our koalas and their habitat.

Thank you to those who have made donations and especially to the dedicated team of distributors who delivered this paper all over the countryside to cafes, shops,

and businesses, at their own time and cost led by Theresa and Brian. Thanks dear Linden Rudge at Hinterland Design for your clever layouts and great patience with last minute changes!

And thank you Kieran Mannix and all the gang at Spotnews Printing.

As a final note before signing off as Editor, Publisher and the only member of staff (!) please be reminded that council elections are in September.

Let us unite as a community for change and bring in a fresh chapter for the future of our MidCoast electorate.

And it is time for change. I know this paper has been read all over the country and will be missed. After a decade all I can say is, I'm glad I did it. I'm glad I had your support. It's been an adventurous journey! A new page awaits.

Thank you. **Di Morrissey,**
Editor /Publisher

MIDCOAST COUNCIL'S GREENWASHING STRATEGY

In July 2021, the then MidCoast Council Mayor David West, had this to say:

“I’m delighted to present MidCoast Council’s first Greening Strategy, an important body of work that will contribute to the health, wellbeing and amenity of our region into the future.

Trees and vegetation not only improve the character and ‘feel’ of our urban centres, they provide recreational spaces and shade, improve air quality and local biodiversity, and play an important part in offsetting environmental pressures caused through climate change. Our local communities are well-placed to provide valuable insight when it comes to greening in and around their neighbourhoods. I invite everyone to get involved as we move forward to a ‘greener’ future for the MidCoast.”

The Greening Strategy which he was proudly announcing said this:

“Our towns and villages are home to the majority of our residents and are under pressure to grow, particularly along the coast. Urban land uses, structures and sealed roads/ car parks all contribute to the Urban Heat Island Effect, increasing radiant heat and making neighbourhoods hotter. By focusing greening initiatives in these areas and building partnerships with businesses and residents, we can move towards reducing temperatures in our urban areas.”

Principle number 1 of the council’s Greening Strategy said as follows:

“It is common knowledge that trees provide shade and cool their surrounds, but to what extent? Tree Canopy Mapping and Heat Analysis is a common tool used in Greening Strategies to identify the extent of our tree canopy and provide data on how effective trees are at cooling urban areas. Over time this data can help with decision making to increase the canopy cover and minimise the effects of heat. We aim to plant more trees and vegetation in our towns and villages to increase our tree canopy cover in priority locations to cool them down - minimising the effects of heat. By planting more trees and vegetation we are not only cooling our neighbourhoods but providing more shade and habitat, and improving the ‘leafy’

feel and character.’

The Strategy also said this in relation to road planting:

‘In our towns and villages, most of the verges on our urban roads are just mown grass. Planting trees and establishing garden beds could dramatically change the look, feel and function of our roads.’

In early 2023 some Gloucester residents, representing a number of local community groups, noticed that since the announcement of the Council’s Greening Strategy there had been zero tree planting in the streets of Gloucester, and so they decided that they would take up the Mayor’s invitation to ‘get involved as we move forward to a ‘greener’ future for the MidCoast.’ Little did they realise how meaningless were the fine sounding words of the Council’s Greening Strategy.

The Gloucester residents made contact with the Council and one of its officers agreed to attend a meeting to discuss what might be done to have street trees planted. The group was shocked when the Council officer explained that the Council had no budget for street tree planting in Gloucester, or any other part of the Council area. Not to be deterred, the group indicated that it would be happy to organise and raise funds for such plantings, and said that it would provide lists of streets where it thought planting could take place.

Fifteen months after first contact was made, and after many delays when nothing was heard from the Council, a member of the group recently received the following email:

“Thank you for your enquiry about street tree planting in Gloucester.

I appreciate your group’s continued interest in this matter. While the Council encourages tree planting in all contexts, the complexities of street plantings cannot be overlooked.

Although there is no formal policy in place, we do adhere to a set of in-house guidelines for individual plantings or smaller projects. The primary challenge lies in satisfying the s138 road activity permit when granting approval to the public, as any digging within the road reserve requires this permit.

At present, approval is granted through an application assessment

process and fee, similar to a driveway application. This process can be discouraging for some due to its complexity and cost. Alternatively, the Council can satisfy the requirement and supervise the works, but resource constraints make this a challenging option.

Until such time as a street tree planting policy/guidelines are adopted and implemented, there may be some frustration.’

So, for the Gloucester group to plant street trees it will be expected to put in a formal application, and then pay fees for carrying out work the Council itself should be doing if it followed its own fine sounding Greening Strategy.

The Council’s Greening Strategy has now been in place for nearly three years and yet the Council has not even developed a street tree planting policy - to suggest that ‘there may be some frustration’ with the Council over this issue is probably a gigantic understatement.

I approached the Council about its street tree planting activity since the adoption of its Greening Strategy and was advised that ‘there has not been a specific program to undertake street tree planting’ and that no street tree planting is planned in the near future. None!

The Greening Strategy also talks about the importance of preserving the existing vegetation. Principle 2 says this:

‘We need to keep what we have, not only in our urban areas but across our natural and rural landscapes. The reality is that individual significant trees or tracts of mature vegetation can take over 100 years to reach maturity. We know that larger trees capture greater amounts of carbon. They also provide aesthetic values, more habitat for wildlife, more shade and are more difficult to replace if lost, than smaller trees.’

Despite saying this, the Council has only put tree removal controls over a small part of the Council area. I asked the Council why this is so. Here is part of their response:

‘The former councils had taken various approaches to tree preservation and on determining a MidCoast Council approach it was decided to implement a model whereby the most important areas are protected.

This vegetation management approach identified the need for targeted vegetation management in areas across the region that contribute:

significant ecological values, either through maintaining important habitat or corridors linking habitats enabling fauna movement or landscape character and amenity... some locations are renowned for their ‘leafy’ character, while others provide a vegetated landscape on entry into our towns and villages.’

How on earth this meets the objective of ‘keeping what we have’ is not explained. It obviously does not, and nor do they explain why it is only the ‘most important areas’ that deserve protection. There are many unprotected areas which have old growth trees which have zero protection, and where beautiful trees continue to be savaged.

I looked on-line for a definition of the word ‘strategy’ and stumbled upon the following quote which struck me as perfectly fitting the bill:

“The word strategy has become so bastardised that it’s now combined with terms like “imperatives,” “pillars,” and “objectives,” that many managers really have no idea what they’re talking about. Throw the word “strategic” in front of another word and all of a sudden you have people’s attention and a new initiative. But like the emperor with no clothes, sooner or later, that booty is getting exposed.”

A ‘greener’ future for the streets of the MidCoast seems further away than ever. Greenwashing at its worst you might think.

John Watts

NB (It’s heartbreaking and infuriating to see the endless number of beautiful trees cut down by council mostly totally unnecessarily. The level of legal and illegal clearing of mature and koala trees in our electorate is horrific. “Legal” is also debatable. Has council harmonised a tree preservation strategy since amalgamation? Who checks on what developers are really doing? Why doesn’t council ensure land clearing means leaving a periphery – at least – of trees on a block? In coming years council will be panicking trying to replace mature tree cover as temperatures hit near 50 degrees. Let alone the aesthetics of tree cover. Sadly dollars rule it seems. Ed.)

RECYCLE CITY TO OPEN IN CUNDLETOWN

Well it's taken long enough and it's been frustrating for the Red Group to get their comprehensive plans through MidCoast Council but the Lansdowne Road, Kundle Kundle Recycling Centre – IQ Renew – is finally about to open.

It's a very large operation in the former site which has made everything from wheels for trains in India, manufactured farm machinery, and had a few other small businesses out on the site.

It's a hugely comprehensive operation to truck in recyclables – mainly soft plastics - especially from the somewhat controversial Red Cycle products from supermarkets which have been in storage.

They plan to process 6000 tons per year. No doubt the supermarkets will be sending their recyclables to Lansdowne Road. But whether the facility will repurpose their material into things like plastic pallets etc, is not yet known. Competing with China must be an issue.

The company has no doubt been somewhat frustrated at the length of time it's taken to get their hugely detailed plans through Council even though the project seems to have addressed environmental issues like noise, air quality, water, traffic and transport, biodiversity, amenity and security, hazards and risks, heritage, socio-economic and construction management. They claim potential

impacts and associated safeguards and mitigation measures have been adopted during the construction and will continue during operation.

The entire operation seems to have trundled on with little awareness by the community. It all seems

very automated so we doubt there will be opportunities for many staff on site. Truck deliveries will apparently be kept to a minimum as there were initial fears of endless trucks pounding up and down the highway.

No doubt Council will be happy

they can make a bit of a song and dance about this major new business in the area at the opening. Long term? Let's wait and see but we wish them well.

