



# CULCAIRN OASIS

CULCAIRN AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

August 2022

## CUPPA AND CHAT



The Sconeversations may have ended BUT this has not stopped this beautiful group of ladies from keeping the group going.....With our new name The Sconnies.

Why not join us 😊😊.... We meet every Wednesday morning at 10.30 currently alternating between businesses around town next week is at the bakery again. Absolutely love their food. So if you're a business and you can cater for 12 to 15 ladies every Wednesday we enjoy a cuppa coffee and a snack please don't hesitate to contact us we would love to spread the joy and help the businesses around town, so please give us a thought.

Now ladies if you've got nothing to do on a Wednesday morning and you were like me and were hesitating to make that first move well come on down. This group laughs, jokes, cries and even the odd little swearword!!!

But most of all we support each other, it's a beautiful time out with beautiful people so if you would love to come and join us or you're a business and can support us please don't hesitate to contact Sharon on 0428 298 117. Look forward to meeting you. ❤️❤️❤️❤️ Alison Pressler



L to R: Lyn Taylor, Joyce Gardiner, Florence Hall, Glenise Miller, Helen Burns, Sharon Mathieson and Shirley Sawyer. Photograph by—Alison Pressler

## CULCAIRN PUBLIC SCHOOL Eloquence and Rhetoric

After all the disruptions of the last 2 years, it was great news that the Premier's Debating Challenge (PDC) would proceed this year. Our students have really enjoyed the opportunity to participate and hone their debating skills.

The challenge is diabolical with teams only given their topic 1 hour before the debate commences. Topics have been diverse and thought provoking, requiring some quick thinking and agile arguments.

Most of our students have never had the opportunity to participate in a debate against another school so the 3 wins against Albury, Henty and Holbrook Public Schools are fantastic. Congratulations to our team members—Ada Clancy, Thomas Brand, Zac Howard, Jaiah Disher, Evelyn Dowell, Jarvis Chapple, Montana Thomas, and Sophie Howard. You have represented our school with distinction.

The next and final debate will be against Thurgoona Public School. A win will put us into the zone knockout finals.



Back row L to R: Zac Howard, Montana Thomas, Thomas Brand, Jaiah Disher  
Front row L to R: Sophie Howard, Jarvis Chapple, Evelyn Dowell (Ada Clancy—absent)

## RAILWAY MUSEUM REOPENING

“HOORAY!” Culcairn Station House Museum to reopen on Saturday 17th September 2022 at 10am. It has been closed for a long time due to COVID. Enthusiastic members will have it spic and span (working bee on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September) and be ready to welcome visitors.

The Museum is the two storey building, located on the corner of Balfour and Melville streets, Culcairn. It will open to the public on Saturdays at 10am until 4pm. The Museum is available to be open for inspection also by appointment any other time. Contact Bruce Barkley on 0490 858 460 or Glenise Miller on 0429 982 593.

## **HENTY MACHINERY FIELD DAYS CULCAIRN SWIMMING POOL & COMMUNITY CATERING SHED**

You will soon be seeing and hearing evidence that the Henty Machinery Field Days are getting nearer! They are on Tuesday to Thursday, 20 – 22 September, which is not very far away.

The Catering Shed has been run under the banner of the Culcairn Swimming Pool for many years, and each year we rotate between 5 of the catering sheds that were originally built for the Buckaringah Group of which we (Culcairn Swimming Pool Committee) were a part.

We now operate individually and we and 4 other groups in the HMFDD district rotate around the Field Days site using a different shed each year for 5 years.

The Shed we operate in each year now includes volunteers from the Culcairn Football Netball Club, Culcairn Tennis Club and Culcairn Public School, as well as the Culcairn Swimming Pool.

Funds raised are divided between the above groups. By volunteering you are helping your organisation to raise funds for purchase of items required or desired. It is a great way to support your local community, help to provide important items for your organisation and be a part of the wider Henty Machinery Field Days community.

The times available to be filled by volunteers are:

- 9.30 am – 1 pm for Cook, Servers, at the Bain Marie, and Hot Dogs
- 11 am – 2 pm for Servers
- 12 noon – 3.30 pm for Cook, Servers, at the Bain Marie
- 1 pm to finish for Cook, Servers, at the Bain Marie

If you will be available for any of these time slots, please phone 0447 076 292 to put your name on the list as soon as possible. Thanking you.

