

Allora Advertiser

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Issue 3822

Ph 4666 3089 E-Mail editor@alloraadvertiser.com

Wednesday, 27th November 2024

School's Out For Allora's Year 10



Year 10 Students and special guests attend the 61st annual Awards Night.

The Allora P-10 State School Awards Night was held on Tuesday 19 November, celebrating 157 years of local schooling. The evening recognised the sporting, cultural and academic achievements of students from Years 7-10 and graduation of the

Year 10 cohort of 2024.

Former student and successful local businessman, Jordan Henry, was an entertaining guest speaker providing inspiration and valuable advice to the Year 10s as they transition to the next phase of their educational/vocational journey.

Sporting awards were presented by Shirley Mason for whom the school's tennis shield is named. Former student, talented musician and music teacher, Lesley Telford, presented Music Awards and Special awards were presented by former student Councillor Carla

Pidgeon and RSL Vice President, Doug Lansley.

Allora P-10 State School appreciates the wider community support and sponsorship that they receive each year.

(more photos on page 6)

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New Chair For Queensland Water And Land Carers

Mary-Lou Gittins OAM has been appointed Chairperson and Condamine Representative of Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) at the Group's annual general meeting.

Mary-Lou who hails from Goomburra has been a member in some form of landcare or catchment group for the last 25 years and has been involved with many organisations over that time at a local, regional, state and federal level.

As a past representative of the Condamine Catchment Management Association Mary-Lou has sat around the Darling Downs Regional Landcare group table.

Mary-Lou is a strong believer in the movement and is working with QWaLC to ensure the future for volunteers in the environment.

"I have been with QWaLC for 8 years now and will be retiring at 2025 AGM. QWaLC turns 21 in 2025," Mary-Lou said.

"I also had the pleasure of



Mary-Lou Gittins OAM.

chairing the steering group 21 years ago that formed QWaLC as a peak body for groups and volunteers involved in keeping Queensland sustainable. QWaLC has grown from 150 members to 500 today with 66000 volunteers.

"It has been the people side of QWaLC that has motivated me to be involved in QWaLC. That is ensuring our volunteers are safe when on-ground and following good governance process involved in being an incorporated group."

Mary-Lou Gittins was recognised with an OAM in 2019 for service to conservation and the environment.

Tennis Grand Opening Success



Tennis originals Jill May, Nancy Hoey, Shirley Mason, Graham Hoey, Errol May, Stuart Sparksman & Trevor Mason.

Celebrations took place on Sunday to officially open the newly resurfaced Allora Tennis Courts.

Funding to complete the courts came through the Community and Recreational Assets Recovery and Resilience Program as well as the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

A huge thank you was extended to all committee members, volunteers and helpers on the day including support from Tennis Queensland's Head of Facilities Development Michael Blomer with wife Kate as well as new regional coach Dean Stansell.

The tennis stars on the day were A Grade winners Darren Chandler and Jules Coutts; Runners-up Deb Dorries and Riley Coutts, B Grade winners Jamie Van Der Meulen and Selina Hughes, Runners-up Stuart Sparksman and Shirley Mason.

The open day was proudly sponsored by Warwick Credit Union, Darling Downs Zoo, Allora



Keen new tennis players: Grace, Aaron and Vinnie Vietheer.



RIGHT: Ribbon cutting. President Mandy Mutch, Shirley Mason and Councillor Carla Pidgeon.

Butchery, Bunnings, Revive Pharmacy Allora, Railway Hotel, Sweetz Treatz (Melissa Ziser) and Max and Hayley Mason.

The Allora Tennis is always happy to welcome new players who want to enjoy the fun game of tennis.



The lads: Dusty May, Jamie Mutch, Jonte May and Jake Burns.

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2025 Australian of the Year for Queensland

Allora born and bred Geoffrey Smith, was named Queensland Australian of the Year at the recent awards ceremony held in Brisbane.

Proud parents Debbie and Alan Smith said Geoffrey was born in 1989 and went to Allora Kindergarten, Allora Pre-School and Allora P-10 School until Year 7 when he moved to Toowoomba Grammar. Geoffrey was also involved in sport including tennis and soccer.

After he completed University Geoffrey worked as a data analyst for Linfox and Shell then in management at Busy at Work.

Geoffrey recognised the untapped potential of neurodivergent people to contribute to the workforce in Australia.

In 2020 Geoffrey Co-founded Australian Spatial Analytics (ASA), a work-integrated social enterprise providing geo-spatial and engineering services, addressing a skills shortage in the technology industry. Of their employees, 80 per cent are neurodivergent and 61 per cent have come from long-term unemployment, reflecting the social barriers that are often experienced by neurodivergent people.