DM



MEN MEET AROUND THE TABLE

First, we had the Mens' Shed, now we have the Mens' Table, both Federal Government funded to benefit men's health and sense of wellbeing in regional towns and large country centres.



Women are presumed to network better than men and certainly the Country Women's Associations (CWA) that meet regularly in regional areas and country

towns are testament to that. Men don't seem to have the same networking system to find company, enjoy activities and meet to chat with other chaps.

For that reason, those busy

making policy have decided there is still a vacuum when it comes to mens' mental health which can be addressed with help.

But getting blokes to meet, yarn and share appears to be gathering

popularity and is meeting valid need in our country communities.

The Mens' Table was set up for those who want to meet up at night to have dinner together and

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talk freely about what's happening in their lives. Perhaps they are still working, or they have retired. They may even come hoping to make friends if they have recently moved to a new area and know no one. Or a widowed and lacking company.

The Mens Shed, according to northern district co-ordinator Anthony Garnham, takes a more practical direction. They meet during the day, even weekly, to chat and make items to sell or donate.

The Mens' Table is a gathering at night of like-minded men to promote conversations. It meets monthly at restaurants to eat, chat, swap stories and enjoy each other's company.

Both movements aim at being self-sustainable and the Mens Shed has been so successful for the best part of 30 years since it was established during the Gillard years.

"We want the Mens' Table to become just as self-sustaining and popular," says Anthony. "Once our tables are up and meeting regularly, we hope it only takes continuing seeding finance to pay the small volunteer staff their overheads to guide the groups and book their restaurant venues."

For this reason, he admits the Mens' Table will always require more hands on deck than the Mens Shed but right now it is still early days.

Anthony says the idea to hold dinners for men was first mooted in 2019, then the Covid pandemic closed it down. Two years ago, it was re-established and today in the NSW northern districts, Mens'

Tables are meeting regularly with five in New England, two in the Upper Hunter, three on the Mid Coast, one in Newcastle and five on the Central Coast.

"Last year Jim Raptis and I started organising in the Manning Valley and we have already established Mens' Tables in Forster and Taree and recently in Halliday's Point, where the members asked us if their table could be held during the day as they are mostly retirees.

"We are in talks with a contact in Gloucester and we are busy promoting the Mens' Table to areas in small regional towns where we think men might be interested,"

says Anthony.

"When we receive requests, we talk to the men individually to ask what they are interested in and are they happy to meet at night and pay for their dinner and drinks. There are no membership fees, just a point at which we establish they would like to attend, then they come, check us out and if it suits them, they start attending each month.

"The beauty of this system is that there is no obligation, we are entirely people centred and we are happy to establish a Mens' Table in any regional and country venues which want us. Once established, each man is contacted every month and informed when and

where the table is being held," says Anthony.

The influence of a convivial company of men meeting each month to share stories helps men in many different ways that are all positive. The organisers of the Mens' Table say that in many cases the men are encouraged to join by the women in their lives.

If you think the Mens' Table sounds interesting and you feel you would like to make contact or require more information, ring Jim Raptis on 1800 636 782 and register to find a table near you. You can also email him on jim.raptis@menstable.org

Sherry Stumm



PROTECTING WILDLIFE ON THE MID NORTH COAST

In the early 1990's, a visionary conservationist recognised that Australia faced a looming wildlife crisis.



Not content with the status quo, Martin Copley purchased a 268 ha forested property in the Perth Hills. The property was fenced to exclude feral predators such as foxes and cats, which

have devastating impacts on native animals.

Then Martin set about reintroducing native animals that had become extinct in the local area. That property, called Karakamia, was the seed from which Australia's

Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) grew. From that tenuous start, AWC has grown to be the largest non-government owner, manager and influencer of land for conservation in Australia.

Fast forward over 30 years

and AWC is now involved in the management of about 1.8% of Australia's land surface, with properties in most states and the Northern Territory. In recognising that effective conservation

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is an ecological process built on a foundation of socio-cultural capacity and values, AWC works not only on land it owns, but in extensive partnerships. These include partnerships with Traditional Owners on their land, with pastoralists, and with the Federal and State Governments, all with a focused mission of protecting Australian Wildlife and the habitats which they live in.

In 2023 AWC added another property to its conservation portfolio. At a little over 4000 ha, Gorton Forest Estate is about 12 kilometres from Stroud. It is on the traditional lands of the Worimi people and was included as part of the 1826 land grant to the Australian Agricultural Company. The AAC sold the property in 1903 and it had several owners before settling for more than half a century under ownership and management of a single family. Throughout its European history, the property was managed largely for timber production. Selective logging was a feature throughout this time. Since the 1970's, harvesting was under increasingly regulated conditions in recognition of the forest's high ecological values. This has left a legacy of exceptional conservation opportunity.

A large part of AWC's success has been its agility and responsiveness. The purchase of Gorton Forest Estate was a clear example of a coincidence of need, opportunity, and capacity. The property's location and history of management identified it as having high conservation potential. It is in a NSW biogeographic region in which AWC was not involved. It contained a diversity of ecosystems, from wet coastal hinterland rainforest gullies through soaring forest gums to grass-tree studded ridges. These habitats were known to protect a diverse range of threatened and declining animals. It was also for sale. AWC's broad philanthropic funding base was able to underwrite not only the purchase but the cost of its ongoing conservation management into the future.

Having taken on management of the new property, a priority was to find a name that reflected the legacy of thousands of years of Aboriginal interaction with country. After an extended discussion between representatives of two local Aboriginal Corporations, a Gathang traditional language name was selected. Gathang is the language spoken

by the Biripi, Gringai and Worimi Peoples, whose traditional lands covered most of what is now the Mid-North Coast of NSW.

The new name is **Waulinbakh Wildlife Sanctuary**. This roughly translates to *Grey Gum Place* and is derived from the Gathang word for Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*), a characteristic tree of the local forest.

While working to find a new name, AWC has also commenced the delivery of foundational conservation science and land management programs on the new sanctuary. This approach of pro-active science-informed land management backed by clear quantification of conservation outcomes is a hallmark of AWC's approach and ongoing success. As a donor funded not-for-profit conservation organisation, AWC benchmarks its financial performance against demonstrated conservation outcomes.

Central to assessing AWC's performance at both a national and local level is its Ecohealth program. The Ecohealth program provides crucial baseline data against which the impacts of AWC's work can be quantified over time. Ecohealth data reviews help modulate management activities and will maximise outcomes for biodiversity at Waulinbakh.

Within the first year of management, AWC has already conducted extensive biodiversity monitoring as part of the Waulinbakh's inaugural Ecohealth program. Preliminary results from Ecohealth surveys have been extremely encouraging, with more than 160 terrestrial species confirmed on Waulinbakh.

Bioacoustic recordings have captured a symphony of bird calls. Surveys have identified the threatened Yellow-bellied Glider, Golden-tipped Bat, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Green-thighed Frog. Waulinbakh is also home to the Parma Wallaby (until now thought to be locally extinct), Land Mullet (an extension of the skink's current range), and Koala (a threatened species in NSW). The sanctuary holds critical conservation value for the Koala and is located in an area recognised by the NSW Government as being of regional Koala significance.

To maintain crucial habitat and refuges for this panoply of species, early conservation activities have focused on reducing immediate threats in the landscape.

A core component has been extensive weed control efforts with the removal of lantana a

particular focus. AWC is using knowledge and experience gained from successfully controlling lantana infestations at some of its other sanctuaries to improve habitat quality at Waulinbakh and support the regeneration of native vegetation such as Spotted Gum, Grey Ironbark, and Tallowwood.

Another initial priority for Waulinbakh was the development of a bespoke burn plan. Given the sanctuary acts as an important wildlife corridor, surrounded on three sides by significant natural forest and sharing a boundary with Ghin-Doo-Ee National Park and Myall River State Forest, AWC has been liaising with neighbouring landholders, National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Rural Fire Service to ensure that fire management activities at Waulinbakh are implemented in a way that can deliver ecological benefits for the broader region.

AWC is also leveraging a keen voluntary and collaborative capacity to accelerate this work. From a neighbour donating tractor time to the Gloucester Environment Group weeding, Mid-Coast

Council helping to source trees to plant, and corporate partners organising volunteering trips – all accelerate vital conservation work and stretch the effectiveness of AWC's donor financing.

And the future looks bright. AWC's key planks of scientific information, proactive conservation action and interactive community engagement will continue to evolve in the Waulinbakh context. This will include planned burning in the cooler months of 2024, ramping up cat and fox control activities, and more detailed ecological surveys by AWC scientists. There will also be a focus on engaging in the local community through organised visits, expanding volunteering opportunities, AWC's integration with regional conservation efforts and increasing engagement with traditional owner groups. Waulinbakh is set to showcase AWC's vital, vigorous and ambitious conservation model as an alternative to complement public or other private land efforts.

