

Allora Advertiser

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Issue 3833

Ph 4666 3089 E-Mail editor@alloraadvertiser.com

Wednesday, 26th February 2025

Meet Allora Butchery's New Apprentice



Owner of Allora Butchery Aaron Vietheer welcomes Cooper Collins to the team.

Customers of Allora Butchery would have noticed a polite young man helping Aaron and the crew last year. Well, here's good news - we will now see more of Cooper Collins as he has transitioned from weekly work experience through the Allora P-10 program to a full-time apprenticeship at the best Butchery in Allora. Congratulations Cooper!

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Letter to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

In response to the Letter to the Editor regarding the judged Schoolwork Section at the Allora Show, the Allora Show Society would like to let the community know that it is our preferred position to see all sections flourish at each show and we are sorry that this could not happen for the judged Schoolwork in 2025.

Unfortunately, the Show Society was unable to put the Schoolwork Schedule up on our website this year as we had no stewards to facilitate the preparation, judging or displaying of this work. This is a Lengthy process that involves negotiations with the local schools and teachers in October, as much of the work needs to be completed before the end of the school year to allow time for judging and the administration of prize money and place certificates in the slim 2-week timeframe after the new school year begins.

We will only be able to proceed with a Schoolwork Schedule for our 2026 Show if we have some volunteers who are willing to step forward to be stewards of this section by September 2025 when preparation for the 2026 Schedule begins. Please encourage anyone that you know to take up this position because the Show Society would love to see student work judged and exhibited at the show next year.

We thank St Patricks School, Allora P-10 State School and the Allora Kindergarten for their schoolwork displays this year — this all contributes to make the Show Pavilion something that our community can be proud of.

Carol Lyall,
President - Allora Show Society

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Allora Precinct Project To Date



New entrance to Allora Library.

Southern Downs Regional Council says construction has commenced on the Allora Precinct Project, although as of today, 25 February, there is no evidence that work has commenced on the site.

The only visible work to date has been the removal of the Old Fire Station, which was completed last year in September.

It has now been over a month since the contract was awarded, on 22 January 2025, to Brisbane firm, I.C.M. Constructions (Qld) P/L.

The contract indicated that work will be completed within 121 days - making the end date 18 June 2025.

Perry Cronin, President of the Allora Sports Museum is eagerly anticipating a big move into the expanded premises and is looking forward to re-opening late July.

When renovations are complete and the library has moved into the old Senior Citizens Rooms, the entry to the library will be down the side of the Museum (see photo) via the double glass doors and the smaller entrance in Drayton Street will be closed.

Key components of the redevelopment include relocating the library; upgrading the septic, heating and lighting systems; adding new meeting rooms and creating a new after-hours back entry.

As part of the project, the Allora Senior Citizens Centre will close temporarily. Local residents are encouraged to use the Allora Community Hall during this period.

More information on the transition will be shared with the community as work progresses.

LifeFlight airlifts boy after burns incident at Goomburra



(Image - LifeFlight)

On Saturday night The Toowoomba-based LifeFlight aeromedical crew airlifted a boy to hospital after he fell into a fire at a Goomburra campground.

The helicopter was tasked at 5.20pm to the Southern Downs region and landed near the campground.

The camp caretaker transported the LifeFlight medical crew to the boy.

He was treated for burns injuries on his hands and legs by the LifeFlight critical care doctor, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) flight paramedic and local QAS paramedics.

The boy was airlifted to Queensland Children's Hospital for further treatment.

Fortunately for LifeFlight they were able to land due to an all-weather helipad that had been built last year by the Goomburra Valley Campground owners.

The location of their helipad is worth noting for anyone visiting the Goomburra Valley and needs to notify emergency services.

Latitude -27.98178 / Longitude 152.29106 / What3words: /// playful.flexibly.shove

Part of the Goomburra Valley Disaster Management Plan is being completed and you can tune your UHF's to Channel 21 in any emergency situation. CHANNEL 21 will keep you informed and can be passed onto emergency services to assist with communication in the Goomburra Valley.

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Council Committed To EV Charging Services

Southern Downs Regional Council is stepping in to promote adequate Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the region and to review future operation options for the existing Warwick charging site.

University of Queensland (UQ) has operated an EV charger at Acacia Avenue, Warwick since August 2019 and has provided the service free to the community.

The 50kW DC charger on site failed in October 2024. The unit is beyond repair and will require full replacement. UQ has advised that the replacement cost and the annual consumption cost of energy is not financially viable.

Council recognises the importance of fast

EV charging infrastructure for tourism and economic growth and is also taking the lead to pursue new opportunities for EV infrastructure across the region. Several commercial operators have already expressed interest in expanding services on the Southern Downs.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 19 February 2025, Councillors voted to delegate the Chief Executive Officer to engage with UQ to finalise arrangements for the site and to seek alternative service providers.



