

2508

FREE

DECEMBER 2021

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District news



Joy to the Burgh

Meet the family who light up Parkes Street

Waterfall / Helensburgh / Otford / Darkes Forest / Stanwell Tops / Stanwell Park / Coalcliff

Meet Our Contributors



Iris Huizinga migrated to Australia from The Netherlands, where she was a screenwriter. She graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. Since 2009 she has been involved in the local area as a volunteer at the surf club and later with the local fire brigade. After a stint in New Zealand she returned with her family to the 2508 area in January 2020, because she missed the raucous cockatoos, the big eucalyptus trees and the ocean.



Ian Pepper has a long and distinguished career as a finance and real estate professional. Originally trained as a Chartered Accountant in 1995, Ian worked in Sydney and London. He has an MBA from Macquarie Graduate School of Management and now sells real estate with Ray White Helensburgh. Ian also volunteers with local community groups including school P&Cs, sporting clubs and business chambers.



Duncan Leadbitter is a director of fisheries and natural resource consulting company, Fish Matter, which advises industry, government and NGOs on the sustainable use of fish. Most of Duncan's work is in based in Asia. He is a Visiting Fellow at the Australian Centre for Ocean Resources and Security at the University of Wollongong. A keen scuba diver, snorkeller, spearfisherman and photographer, Duncan has lived in Stanwell Park for 20 years.



Dr Chris Reid lives in Helensburgh and works in the Australian Museum in Sydney 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".



Marilyn House is a bush regenerator and horticulturist. She moved to Helensburgh in 1973. In 1993, Marilyn, along with her husband Allan, started the Helensburgh & District Landcare Group. Marilyn believes everyone has a responsibility to become aware of exactly what they have growing in their gardens, and to remove any problem plants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The publishers acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their cultural and spiritual connection to this land. Their stories are written in the land and hold great significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, from the mountains to the sea.

Changes ahead

For many local small business owners, 2021 has been the toughest year so far. And that's also true for the team behind 2508 District News magazine.

That our community news mag has continued to publish every month through two gruelling years of Covid – years in which News Ltd shut down more than 100 newspapers around the country – is something of a small, independent miracle.

But another serious Covid-related challenge has emerged: a paper price crisis.

Driven by a perfect storm of circumstances – from supply shortages to shipping costs to import taxes – the cost of paper is set to soar in December, increasing by up to 40%.

For some, it will be the breaking point.

For us, the solution has to be change on multiple fronts, not simply a hike in advertising rates. To make this community news service sustainable, instead of writing about other people's Covid pivots, we will have to perform one ourselves. So next month, please look out for 2508 District News reinvented.

Luckily, being journalists who began our careers in a time before the internet, we're experienced pivoters. But we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Write to us at editor@2508mag.com.au if you'd like to have a say in the future of local news.

Change will come, but our high-quality content will stay, and we'll still deliver monthly to more than 10,000 letterboxes, from Waterfall to Bulli.

Have a safe and merry Christmas. See you all in 2022.

Happy reading,
Gen and Marcus, the editors



EDITORS Genevieve Swart, Marcus Craft

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NEXT DEADLINE December 10, 2021

COVER 48 Parkes Street, the Helensburgh home lighting up every Christmas since the 80s. Photo: Anthony Warry

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**NEXT
DEADLINE**
Dec 10
for the Jan
edition



OUR DOCTORS:

- Dr Cindy Htet (Mon, Tues, Friday)
- Dr Martin Gellatley (Mon, Tues, Friday)
- Dr Meng Chen (Thursday)
- Dr Sally Mon (Monday-Friday)
- Dr Taras Kusyik (Mon, Wed, Friday)
- Dr Victor Koleda (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Starting January 2022
- Dr Akash Thakkar (Tues, Thursday)
- Dietitian Rachel Watson (Friday)

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- Health Assessments

Welcome to the team

Dr Sally Mon

has a variety of experience in both emergency and general practice settings. She is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). She also has a certificate from Sydney Child Health Program. She is particularly interested in women's and children's health.

Dr Taras Kusyik

is currently extending his skills in skin cancer medicine. He worked for many years at St George Hospital, Wollongong Hospital and Sutherland Hospital as a surgical registrar before joining the general practice. His main interests are preventive medicine, dermatology/skin cancer and mental health.

Dr Akash Thakkar

graduated with an MBBS from the University of Western Sydney in 2012 and is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. He enjoys all aspects of general practice, and has completed a Diploma in Dermatology, and a Professional Certificate in Skin Cancer and Aesthetic Medicine.

Dr Victor Koleda

is a Sydney University graduate. He is an experienced GP who has worked in Australia and the UK. He is interested in general medicine, chronic disease management and women's health. He will start working four days a week from January 2022.



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Ha, ha, ha!

It's off to work we go

In Thirroul and Helensburgh, Iris Huizinga found two very popular figures.



Spot Santa!
Photos supplied



The 'Real Santa' of Thirroul

Steven Valentine began his Santa journey 25 years ago and is now branching out as the jolly red man for the community of Thirroul. Steven has a deep baritone voice, and for this interview he stayed in character most of the time. He spoke of how hot it is in Australia, about living at the North Pole, and also informed us he wears his Santa suit morning, noon and night. There were a lot of little ones around. This might have influenced his answers.

Do you see yourself as a Santa Claus?

Steven: I'm at Tahnee Social, where the real Santa is. My name is Steven Valentine and I'm 65. I have been performing the Santa role for family and friends for many years. I was a surfing Santa in thongs and once I was the wake-up-Santa-because-he-has-missed-Christmas Santa, where I was pretending to be sound asleep in the bedroom and kids had to wake me up. I was fully dressed in my Santa suit, of course.

Do you ask a child if they've been naughty?

Steven: There are no naughty children.

How do children react to you?

Steven: Children have asked me how I keep my beard so white. I tell them I put it in the washing machine. Or they want me to bring a motorbike to them and I say to them, how am I going to fit the motorbike in the sack? And down the chimney?

Tips for other Santas?

Be friendly and nice. For the photos: I can't smile because you can't see my face. So I just do the eyes. Check out @thirroulsantaphotos on Instagram.

'To be Santa you have to be yourself'

Helensburgh's Peter Burke volunteers at the surf club in Stanwell Park. This year is his fourth Christmas in the red-and-white "uniform".

Do you see yourself as a Santa Claus?

Peter: No. I am the smallest skinniest Santa you've ever seen, but nothing that a pillow can't fix. A lot of pillows.

How do children react to you?

Peter: You get some funny reactions. Once a young girl came up to me: "Santa, this is not for me, but this is for my dad. He needs a caravan. Can you get him a caravan?" And I go: "Uh, I'll see what I can do."

Do you ask children if they've been naughty?

Peter: I never ask them that. I'm assuming they're all good. The kids usually come with their list of presents. It's fun. It keeps you on your toes too as I'm not always up to date with what the toy actually is. Except the one time, when a little boy wanted a war tank. War history is a hobby of mine. So we had a whole conversation. He wanted a [old Soviet tank] T-35. I suggested the T-62. We had a little discussion while everybody else was queuing up. In the end someone said: "The kid wants a tank, just get the kid a tank. Let's move on."

Do you have any tips for first time Santas?

Peter: Just be yourself. To be Santa you have to be yourself. And stay on your toes because you get some strange questions. I received a letter [about an advent calendar] in which a boy asked: "Dear Santa, did you eat my 25th Chocolate?" **2508**

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Christmas Office Hours

Close: Thursday 23rd December

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Enjoy your Christmas break &
we will see you in the New Year!

Julie York

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rh.com.au/helensburgh

Make merry

Gifts, games and a wholefood treat – that's Christmas Day sorted!

For the Cook

During lockdown Illawarra artist Jaqueline Burgess found creative ideas in nature. The vivid colours of the Australian landscape have inspired her new 2022 textile range of tablecloths, aprons and tea towels. Jaqueline's new textiles have been printed on 100% Australian cotton and feature eucalypts, coastal foliage and the stunning flowers of a coral gum, as well as playful depictions of beach days. Find her work at the Sketch cafes in Coledale and Towradgi, or www.jacquelineburgess.com

For the Toasts

Our local orchard makes some of the best cider in the world! That's official – at the 2021 World Cider Awards, Glenburnie won gold medals for Darkes Howler Cider and Darkes Perry, a silver for their Dry Cider and capped it off with the title of 'World's Best Sparkling Perry'. Shop online with free local delivery at www.darkes.com.au/

For the Driver

Treat your car to a makeover with Mothers Scratch Remover, \$27, limited stock at Switched On Mechanical & Switched On Tyres, Unit 10, 21 Cemetery Road, Helensburgh, www.switchedonmechanical.com.au

For the Kids

Try Finska, the Finnish log-throwing game (\$75 at Thirroul Collective) or the new Wollongong Monopoly board game. It features Symbio Wildlife Park and Sea Cliff Bridge in the prestigious Dark Blue spots (\$59.99 at toy stores). **2508**



Treat time

By Stephanie Meades, functional nutritionist at Thirroul's Life Wellness Co.

This is by far the most requested Christmas recipe in our wholefood catalogue. Every year we receive countless requests to publish this recipe as it is such a winner for young and old.

What I love most about this wholefood version of White Christmas is that it is full of healthy nuts, coconut and goji berries which leaves you feeling joyously satisfied and your blood sugar levels stable compared to consuming copious amounts of icing sugar, rice bubbles and candy which can lead to the dreaded blood sugar dive so common on Christmas Day. Give it a try, we guarantee you won't be disappointed.

Wholefood White Xmas

Makes 20 mini muffins

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup almonds
- 1/3 cup macadamia nuts
- 1 cup pistachio nuts (shelled)
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1/3 cup goji berries
- 200g coconut oil (melted)
- 250g organic white chocolate
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

Method:

1. Line a square cake tin with baking paper and set aside.
2. Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large mixing bowl.
3. Melt the white chocolate over low heat on the stove until smooth and creamy and then pour over the dry ingredients.
4. Add melted coconut oil and vanilla extract to the bowl and mix well to combine.
5. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin and press down firmly with the back of a spoon to ensure even distribution of mixture.
6. Pop in the freezer to set.
7. Once set, cut roughly into bite-size pieces. Enjoy! **2508**

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The write stuff

Curl up with coffee and a good book!