Aled Hoggett

AWC Regional Operations Manager/South East.

Sinfonia
MNC

A local community orchestra

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

25th Birthday
@ the MEC

Sunday 30th June
2.00pm

Tickets at the door or online
Adults \$25 | Pensioners \$20
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<https://manningsales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/132880>

MOVIELAND, AN HISTORIC GEM IN THE HEART OF WINGHAM

It is amazing to think that a slow and unstable internet service would benefit any business, but it did in Wingham.



It saved Movieland, John and Mandy McKay's video shop, which has become a landmark in Isabella Street, established 40 years ago by John's father in 1984, where

he set out to build a video library from scratch.

John, his son and Mandy took over the ownership in 1991. "Dad wanted to return to Sydney to work with the dogs what's this

mean...greyhounds ????and as we had come up to help him two years earlier, we decided to stay," John explains.

The couple knew no one at the time and John missed being able

to tune in to his favourite footy matches without interruptions. However, as they were taking over a viable business that was ticking over nicely, it didn't take

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them long to settle down and make friends, start a family and meet members of the community who had come to rely on the video shop for their entertainment.

Today the small store carries 40,000 DVDs, but until a bad year in 2023 which John can't attribute to any reason why people stopped renting videos, the couple were forced to reduce their stock down from 60,000.

"I don't regret doing this," says John. "It saved the business along with the sale of a selection of popular sweets, (lollies???? Or what?) which continue to be big selling items and important revenue."

John admits these days it is getting harder to access new release DVD stock because many distributors, except Roadshow, have stopped carrying them due to the many streaming services that have been introduced. Illegal videos are available on the internet, but John says he doesn't dare stock them as that means breaking the law.

"The internet in Wingham continues to be unstable, so this year we have experienced solid trade which has put us back on our feet. So far, so good and we hope a cold

winter ahead and more rain will drive people back to rent from our constantly expanding collection," says John.

It is a very big collection, for the shop feels like a mysterious cave. It has tall shelves packed with DVDs lining every wall and corner. There is an amazing array of films and they are arranged under themes from comedy, big budget horror, and space wars to tender love stories, true life, documentaries and small independent art films.

John also gets donations from deceased estates where bags of DVDs are frequently offered to him. He tests every video, checks if he already has many of the same films in stock and then adds the interesting ones to the shelves under their classifications.

One would be forgiven for thinking that DVDs should have been killed stone dead when pay TV was introduced, but the service at the time was mainly city based and didn't reach enough country customers.

John held his breath and watched as streaming services were introduced in 2022. To his surprise, customers continued to beat a track to his shop in frustra-

tion at the lack of steady transmission and the constant fast changing film schedules.

"Customers were telling us, if we don't see the film on the day of the release or we don't tune in within a few days, the film disappears and is replaced by a new group. This frustrates them when they are paying such high fees each month for the services," says John.

"Customers expect to be able to see the films they were interested in at any time, not to have them whisked away because they couldn't find time to sit down and watch them shortly after their release.

"They come asking us for certain titles they missed which they want to rent either overnight or for up to one week. Mandy and I most times are able to find the films they want for a small rental fee."

Movieland is not an easy business for the couple who have kept it open 7 days a week from 9 am to 6pm for years, despite the fluctuating customer traffic. "I can't predict anymore what days and times are the best to stay open. We used to open until 9pm but there was no demand," John explains. "Any-

way, streaming makes people lazy. They are seeing more films now in order to make sure they catch the particular film they want to see."

John says there was a boom in DVD rentals from 2003 to 2015 because VHS was proving such a problem as the tape kept breaking. Then DVDs were introduced at first costing \$110, but prices dropped to \$45 and then to \$25 per film, so rental business sagged.

In the years 2017, 2018, 2019 the business had up and down rental activity, and John was forced to take a second job in Taree in order to pay the bills, leaving Mandy to open and run the shop.

"I'm due to retire in two years' time and none of our three children are interested in taking over," says John. "Whether we keep open will as always depend on demand."

Maybe the time to close shop will coincide with long promised stable internet transmission, then it will only mean customers urging their streaming services to extend the annoying fast screening schedules.

Sherry Stumm.



A BUSH WALK BETTER THAN A WALK IN THE PARK

Especially when it's through the Waulinbakh Wildlife Sanctuary. A member of the Gloucester Wildlife Groups reflects ...



It was immensely satisfying to contribute to, and experience, Waulinbakh Wildlife Sanctuary on a beautiful recent Sunday in June.

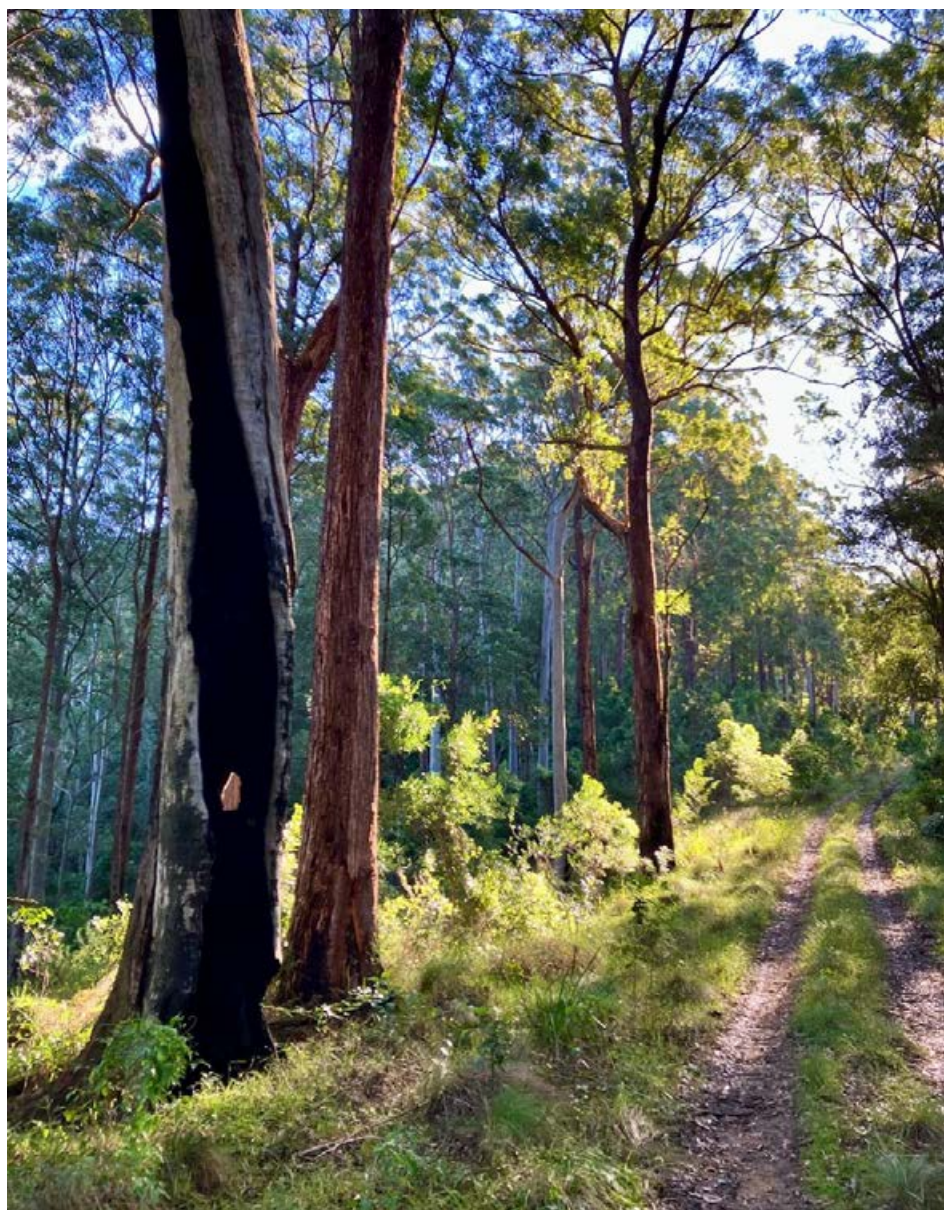
Waulinbakh protects about 4,000 hectares of privately owned land managed through an agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC). It is located west of Mill Creek, about 13 kilometres north of Stroud.