## **SIT AND STITCH**

Our Sit and Stitch group is meeting this Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August from 10 am to approximately 2 pm. We meet at the Culcairn Golf Clubhouse on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month and we meet as a social group but bring along anything we are working on at the time. It might be knitting, crocheting, card making, jewellery making, sewing, patchwork, drawing, colouring in or whatever takes your fancy!

Tea and coffee and biscuits are provided (and sometimes some yummy home cooked biscuits, slices etc). Bring your own lunch and come along to join in and make new friends.

Last month one of our ladies showed us how to do card making, so we are open to requests and if we can help, we will. New members are very welcome to come along. Next meeting will be Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. For more information phone 0428 586 555.

## **2022 CULCAIRN SHOW**

Culcairn Show is to be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 of the October Long Weekend.

Planned activities for show day include:

Junior Show Girl & Show Boy, Sport Group Activities with Prize Money, Displays, Side Show Rides, Demonstration Wood Chop Competition, Piglet Races, Horse Events, Shearing Competition, School's Art Competition, Stalls, Dog Breed Competitions and Plant, Flower, Cooking, Sewing, Stitching Competitions.

If you would like to help, please contact us at [culcairnshowsociety@gmail.com](mailto:culcairnshowsociety@gmail.com) or leave a message on 0260298683. The Show Committee recognises the significant contribution the NSW & Federal Governments have made to the Culcairn Show Committee to assist with the costs for this year's show. Show Schedules will be available from late August. These outline the many pavilion competitions available for people to participate in. The next general meeting of the Culcairn Show Society will be held on Monday night the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7.30pm at the Andrew Hoy Pavilion at the Culcairn Show and Sports Ground. Members of the community are welcome to become members of the society and participate in the business of the show society. Volunteers on the day of the show are most welcome. Put this date in your calendar Culcairn Show Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## **ABOUT THE BUSH**

### **Clocked that cuckoo call?**

Unlike those quaint cuckoo clocks of yesteryear, our native cuckoos have a variety of interesting calls – none of which sound like the clock, which mimics the call of the northern hemisphere Common Cuckoo.

Like their northern cousins, Australian cuckoos are also brood parasites – relying on other birds to raise their young. They move south in spring to seek out the nests of unsuspecting warblers, honeyeaters, or thornbills to lay their eggs and let the host parents do all the hard work raising cuckoo offspring.

We have six species of cuckoo in bushland around our region. Most would know the incessant mournful call of Koels – a few of which are regular summer visitors to Culcairn. These large cuckoos parasitise Noisy Friarbird or Magpie-lark nests, and once the eggs hatch the young eject the eggs and chicks of their hosts.

Fan-tailed Cuckoos can be heard calling along Billabong Creek during winter. Their call is a descending trill, and these grey and cinnamon birds lay their eggs in scrubwren or thornbill nests. Shining and Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoos are small iridescent green and bronze summer migrants with beautiful, barred chests and under-tails. Both species have a piercing mournful call and parasitise the nests of fairy-wrens and thornbills.

Black-eared Cuckoos migrate south from northern Australia in spring and use the nests of Speckled Warblers in drier parts of our region. These cuckoos tend to call only during the breeding season, much like their bigger, caterpillar-eating relative, the Pallid Cuckoo, which also visits in warmer months. The target hosts for this species include Willie Wagtails, Rufous Whistlers and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes.

If you'd like to learn some of the calls of our local cuckoos, download the free "Bird Call Xeno" app and search for your bird by its common name. Happy twitching! Colleen O'Malley

## CULCAIRN HEALTH MATTERS (LHAC)



Toni Schutt has been the Activities Officer at the Culcairn MPS since 2019. She trained as an Assist in Nursing (AIN), and after 25 years in childcare, decided to join the team at our Residential Aged Care facility (RAC). Her role is to implement individual activity programmes

suitable for the residents, in order to add meaning and enjoyment to their lives. Toni fulfils this challenge well, demonstrating care for the different residents, consideration for their special interests, and warm good humour. She always seems to have a smile on her face as she interacts with the residents, showing her love for the aged care community. While COVID has brought about changes in the way that activities are selected and presented, Toni continues to create engaging programmes such as luxury lunches, gardening, and outings in the newly acquired bus. In her free time, she enjoys paper craft, and knitting beanies for premature babies which she donates to the Albury Wodonga Baby Unit. Toni spends much time travelling to be with her family, too. She is a happy and valued staff member in our RAC. Thank you, Toni.