While the unemployment rate for adults with autism is some ten times higher



Geoffrey Smith

than that of the general population, Geoffrey knows that their unique skillset can make them an asset in the workplace. ASA's inclusive practices include a range of workplace supports for executive functioning, social interactions and sensory sensitivities, facilitating participation to employees' full potential, developing skills and leadership, and providing stable, long-term employment.

Geoffrey is a Social Impact Leadership Australia recipient, and through ASA, aims to employ 1,000 people by 2030.

Along with other state and territory recipients Geoffrey will attend the National Awards on 25 January 2025 in Canberra.

The Golden Wattle Cafe is open Wednesday to Saturday from 8am until 2pm.
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Latest Update On Allora Precinct Redevelopment



Sports Museum and Library to be redeveloped into Allora Precinct.

Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC) has now released a Request for Tender ("RFT") 25_033 for the Allora Precinct Redevelopment, which is due to close on 12 December. This RFT will deal with Council's portion of the work for this precinct.

Community Services Manager of SDRC Michael Bell has advised that on tender close, contract offers will be evaluated and a recommendation placed before Council on the contractor that provides the best value for money outcome.

"This decision of the Council will be made at a future Council meeting, forecast at this point to occur in January," Mr Bell said.

"On acceptance and execution of a contract, officers will then look to deliver this project by about

September 2025.

"With the forecast program of works, there is likely to be some impact on the community, namely the use of the Allora Senior Citizen space during the construction period. I apologise for this inconvenience, however, Council is endeavouring to keep this impact to a minimum, whilst ensuring this project is expedited through to completion.

"On completion of this project, the Allora Library will relocate into what is currently known as the Allora Senior Citizens building, which will also include community meeting space at the rear of the building as previously discussed. This relocation will then facilitate the expansion of the Allora Sports Museum into what is currently the existing Allora Library space."

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Season's Greetings

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Congratulations All Allora P-10 Award Recipients

(Here Are Just A Few)



Principal's Award (recognises a Year 10 student who has demonstrated a positive attitude and commitment to school life): **Isaac.**



Mayor's Medal (awarded to a Year 10 student who is the best 'all-rounder' in academic, sporting, cultural and school fields and has consistently achieved a very high level of effort in their subjects): **Rhyanna.**



Pride of Achievement (presented to a Year 10 student who is consistent and persistent in effort across all subjects): **Anthony.**



The 2024 Dux: **Eleanore.**



Bob Deacon Trophy for Community Service (awarded to a Secondary student who completes the most community service in the year): **Jorja.**



Sportsperson of the Year: **Blake.**



Humanitarian Award (awarded to a Year 10 student who demonstrates an attitude of tolerance and respect for others including their fellow students, teachers and other adults): **Will.**



Shirley Mason Tennis Shield: **Orry.**



Fears for farms held in Self-Managed Super Fund

Labor has refused to rule out forcing farmers to pay tax on the unrealised capital gains of their farm, if the property is held in a self-managed super fund (SMSF).

In a startling revelation in Parliament House, Labor has also refused to rule out forcing farmers to pay the tax even if they have a failed season with no income.

Leader of The Nationals and Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said Agriculture

Minister Julie Collins had shown callous disregard to farmers, after being asked about the cyclical nature of cashflows of farming and how it would impact farms held in a SMSF.

Minister Collins did not rule out bad seasons, instead stating SMSFs are required to have liquid assets to meet tax requirements and "individuals can choose how they pay their tax Mr Speaker, either out of their superannuation

account or from their own pocket".

Mr Littleproud said Labor's new tax would hurt Australian farmers during a cost-of-living crisis and take money away from regional, rural and remote Australia. He said any increases in asset value to a family farm or business held in a SMSF with a diverse portfolio worth more than \$3 million, meeting liquidity requirements, would be taxed at the 30 per cent threshold rate every financial year.

"Minister Collins demonstrated that she and the Albanese Government have no understanding of the vagaries of farmers' cash loss that are impacted by not just weather but commodity prices.

"But Labor now wants to tax them year after year – simply by using an on-paper gain. It is deceitful and it goes to show, when Labor runs out of money, they always come after yours."

Mr Littleproud said many families had previously set up SMSFs as their future retirement and savings, unaware Labor could come for their assets. Labor is also unable to say how many primary producers, small and family business owners will be impacted.

"Labor is misleading regional, rural and remote Australia, breaking its promise that it wouldn't touch superannuation before the election. Not only are they now coming for your superannuation, they are coming for the increased value of assets in a SMSF."