Explore local history

Delve into the past thanks to the series of local histories published by Helensburgh and District Historical Society. Two new titles are *The Decade After World War II*, by society vice-president Dr Lorraine Jones and *Timber Rolled Out and Money Rolled In: The Story of James Foster*, by Pam Hesse and Janet Lee. Booklets \$15 each (plus postage), shop at www.historichelensburgh.org.au or ring Jan on 0418 681 384.

Find gifts for everyone

Collins Booksellers Thirroul has a vast array of books, stationery, and gifts for all ages and price ranges. Just arrived is a selection of new and exciting games, as well as the latest releases in every genre. The staff always pay special attention to the Children's Section – ask them for help to find exactly what you need.

Support the Writers Centre

The South Coast Writers Centre has a curated anthology of creative writing by local South Coast writers coming out soon, and they love the design so much they just had to put it everywhere! Buy Christmas presents for your writerly friends, or get yourself the perfect coffee mug with gorgeous art, then come to the anthology launch in January. Find out more from southcoastwriters.org

Discover the South Coaster set

During the depths of lockdown, the publishers at 2508 and the makers at Lulu Ceramics came up with a creative collaboration. So, just in time for summer, comes the *South Coaster* guidebook and cup set.

Lulu Ceramics is a small family business based in Helensburgh. The talented makers are Lucy Lee and Rod Armistead, a husband-and-wife team who use hand-building and wheel-thrown techniques to create sculptural forms and functional items (look out for their regular stall at Coledale Markets).

Inspired by the colour of ocean rockpools, Lucy and Rod delivered beautiful *South Coaster* cups to complement the insiders' guide to our beautiful backyard.

Published by the 2508 team, and covering the region from the Royal National Park to Eden itself, the *South Coaster* is illustrated by fabulous photography, fine art and unique watercolour village maps. All the writers – 2508 readers will recognise many regulars – are experts in their field, generously sharing their local knowledge so you can explore all the best places to bush walk, trail run, swim, surf, snorkel, paddleboard, cycle, watch whales, pick fresh fruit and go hanggliding!

The *South Coaster* guidebook represents the 'best of' stories published over the past decade in 2508 *District News* and 2515 *Coast News*, and all proceeds will go back into producing independent local news. The set is \$50, with free local delivery, go to www.southcoaster.com.au/shop **2508**







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Lights and letters

Write to Santa: Santa loves to read and is a good friend to the library, so this year the librarians have agreed to gather letters to Santa from all of the lovely girls and boys of Helensburgh. The library will be accepting Santa letters until December 10th. The letters will be passed on to Santa and even though he is very busy, he will do his best to reply to all letters!

See the lights: Start in the north and check out the amazing display at 48 Parkes St, Helensburgh, then plan your drive by checking out the action in the "Christmas Light Displays in the Illawarra" Facebook group. **2508**



Postcard from the past

Thanks to local studies librarian Jo Oliver for finding this fabulous postcard of Stanwell Park in the Wollongong archives. It was sent more than a century ago – in 1912. **2508**

Photo: Wollongong City Libraries Illawarra Images

What's on

3-4 DEC Helensburgh Girl Guides Christmas Tree Sale Buy a real tree on Friday, 3 December (2-8.30pm) and Saturday, 4th (8am until sold out). 6ft trees from \$75, cash only. Helensburgh Girl Guides Hall, 4 Chippendale Place.

4 DEC Wollongong City Council Elections Voting is compulsory if you live in the Wollongong Local Government Area. Pre-poll voting will be from 22 Nov to 3 Dec. Voting is for Lord Mayor and the 4 Councillors for Ward 1. Visit elections.nsw.gov.au

4 DEC Biker's Toy Run The Toy Run features a convoy of riders from motorcycle clubs of the Illawarra who round up and deliver gift donations as they ride from Shellharbour to Crown Street Mall Wollongong. Donate gifts for kids to the City of Wollongong Giving Tree until Dec 4, or give online via Vinnies and Anglicare. More info on Council's 'Christmas in Wollongong' web page.

8-9 DEC Timbermill Extravaganza Open studio weekend showcasing the resident artists' works, free, 10am-5pm at Bulli's Timbermill Studios

12 DEC Austi Village Carols in the Carpark This year, due to Covid, Austi Anglican Church is having Carols in the Carpark (from 6pm, 49 Moore St) rather than by the Sea. They hope to be back on the beach for Carols by the Sea in 2022.

14 DEC Gingerbread Fun 4-5.30pm. Get your family together and have some Christmassy gingerbread fun at Thirroul Library. Bookings essential via Eventbrite. The library is open to fully vaccinated community members. Regular programs are unavailable but will resume in the new year.

16 DEC Need a Feed Christmas Party Each year this awesome local charity holds a party for people in need of food and connection. 9-11am, at McCabe Park. Want to help? Email shaz@needafeed.org

18 DEC WorkLife Coledale Christmas Market 10am-4pm, with everything from wreaths to ceramics, fine jewellery and local artisan wares.

18 DEC Santa Fire Truck Run Courtesy of Station 325 Fire + Rescue NSW, Santa will be riding around in his big red truck, delivering lollies to children lining the streets of Helensburgh and Stanwell Tops, follow @2508mag for more route details in December

18 DEC Combined Carols in the Burgh 6-9pm, carols start from 7.30pm at Helensburgh park, corner Park Ave and Blackwell St (behind Tradies).

22 DEC Xmas Twilight Market 2-8pm, find unique gifts, art and craft in the grounds of Coledale Public School, 699 Lawrence Hargrave Drive. **2508**



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Equilibrium Healthcare turns **3** this month.

We are very proud of our extensive team which has grown throughout the pandemic to help care for our local community. It has been an intense few years for everyone, and our front line staff and healthcare providers have stepped up to the increased demands of healthcare provision tirelessly. A special shoutout to our Practice Manager **Rebecca** and Lead Nurse **Kelly** who have been the backbone of our team. Your constant care and dedication to our team and our community is much appreciated by us all.

We would like to thank our community for coming forward and getting vaccinated. In doing this you have not just protected yourselves but also protected your community and us from disease. Thanks for being patient and kind in the face of adversity. We really do appreciate it.

**We wish everyone a Peaceful Holiday Season
and a Healthy and Rewarding 2022.**

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'As soon as Halloween is over, my tree is up!'

Iris Huizinga takes decorating advice from a professional

Kristy Theodore has turned her passion for decorating Christmas trees into a full-time job as a Christmas tree stylist.

I met the enthusiastic decorator at Tahnee Social in Thirroul, where she had just put the finishing touches on a splendid tree. Kristy describes herself as "Christmas-obsessed": each room in her Campbelltown house has a Christmas tree. The living room and the lounge room have the big ones, and the children each have a tree in their room. Kristy's youngest child has a pink version with unicorns and ballerinas.

When do you start decorating?

Kristy: As soon as Halloween is over, my tree is up. Once I have the tree up, I can start shopping. If I see anything, I can just add it onto the tree.

My main tree has the traditional colours, a very buffalo-check, USA-inspired tree. The tree in my dining area has a snow Wonderland theme. It's very Arctic. It has woodland animals everywhere. My kids love it.

For this tree [at Tahnee Social] I picked out these gold-like ornaments, because it matches the gorgeous vintage couch. I wanted that old gold to pop through in sections of the tree. For the rest of the tree I stuck with whites and champagne.

It's important to have a lot of different texture. So we've got our fur, glass, plastic, chrome, glitter, pearls. A lot of texture creates a lot of interest in a tree.

What kind of tree do you recommend, artificial or real?

Kristy: Definitely artificial. With an artificial tree, once it's up, it's up. It will not drop any leaves. You can manoeuvre the branches and you can fluff an artificial tree. When a tree is fresh, the pine smell is amazing but after a while the branches on the inside start to rot away. You can't keep it up as long.

How do you fluff a tree?

Kristy: Fluffing it up means you're spreading each branch in pretty much all different directions to make it look as full and fluffy as possible. That way it looks more luxurious, not as cheap. These trees don't have to be super expensive. They can be cheap trees, but the way you fluff them will make them look nice and full.

What are the trends for Christmas trees this year?

Kristy: I'm doing a few rose blush trees this year, so

am excited about them. Traditional is coming back. For a while everyone was really obsessed with the champagnes, the whites and the rose gold. There's also a theme called peppermint Christmas, which is red and white on a completely snowflake tree, which is gorgeous. It has candy canes and big lollipops, a lot of red and white stripes.

What do you do with all the kids' arts and crafts that don't match the theme?

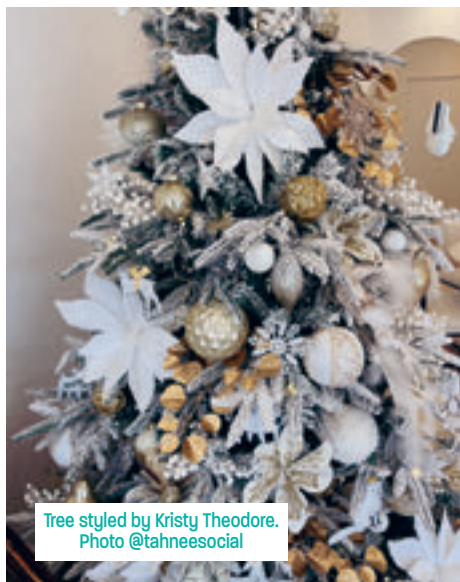
Kristy: My kids want to put them at the front of the tree, but I put them at the back. I ask people if they want to see the kids ornaments and take them to the back of the tree. My kids understand, they know that mum is Christmas crazy.

With a family, it's important to make the tree look fun. So in my house, I've added many stuffed animals that aren't even real ornaments.

Kids can make things out of wood or leaves and you can incorporate that into a Woodland theme. Or use clear plastic baubles and let them fill it up with whatever they want.

If you have small children or pets, there are little picket fences available to put around the tree. They act like a barrier and are actually really cute. **2508**

Find Kristy on Instagram @Thechristmasedit_



Tree styled by Kristy Theodore.
Photo @tahneesocial

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a grey and white plaid blazer over a light blue shirt, stands in a wooded area with trees in the background. He is smiling and looking off to the side.