Electric vehicle charging stations in Warwick.

In addition to the 50kW DC charger, the Acacia Avenue site also has a 22kW AC charger which isn't currently operational as it requires service and replacement parts from overseas.

Potential sites for new charging stations across the region have been identified

and Council is engaging with several commercial operators interested in expanding EV infrastructure on the Southern Downs.

Mayor Melissa Hamilton thanked UQ for its support to date, providing the EV charging service free to the community.

Allora Advertiser

is available in Warwick at:

- HYNES NEWSAGENCY - ROSE CITY SHOPPING CENTRE
- WARWICK LIBRARY - and various shops & business houses

Or read the online at www.alloraadvertiser.com and www.our-news.com.au/allora-advertiser

Busiest Window In Town

The Allora streetscape has welcomed a vibrant new shop front with the launch of Kenny & Co Realty powered by RE/MAX opening their doors... and a very busy window! Well known local real estate agent Clint Kenny is passionate about the Allora community and felt it was logical to set up shop in Herbert Street. "We've called Allora home for over 10yrs now, we're so pleased to be a small part of this terrific community" Clint said. "... the front window is popular with locals and visitors alike checking out the current listings"

Clint is no stranger to the local landscape - he previously designed gardens throughout South East Queensland for nearly 20 years and is a highly regarded horseman - having had a lot of success with his 'Rivoli Farm Percherons' at local and Royal Shows. He is also the President of the Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival held here in Allora annually and the

2024 recipient of the SDRC Australia Day - Cultural or Community Person of the Year award. "I'm proud to be heavily involved in the local community - sponsoring and volunteering at numerous events. It's those events that make our community so vibrant" Clint says.

RE/MAX is an iconic global brand with more offices, in more countries than any other brand of real estate. RE/MAX sells more real estate around the world than any other brand! Clint is proud to offer this stellar partnership; his local knowledge coupled with a global network to achieve great results!

The launch of Kenny & Co Realty was a logical step for this high achieving real estate agent. He has ranked in the top 20 in Australia and has already received a national award for his sales within just four months of joining the RE/MAX network. "It's certainly an honour to be recognised, but ultimately the greatest satisfaction comes



Clint receiving an Australia Day award alongside his mum Rosi Kenny.

from achieving great results for my clients and assisting them with their real estate goals" he said.

If you're thinking of Buying or Selling in the greater Allora area - talk to

an agent that understands your needs, will work hard for you and treat you with respect. With integrity and authenticity in abundance - let Clint help you with your next move!

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Celebrate Queensland Women's Week



BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council has shared details about Queensland Women's Week (QWW) 2025, which provides a chance for women and girls across the state to come together to support one another, share information and celebrate women's achievements.

QWW will run from 2 to 9 March 2025, with a highlight being International Women's Day on 8 March. On that day, Queensland women join millions of others throughout the world to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future.

This year's theme, March Forward is a celebration of women and girls who have stood up to be heard, and acknowledges the fundamental right of every woman and girl to equally participate and be safe in all areas of our society including education, the economy and workforce,

politics, and importantly, at home.

Inspire your team, workplace, school, club or community organisation to celebrate Queensland Women's Week this year.

- Host an event and promote it on the calendar
- Share the resources
- Attend a Queensland Women's Week event in your community.
- **The Zonta Club of Warwick is holding an International Women's Day Breakfast on Thursday, 6 March 2024, 6.30am – 8.30am. For more information visit: International Women's Day Breakfast 2025**

Queensland Women's Week (QWW) is a chance for women and girls across the state to come together to recognise and advance on the successes of women and girls across Queensland.

It's a time to bring our communities together to work towards gender equality and economic security for women. We all have a part to play in championing gender equality and making Queensland a great place to live, work and succeed.

To share your event, find out what's on or download the resources, visit: www.qld.gov.au/community/women/events/queensland-womens-week

Turn Green For St Patrick's Day at Victoria Hill

QCWA Victoria Hill Branch invites everyone to the Annual St Patrick's Day High Tea and Musical Entertainment from 10am on Monday 17th March.

Thanks to Colleen Horton for her generosity of a free bus departing Clifton Senior Citizens at 9.30am.

Please contact Colleen on 0407 656 871 if you would like to enjoy a free trip to Victoria Hill Hall to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

BYO Cup & Saucer or/ Mug, Prize for Prettiest & Quirkiest, wear your green as there's a Prize for the Green Outfit plus multi Draw Raffle and Lucky Door,

A fun filled Irish morning with

Artists from Greenmount who will delight you with their musical entertainment.

Helen Gillam is busy brushing on her Irish Jokes and our talented member Karlie Ekerick will once again delight everyone as she plays Irish tunes on her violin.

QCWA Victoria Hill Branch has held St Patrick's Day at the Hill for 50 consecutive years, had an unplanned break for a couple of years due to Covid but now back for the second year and they look forward to celebrating St Patrick's Day with you this year.