Invitation To Invasive Plant And Animal Field Day

Southern Downs Regional Council is joining forces with leading industry agencies to host a free, practical Invasive Plant and Animal Field Day next Wednesday 4 December.

This hands-on event aims to equip local landholders with the skills and knowledge to manage invasive pests and maintain biosecurity obligations, ensuring a sustainable future for the region's agricultural industry.

Presenters at the field day include Department of Primary Industries, Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board and local pest management specialists.

Attendees will gain valuable insights into controlling common pests such as rabbits, wild dogs and feral pigs, with live demonstrations of equipment available for hire from Council. This essential support will empower landholders to tackle pest challenges and contribute to safeguarding the agricultural productivity of our region.

Attendees are requested to wear sun protection and suitable footwear.

Registration is essential for catering purposes. RSVP by this Friday 29 November via 1300 697 372 or SDRCLocalLaws@sdrc.qld.gov.au

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Clifton Benchrest Shooting Club Inc. "Laurie Bowe Range" Stan Buckley Memorial Shoot



In 2006, ten people sat around the kitchen table at Laurie Bowe's residence to discuss starting a new shooting range. The first attempt in 2007 at Pratten was abandoned after it was found out that the range was intersected by a gazette road (Not Developed). During this journey we were known as Hazeldene Benchrest Club. We then became a registered Club, with the name "Clifton Benchrest Shooters Union Inc" Later renamed the "Clifton Benchrest Shooting Club Inc" and got the club off the ground. Stan Buckley was one of the original ten people along with Laurie Bowe who is one of our oldest members in the club.

We lost Stan two years ago so each November we have a shoot in his honour.

After many hurdles we were offered a lease on 28th November 2012 at our current location. Later, we were granted a License for the Range by Weapons Licensing, Brisbane Branch. The major initial funding



Michelle F, Gary M, Margaret Buckley, Mia E, & Vince A.

for the Clifton Benchrest Shooting Club Inc., 'Laurie Bowe' Range, was obtained through grants received from: Queensland Sport and Recreation, Jupiter's Casino Gambling grant, and other smaller grants from Toowoomba Regional Council.

The shoot was held on 17th November 2024, with sixteen shooters turning up on another very windy day. Stan's widow Margaret came up from Brisbane to present the winning trophies.

Men's Open Rimfire - 1st Gary M. 586.22, 2nd Jason E. 581.18, 3rd Anthony B. 568.13.

Ladies Open Rimfire - 1st Michelle F. 577.22, 2nd Ashleigh B. 559.8, 3rd Helen M. 543.6.

Factory Rimfire - 1st Vince A 554.5, 2nd Margaret S. 481.3, 3rd Bruce R. 368.

Junior Rimfire - 1st Mia E. 555.12, 2nd Cooper S. 546.7, 3rd Rebekah R. 521.5. Well done Mia, her first trophy and a great way to celebrate her Birthday.

Centrefire was held in the afternoon with seven shooters and the wind did not easy up at all in the afternoon. Gary M took out 1st with a score of .4074, 2nd Helen M .4228, 3rd Michelle .4840.

Smallest Group for the day was .163 shot by Helen M. who also shot the smallest group of the year with a score of .154.

Our Shotgun competition was on 10th November with the best turnout this year with a total of seventeen shooting in very hot, trying conditions. Men's - 1st Matt H., 2nd Russ P., 3rd Brendan T.



Stan Buckley

Ladies' - 1st Ashleigh B. Juniors Boys - 1st Alex A., 2nd Cooper S. Juniors' Girls - 1st Rory T., 2nd Harriet K.

Pistol competition was held on Saturday 9th November - 1st Peter A. with a score of 242, 2nd Vince A. 235, 3rd Wayne T. 213.

The clubs last shoot of the year will be for Rifle Practice to be held on 1st December. We would like to thank everyone who attended the practice and competitions throughout the year. Shooting will recommence on 2nd February 2025 which will be a Rifle Practice Day.

Helen Manteit

Allora Golf Notes



Sunday's 2 - ball Ambrose sponsored by Allora and District Plumbing - The winner's were: 1st: Sam McLary & Garth Simpson, 2nd: John & Russell Sparksman.

Nearest the pins: 4/13: Russell Sparksman, 7/16: Matt May, 8/17: Jake Meddleton.

Approaches: 3/12: Garth Simpson, 5/14: Aaron Simpson.

Long putt: 1/10: Jake Meddleton.