Let's get Real Estate

Meet your local real estate professional

Mattias Samuelsson is the owner & Director of Ray White Helensburgh. He has sold 50 properties during 2021 and holds the current record sale prices in 4 different suburbs including the highest ever sale in the Northern Illawarra.

What made you choose a career in Real Estate?

I grew up immersed in the real estate industry as my grandfather, Ken McCarthy, opened Helensburgh Real Estate back in 1972 and it was a prominent part of our family life. I've always naturally been drawn to people and when I first started in the industry 15 years ago, it just felt right. I took a break to travel the world, complete a business degree and explore other industries to get a better grounding, but real estate was always my passion. Since re-joining the industry in 2014 I have loved every minute of it... almost every minute.

What do you enjoy most about the industry?

There is a true sense of personal satisfaction in helping someone successfully navigate what is often a difficult and emotional event in their lives. I've had clients crying happy tears when I've helped them buy or sell their family home and people tell me that I've achieved something that will have a huge positive impact on their family's future. These moments mean more to me than anything.

What has been the key to your success in the industry?

The real estate industry has always had a negative image in the public eye and my goal since starting has been to change that perception. I believe that putting my client and the local community's needs before all else has helped me get to where I am today and achieve the record results that I have. 90% of the business I receive these days comes from referrals by very happy clients.

What advice would you give someone wanting to pursue a career in Real Estate?

Be prepared to make a lot of sacrifices. Most people looking in from the outside don't understand how demanding the real estate industry is and I've seen a lot of agents come and go during my time in this industry. You have to be 110% committed to really make it. I'm just lucky that I genuinely enjoy people and doing what I do every day, so this commitment has been a pleasure.

To contact Mattias Samuelsson call 0466 627 226



Santa Claus is coming to town!

By Roslyn Thomas, captain of 325 Station Helensburgh

Just letting all the girls and boys know (young and old) that Santa will be coming around Helensburgh and Stanwell Tops on Saturday, the 18th of December 2021.

Fire + Rescue 325 Station's Fire Engine will depart around 9am from the Fire Station in Walker St handing out pre-packed lollies.

We ask that you all observe our safety requirements in the process of our Lolly Run. By that we mean, stay on the footpath on the left hand side of the Fire Engine, which is the side Santa will be on. We will also have Warwick Erwin's safety van with flashing lights to remind other vehicles of oncoming danger, similar to your local School Buses.

Please do not chase after the Fire Engine to try and get more lollies as you will be disappointed in this venture. We only give out lollies to the children who stand still and who are on the footpaths. There will be plenty of lollies and no one will miss out if you do the right thing.

We would like to thank Kirrily Sloane for organising the lolly donations from The Tradies, and to our Local Lions Club who have been long-time sponsors of the Santa Run.

We hope you all have a very happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Be fire-safe over the coming holiday period.

Season's greetings to you all, from Station 325 Fire + Rescue NSW. **2508**

Want to track Santa's every move? Keep an eye on our website and social media for route updates in December

Alisa's Lights launches

By Iris Huizinga

After living in Helensburgh for 14 years, Alisa and Daniel Nesevski are opening a light shop on the site of the old newsagency in Parkes Street.

This pair, married 19 years, are active in the community. Alisa volunteers in Helensburgh with Northern Illawarra Neighbour Aid (NINA), while Daniel sponsors the Helensburgh Tigers as well as his touch footy team, "The Grubs". He is also a volunteer with Darkes Forest Rural Fire Brigade.

Alisa will put her customer-service experience to good use running "Alisa's Lights", where locals can find quality and well-priced downlights, fans, outdoor lights, pendants, and globes. Daniel, an electrician for 27 years, heads up the technical side of the business.

The husband-and-wife team can source specific product requests and also arrange installations.

Daniel: "Light fixtures and fans are a cheap way to really spruce up your home, as well as a lick of paint. We have most lights that are on-trend. We sell what we have in our own house."

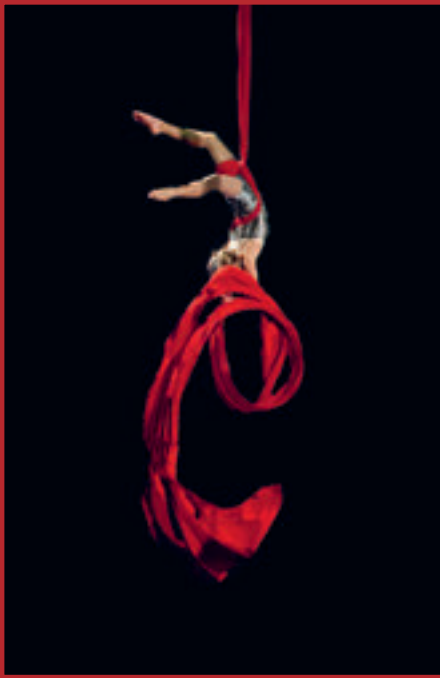
Alisa: "If your lights need to be upgraded to LED lights, we have all LED lights. They are more energy efficient and last 10 years."

Daniel: "Technology is moving so rapidly. It is evolving all the time. I'm on top of it. I do the research and I like to offer my customers not what's happening, but what's coming up. So instead of offering my customer something that's just generic, I offer what's next. I do audio-visual installations and smart houses as well.

"If it has a wire, and even if it doesn't have a wire, we do it. DAE [Daniel's electrician business] does it. Anything we don't do, we can facilitate."

Alisa's Lights is at 123-127 Parkes Street, unit 6-7. Contact Alisa on 0410 946 776; Daniel on 0451 657 928. Facebook @DAEelectrical. **2508**





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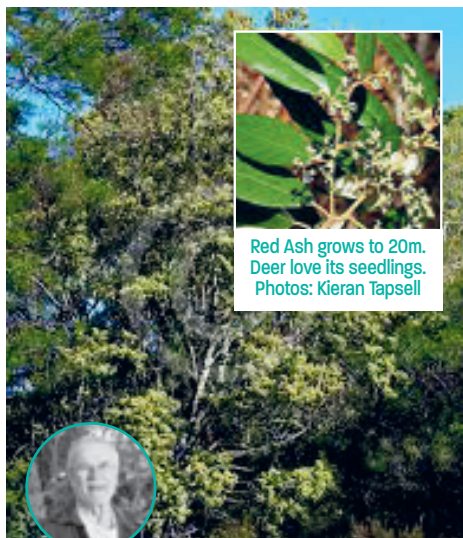
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BANKSIA BUSH CARE'S Tree of the Month

By Kieran Tapsell

Alphitonia excelsa (Red Ash)

Red Ash occurs throughout the Illawarra on the lower parts of the escarpment and on the coastal plain. It can grow to 20 metres, and there are two good examples of it on both sides at the bottom of the track from Stanwell Avenue to the Kiosk. There is another large example on the flat area south-west of the Kiosk.

A distinctive feature of the tree is the dark green upper surface of the leaf and the white under surface. There are often holes in the leaves, probably caused by insects. The tree has light grey, furrowed bark.

There do not seem to be any young examples of the tree in the bush care site outside the deer fence, and they are starting to come up within it. Farmers use its leaves for fodder, and so it is not surprising that as soon as a seed sprout outside the deer fence, the deer eat the seedlings. A small one has recently started growing in the Reserve circle, and to save it from being eaten, we have put a mesh cage around it. There are some 20 in total in the Reserve, with about 10 planted or naturally regenerating within the deer fence area.

New labels at Banksia Bush Care

Our main purpose is to regenerate and maintain the littoral rainforest but another aim is to educate the community about this coastal environment, which the Commonwealth government has classified as "critically endangered." We have published a Guide, available for download, free of charge at www.southcoaster.com.au/discover-a-bush-art-gallery

Another way of educating the community about the littoral rainforest is by providing labels along the walking tracks for the 73 tree species.

A few years ago, Natasha Watson from Ripples Print and Design at Otford (0414 919 634, www.ripplesprinting.com.au) kindly donated some 200 tree labels, and she has just provided us with another 300. These have been printed on old plastic vertical blinds that have been cut up and, after printing, tied onto the trees with elastic cord to allow for the expansion of the tree trunk. **2508**

Be Weed Wise

By Helensburgh Landcare's Merilyn House

It is just over 12 months ago that I first became aware of Coolatai grass, *Hyparrhenia hirta*. My daughter asked me if the grass growing below the netball courts on the bike track was Coolatai grass. I took photos and asked the Illawarra District Weeds Authority (IDWA). Unfortunately, it was. I later found out that it was already growing in the old rubbish tip area and the IDWA had been spraying it with herbicide once a year.

Unfortunately, once a year spraying is not going to remove it. The Helensburgh Off Road Cycle Club has had a few working bees to try to tackle the problem.

Coolatai grass is a long-lived perennial that produces short rhizomes that form dense grass tussocks and grow to 1.5m. Being drought

tolerant, it can rapidly respond to rain, producing new culms from the tussock base and flowering in a matter of weeks. It is well adapted to fire, with tussocks surviving hot burns.

I believe it has been spread into Helensburgh by trucks and machinery. I have noticed it growing along the roadside in Walker Street, opposite Cemetery Road. Unfortunately, it was disturbed during the 2021 re-surfacing of the top part of Walker Street.

If you see Coolatai grass on your property, remove it before it flowers and sets seed. You could also report it to Dave Pomery at dpomery@isjo.org.au **2508**

More info: weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/179



Heathcote Community Update

A letter from Lee Evans – your State MP

Dear Residents,
In years to come we will look back and lament on the 2019/2020/ 2021 years of our lives.

With vaccination rates hitting targets our community are enjoying more and more freedoms however we all need to be vigilant to stay safe in our own personal space.

I thank our community for your sacrifices during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic – brighter times are upon us. You will find a brochure in your letterboxes outlining how the NSW Government's Recovery Plan will support its citizens.

As Christmas approaches we

come together as a community with friends and loved ones to celebrate the season and with thoughts on those who have suffered during this stressful time. As a community I urge you to reach out to those who may not have somewhere to go this Christmas. Whether it be a neighbour or a friend who will be alone help to make their Christmas a special one.