### MPS News

Our entire team have been busy in identifying and ordering items to improve our Residents' dining experience. As I'm sure you are aware, we have been gifted with a \$10 daily fee supplement funding from the Commonwealth to enhance our Residents' dining experience.

In the Acting Facility Manager role I have been reviewing requirements around our Residents' dining experience and looking forward to improving nutritional levels in our Residents' diet and creating a more home-like environment within the RAC. We will hopefully have some photos to share with you of our hard work. Kathryn Walters

## NEW DIRECTOR AT CULCAIRN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



Margaret Ross is joining the team at Greater Hume's Culcairn Early Childhood Centre, as Centre Director.

Community Services Manager Lynnette O'Reilly said, "It is great to welcome Margaret who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the service. She will be a valuable member of our Greater

Hume Children Services team as we continue to provide ongoing education and care to our communities."

Margaret was born and raised in the Riverina, and has recently returned to live in the area again. As a qualified Early Childhood Teacher, Margaret's working life has focussed on working with children, families and Educators, with further specialisation in children with disabilities. Most recently she has worked with Educators to support mental health promotion within early childhood settings. Margaret has interests in gardening, the bush and environment.

She is excited to be part of the Greater Hume Children's Services team, and looking forward to getting to know Culcairn Educators, children and families, and being part of this vibrant community.

# Stepping On

Are you over 65 and concerned about having a fall?

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## DEADLINE

Next deadline - 12pm Tues 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Folding Date - Fri 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 1pm

Delivery Date - Wed 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

We prefer articles and advertising to be emailed to: [culcairnoasis@outlook.com](mailto:culcairnoasis@outlook.com) or phone **02 6029 8291** for more information.

## HUME BANK HERE TO STAY

Hume Bank has confirmed that their Culcairn branch is here to stay with current operating hours. Head of Community Impact & Partnerships at Hume Bank, Ben Foley said "We acknowledge that the reduction of our branch operating days from five to three could have inadvertently signalled that we were considering a permanent closure of our branch. This was not our intention, and we should have been clearer.

"As our customers continue to change the way they do their banking, we need to change with them. Many customers want enhanced digital services and are using less cash, which means transactions in branches continue to decline. We are committed to finding sustainable ways to provide local branch banking that meets the requirements of your entire community, including local businesses. We will investigate options to increase availability of services outside of regular business hours" Mr Foley said.

More information relating to Hume Bank's Culcairn branch commitment can be obtained in their local branch. As the only bank with a branch operating in Culcairn, Hume Bank encourages local residents and businesses to consider banking with them, to support their ongoing operations which supports our community.

## Henty Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic

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## TRADITIONS OF THE ARAN SWEATER

The three Islands, Inishmore, Inishmaan, Inisheer, lie 30 miles out in the Atlantic Ocean from Galway, Ireland. Barren and rugged they support a remarkable community of about 2,000 people who wrest an arduous livelihood from the sea and soil. Stoical Aran fishermen risk their lives every day as they set out in their fragile boats into heavy seas. They seldom learn to swim. - accepting both life and death as inevitable.

To keep husbands warm and dry in the cold sea spray, Aran women created a sweater of wool, spun from the wool of small native sheep. It was originally spun with goose quills. Seaters had distinctive family patterns, with religious and folk symbols, many inspired by the carvings found on Irish stones and crosses.

Cable stitches symbolised the fisherman's ropes and were often combined with the Diamond pattern to join livelihood with prosperity.

Honeycomb patterns stand for thrift and are thought to be lucky. Irish Moss stitch invokes wealth. Trellis represents the small farm houses and their stone walls. Zigzag, combined with the Bobbles, stands for rocky outcropping. Patterns universal to all, assembled in a special individual way, served as a family signature.