Coming up: Sunday 1 December - Allora Railway Hotel Monthly Mug

Friday's Allora Hardware duck run - The winners were: 1st: Jake Meddleton - 22 points, 2nd: Jim Sell - 22 points.

Approach shot: Wayne McKewen.

Nearest the pin: Jake Meddleton.

Long putt: Rod Simpson.

Callout For Evac Centre Reservists



If you are a community minded citizen you may like to become an Evacuation Centre Reservist?

Southern Downs Regional Council is inviting anyone interested to attend a one-day training program in Warwick next month.

This training program will develop your knowledge and expertise in the establishment, management and operation of an evacuation centre which can be a unique and challenging environment. The program is designed for those who may work in or support an

evacuation centre. Numbers are limited to 30 participants, so you need to register now to secure your place.

The training will be held at WIRAC Palmerin Street from 8.30am - 3.30pm on Thursday 5 December.

Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/evacuation-centre-training-warwick1224>

For more information contact James Wong, Community Recovery and Resilience Officer, SDRC at james.wong@sdrc.qld.gov.au

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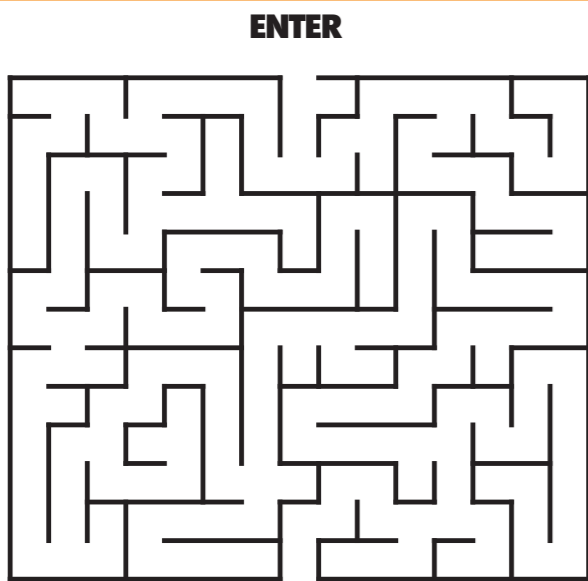
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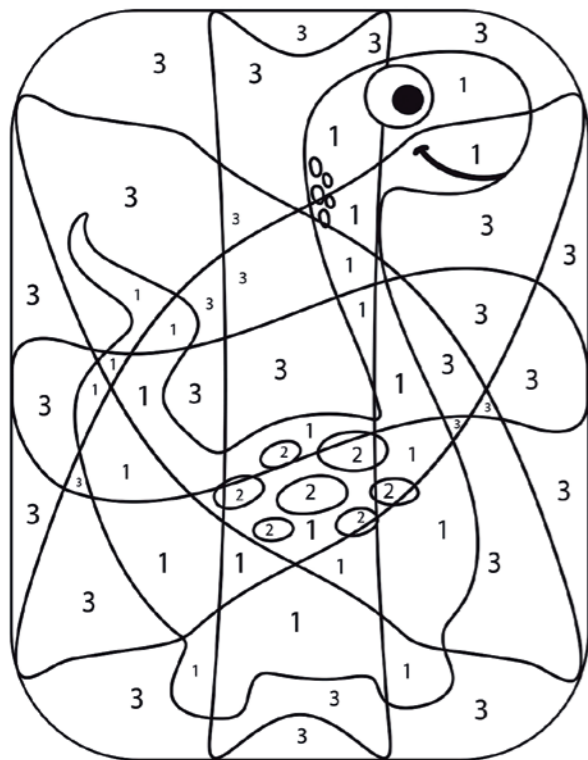
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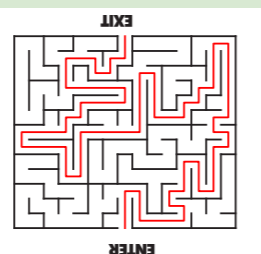
TODAY'S QUOTE -
"I dusted once - it came back. I'm not falling for that again"

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BAD JOKE OF THE WEEK

A poodle and a collie are walking along when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend.

"My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a bull terrier, and I'm as jittery as a cat."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie.

"I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

ADVERTISER CLASSIFIEDS

Phone 07 4666 3089
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• ANNOUNCEMENTS •

SMITH, Helen Patrice (nee Cowley)

Late of Allora, passed away on 23rd November 2024, aged 86 years.