Many of our local charities have been stretched to the limit through these difficult times and I know those who can afford it will make a donation to show how much these organisations mean to all of us. I know it will be greatly appreciated.



2021 was another year that has tested us all so please take time to relax and re-charge your batteries. I'm sure 2022 will be a better year.

To everyone I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy and prodigious New Year.

Lee Evans, Member for Heathcote

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Beetling About

With Helensburgh entomologist Dr Chris Reid

*Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat
Please put a penny in the old man's hat
If you haven't got a penny a ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you*



Yes, Christmas is coming. I used to sing that with my brother at the doors of our neighbours in Yorkshire. It seems like a million years ago in terms of the technological change that has happened since. The reason for this reminiscence is that I was recently asked by an eight-year-old for help with studying and collecting insects.

My own eight-year-old self was inspired by museum displays and my grandfather's books. I set up an elaborate 'real-life' display in an old fish tank with carefully arranged and labelled dead insects on sticks and soil and some dried leaves and moss. It was in my bedroom. Everything went mouldy, of course, and got thrown out.

Maybe what I'm saying is – if you are keen on making an insect collection, do some homework!

The most significant change since I was eight is the internet. It is the great leveller – information is available to everybody who has access to it, from the home. Back to that later. But to make a collection you still need the same sorts of materials that have been used for the last 200 years. A net, a killing jar or liquid (or a 'modern' invention, the freezer), some mounting boards, some good quality pins that don't rust, sealed boxes that keep insect pests out, a basic microscope or mounted strong lens, good quality paper for labels and a room with low humidity. The oldest insects curated like this in Australia are about 250 years old, in the Macleay Collection in Sydney University. So, if

properly prepared, they keep well. Much as perfectly preserved flesh-eating beetles have been found in mummy wrappings in Egypt.

There are numerous sites on the internet providing advice about insect collecting.

For some reason, I like the one I was involved in making, so here it is: www.discoverlife.org/png/collecting_insects.html. It was written for PNG students but works just as well for here.

But nowadays it is just as easy and useful to make an online collection of insect photographs, which experts from around the world can identify for you. The Chew family in Brisbane were pioneers in this field (www.brisbaneinsects.com) but such sites have to be set up individually and noticed. Now there is a worldwide forum for insect photographs and identification on iNaturalist.

I'm involved in a project on iNaturalist to record as many observations of Christmas Beetles as possible, so that we can start to get a handle on the decline of this beetle. Interestingly, by far the most commonly recorded species is an introduced one from South America, the Argentine Lawn scarab. This project is based on the Australian Museum's Christmas Beetle ID app (download it on the App Store or Google Play).

I invite you to contribute! Have a great holiday break. **2508**

For general insect enquiries, visit australianmuseum.net.au/learn/species-identification/
Email questions for Chris to editor@2508mag.com.au

The Christmas Beetle ID app. Photos: Mike Burleigh





Give the magic of meerkats

By Symbio's Kevin Fallon

What do you buy for the child over eight who has everything? A Meerkat Experience, of course.

These cheeky characters – who originally hail from southern Africa's Kalahari Desert – soared to global superstar status thanks to the hit show *Meerkat Manor*, which showcased their amazing antics and diverse social life.

Our Meerkat Behind-The-Scenes Experience is one of the most popular at Symbio as it is very interactive – expect the meerkat family to climb all over you while you feed them by hand!

With Christmas just around the corner, there's no better way to make that special someone smile from ear to ear than getting them one of our behind-the-scenes experience here at Symbio.

You can also book Symbio Experiences with red pandas, dingoes, koalas and more!

Or buy an annual pass so you can pop in and meet our animals and enjoy our Splash Park and Adventure playground at any time.

For more information, visit symbiozoo.com.au/behind-the-scenes-animal-encounters/ **2508**

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'My version of home schooling'

Darren Coggan recorded an EP with his daughter Olivia during the 2021 lockdown



Darren and Olivia Coggan in the family studio. Photo: Chloe Isaac

Our long winter lockdown has led to an uplifting summer EP, a collection of seven songs celebrating family, love, hope and home.

Helensburgh singer-songwriter Darren Coggan recorded the EP, called *Dear August*, with his 17-year-old daughter Olivia.

Darren has had a stellar career in country music, performed sell-out shows of *Peace Train – The Cat Stevens Story* around the world and is now presenting lifestyle TV show *Sydney Weekender*. Olivia is a promising young singer-songwriter.

Darren kindly took time to tell us more.

How did the father/daughter collaboration start?

This EP, *Dear August*, was a result of us tying to stay positive and productive during lockdown. It was something to look forward to each day, singing songs and playing music – I guess it was my version of 'Home Schooling'.

The recording started out as a way of archiving the songs that we have sung together over the years at family gatherings and sing-a-longs. As we began recording in my home studio, it all started feeling quite special, so I sent what we had captured to my great friend and incredible musician/producer, Ben Edgar, who has worked with artists like Missy Higgins. Ben loved what we were doing and offered to contribute some further instrumentation.

When we heard the finished mixes we were blown away and I remember saying to Olivia, "I think we should release this for real."

It all came from such a beautiful place and had a real warmth and sense of positivity to it.

It is undoubtedly the recording I am most proud of in my career.

Some of the songs we have been singing since Olivia was in kindy. In fact, there is a bonus track on the EP of a recording of Olivia and I singing the Kasey and Bill Chambers song *Dad Do You Remember?* when Olivia was eight years old; it's pretty cute.

Kasey Chambers and all of the Chambers clan have been very dear friends of mine for almost 30 years. They were instrumental in kick-starting my career. Our favourite Kasey Chambers song is *This Flower* from her massive debut album, *The Captain*.

This was the first song that we recorded for this EP and I sent our version to Kasey to have a listen. Next thing I know she sends me back the track with her entire band playing along and herself singing a harmony to Olivia's vocal. It was incredible and so typical of the person she is, always so giving and encouraging of her friends.

I'll never forget the look on Olivia's face when she heard it, the joy that radiated was palpable.

Best part about working with your daughter?

I just absolutely love singing with Olivia, there is something magical when you hear 'blood' harmonies singing together.

The seven songs on the EP are all very uplifting. Olivia found the title track song, *Dear August*, and when I heard her sing it, I was completely moved by the lyrics and the vulnerability in Olivia's voice. It's like a prayer for hope ... *Dear August, tell me that there's light at the end of all these starless nights.*

How do you feel about your children following in your footsteps?

Both of our kids, Olivia, and her older brother Gabe, have grown up being backstage in the theatres at my concerts since they were babies and I have often welcomed Olivia on stage to sing a song with me during my shows. Since the release of our first single, *Dear August*, Olivia has received some high praise. It's a very exciting time.

Gabe is in his second year at AFTRS (Australian Film & Television Radio School) studying cinematography. Gabe is going to be shooting our first film clip for the single *Dear August* very soon.

My wife and I are incredibly proud of Olivia and Gabe, they are both extremely creative. **2508**

'Dear August' is available via Spotify and Apple Music; the CD can be bought at www.darrencoggan.com





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9 Walker Street, Helensburgh

Make Hay While the Sun Shines

It's a good lead-up to Christmas with a drive of sales and people keen to move into their new homes prior to Christmas. Right throughout the market from the cheapest properties to the dearest, there is incredible sales activity and prices. But of course, everyone always asks "How long will this continue?" That question has been asked of me by so many people since APRA tightened lending restrictions for buyers and we see the banks starting to raise their interest rates. Interest rates are so aligned to the real estate market. Having been through many real estate cycles, there are a host of signals flashing strongly at present.

So if you are a person thinking of selling, I am saying to all of my clients "make hay while the sun shines".

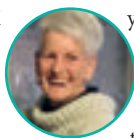
Artists of the Illawarra

Painter Edith McNally introduces Helensburgh pastor-turned-painter Mike Pearson

Mike Pearson was born in Southampton, UK and as a young boy remembers drawing everyday. His Dad would bring reams of old-style computer paper with perforated edges and Mike would fill it with sketches. He went on to study art at college, but for reasons that can only be put down to “the wisdom of youth” he just put it all aside and hardly picked up a paintbrush for 30 years.

He became a pastor for most of his adult life, firstly in the UK and then here in Australia. He and his family emigrated from England in 2010 when Mike moved from church-based pastoring to becoming a chaplain in an aged care residential village in Miranda. He loves working with the elderly. Each one has an amazing story based on lives filled with an enormous variety of experiences and joys, challenges, achievements and inevitably sadness. Mike says his work has given him the great privilege of being part of their lives.

He restarted drawing and painting a couple of



years ago after a personal crisis. He is gradually rediscovering a part of himself that had been neglected for far too long. “There is something very healing about allowing yourself to be creative and telling that harsh inner critic to keep quiet,” he says.

Mike moved to Helensburgh about two years ago and loves the country feel and the stunning coastline. He and his wife often walk their Cavoodle pup, Fearnley, around the town and on the beaches. He has just started the process of reinventing himself as a painter and is delighted and surprised when other people say how much they like what he has painted. Many of his paintings are coastal, often of the UK’s Dorset coast, but he is also having a go at local landscapes.

Mike is on Instagram @mikepearsonart. He is not painting to sell but welcomes enquiries, so feel free to contact him. **2508**

Want to be featured? Email mcnallyedith@gmail.com



Mike Pearson turned to painting after a crisis and found it “very healing”.



IAVA turns 10

By Ian Brown

The Illawarra Association for the Visual Arts (IAVA) is celebrating its 10-year anniversary with a member’s exhibition, at the beautiful and historic Clifton School of Arts from December 7-19.

There will be nearly 30 members involved in the exhibition titled *TEN*. IAVA artists are a diverse group of artists that spread from across the Illawarra and represent all the 2D and 3D art forms including painting, printmaking, and sculpture.

When visiting the IAVA website, you will find the tag “cultivating and promoting outstanding contemporary visual art”. The upcoming *Ten* Exhibition will truly highlight this philosophy.

IAVA is thrilled to be exhibiting at the Clifton School of Arts (CSA). The CSA has become a cultural hub of the northern suburbs. This will also be an ideal opportunity to view and acquire local artworks in the lead-up into Christmas. **2508**

TEN, 7-19 December at Clifton School of Arts, Tuesday to Sunday 10am-4pm. www.iavacontempart.org



Take a tour of the Men's Shed

By Paul Blanksby

DANGER, WILL ROBINSON! DANGER!
COVID-FREE ARTICLE!*

What a month for your Men's Shed. Members back into it, fulfilling commissions, building veggie gardens, installing a new workshop container, welcoming back our blokes, more happy customers and interesting projects. And new jokes.