Eleven members of Gloucester Environment Group, two visitors, Mid-Coast Council's Caitlin Orr and AWC's resident Land Manager, Josh Guthrie, began the day by planting around 300 native plants near Mill Creek. The plants included a range of tree types suited to the lower lying land near the Creek such as She-Oak, Lilli Pilli and Flooded Gums. In slightly drier areas away from the Creek, Grey Gums and Ironbark were planted.

Waulinbakh, formerly called Gorton, is the new name given to the property after extensive consultation with local indigenous groups. Waulinbakh translates to "Grey Gum Place" in Gathang, the language spoken by Birbay (Biripi), Guringay (Gringai) and Warimay (Worimi) people.

Recent rainfall meant the ground was slightly wetter

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than we would have liked, but everyone quickly swung into action. Josh had already drilled the tree holes. Each seedling was provided with a tree protection guard.

After farewelling Caitlin, our group ventured in four-wheel drives well into the interior of the Sanctuary on tracks formerly used by loggers, tracks which allow AWC to carry out its scientific studies, fire management and feral weed and animal control. We ascended firstly to a ridge with an elevation of nearly 500 metres before descending to Black Bull Creek.

Stopping for lunch, we sat amongst remnant felled forest logs showing the splits for fence post making. Josh told us about his experiences working with AWC in the Kimberley region and his move south to Waulinbakh.

The biodiversity monitoring undertaken so far has shown the property is hosting not only a population of the endangered Koala, but also the Parma Wallaby (a small wallaby once thought extinct). Josh described techniques

employed to detect species – including trialling the cutting-edge technique of airborne DNA sampling.

Time spent at the Creek, after a short walk was a highlight of the day – clear waters, dense vegetation and sunshine above.

The drive back to the Mill Creek planting site and the Sanctuary gate was a chance to improve our off-road driving skills. We learnt when not to use traction control and how to ascend a slippery track. Good experience for our two visitors who are attempting Cape York later this year.

GEG will be supporting and returning to Waulinbakh in the future as AWC furthers its studies and undertakes management in support of other local landholders, including National Parks and Wildlife Service. All this co-operation shows a positive way forward for nature conservation in our area.

GEG invites new members or enquiries via gloucester.environment.group@gmail.com

Our monthly walks are usually the third Sunday of each month.

Tibor Kovats

**In the event
of a crash,
the bus will stop.**

You won't.

Buckle up on the bus.

NSW
GOVERNMENT

TOWARDS ZERO

WHAT'S ON & WHERE TO GO

Restaurant Review THE BOATHOUSE CAFE Endeavour Place, Taree



The Boathouse Café on the waterfront of the Manning River is on the top level of the new Manning River Rowing Club in Endeavour Place where the rowing boats are kept in a large space underneath. Next door the former rowing club is being used to house the dragon boats.

You can't miss the spanking new modern premises. There's lots of parking alongside, including large spaces for cars trailing boats.

The sweeping 180-degree views of the river from the cafe stretches from Domaresq Island to the Taree St Martin's Bridge and the walls of the restaurant do not impede this beautiful vista in any way with its huge glass windows.

Andrew and Pip Goldsmith run the café from Tuesdays to Saturdays serving breakfast from 7am and lunch to 3pm. They promote the

premises as

"Friends, Food and Fabulous Views" which they deliver in spades.

My only criticism is the noise from the wooden floors when it's full of people. A sound-proofing solution would not go astray.

The food is excellent and it's proved to be popular since it opened a couple of years ago. Make a booking because there are lots of enthusiastic diners which makes it hard to get a table if you come late or decide to drop in on the spur of the moment. And it's wise to ring and check they are open, they do close the café on a Saturday occasionally when they are booked for weddings, seminars, big school functions and Rowing Club events.

They serve a wide variety of amazing cakes that are huge and mouth-watering, but be careful they look like a meal on their own

There are fresh bagels, Turk-

ish beads and croissants, waffles, pancakes, fritters, even Quesadillas filled with scrambled egg, bacon, spinach, tomato, Spanish onion, mushroom, cheese and house-made corn salsa.

The lunch menu is equally varied, but a speciality to look out for is the delicious seafood chowder with scallops and prawns and the four spice fried squid.

There other fish choices, plus burgers, grills, a variety of salads, omelettes, pastas and a risotto with mushroom and spinach which was my recent delicious choice.

I've been several times with friends from out of town who have expressed appreciation for the quality of the food and service, but what really has them excited is the birdlife on the river and the occasional visit by dolphins chasing the mullet when the tide turns.

During summer some of the tables are placed on the wide 180 degree wrap around veranda and during winter best rug up because it can get chilly. This is not a snug cafe, otherwise the experience would not do service to the feeling that one is dining 'almost' outdoors. There are stairs and a disability walkway up to the café, also a lift.

A nice way to visit the boathouse is to couple it with a bit of exercise. There is a pleasant walkway along the river from the centre of Taree. It starts at Manning Street. Watch out for joggers, they too enjoy a run in the early morning along this route before the mums with little children and animals join in at a slower pace.

If you live or are staying in Taree you can also order take-away by ringing the Boathouse café on 0427 094 677. Enjoy.

RR

DO WE LOSE YET ANOTHER HEIRLOOM?

The old schoolhouse in Mondrook (between Tinonee and Wingham) is on the chopping block.



Built, as best we know, in approximately the late 1800s, it was closed as a school in 1970.

It's hung in there during reincarnations as a playschool but can't be rented as it has no facilities – sewer/water/power etc. Though it has been briefly illegally inhabited. While the solid property belongs to the Lands department it falls into MidCoast Council jurisdiction for care and maintenance, little, if anything, has been done to care for it.

It sits opposite Mondrook Hall and some locals are keen to see the schoolhouse moved behind the Hall where it could be used for an emergency response centre. The Mondrook Hall Committee however don't seem too keen on the idea.

Or perhaps it could be moved into Central Park (the Village Green) in Wingham.

The schoolhouse has a covered front verandah so would be useful during rain for speeches etc at public events.

Some locals have offered to move the building while it's still intact, but without care it's going to disintegrate totally. Locals do the best they can in unofficial maintenance.

The schoolhouse is built in compact early rural cottage design, and many items from the original school remain.

If not rescued it could go the way of the Fisherman's Cottages at Forster, The Stationmaster's Cottage in Wingham, (which is falling down despite many offers to take it over), Henry Flett's cottage in Flett Street Wingham, The Goods Shed at Wingham Station, the Bight cemetery trees and setting, the old Cobb and Co Stables at the Australia Hotel Wingham – the building

was destroyed by a mysterious fire while a previous council approved the demolition of the Cobb and Co stables.

All were lost due to commercial greed, lack of maintenance, generational indifference, and in most cases, funds.

Wingham, promoted as an historic town in tourism brochures, is looking less and less heritage. The cement box of a building in the main street should never have been approved some years back. Sadly, Wingham looks down at heels and neglected.

However if you drive around its streets many old homes are being beautifully restored by city folk who've moved here.

Seems heritage preservation is way down the council To Do list, if at all.

Apathy. Gets us every time.
DM



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Australian Government

MANNING BASE HOSPITAL UPGRADE SHOVEL READY, MONEY IN THE BANK!

After years of angst, battles with Hunter New England Health, community despair, and lack of action from previously elected representatives over the years, Manning Base Hospital is shovel ready thanks to, at last, funding of 80 million dollars from the State Labor government on top of the 100 million sitting in the previous government's coffers which they can now access.

Special credit goes to the community and local Manning Hospital action group led by Eddie Wood. They recently took a busload of locals to present a petition of 12 thousand signatures to local Member Tanya Thompson at Parliament House.

'We are so relieved,' said Mr Wood, 'We've been campaigning for this for eight years. 80 million after 8 years isn't to be sneezed at, but we wanted 250 million on top of the 100 million already committed but not available. I commend our community for their support as it's taken awhile to get the locals on board.'

Everyone involved is also relieved and

pleased to be dealing with the new CEO of Hunter New England Health, Tracey McKosker PSM, whom Mr Wood says 'Is a breath of fresh air and totally supportive.'

Tenders are going out to knock down the old hospital admin building for Stage 2 for a 4 story bed unit. (Anyone who's had to wait for a bed will be relieved.)

An area and community as large as ours needs one central, fully equipped, up to the minute hospital.

The money of \$80 million, plus the million that was previously allocated, but has been sitting in government coffers, now means that as all plans are done and approved, tenders are

now going out to start work on stage 2. More funds to come for stages three and four!

Without a fully equipped and supported hospital they can't attract staff, medicos and specialists.

All the existing staff, doctors and specialists, no doubt welcome this news as much as the community.

Just goes to show how a community can pull together and eventually make big changes. Which reminds me... Council elections in September!