Dearly loved Wife of Roy (dec'd). Much loved Mother and Mother-in-law of Anne-Louise and Ian; Robyn and Stephen; Catherine and Prem. Much loved Grandmother and Great-Grandmother of their families.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend a Requiem Mass for Helen, to be held at St Patrick's Catholic Church, 63 Warwick Street, Allora, Monday, 9th December 2024, service commencing at 11.00am, followed by interment at the Allora Cemetery, Allora Clifton Road, Allora. Alternatively, the service will be available via livestream, please go to www.burstows.com.au/tribute-centre

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12 Jubb Street, Allora
Worship service each Sunday at 9.30am including online service
Bible Study (BACAD) 7pm Wednesdays online

MEN'S BREAKFAST - held on the last Saturday of the month

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• PUBLIC NOTICES •



Allora & District Garden Circle DATE CLAIMER

Next week, at 3pm on Tuesday, 3rd December the Allora and District Garden Circle will have a festive get-together on Sandra's verandah. Ring Jane (4666 3868) for Sandra's address and go straight there or be at 1 Drayton Street for a lift over. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea and any surplus plants or pots for a Christmas swap table. **We'll meet again in February 2025.**
Best wishes to all for a green and pleasant summer.

DATE CLAIMER:

ALLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAROL EVENT - December 8, 2024

We are delighted to invite the community to join us on December 8, 2024, for a joyous evening at the Allora Presbyterian Church. Come along and enjoy a free Sausage Sizzle at 5.30pm, followed by a session of Carol singing starting at 6pm on the church grounds.

This year, we are excited to feature two carols sung as solos by a talented lady with operatic training, adding a special touch to our much-loved carols.

We warmly welcome everyone to attend this festive celebration and share in the Christmas spirit.

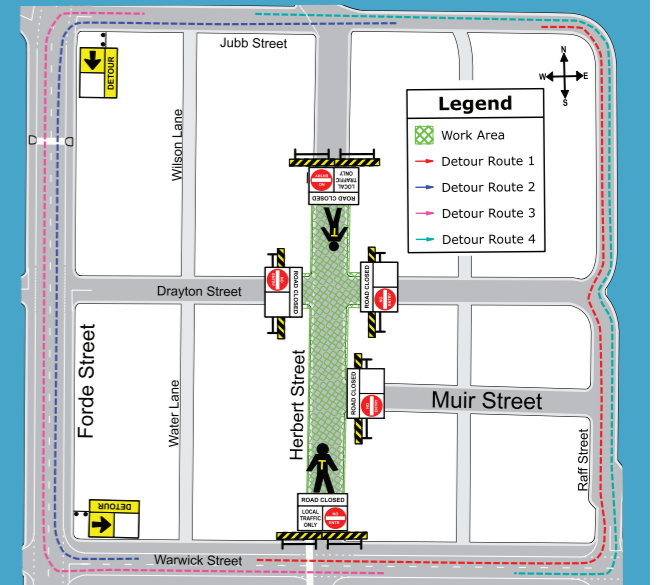
ALL WELCOME!!

ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE



1PM - 9:30PM

SAT, DECEMBER 7, 2024



PLEASE BE SURE YOUR VEHICLE IS REMOVED FROM CLOSURE AREA BY 1PM

From 1pm until 9:30pm, Sat, Dec 7 there will be no public access to Herbert St, Allora via Warwick St, Muir Ave and Drayton Street. Access to Herbert St via Jub St will be limited to residential only. Please refer to the above map for closure points and detour routes. Foot traffic only in work area.

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Total Support For Matthew's Legacy

The remarkable achievements of 2024 Paris Olympian bronze medallist Matthew Denny will be celebrated with two significant legacy projects in Allora. The local community was invited to vote on two proposals.

1. Naming the Allora Cricket Grounds discus ring after Matthew Denny
2. Creating a walking path in Dalrymple Park, featuring markers that highlight the distance of the various records achieved by Matthew Denny.

Following overwhelming support from the public, the discus

ring at the Allora Cricket Grounds will be named in his honour and a walking path in Dalrymple Park will feature markers highlighting his milestone discus records.

Plans for the walking path will be presented to the Council as they are developed.

Officers from Council also sought feedback from Matthew on the proposal.

"Thank you so much for the kind words and the incredible proposal. I'm truly honoured by the suggestion to name the discus ring at the Allora Cricket Ground after me and to create a walking

path in Dalrymple Park showcasing my records. It's humbling to think about being recognised in such a meaningful way within the community that means so much to me. I'm happy to give my support for the proposal." Matthew said.

Council officers will continue to work closely with Matthew to determine which records will be featured along the path, ensuring that his legacy is accurately represented.



Matthew – an inspiration to young fans




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