Twelve of our men are now Full Bottle on First Aid & CPR, and it was great to have four community members on our course.

Pauline Millott was thrilled to receive her Bunya Pine side table, made from a reimagined wrought iron frame and a log rescued from landfill. We were also honoured to create Firey Donation Helmets for Darkes Forest RFS and complete a Pond Yacht restoration on a little boat made in the 1960s by a Pentridge Prison inmate for his warden's four-year old son, now one of our members.

Thank you to all our sponsors: Hope Church, Helensburgh Anglican, The Tops Conference Centre, Helensburgh Car Services, Razamataz Car Wash, Helensburgh Tyres, Raine & Horne, Tigers RLFC, New Start Building, Peabody Mine, Dave's Endless Concreting, Christian's Premium Meats and Heathcote Handyman Timbers.

We will finish our year with Shed Sale Saturdays on 4 and 11 December, 9am-1ish, with items for sale in time for Christmas, examples of projects underway, Shed Tours and a BBQ Sausage Sizzle.

For more information, visit helensburghmennshed.org.au or call Michael Croft on 0413 401 522; Ron Balderston on 0410 564 752; Paul Blanksby on 0403 701 788. 199A Parkes Street Helensburgh 9am-3pm, Monday and Tuesday.

* To fully appreciate this reference, search for "Danger, Will Robinson" on YouTube. **2508**



Shed Sale Saturdays

4th and 11th December 9am to 1pm
Come and meet the blokes, see what we do,
enjoy a sausage sizzle and drinks
and find a Christmas present.

199A Parkes Street Helensburgh

Dr Rip's Science of the Surf

Rob Brander shatters the Myth of the Collapsing Sand Bar

After I give one of my Science of the Surf community talks I often get asked a question along the lines of 'Why do sand bars collapse?' and I always give the same answer: 'They don't. The only way to collapse a sand bar is to use explosives!'

And it's true. Sand bars don't collapse. They are big piles of sand that are pretty solid and heavy and while they shift around in response to changing wave, current and tidal conditions, this takes days, weeks and even months. They never, ever, ever implode on themselves. Where are they going to 'collapse' to? It simply just doesn't happen. It's a big myth that can be traced back to the infamous 'Black Sunday' event at Bondi Beach in 1938.

February 6, 1938 was a beautiful day and according to eyewitness reports, everything was fine until three large waves approached the shore and broke. Soon after, a large number of swimmers suddenly found themselves out of their depth, being dragged into a deep channel and out to sea. In the next 30 minutes, 250 bathers required assistance from lifesavers, of which 35 were rescued unconscious and revived, while tragically five drowned. This event is still often reported as being caused by a collapsing sand bar, but that's not what happened.

The deep channel was likely a rip current channel and the larger waves were probably a wave set coming in. Waves in the ocean tend to



travel in groups (sets) of 3 to 10 bigger waves with lulls in between.

When the waves in the set at Bondi broke, the water level would have risen and swimmers standing on the sandbars near the rip would have lost their footing. It would have seemed to them as if the sandbar had suddenly dropped away, hence 'the collapsing sand bar'.

In reality, they would have been carried into the rip by the water draining sideways off the sand bars and taken quickly offshore by a rip 'pulse'. All rips have a nasty habit of suddenly increasing in speed for a short burst, usually after a wave set has broken because all that extra water coming in has to get back out and it basically pumps the rip and creates a 'pulse'.

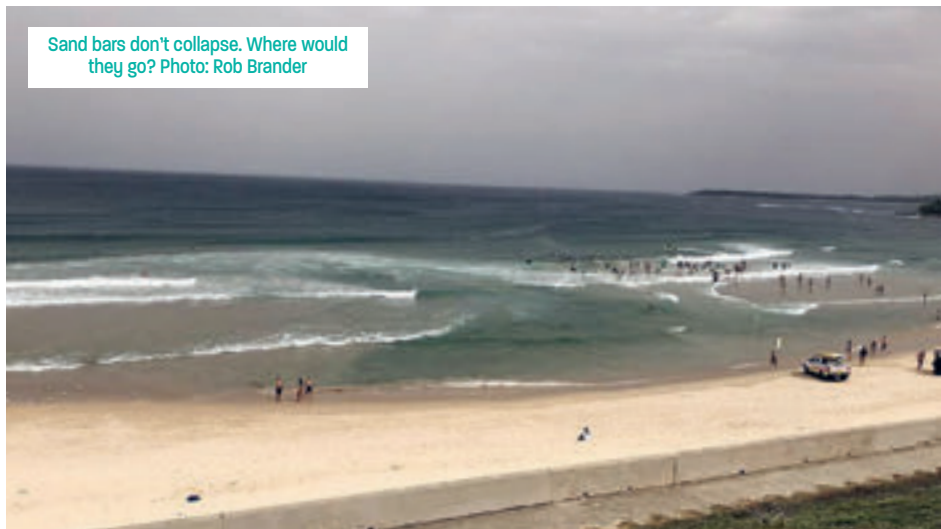
Locally, something similar happened in January 2011, when it was incorrectly reported that a 'dramatic sand bar collapse' resulted in a fatal drowning and a mass rescue of 25 swimmers at Stanwell Park. Again, the situation was most likely due to sudden large waves and a rip current. When a wave set, or even several large waves, breaks on a shallow sand bar, the water level rises and can create a short-lived flash rip heading offshore taking swimmers with it.

The sand bar? It didn't shift or collapse at all.

2508

Have a question for Dr Rip? Email rbrander@unsw.edu.au

Sand bars don't collapse. Where would they go? Photo: Rob Brander





The Paddock opened at Glenbernie Orchard in November. Photos: Sasha Faint



Introducing... 'The Paddock' by Earth Walker & Co

Jo Fahey reports from Darkes Glenbernie Orchard

We are beyond excited to introduce you to our new partnership!

We have teamed up with Earth Walker & Co to bring you 'The Paddock' – the perfect place to grab a bite to eat, sip a coffee or cider and enjoy the view!

We have chosen to collaborate with Earth Walker not only for their delicious (and gorgeous) food, but also because their values align very closely with ours – with a strong passion for local and sustainable products and produce.

We think you'll love the menu – there's something for everyone, including gluten free and vegan options! We work with the seasons everyday on our farm so we will reflect this in our foods and in the events we will run.

The Paddock will be open and serving from 8.30am-2pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Please join us in welcoming them to our team here at Glenbernie!

Orchard fun in December!

December is the month for picking stone fruit (peaches and nectarines). A really yummy explosion of flavour at this time of year! Bring along your camera and take some great photos – lots of families make it a yearly event! If it rains, just bring a raincoat and gumboots! The kids will love the experience!

Come early and have a bite to eat and a coffee or cider at 'The Paddock' before or after your booked picking experience.

Local Delivery

Unable to visit? Want to surprise someone with a gift of fruit or cider but can't get here to pick it up?

Order online from darkes.com.au for delivery Sutherland Shire to Shellharbour.

Dining

The Paddock, open 8.30am-2pm, Fri/Sat/Sun.

For booking or enquiries, go to darkes.com.au



Hello Indigo Designs

The Walker Street store is home to a creative trio, writes Caitlin Sloan



Three businesses with creative flair have teamed up to open an interior decor and furniture store called Indigo Designs Co in Helensburgh.

The collective comprises florist Kristy Mitchell of OK Posy Co; artist Amanda Skye Mulder; and the Ayres clan of PCA Traditional Furniture and Building.

Amanda said the name alludes to their shared creative streak: “The colour indigo is believed to stimulate the creative side of your brain and since our space is heavily influenced by creativity it made sense.”

The original plan was to open in July, but lockdown stymied that and their first few months of trade were confined to online browsing.

In the meanwhile, the trio opted to spend the extra time setting up their online store, organising the shopfront and crafting unique products to add to their selection of art, homewares and furnishings.

Amanda hopes the boutique will become more than just a place to shop for locally made and sourced products and plans to host workshops.

“We felt we needed a creative hub in Helensburgh; a place where the community and visitors could find last-minute gifts that were unique rather than having to travel outside [of town],” Amanda said.

“We felt that providing a space where people could head to for workshops, unique [and] exclusive gifts, clothing and art would fill the little gap.

“I have tried very hard to ensure the items we have are different to other stores while supporting the community and our lovely surrounding businesses.

“Kristy will be the friendly face who greets everyone at the door and store manager.

“We plan on starting workshops around February, with different artists and creatives involved, from ‘sip and paint’ nights to kids creative workshops to flower arrangements and more.”

Amanda Skye Art

Amanda Skye Mulder’s art has likely already caught your eye. In April last year, she painted the cockatoo mural on the corner of Club Lane in Helensburgh.

Amanda’s muse is often flora and fauna, and her sizeable body of artworks ranges from colourful native birds to striking palms to pastel abstract designs.

“Intuition and nature play a big part in my subject matter of choice – it’s what I love most,” she said.

At Indigo Designs Co, she not only sells her original pieces and framed art prints, but her colourful designs can be found printed on candles, beach towels, mugs, and cotton tea towels.

“There is so much more available than what you see in the front window or on our website and social media channels,” Amanda said.

“We are super excited to start trading properly and have so many ideas for workshops!”



OK Posy Co

If you had asked Kristy Mitchell about her plans for the future at the start of 2020, she would have told you that she'd be spending her sixth ski season at the Snowy Mountains before returning home to the Gold Coast.

One year on, she's settled down in Helensburgh with her partner, founded OK Posy Co florist, and she couldn't imagine living or working anywhere else.

Heading into the Indigo Designs Co studio at 2am most days to create her fresh flower arrangements, Kristy spends the rest of her day organising the in-store floral displays and delivering her signature glass jar posies to doorsteps around the 2508 area.

"Some days my partner and I are driving around for hours delivering all these posies to everyone," she said.

"It's a real feel-good thing for everyone to get a nice, little, fresh posy on the doorstep with a little card."