DM



WHY DO HORSES RUN?



Cameron Stewart

Allen & Unwin. April 2024

RRP \$32.99

This is Cameron Stewart's first novel which Tim Winton described as 'tender and humane, a haunting debut'.

However, I confess that I had to read some way into the book before I found myself agreeing with Winton. *Why Do Horses Run?* is not one of those books that grabs your interest immediately, but a tale that sucks you in slowly, and which by the last page, makes you realise that you have read something quite special.

Stewart's website tells us that:

Cameron Stewart lives and works on Gadigal land in Sydney, Australia. He grew up on farm near Mullumbimby, by way of Alice Springs, Canberra and Cairns. Diversity of place informs much of his writing as does an interest in flawed characters trying to do their best. Cameron holds an MA (Creative Writing) from the University of Technology, Sydney and a BA (Performing Arts) from the University of Western Sydney.

This beautifully written book cleverly combines elements of human tragedy with the destruction of the natural world by humans. The narrative revolves around a man called Ingvar who seems to be wandering aimlessly around the Australian bush. In chapter 1 we read:

But I don't stay in towns for long, they make me jumpy. I walk country roads. Back roads. I walk until I'm too tired to go on. Day or night it doesn't matter. I'm not picky about where I rest – on open ground, in ditches, under bridges or in long grass beside rotting logs.

The story then immediately jumps to Ingvar thinking about the brutal destruction of the Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine):

On 7 September 1936, the last-known thylacine died on a concrete floor after being locked out of his

CAMERON STEWART

WHY

'Vivid and compelling.'
INGA SIMPSON

DO

'Tender and humane, a haunting debut.'
TIM WINTON

HORSES
RUN?

sleeping quarters during a very cold night. And then there was nothing.

It soon becomes clear that Ingvar is wandering in a futile attempt to escape from his former life, and from emotional trauma. He is clearly troubled, and until well into the story he is unable, or unwilling to speak – he communicates by writing notes. As much as possible he avoids contact with other humans and sticks to back roads and tracks. He gives the impression of being some kind of

crazy vagabond, sleeping rough.

Early in the piece we find that the life from which Ingvar is fleeing involved long periods working away from his wife and daughter Lotte. Work that involved counting different species of plants.

Ingvar eventually ends up wandering into a remote valley in Bunjalung country where he meets a collection of eccentrics, all having their own issues. Eccentrics with names such as The Mayor, Mick, Ginger, and Hemingway. Hemingway is a retired doctor who wears

a yellow dress. Ingvar initially squats on a farm owned by Hilda before being invited to stay in a dilapidated shed.

The thing that Ingvar and Hilda have in common is that 'they both struggle with the haunting impact of their pasts and grief that won't let them go.' As the narrative progresses Ingvar chats to his dead daughter, and it is eventually revealed that the main source of his emotional trouble is deep guilt about having been responsible for her death in a car accident. Hilda also chats to her dead husband Col who had committed suicide.

Eventually we find the reason why Ingvar has ended in this particular valley, and it becomes clear that he has not arrived there by accident. Ginger, who is in her final year at school lives with her mum in an A-frame house – a house where Ingvar lived as a young child.

Although the book is dominated by darkness, loss and grief, by the end there is hope. Ingvar writes a birthday card to Lotte where we read:

He told her that the past three years, eight months, and sixteen days had been hard but at least the pain had made him feel connected to her. He told her that he would always love her and he would try his best to live a good life with the time he has left.

The book's marketing blurb accurately says the following:

Steeped in mystery and foreboding, Why Do Horses Run? asks crucial questions about love and loss, and what might make a person never want to be found. Simple, profound, transformative and deeply moving, this indelible debut explores the propensity of the natural world to both heal and harm, as well as the ineradicable power of kindness and community.

It is highly recommended.
John Watts

PHEASANTS NEST



Louise Milligan.
Allen & Unwin.
Rrp \$32.99

You may recognise Louise Milligan's name as she is a multi award winning investigative journalist for the ABC's Four Corners, their flagship current affairs documentary program.

She has authored two non-fiction crime books, but Pheasants Nest is her first novel.

Her novel examines the effect crime has in real time on those who are devastated by the inexplicable disappearance of a friend, so desperately become involved, while the police do their best to understand exactly what's happened as there are no obvious clues.

The reviews for her first novel have been overwhelmingly positive and I urge you to read this book if you enjoy crime stories. However, this is more than just crime, as one reviewer wrote: "Louise's greatest achievement is to remind readers that when humans do dreadful things to each other, the pain, grief and horror do not happen in a vacuum, there is also love and courage."

I plunged in to the book and couldn't read it fast enough. I had to know the outcome, was the perpetrator caught, did the victim survive her ordeal, how can a girl experience such terror and pain and return to her former life unchanged?

My imagination immediately demanded revenge for inflicting such an ordeal on a defenceless woman, even though we read about all kinds of abuse to women every day. I was forced to keep reading and I also needed to summon patience in getting to know the characters in Pheasant's Nest as the story unfolded. It kickstarts and roars along from go to woah.

Louise is a skilled observer of people and she obviously enjoys describing them in detail, their clothes and their habits according to their "bogan" or "mods" nicknames, their family status growing up and their jobs now that they are young adults.

Pheasants Nest starts out with the kidnapping of a girl, tipsy after

a night out in a pub with her girlfriends, who insists on walking home alone.

A bad decision by any woman thinks Kate, I should have known better she tells herself as she lies tied up in the back of a car speeding interstate.

The outcome isn't obvious, even if you are a devotee of crime thrillers. It's a straight rocket ride from start to finish. No side tracks off the main plot or unnecessary detours.

The author is a master puppeteer who understands how to bring her characters to life. In doing this she tugs at our emotions as we get to know, identify and like the main characters. Also, it is easy to start feeling deeply their anguish during this crisis.

Despite the drama, the story skilfully lightens our mood, changing tempo by looking back at Kate's high-spirited romp through life with friends enjoying crazy escapes plus lashes of black humour to moderate the impact of some of the bad news stories she is sent to write about in her job as a journalist.

There's also a gentle, passionate love story between Kate, the ambitious journalist whose former boyfriend died in a cash crash and Liam, the shy lawyer whose experiences in the love stakes has been so disappointing it's caused him to lock away his heart and swear to

remain a bachelor.

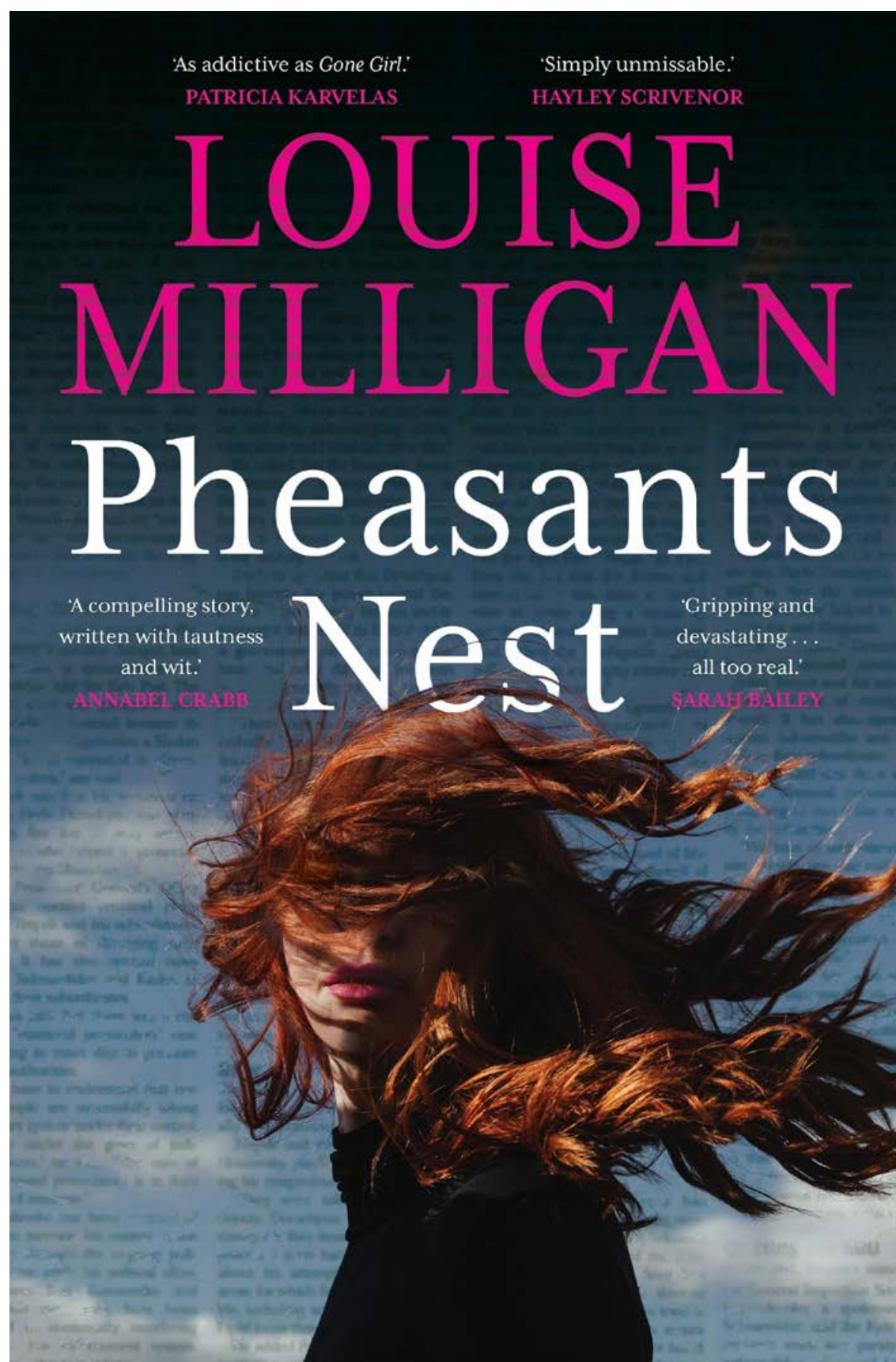
When Kate disappears, Liam emotionally falls apart and haunts the Victorian police whom he feels are slow and tedious in their preconceived ideas of how to run an investigation.