Aran sweaters, worn and treasured, loved for their rugged warmth and sophisticated designs, are a unique contribution from these three tiny islands to the world. Ruth Scheetz

## **HENTY-CULCAIRN PROBUS**

Probus meeting held at Henty on 13th July 2022. Our President Yvonne Booth introduced us to Margaret Pumpa from Culcairn and Margaret has been welcomed as our newest member. We welcomed more hand knitted hats to send off for seafarers. Thank you all for your effort.

Jeannie has talked more about a possible bus trip to Corowa on October 19th and home via a viewing of the newly painted water tower at Walla Walla.

Kate Finlayson was our five minute speaker and told of a ten week teaching assignment at Bogabilla - 10 hours and 32 minutes from Henty. Population of Bogabilla 551 people, where the centre of the town is the Wobbly Boot Hotel, and no town supermarket.

Kate learned about Indigenous people's culture and history and the difficulty of living in border towns during the Covid lockdowns. Thank you, Kate, for sharing a little of your experience.

After morning tea our speaker was Ben Hooper accompanied by Peter Campbell, to talk to us about Avondale Place Respite Centre being built at Henty. The hope is to give respite care in a familiar town for those in need of care and short-term relief for carers.

Work has been started on a 4-bedroom home and on the adjacent block are to be at 4 x 2 bedroom units for independent living. This project is community driven and financed.

Training for employment is to be for community members. Mercy Connect is to be responsible for operations. Funding is 75% of where it needs to be, and both Lockhart and Greater Hume Councils are involved. There have been grants from State Funding as well as most generous local funding.

To follow the Avondale Place building and fund-raising project go to either:

- Facebook - avondaleplacehenty
- Website – avondaleplace.com.au

Warren Berkery presented Probus pens to both of our speakers, with our thanks.

Lunch was fish and chips and vegetables. Thank you to volunteer cooks and cleaners, you are much appreciated. Our next Probus meeting is August 10th at Culcairn.

We are hoping to have Greater Hume Council Mayor Tony Quinn as our speaker.

## **WALLA WALLA AND DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS**

Walla Walla and district senior residents are cordially invited to attend the next meeting which will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 commencing at 1.30pm.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at the Walla Walla Bowling Club. For further information please contact Dorothy Cremer, President, on 60 292 120

## **ATTRACTING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO RELOCATE TO THE MURRAY REGION FOR LIFESTYLE AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

There is 2 Information Sessions for community members and prospective employers within the Greater Hume Shire on:

- Tues 9 August at Henty Community Club @ 5.15pm to 7.00pm
- Tues 23 August at Holbrook Library @ 5.15pm to 7.00pm

As part of a NSW Government pilot program to work with local communities to attract migrants and refugees to resettle in regional NSW, the Greater Hume community are invited to information sessions to learn more about this local project.

The focus for the three year pilot program is for people living in Western Sydney with the skills and aspirations to move to the region for employment and lifestyle opportunities. The overall aim is to provide migrants and refugees with the information and support they need to relocate to the region, and support Greater Hume communities to welcome newcomers and help them to thrive in the long-term.

Those that attend these consultation sessions will be updated on this pilot program by Murray GROW Taskforce members.

**Hear how your community can make a difference by being involved, as well as have any questions answered, and hear your feedback, to ensure that there is locally led design and decision making occurring.**

Co-Chair of the Murray Taskforce, Andrew Kotzur of Walla Walla said, "The NSW GROW program becomes a win-win for communities in terms of increasing diversity and clearly for businesses, it's an opportunity for prospective employers". It's no secret that there's a shortage in the workforce, but it's not without challenges, because housing is also very challenging now. Individual communities can't do this on their own, but working with Red Cross, Council, other support organisations together with the community and employers we are hoping to find solutions. I encourage any business or community member to attend one of these sessions and hear about the potential benefits for the project within Greater Hume Council area" he added.

The NSW GROW Murray pilot program was formally launched in Walla Walla late June by the NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon Mark Coure.

To learn more about the NSW GROW pilot program

<https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/nsw-grow>

Or contact Esiteli Nyirarukundo, the NSW GROW Murray Backbone Coordinator at [enyirarukundo@redcross.org.au](mailto:enyirarukundo@redcross.org.au)



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