At the start of October, OK Posy Co launched the zero-waste OK Sustainability Range – providing new life to wilting flowers by preserving them for six weeks in the studio.

Kristy and the OK Posy Co team are looking forward to introducing workshop experiences for the community to enjoy.

"I can't wait for everyone to come and join us and also be a part of the studio," Kristy said.



From top to bottom:
Amanda Skye Mulder;
Kristy Mitchell and
Cindy Ayres. Photos:
Anthony Warry

PCA Traditional Furniture and Building

For three decades, Helensburgh local Peter Ayres has been creating custom furniture, homewares and fixtures.

Peter established PCA Traditional Furniture and Building while working as a shopfitting teacher for TAFE NSW before going full time at his business 20 years ago.

Now working alongside his son, Hayden, at their factory in Corrimall milling their own timber to create unique furniture and accessories, Peter has joined the team at Indigo Designs Co to showcase the best that PCA Traditional Furniture and Building has to offer.

All pieces made by PCA Traditional Furniture and Building are unique and will only be on display at the Indigo Designs Co boutique and their other joint venture, King & Ayres, in Wollongong.

Peter says that his wife, Cindy, is looking forward to working locally at Indigo Designs Co, offering hand-crafted wood creations such as hall tables, dining tables and serving boards.

"There's been a lot of interest already," he said.

"We can't wait." **2508**



Indigo Designs is at 9a Walker Street, Helensburgh and on Facebook and Instagram @indigodesignsco

Cover
feature



Jay to the Burgh

Iris Huizinga meets a Parkes Street family

who brighten up the town



A luminous lady herself, Debbie Warn has lived in Helensburgh for 47 years. She began hanging up lights in Parkes Street in the 1980s. Ever since, her house has been a beacon at Christmas for locals and a destination for people out of the area.

How did your Christmas lights collection start?

Debbie: When I grew up, back then no-one had Christmas lights. My parents didn't have it. I just started it here myself.

Rachel (Debbie's daughter): It didn't start with lights. It's been a work in progress. The first things were pieces of ply: Garfield and Odie characters in a sled. Great big paintings that hung on the fence. It grew from there. We had them for years.

How many lights or sets do you have?

Debbie: I couldn't say. I have boxes and boxes. My husband gets unhappy about it, because I have to store them for the year. It takes up a lot of our garage. It's a shared garage now.

Do you have a favourite?

Debbie: The kids like the basketball one the best and the fishing Santa Claus, because they love fishing.

Rachel: Pop is a mad fisherman, he teaches all the grandkids how to fish.

Rachel: Mum does 95 percent of the work and then I come down later. Mum will go "what do you reckon?" I run around and make a few finishing touches ...

One year I said to Mum: We can give it a bit of a wow factor if we pinned lights all over the grass, all over the hill, all over the tiers of the lawn. So we did that. It looked fabulous. Dad has loved that ever since because he has to tear them all up to mow the lawn.

Debbie: I move all the lights so he can mow. I pick them all up and he mows the grass. But then you've got to pin them all down again.

Rachel: My grand idea meant she has to move all of them every week.

Debbie: We still do it. We just don't listen to her



Debbie Warn with her grandsons, Silas and Aidan, at 48 Parkes Street. Photos: Anthony Warry



as much. I try to keep the amount of times we move all those lights to a minimum. It's a terrible job. The grass grows so quickly but you have to do it or it looks untidy.

When do you start setting the lights up?

Debbie: At the start of November. School kids go past and yell out: "Have you started your lights yet?" It usually takes me a good three to four weeks. I do it in between and when I can.

Rachel: There's transformers and cords everywhere. And boxes and boxes of stuff. It all has to be pulled apart and tested and checked.

Are you around for that, Rachel?

Rachel: Usually not.

Debbie: No.

Did you buy any new lights for this year?

Debbie: Yes. I bought a koala.

What does your electricity bill look like?

Debbie: Oh it goes up. Probably an extra hundred dollars or so. It's not too bad.

Rachel: You know what the difference is? The LED lights.

Debbie: Yes, the LED lights drag a lot less power than the old-fashioned ones. But the new lights don't last as long.

Besides your husband and daughter, is there anybody else helping you?

Debbie: My youngest son, he comes down and he does the ones on the roof. I still get up a ladder at the front, but I try not to get on the roof.

Rachel: My brothers go all around the gutters.

Do you sit at the window and watch people who admire the lights?

Debbie: On Christmas Eve, we usually sit out on the driveway with the neighbours and wave at people.

Rachel: I do. Not all the time, because it's obviously every night. There's often people that park at the other side of the road with their eskies. They sit down and just watch the lights. Sometimes they yell out "Cheers!", "Thanks!" or "Such a great job!" People honk as they go past. There have been people singing carols at the front. We've had mail in the letterbox over the years.

Debbie: Yes, saying thank you for the lights. I had a couple from different families.

Rachel: The grandkids love the lights. They love the fact that Nanna's and Pop's house is the one with all the lights.

Any tips for setting up Christmas lights?

Debbie: Start early. Buy lots of cable ties, lots of pegs. Have the flash setting buttons in a place where you can reach. I use foam boxes and cover those with plastic to keep the rain out. If you get water in, it just trips everything.

Rachel: Trying to work out where a trip has occurred is an arduous task.

Debbie: Once we blew up the power box on Christmas Eve, having too many lights. A guy had to come over at 9pm on Christmas Eve to replace the meter box.

Rachel: He did it for a case of beer because his children had enjoyed the lights so much.

What would you say to convince others to light up their garden at Christmas?

Debbie: Oh, it's just good for the town. It's Christmas spirit. The kids absolutely love it.

Debbie's wonderful Christmas lights will be on display from the beginning of December at 48 Parkes Street, Helensburgh. Please do not come to a full stop with your car right after the bend, as cars behind you cannot see you have stopped. Please don't let children walk into the yard as it is hard to see all the wires in the dark. – 2508

Out of the blue

By photographer Chris Duczynski

The word was out, someone had let it slip that a strip of pink algae had been spotted floating in on the Easterly wind, and that meant one thing, Bioluminescence was visiting town.

The bright blue we see at night as the algae is agitated by waves or rock-shelves is a very evasive, fickle and often well-kept secret. You need luck and a good network to find it. The right tide, an onshore breeze and very little ambient light together give you the best conditions to see this strikingly beautiful phenomenon.

When it was posted on social media that the Bio had landed at Bellambi boat ramp, it was all hands on deck. When I arrived at 10.30pm, there was a line of cars waiting to park. There were families with blankets, phones, torches and picnic baskets, all standing by as waves broke in a spectacular electric blue neon show. Camera buffs steadied tripods, surfers got ready to paddle out, beers were cracked and the atmosphere was post-lockdown, blown-away amazement.

It was a long wait between waves and every now and then a larger set broke about 10 metres from shore. The blue flashes crackled across the boat ramp bay as the crowd cheered and sighed in wonder. It didn't last long as the tide filled in and the waves didn't break as much as before. But for those there it was a wonderful example of nature at work.

I've only seen it twice before. Once in New Guinea, when our boat sank and we had to swim for shore, watching green bioluminescence surrounding us every time we stroked the water.

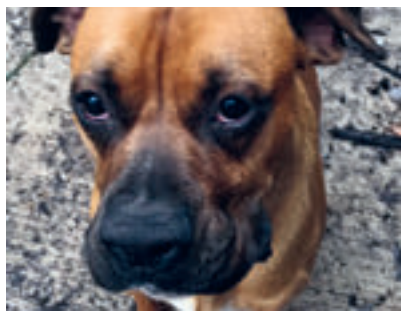
The second time was in Wombarra in 1995, after a small festival on the beach. Everyone had gone home and a few of us just sat there for hours watching this magical lightshow. That was over 25 years ago and I've been chasing it ever since.

There are a few hotspot bio magnets around the South Coast and Jervis Bay is one of them. Depending on the conditions, there are a few beaches that it hits a few times a year. There's also a Bio social media page, but don't expect anyone to say much about where it is until the next day.

Locals and a few lucky friends only.

Good luck. **2508**

Chris is a Bulli photographer who produces aerials, videos and stills, visit www.malibumedia.com.au or follow his work on Instagram @malibumedia



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 Country Companion Animal Rescue

Neighbourhood Forum 1 report

By NF1 convenor Warwick Erwin

Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM was at the November NF1 meeting and openly participated in discussions and provided some answers for items discussed.

Cr Bradbery is the only Councillor from the current session of council to regularly attend NF1 meetings.

Helensburgh Town Centre Works

Council staff presented the plans for Walker St (Parkes to Lilyvale sts) and for the Western Terrace (Chemist to Newsagent area). Copies of plans are at the library. On the to-do list: new roundabout Walker and Lilyvale streets, new pedestrian crossing near the southern butchers, sandstone kerb to be reused, new blisters at Short St to make crossing the road safer and improve sight lines for vehicles into Walker St, remove lower branches on the memorial trees in Walker St to lift canopy, new path at road level on western side of Walker St, new mobility ramp and stairs into terrace area.

Parking changes in Walker Street

Council staff and Lord Mayor confirmed work will not start until after the school holidays in 2022. This is to allow businesses in the CBD to recover from lockdown and to trade uninterrupted through the holiday season. Roadworks will happen first as the State Government grant must be completed by April 2022, then the western terrace work, which is expected to finish in the third quarter of 2022.

In the plan, the Western Terrace will give an open area for possible outdoor dining, events, casual seating, new pavement surface, mobility ramp, new stairs, while retaining the bush feel. This may help revitalise the area. Hope for the old bank/ pizza shop yet. Plans can be viewed at the library.

PARKING AVAILABILITY		
PARKING TYPE	EXISTING	PROPOSED
MOBILITY PARKING	1	2(+5)
24 HOUR LOADING ZONE	0	1(+1)
LOADING 5AM - 10AM / HALF HOUR PARKING 10AM - 6PM	7	7
TAXI	1	1
1 HOUR PARKING	44	37(+7)
MOTORBIKE	0	2(+2)
THE PARKING SPACES REMOVED DUE TO RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING		0

New Community Centre and Library

No further news from Council – still scheduled to be opened in 2027. Another six years is a long time

to wait. Email Councillors (after 4 December elections) and the Lord Mayor via records@wollongong.nsw.gov.au, requesting the project be fast-tracked. Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery indicated at the meeting that he would push for the new centre to be fast-tracked if he was re-elected.