It is interesting to read this book to fully appreciate the way Louise has used her experience as a well-known investigative report-

er and her knowledge of dealing with police while chasing big news stories.

No doubt she has plenty more experiences to draw on for future novels!

Sherry Stumm



THE WORK



Bri Lee
Allen & Unwin
\$32.99

The Work is a debut novel by Bri Lee known for her articles, essays and short stories, also for creating and editing News&Reviews. This novel seems to be influenced by the 'Me Too Movement,' just as women in the 1960s were influenced by the ideas of Germaine Greer, happy to break the mould and called themselves feminists.

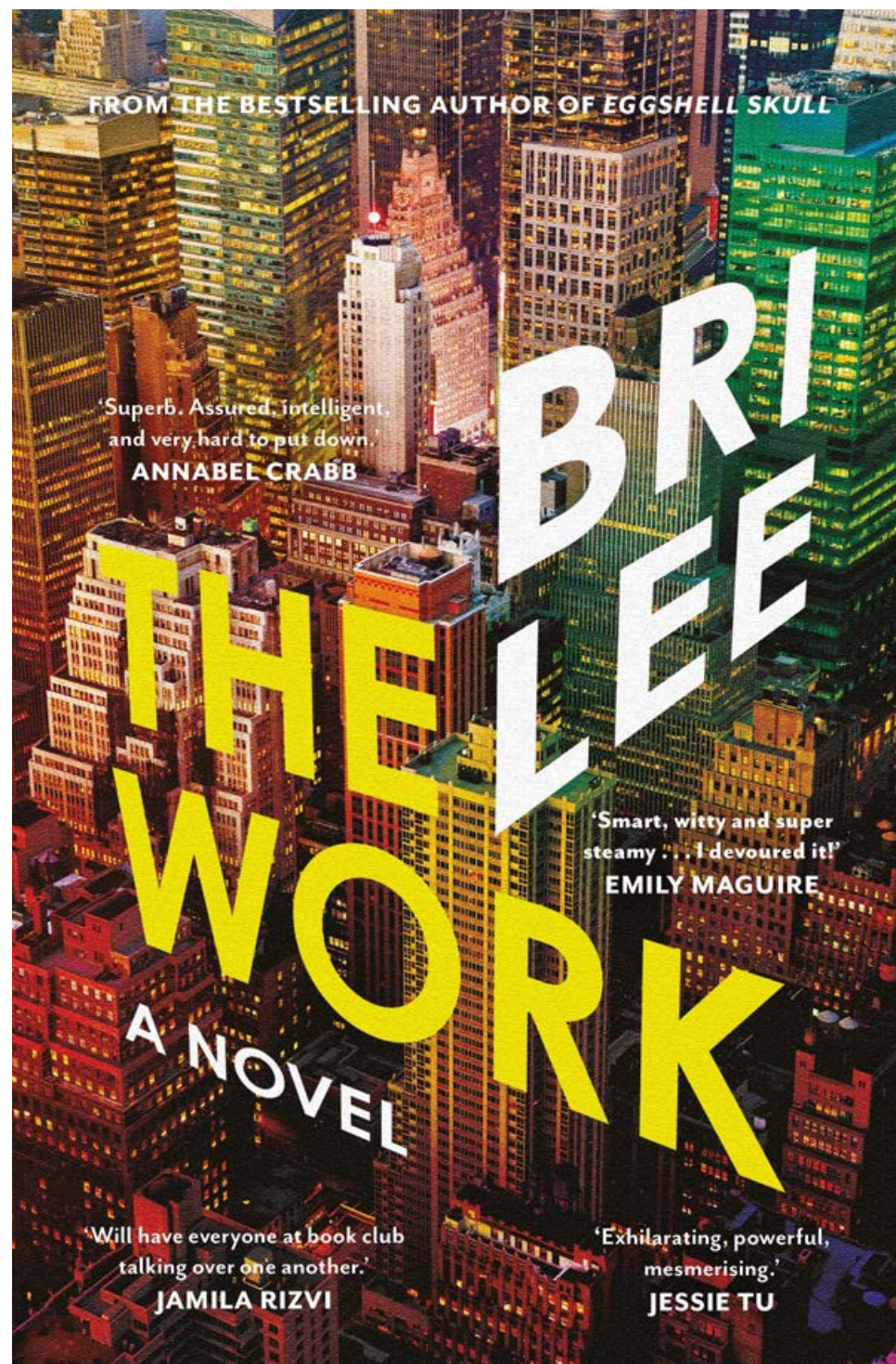
A critic has written on the cover of *The Work*; "Smart, witty and super steamy. I devoured it!". This hints at how young women in their 30s and 40s today may be rebelling against stereotypes, aiming high in their chosen fields, remaining single, making a name for themselves, enjoying good sex without commitments, shaking off the shackles of their family myths and expectations.

Our heroine Lally is American, determined to stay single. She knows she's a good looking, smart, hard-working, focused, a career woman, aiming to make a niche for herself in the arts world. She is aware that graduating with a fine arts degree is ground zero if her ambition is to be realised to make it as a famous art gallery owner in New York.

Lally wants to meet and influence patrons with money and dubious taste into paying big money on emerging artists. She is prepared to wine and dine them as she convinces them to part with serious money and invest in the works of her chosen artists.

Her preferred method of operating with everyone is with fake compliments, air kisses and alcohol soaked parties to show she can keep up, or do better than some of the best and wealthiest operators in the field. Her real feelings are buried deep.

I applaud this book for it shows how a confident, ambitious woman can make it in a difficult field of business, especially in the Art world in New York where men, their authority and money have always held sway.



My problem with *The Work* is that the author has sacrificed any show of warmth by Lally toward any of her suitors and colleagues. She comes across as shallow and pretty bloodless while achieving her ambition, convincing herself she's content with her life as she claws her way up the slippery slope of fame.

Lally is happy to use lots of hot sex, which is explained in detail. However, there is no compassion, desire or curiosity toward her lovers, to really get to know them as people. Ouch, my age is showing!

When a young Australian called Patrick working in art sales flies into town, he manages to dent Lally's hard exterior with kindness, good humour, and an ability to whip up a substantial breakfast quickly in her apartment. He is not offended by her harsh scoffing when he tells her he prefers old masters and doesn't really understand modern art. It is only his expertise and willingness as a lover that gets him further chances in Lally's bed.

Over time, they fall in love, but Lally convinces herself she is safe, it's a long-distance romance that

is sure to peter out. Still, she can't deny the feelings Pat has stirred up in her, particularly after a fabulous week together of torrid sex, fuelled by lots of drinking and his knowledge as he challenges her attitudes about Art.

She doesn't spend time on cuddles and gentle massage, even as their relationship deepens. She prefers showers together and would choke if she told him she was falling in love with him, much less how much she likes having him around. This might make him believe she is prepared to follow her family into wedlock, children and boredom which she's not.

When her father dies leaving her with a modest inheritance, she spends it all on an art gallery in New York's expensive art centre, certain her knowledge and personality can make it famous for its modern art and promotion of emerging artists.