Town Centre Plan CBD area timed parking

Helensburgh is listed for a 30km/h speed zone in the CBD once work is done in 2022. Some locations will have timed parking, such as loading zones.

Current Community Centre Main Hall Floor Repair

Council said: “We have been working to repair the floor of the main hall in the existing Community Centre and fix the underlying problem of damp by installing a new sub-floor ventilation system. This process will take several months but we are aiming to have the hall available to the community again in time for summer.”

Floor timber has been sitting in the entrance hall for months “acclimatising”. It will not be installed in time for summer. More time without our centre. Ask those Councillor candidates about this.

Liquor Licence Application for corner of Walker and Short St by Coles Group

APP-0008817690: Status shows Under Assessment on ILGA noticeboard at the time of writing.

DA-2021/822 – 19-21 Walker Street, Helensburgh - Commercial - change of use to liquor store and extension of trading hours

This DA was approved by council.

DA-2021/1058 Lot 2 Short Lane, Helensburgh

This is the laneway next to Bear Trader. Council approved accesses, ventilation duct and grease trap pump-out connections from building either side of this laneway so Council cannot approve any development that blocks those items. Oral history tells that Charles Harper donated this laneway to the community but somehow it has gotten into private hands and the owner keeps trying to put a building on it. NF1 has submitted an objection to this DA based on the objection to the previous DA. The well-worn track in the laneway clearly shows continuous use by locals between Hume Drive and Walker St. Council has to sort out this laneway ownership and the ownership of the laneway at Stanwell Tops behind Stonehaven Rd. These should be in public ownership and maintained by Council.

Planning Proposal request for land located at Lot 10 DP 260258 and Lot 24 DP 260258, 20 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Stanwell Tops. Aka Wagon Wheels

Seeks to amend Schedule 1 – additional permitted uses of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to include recreation facility (outdoor) and function centre. Submissions to the Draft Planning Proposal have closed and council staff will provide a recommendation to the new Council.

750 Princes Highway, Darkes Forest

Extract from a letter from the Lord Mayor:

“As you are aware enforcement action has been taken by Council in relation to unauthorised uses and building works on the property.

“These actions resulted in development applications and building information certificates being lodged with Council that were subsequently appealed to the Land and Environment Court. The Court has issued Consent for the structures on the site with strict conditions.

“The landowner is now working to address these conditions and staff are currently undertaking assessment of a number of applications and studies that have been submitted by the landowner in response to Consent conditions.

“Inspections of the site will be undertaken as

required to ensure that the consent conditions are met. The matter will be returned to the Court should this not occur.”

Saturday, 4 December Council Elections

Pre-poll voting from 22 Nov-3 Dec at Helensburgh Anglican church hall. Voting is for Lord Mayor and four Ward 1 Councillors. Visit elections.nsw.gov.au

Outgoing Wollongong City Councillor

The Liberal party decided not to have Cr Leigh Colacino as their lead candidate for Ward 1 for December's election. Cr Colacino has represented Ward 1 since 2011 and driven a number of achievements for the 2508 area, especially around Stanwell Park (the new Kiosk being one). He has also served on the board of Destination Wollongong. NF1, on behalf of its members and the 2508 area, thanks Cr Colacino for his service as a Wollongong City Councillor and wishes him the best. Thank you, Cr Colacino.

No NF1 meetings in December and January

Next NF1 meeting is 7pm on 9 February 2022 at the Community Centre front meeting room.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. **2508**

Your letters

Email editor@2508mag.com.au



“Creating Kel's Dream”

The Coleman Family have been a part of the 2508 community for 40 years. In 2016 the Coleman Family purchased “Wagon Wheels”, 20 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Stanwell Tops, with a vision to establish the late Kel Coleman's long-held dream to open an outdoor family-oriented recreation park to provide a place to bring enjoyment and happiness to families.

The authentically engineered, award-winning and unique miniature railway crafted by Kel and

Bruce Coleman has been operating in Australia for 75 years and four generations on, the train rides are still very popular and well-loved by young and old. The miniature railway has been a main attraction feature at various locations including the Sydney Royal Easter Show and Bronte Beach for decades, among many other events all around Sydney, Wollongong & Melbourne. More locally, the 2508 community would have experienced the wonderful rides operating at both the “Helensburgh Country Fair” and the “Festival of Flight” at Stanwell Park.

The proposed recreation facility will incorporate a miniature railway journey taking guests through native flora and fauna, beautiful gardens and landscaped features which will complement the existing pristine environment.

The intention is to gradually create Kel's ‘Dream’ starting with free entry, one landscaped miniature railway layout and the main homestead becoming a café, with the front grounds for relaxing and picnicking beneath the mature leafy trees and the Wisteria pergola.

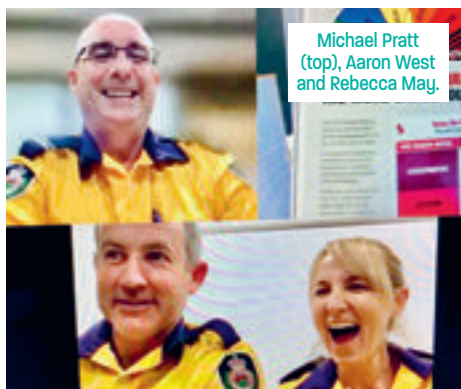
The location is placed between existing tourist hot spots, Bald Hill and Symbio Zoo to the east and west only moments away which will positively impact the tourism nature of the Illawarra Coast.

If you would like to provide any feedback on the venture, please visit: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJBSZ2N>

– Juliet Coleman on behalf of Bruce Coleman **2508**

Get ready: prepare your house

Senior Deputy Captain Michael Pratt, Deputy Captain Aaron West and firefighter Rebecca May of the Helensburgh Rural Volunteer Fire Brigade answer your bushfire questions



Michael Pratt (top), Aaron West and Rebecca May.

Will there be a fire truck at my house to defend it?

Michael: There are never going to be enough fire trucks to go to every house in Helensburgh.

Aaron: You have to be prepared not to have a fire truck. Right day, right conditions, depending on where a fire starts in Helensburgh, there is a probability the fire could be impacting on properties before trucks even get out of the station.

So you have to be prepared that you won't have one. The RFS and Fire and Rescue New South Wales will do everything within their power to make sure they have as many trucks as possible, to get into the town in the event of a large fire. But how quickly that happens will depend on how many trucks we can actually get in.

And considering the town is surrounded by bush, where these trucks are coming from, they will be presented with other problems. Our highways are surrounded by bush, there's issues in actually getting vehicles or fire trucks into this town.

Michael: It comes back to preparation. If the house has been well-prepared and is ready to be defended, we can defend it. Even people in the middle of town have to prepare their house because they can be impacted through embers, and if houses start to burn it will just grow.

So the key to it all is preparation.

Rebecca: It does come down to little things as well, like ensure all the spider's webs and things like that are cleaned away from your home.

Embers get in them, the spider webs actually catch fire. So you get fire potentially under your eaves, your gutters and around the corners of your home. Fire is very clever. It can infiltrate your house so easily. Underneath your doors and through your windows. If you've got little gaps,

embers can come in. So if you clear away those spiderwebs and things that get up in the corners of our windows, it's stopping another hazard.

I have sprinklers on the roof, have a generator, a portable pump and a water tank. Am I able to defend my house?

Aaron: To stay and defend, you need a substantial amount of water.

For instance, if you take our fire trucks, our biggest tankers hold 3300 litres.

When we're doing property protection, although our flow rate is high, we empty our tanks out within five minutes. We are pumping out up to 450 litres a minute out of the nozzles, with two lines running off our truck.

So ... look at how much water you actually have and how long you think you can protect your property. If you look at us and see that in five minutes we're out of water, that's possibly a good indication of how much water is going to be needed, to be able to protect your property.

Plus, our trucks are hooked into hydrants and able to sustain that for a long period of time.

What else should I be aware of?

Aaron: The water mains can break down for a few reasons. Whether it's loss of power where the pumping stations are, which is highly likely in catastrophic conditions, to a blown main.

Michael: If you're prepared to stay and fight, make sure you're in good health... it comes through like a freight train. It's loud, it gets very dark. It gets very confusing. The smoke can be very debilitating.

Again, our biggest suggestion is: leave early. You can rebuild your house. You can't rebuild your life. **2508**

MAKE A PLAN

Visit www.myfireplan.com.au

If you would like to hear more about preparing for bushfire season in the 2508 area, watch the video on Facebook @NSWRFSHelensburgh

If you have questions, contact your local brigade via Facebook @NSWRFSHelensburgh or call the Bush Fire Information Line, 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

Meat raffles are back at the pub

By Fran Peppernell, Helensburgh
Lions Club Publicity Officer



Hi everyone, I'm sure we'd all agree life is definitely getting back to normal and we're happy to announce that the long-awaited Meat Raffles are back on at the Helensburgh Hotel, 5.30-6.30pm every Friday.

Our Lions team will be selling raffle tickets outside Coles in the lead-up to Christmas. Money raised will go towards Lions projects. Importantly, the winning prize will be a Christmas Hamper with lots of goodies to enjoy!

We'll also have the tasty Lions Christmas Cakes for sale, for purchase outside Coles. Get ready to enjoy! We are also setting up the Wishing Tree at Tradies Helensburgh to provide gifts for children. So please donate a gift for under the tree to help a child who may not be fortunate to receive Christmas presents this year.

We are also in planning stages to try and have an event in Charles Harper Park in the New Year. We'll keep you posted here in 2508 and on our Facebook page.

You too can become a Lions member – a rewarding and giving experience. Contact us via email at info@helensburghlions.org.au

On behalf of Helensburgh Lions Club, we wish all of our 2508 community a Safe and Happy Christmas for 2021. **2508**

A yarn, a picnic and a game of lawn bowls

Helensburgh Probuss is enjoying the chance to meet friends again, writes publicity officer Helen Durham

After a long wait for restrictions to be lifted we were able to have our November meeting at Gynea Tradies. It was great to meet with our Probuss friends after a long absence. At this meeting our guest speaker was Jim Haynes, an author and storyteller. He was very entertaining, giving us sample stories and tales from his two books about Australian yarns and other true stories.