Her willingness to back herself, work until exhausted during each exhibition just to pay the rent, is admirable. However, she rejects any intimate contact with anyone except a treasured girlfriend called Gen, who has always been Lally's backup when something doesn't work out.

To her dismay Gen, her loyal friend and former school buddy, has finally fallen in love and is preparing to tether herself to a permanent relationship with her boyfriend. For Lally this is devastating news.

The failure of one of her exhibitions takes her bank account close to overdraft and when a sudden migraine renders her helpless, she turns to Gen who convinces her to give Pat a chance, fly to Australia, join him in Melbourne at Christmas and meet his family.

It's a disaster, she's a smart New Yorker, they are down-at-heel Queensland country folk. What Pat and Lally do next is when you can't put down this smart, sexy, well written international love affair.

Sherry Stumm

MEN FACE UP TO THEIR LOOKS

In a world where women have been the dominant consumer group leading the skin and hair care markets, now there's a rise in male skin care.

Due to the increasing awareness for males to maintain healthy and youthful looking skin there has been a global rise in the popularity of male skin care. Previously male skin care has been predominantly focused on the shaving and antiperspirant segments. However, products like facial cleansers, masks, moisturisers, and even anti-aging products are at the forefront of this rise. According to the *(Netgather Report)*, this rise is slanted towards natural and organic formulations, and is set to increase for the foreseeable future.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN FORMULATING MALE SKIN CARE

There are obviously some significant differences between female and male skin, starting with more sebum being produced which creates an increased amount of acne in the early pubescent age group. This increased oil production, which can be up to double that of a female of the same age, will in turn assist in reducing trans epidermal water loss which helps the male demographic from wrinkles. There is a relationship between larger sebaceous glands and increased sebum deposited on the skin.

It is also interesting to note that male skin is about 20% thicker than female skin and has increased collagen density. Collagen provides structural support to the skin and is a primary reason why male skin does not age at the same rate as women. Collagen declines at a consistent rate for males over time but for women there is a significant decline in skin thickness due to the onset of menopause.

It is claimed that a male will shave approximately 16000 times in their lifetime and this increases the skin's sensitivity. Approximately 40% of males are prone to shaving related concerns. Issues like blunt

razors, and a lack of lubrication can stress the skin. Shaving is regarded as an exfoliant and can reduce the outer layers of the skin which can leave younger, more sensitive skin exposed.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE SKIN CARE.

When formulating male skin care, we use predominantly esters (natural emollients), mineral oils and silicones and reduce or remove plant oils in the formula as it can leave the skin feeling greasy. In male skin care we are focusing on controlling sebum, environmental impacts such as UV protection, energizing and mattifying the skin.

There is a significant difference in the fragrance that is used as females may prefer floral notes whilst males may prefer woody notes in their skin care. This is very subjective and very much a personal preference of the consumer.

As a formulating chemist and a male just shy of 50, I prefer a product that will work with my busy lifestyle, it has to breathe and not add to perspiration as many water in oil emulsions can do.

To create a benefit to the skin. A functional purpose.

To create this, I would potentially use synthetic ingredients in my lipid phase avoiding heavy plant oils and choose powdery emulsifiers. Emulsifiers are functional ingredients in a formula that will blend ingredients together like water and oil. Some emulsifiers that start out with a moist feeling on the skin, with



the addition of body heat, they turn powdery. These ingredients will leave a really good substantivity on the skin with wide appeal to the male consumer group. In skin care, active ingredients are those that are usually scientifically proven to produce a result.

There are a multitude of companies looking right now at how they can leverage themselves into the male skin care market . . . the choice is yours!

Jason Tylor
Cosmetic Chemist
www.oceanna.com.au

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ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

Collect the past and invest in your future. You will be amazed at the stories that go with old and interesting finds and this history can be passed to the next generations.

Please remember to support your local small business operators, they are the mainstay of our communities and if we want them to succeed and stay afloat you need to visit them regularly. They need to be supported in these difficult economic times. Butchers, bakers, fruit and veggie shops, newsagents, upholsterers, cafes and all small shops there are lots. Even your towns antique shops need your support. Our local Antique Shops Taree – Isadoras, Clancy's Emporium and Col's Second Hand. Wingham – Delinquent Funk and Antiques and Old Wares - both in Isabella St, – they all enjoy your regular visits and custom.

The Phantom was conceived as a newspaper comic strip in 1936 and is the forerunner of the comic-book superhero genre which today underpins vast, multi-billion dollar franchises that span publishing, audio-visual and licensed merchandise. Yet despite the character's American origination, The Phantom has enjoyed consistently greater popularity amongst audiences, most notably in Australia, India and Sweden.

The main character, the Phantom, is a fictional costumed crime-fighter who operates from the fictional African country of Bangalla. **In the strip, the Phantom was 21st in a line of a crime-fighting family which began in 1536, when the father of British sailor Christopher Walker was killed during a pirate attack. Swearing an oath on the skull of his father's murderer to fight evil, Christopher began a legacy of the Phantom which would pass from father to son. Nicknames for the Phantom include «The Ghost Who Walks», «Guardian of the Eastern Dark» and «The Man Who Cannot Die».**

Unlike many other superheroes, the Phantom has no superpowers; he relies on his strength, intelligence,



Old Phantom comics

skill at arms (he carries two holstered handguns, a revolver and a 1911 .45 auto pistol, one on each hip, and is an expert marksman with both), and the myth of his immortality to take action against the forces of evil. The 21st Phantom is married to Diana Palmer; they met while he studied in the United States and they have two children, Kit and Heloise. He has a trained wolf named Devil and a horse named Hero, and like the 20 previous Phantoms he lives in the ancient Skull Cave.

Frew Publications is an Australian comic book publisher, known for its long-running reprint series of Lee Falk's The Phantom. Frew formerly published other comics, including Falk's earlier creation Mandrake the Magician. The general rule is the smaller the number, on the comic, the more collectable the comic is eg No. 1....

Frew Publications was founded in 1948 by Ron Forsyth, Lawford 'Jim' Richardson, Jack Eisen, and Peter Watson, with each contributing 500 Australian pounds to establish the publisher. The name "Frew" is an acronym made from the surnames of the four founders, Forsyth, Richardson, Eisen, and Watson. Eisen and Watson withdrew from the company before the first publication was issued.

Forsyth and Richardson approached Yaffa Syndicate the

Australian representative of King Features Syndicate about producing an Australian comic book issue of The Phantom. The agreement was conditional that Frew could not print any stories that was currently running in other publications, nor any story soon after it had appeared in the Australian Woman's Mirror. The first edition of The Phantom comic book, "The Slave Traders" (extremely collectable), was published by Frew & debuted on 9th September 1948. The first two issues were not numbered and printed in a landscape format, with the staples were on the short edge of the cover. The third issue, "Mr Hog", was the first to be numbered and reverted to the traditional portrait format.

Between 1949 and 1958 Frew also published comics including Pop-eye, The Phantom Ranger, The Shadow (an Australian creation not to be confused with the American version of The Shadow), Sir Falcon, Catman and Super Yank Comics, peaking to a total of thirty titles in the mid 1950s. In the early 1960s due to the influx of imported American titles Frew reduced their publications to a single title, The Phantom.

In November 1978 Frew published its first Swedish Phantom adventure entitled "The Ghost" (Issue #730), although it was not until January 1983

that another Swedish story appeared, "The Tiger from Rangoon" (Issue #763).

In 1987 Forsyth and Richardson engaged Jim Shepherd as a consultant, the following year he was employed as its managing director. Shepherd and Forsyth's son, Peter subsequently bought all the shares in the company. In 1995 Shepherd purchased Forsyth's shareholdings, becoming the sole owner of Frew Publications.

In 1990 Frew published the first ever Australian created Phantom adventure, "Rumble in the Jungle" (Issue #951A), with art by Keith Chatto and the

story by Jim Shepherd. Chatto and Shepherd produced another two Phantom stories «Return of the Singh Brotherhood» (Issue #962) and «The Kings Cross Connection» (Issue #1000). Shepherd also wrote another story «The Search for Byron», published March 1996 (Issue #1131), which was illustrated by Glenn Ford.

On the 15 April 2013 Shepherd died of a heart attack at his Sydney home, at age eighty. He is survived by his wife Judith, who was also the senior editor at Frew Publications and son, Stephen. In 2016, the company and licence was purchased by Glenn Ford and Rene White.

Old comics are collectable, but it depends on condition and titles.

I have opened a shop (Antiques & Old Wares) at 12 Isabella St, Wingham. Call in and say hello.

I hope that collecting brings you the enjoyment that I have experienced.