Our first social activity after the restrictions was a picnic at Stanwell Park, with more than 60 members in attendance. It was a great day socialising with different groups spread out under the shade of the trees.

Unfortunately, when we were able to resume our monthly game of lawn bowls in October it was washed out. Our November game with 16 players was played under dull, overcast skies and a little drizzle. The rain didn't dampen our spirits and we all enjoyed playing. The rain then settled in, so no afternoon session was played.

Our golfers have also returned to the golf course with their first game at Calderwood. With 15 players, they played in good weather on a course in great shape. **2508**

For membership details, please contact John Ingle on 0425 323 352 or visit www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/helensburghanddistrict

Back to hybrid

By Helensburgh and District Toastmasters VP
Public Relations, Matthew Derbridge

Toastmasters International is a supportive organisation with a promise of “empowering individuals through personal and professional development” to “develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth” – our mission.

After months of online meetings, with restrictions easing we can return to hybrid meetings. We can now sit around a table, stand up and speak freely to both an in-person and virtual audience. We can rehearse dinner speeches or work presentations, recite poetry or give a pitch; it will be beneficial to be able to stand up and present face-to-face rather than to a virtual audience alone.

As we are keeping the online aspect, we are keeping our borders open to those who are anywhere in the world. If you have a friend across the LGA border or overseas, they are invited to

attend. We meet twice a month on the second and fourth Monday at 7pm AEST. Meetings run for about two hours. If you don't wish to appear via the internet, you can join the meeting by phone.

Our first post-lockdown in-person meeting, at the Cupbearer in Helensburgh, will be on 13 December. It will be our Christmas get-together.

New members are always welcomed. The first two meetings are free of charge. After that, you will be invited to join our Club, and be entitled to earn valuable speaking qualifications. **2508**



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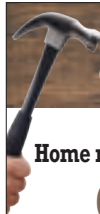
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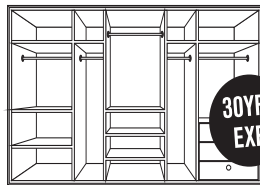
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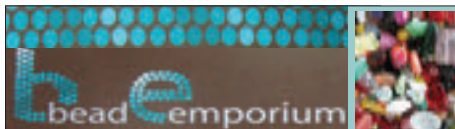
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Grant to fund shade marquees

Great news from Cricket NSW

Helensburgh Junior Cricket Club will share in \$10,000 worth of grant funding made available as part of the HomeWorld Helpers Grant program.

An initiative of the Sydney Thunder and HomeWorld, the club in the state's Illawarra will receive a \$1,000 grant to support the purchase of new equipment, including shade marquees.

The club is one of 10 across the Thunder Nation to benefit from the program, which sets out to develop the next generation of Sydney Thunder stars in the shape of improved diversity and inclusion opportunities, equipment, uniforms, coaching and local promotion of the game.

HomeWorld Group of Companies' Director of Marketing, Sponsorship & Community, Trudi



Busch, said HomeWorld was excited to continue with their Helpers Grant initiative.

"It has been great to see the grants being used by Thunder Nation Cricket Clubs over the past few years," Trudi said.

"We think it is important to support cricketing communities and hope that these new grants will help local clubs develop their younger players. Cricket should be accessible to anyone who wants to give it a go."

The HomeWorld Helpers Grant initiative has been supported by the Cricket NSW Foundation, who dollar-matched HomeWorld's contribution, providing further assistance to the great work being undertaken by grassroots cricket communities across NSW. **2508**

Juniors shine at state titles

By Scarborough Boardrider Ian Pepper

It was great to be back with two pointscores completed over the past month, all divisions on 24 October and juniors only on 7 November. The October event was at Coledale in a building swell about 2-3 foot. We ran every division of the club including micros and finals for most divisions too. The A grade men was taken out by Nic Squiers and the Open Women by Kasey Hargreaves.

The junior only event was held in sensational waves at our home beach Scarborough while the micros ran at Sharkeys Beach Coledale. It seems our juniors have all improved immensely during lockdown and the outstanding surfing on display was a pleasure to watch. Winners were Amira Blu Rankin in the junior girls, Finn O'Connor in the 12's and Lachlan Groves in the 14's.

The delayed state junior surfing titles ran from November 16-22 across our area with 10 of our juniors competing. The event moved from Sandon Point to East Corral, then Woonona and back again to Sandon Point with a range of different swell and conditions. Congratulations to the following members who finished in the top 10 for their division: Zahlia Short 2nd in Girls 16 & Under, while sister Shyla equal 6th. Mannix Greentree-Squiers equal 6th in Boys 16 & Under. Zahlia and Mannix should now qualify for Australia National Junior Surfing Titles (date and venue to be announced).

Dates for the rest of the year below:

- Pointscore No. 8, 12 Dec. Seniors only for under 18's and up. Finals for all divisions this day.
- Aloha Manly Junior Teams Event, Manly, 4-5 Dec
- Australian Boardriders Battle Regional Qualifier (South Clubs) – Kiama, 11 Dec

Presentation to be sometime in early 2022. **2508**

Follow @Scarbsboardridersclub on Facebook and @scarboroughboardriders on Instagram



October pointscore Open Female winners, L to R: Kasey Hargreaves, Zoe Gelder, Zahlia Short. Photo: Ian Pepper

A weedy sea dragon. Scan the QR code to see Duncan's video



Hello Fish

By Duncan Leadbitter

Normally my articles focus on the Illawarra as the aim of this column is to draw attention to our local marine life and the opportunities to get wet and observe. However, in the spirit of celebrating the Great Leap Forward out of our LGAs I thought I would have a look at southern Sydney.

Botany Bay is one of Australia's busiest ports and it has been heavily modified by port development and urban activities for many years. Not only did I do my Honours thesis on the seagrasses around Towra Point but in the 1990s, when I worked for the fishing industry, I joined Vietnamese prawn fishers in a protest against the dredging for the third runway at Sydney Airport, which also, quite by chance, helped the deepening of the port. In doing so, it dredged up river red gum trunks from a time when Botany Bay was dry land prior to the sea level rise about 100,000 years ago.

The Bay is far from pristine but it has some great scuba diving. There are good shore dives on the southern side of the entrance accessible via the national park and also at Bare Island on the northern side. There are also great boat dives such as Henrys Head and nearby Pokemon as well as around the Cape Banks area, including a deep dive called Bypass Reef.

The area around Henrys Head and Pokemon is rich in sponges and other benthic (bottom dwelling) animals such as sea squirts, hydroids, bryozoans and anthozoans (like anemones). Keen eyes may see nudibranchs (marine slugs) and the odd weedy sea dragon. Fish life can be abundant and includes lots of half banded sea perch, old wives, leatherjackets, mado and southern sea pike. My best find has been a red Indian fish, only the second one I have seen in 40 years of scuba diving (got my ticket in September 1981).

Over the Christmas period, the water should be warm and clear and it's a good time to don a snorkel or a tank and say hello to the fish. **2508**

Early start to netball season

By Kylie Skiller, Helensburgh Netball Club president/registrar

The season for 2022 will be starting earlier than usual next year. Rego will be open in January. There will be a new registration system next year. So please be aware the old links you have will not work. New links will be made available early next year when the new system is open.

Registrations will close in February, as games will be starting earlier in the year. There will be three pre-season games next March, which is to help put teams into correct grades. Then we start the competition end April/start of May.

We have been lucky enough to receive a couple of small grants this year. One is to install bench seats along the sides of the courts and the other is to install an awning and barbecue area near the clubhouse.

New players will need to have a birth certificate for us to sight. Active Kids Vouchers will still be allowed. We will still have registration days for those who need assistance with rego and for uniforms. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and for emails to go out.

Any questions, please contact Kylie Skiller on 0401 967 015, email helensburghnetball@gmail.com or message us via Facebook. **2508**



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Golf news

Helensburgh Sunday Social Golf Club

Robert 'Indy' Jones reports

Mother nature decided that golf was not to be had in November, having dumped a sizeable amount of rain in the lead-up to our planned November 7th return to the fairways meant that we had to move it to December 5th.

I am certainly looking forward to the reunion of members in December and a more active 2022. Keep an eye out for the December tee time in emails.

Wishing members a successful finale to 2021, remain positive, safe and healthy. Dates for early 2022 will be forthcoming in our December report. Support our business partners, look out for our reports here at 2508 and emails to members.

For membership information, contact Tony on 0418 863 100.

Indy signing off: A couple having never seen golf before watched a solitary golfer in amazement. The golfer duffed his tee shot, shanked his second into the rough, took three to get out of the rough onto the fairway, sliced the next shot into the bushes, and then took a putter to get it out on the fairway again.

The couple continued to observe. The golfer then skulled a shot into a bunker by the green, took several shots to get out of the bunker and finally on to the green. He puttied several times until he finally got into the hole.

At this point, one of the couple said "Wow, now he's in serious trouble!" 2508

Tradies Social Golf

Barry Thompson reports

The predicted tempest never arrived, and we teed off into perfect conditions. The recently cored greens troubled most of us but not Garry Overton, who led us home with a respectable 63. Ron Easton, ever consistent, placed second with a 65, and Jim Hawley claimed bronze with 66. We expect a marked improvement from Geoff Hammonds who won the Helensburgh Driving Range prize.

Great that we were, at last, able to catch up with each other. Steve Facey was welcomed as a new member and, as our numbers are now not limited, we invite golfers of all standards to join our group.

Thanks to Tradies, Helensburgh Butchery, Gallardo's Pizzeria and Helensburgh Driving Range for their continued support. Their products and entertainment facilities are first-rate and I hope members support them over the Christmas holidays.

Terry, Paul, Rod, Dave, Mick, Jack and John formed a committee that brought us through a difficult year. Thank you, gentlemen, for your hard work – it is greatly appreciated.

By publication time our season will be over, and I achieved nary a hole-in-one. Oh well, hope springs eternal and I hope to conquer Boomerang next season. Merry Christmas and the best of New Years to you and your families.

See you at Boomerang at 7am on Jan 22. 2508



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