If you have items that you are not sure of, I may be able to help with information, appraisals and/or sales. I love the history and stories of old and interesting treasures.

**Phone Rex – 0427 880 546.
Take care and stay safe!**

IT'S ROSE SEASON!



Roses are some of the most romantic and classically beautiful flowers we grow in the garden, but the number of choices can be mind boggling.

Choosing a perfume and colour is a great place to start, but it's important to select a rose with a habit that suits your situation too.

At Wingham Nursery we have 1000+ roses to choose from in peak season. And there are many aspects to take into consideration when selecting the correct variety so it's quite easy to get overwhelmed! So hopefully these steps will help you narrow down your selections to what will perform best for your desired use.

Step One: The first step in deciding which rose to buy is to determine how you want your garden to look and the purpose of the rose, for example, do you want it to climb along a fence, be the border of a garden bed, the display at the front of your house, will it be planted in a pot, as a feature or mass planted?

Step Two: Consider the area you will be planting the roses in. Will there be enough room for the rose without overcrowding the growth or root systems?

Avoid planting too close to established shrubs, trees and other roses as overcrowding your plants can cause many issues such as competition for sunlight, water and nutrient. Remember whatever grows above the soil is mirrored below the soil in the root growth (just like a tree).

Roses need at least **6 hours** of direct sunlight per day, preferably more. Although in shaded areas roses will still grow; the quantity of

the flowers will diminish with less sunlight.

Step Three: The next step is to decide which category of rose will have the best growth habit for the look you wish to achieve. You can read about the different growth habits below:

Climbing- Climbers and ramblers are tall growing roses that need support. Perfect for covering a strong metal frame, pergola or arbor.

Floribunda- Floribunda blooms appear in clusters and give a mass of colour over a long period. Most grow to 1.2m high and 1m wide in a dome shape with lots of flowers

on shorter stems all over the bush. Very spectacular in the garden and most can be picked and admired inside, they just may not last as long and have shorter stems.

Hybrid Tea- These are the most recognised roses. They grow in a V shape to 1.5m high and 80cm wide. The base of the bush will have a skeleton of branches, the middle is generally leaves and the top will have long stems and the beautiful cut flower type bloom.

Standard A standard rose that has been grown to the shape of a ball resting above a single stem, usually 60-90cm tall. They look fabulous in formal gardens and are a great way to add roses that look instantly established.

Minature- Generally the smallest of the roses, with flowers that are less than 5cm across. They are usually less than 50cm high and can be used in pots, as edging for a garden bed or in rockeries.

Last Step: Choose a variety within the category that you like - take note of the various specifications of each variety such as, growth habits, flowering habits, bloom colour, and fragrance.

There is a rose for nearly every purpose and function in your garden. You are limited only by your imagination!

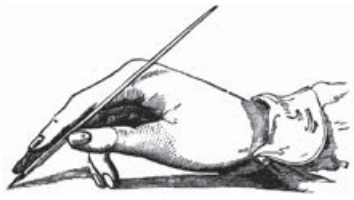
We have roses arriving all throughout winter and we have just received our first delivery for this season. So, come and take a gander at some of the brand-new releases and the good old-fashioned favourites today. However, if you'd like the largest choice and availability, we recommend returning in July to see our complete collection. As soon as the roses arrive, we pot them, prune them and display them in their colour categories. And as always, if you're unsure or would like some advice on how to grow the perfect rose in your garden - come and see one of our team or give us a call on **6553 4570**. We're here to help!

Happy gardening!

Caitlin Sawyer

Wingham Nursery & Florist
5 William St WINGHAM





YOUR SAY

Letters may be edited for space, offensive language or defamatory reasons.

Dear Editor,

The claims voiced by the Federal MP for Lyne electorate, Dr David Gillespie, and the federal Coalition that the cost of nuclear energy would be cheaper than Labor's renewable energy strategy are contradicted in two recent reports from the CSIRO and the Clean Energy Council.

The CSIRO report states that electricity from nuclear power would be at least 50% more than that from solar and wind power and pumped hydro, including the costs of the current building of extra transmission lines and battery storage that the Coalition decries. The Clean Energy Council believes the cost could be up to six times more.

In any case, nuclear power plants take up to 15 years to build, while the need for increased energy sources and an upgrade to our transmission system is needed now.

Digby Wilson

Gold Coin Entry

LUCKY PRIZE for best cultural Dress

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JULY 20 9AM-3PM

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Live Music

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- Lukai • Lauryn Coulson • Patrick Hayes
- Jack The Bread Guy • Dundaloo Drummers

Stalls and More

- Multicultural Foods & Dance Performances
- Environmental Speakers • Market Stalls
- Environmental Displays • Cultural Displays

Logos at the bottom include: Multicultural NSW, MIDCOAST council, AAR, The Steel Company, Landcare, Duraplas, UpBound, TAREE AUTO GROUP, and JR Richard.

FAMILY HEIRLOOM . . . HAND-CRAFTED BUILT TO LAST A LIFETIME!



FORMER MASTER SHIPWRIGHT HARVEY JAHNSEN IS MAKING THESE BEAUTIFUL BENCHES AND PICNIC TABLES WITH LOVE AND CARE. PLUS THEY'LL LAST A LIFETIME. (GREAT WEDDING, ANNIVERSARY OR MEMORIAL GIFT.)

HARVEY IS AT 66 LAKE STREET FORSTER. (While Harvey is a skilled craftsman he's a bit hard of hearing, so call his mate Bill 0403 011 333 or pop in and have a look at his beautiful, painstaking work. Prices start at \$750.00)



2BOB'S 2024 ENVIROFAIR AND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL POSTPONED



2BOB's 30th Envirofair & Multicultural Festival has been postponed due the current weather we are experiencing. The new date for the Festival will be Saturday July 20th.

"After several postponements and cancellations over the last few years, this was not a decision that we have come to lightly" said Event Coordinator Brendan Parker.

"Taree Park is simply not be up to accommodating a festival at this time so we will shift to the new date of July 20, same time from 9am to 3pm and we look forward to enjoying better weather."

The 30th Envirofair and Multicultural Festival will be a fabulous day of family-fun for the Manning and beyond thanks to the support of local sponsors:

Landcare; Midcoast Council; Lazarka Dance Group; Taree Auto Group; Duraplas Tanks; Greenpatch Seeds; Taree Shed Company; Upbound Business Services; and Multicultural NSW.

Interested stallholders are invited to contact 2BOB via their Facebook page, or email admin@2bobradio.org.au or ring the station on 6552 6200.

For media enquiries contact:

Brendan Parker

Envirofair@2bobradio.org.au

0490 103 516

Don't be caught off guard in a natural disaster

We have the top four apps you need to be prepared.



Hazards Near Me

Receive notifications when a natural disaster is approaching



Live Traffic NSW

Plan ahead and see what hazards are impacting your route



Emergency Plus

The 'what 3 words' feature gives your precise location for emergency services



BOM Weather

Check for weather forecasts and warnings



Get Ready NSW

Visit nsw.gov.au/GetReadyNSW to download these four apps.



CR EPOV VERSUS MIDCOAST COUNCIL

Cr. Peter Epov has commenced proceedings in the NSW Supreme Court against the MidCoast Council over an alleged breach of confidentiality by Cr Epov in which he asked the General Manager a

Question With Notice in a Council meeting about the Council being awarded, for the second year in a row, a certain award for the 'Worst HR in Local Government'. The award is given by the Development and

Environmental Professionals' Association (DEPA) each year.

Stand by for a few fireworks.

Let's teach our daughters
it's not about being
beautiful.

Teach them to be bold.
Be silly. Be strong.
Be confident.
Be independent and
intelligent. Be brave and
be fierce. Be real, in a
world full of fake.

Let's redefine beauty.

**Pass this paper to a
friend or neighbour
before recycling**

Au Revoir Boris . . .

Thank you to all my friends and readers who sent such beautiful messages, cards, flowers and thoughts to me on losing my beloved Boris. So many I haven't coped with answering you all . . . but your thoughts are deeply appreciated. Di.



To keep this paper running, make a donation: BSB 032102 ACCT: 007242 – Thank you!

Publisher and Editor DI MORRISSEY

Printed by Spotpress, Sydney

Published by The Manning Community News Pty. Ltd. Mondrook NSW

Distribution BORIS JANJIC AND FRIENDS

Online edition: www.manningcommunitynews.com

The Manning Community News is a member of the Country Press Association of NSW

The Manning Community News is an independent newspaper run by volunteers. It has no affiliation with any organisation, religious or political group.
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This newspaper is printed on paper approved by the Forest Stewardship Council from sustainable forests using a vegetable dye ink.