RSVP by 12th March to Lyn 0429 497 004 or Shirley 0427 509 065



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Emergency Services Attend Truck Incident



Emergency crews at the scene.

Last Tuesday 18 February just before 4pm Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) from Allora and the local Police were called to an incident on the Allora/Warwick Road.

A truck, carrying grain into Allora, experienced

an electrical fault causing wiring to smoulder and smoke to appear from the rear of the truck.

The driver quickly identified the issue and pulled over just before Schriek Road with a passing motorist calling emergency services.

However QFES were not required to do any suppression activity as the driver had the issue under control before their arrival.

The truck was repaired on the roadside before being allowed to continue on its journey.

Advertisorial

School Benefits from Quilt Raffle

Recently the head of Allora P-10 School, Megan Rauchle, joined the ladies of the Arts and Craft Group to accept, on behalf of the year 10 students, \$1000 towards their Year 10 Camp. The funds were raised following the raffle of a Cat Christmas patchwork quilt.

The project to be undertaken and recipient of the funds was chosen by member Margaret MacDonald pictured here with Megan.



Megan Rauchle accepts donation from Margaret MacDonald.

Push for Defibrillators in Rural Communities Gains Momentum



Rural communities are being urged to install more defibrillators as part of a growing push to save lives from sudden cardiac arrest.

Local first aid trainer Neil Walker says farmers and rural residents are at a disadvantage when it comes to medical emergencies.

"The survival rate for cardiac arrest in Australia is only about 12%, but with quick access to a defibrillator, that number

could be much higher. The problem is, for many rural properties, an ambulance simply won't get there in time," Mr Walker said.

Studies show that using a defibrillator within the first three minutes can increase survival rates up to 70%.

In rural areas, this critical window is often missed because of distance.

That's why farmers and rural businesses are being strongly encouraged to get their own defibrillator.

"With so much focus on farm safety, an AED should be seen as essential—just like a fire extinguisher," Mr Walker added.

Local first aid training providers teach how to use an AED as part of their courses.

Advocates continue to push for more knowledge of defibrillators to ensure lifesaving equipment is

within reach when it matters most.

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Rural Aid Launches Mates Day - Help Aussie Farmers in Need -



For our mates
in the bush

Rural Aid has launched its annual Mates Day Campaign. The campaign will run until 19th March.

This year, the charity is aiming to raise \$500,000 to support Aussie farmers in their time of need. The funds raised will go towards vital programs that provide financial aid, hay, clean drinking water, practical on-farm volunteer assistance, and mental health services for disaster-affected farming communities.

After years of relentless hardship—fires, floods, droughts, and plagues—our farmers continue to battle the devastating, ongoing effects of these crises. Many are struggling to recover, and Rural Aid is asking all

Australians to lend a hand to help rebuild farms, restore hope, and renew strength in the bush.

“Australia’s farmers go through so much to put food on our tables, often battling extreme weather conditions to produce the best produce in the world. Their resilience is truly remarkable. Every plate of food tells a story—one shaped by perseverance, hope, and hard work,” said Rural Aid CEO, Mr. John Warlters.

This Mates Day, Rural Aid is calling on Australians to donate to help provide vital assistance such as farm recovery events. These events are crucial in helping farmers rebuild their livelihoods and get back on their feet after the devastating impact of recent disasters.

Farm recovery events involve up to 30 volunteers spending a week in a disaster affected community to provide hands-on assistance for farms in the area. They go beyond rebuilding farms—they rebuild communities. They unite people from all walks



Rural Aid Launches Mates Day.

of life in a powerful show of solidarity. They remind our farmers, who work tirelessly to feed and clothe the nation, that they are deeply valued and cared for.

The recovery events offer practical, on-the-ground support helping farmers complete up to five years of work, in just a few days. Your contribution can make a vital difference by providing farmers with the resources they need to rebuild their futures.

“The resilience of our farmers is extraordinary. Rural Aid is here to ensure they don’t have to face these

challenges alone,” said Mr. Warlters. “We are incredibly grateful to all those who give, no matter how big or small. Your support ensures farmers can rebuild and recover when natural disasters strike.

Make a difference this Mates Day—donate today and help ensure Australia’s farmers continue to thrive. Donations can be made at <https://matesday.ruralaid.org.au/>

Together, we can help our farmers and rural communities rebuild after natural disasters.



1080 a Lifeline For Threatened Animals

As the future of Australia’s most vulnerable species becomes ever more uncertain, the effective use of 1080 baiting remains critical to control one of their key threats: introduced predators – feral cats and foxes.

Australia has some of the most unique wildlife and biodiversity in the world, but these two impressive predators have already snuffed out 32 native animal species and are helping to drive over 200 more to extinction.

Together with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, the National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator, Gillian Basnett, is sounding the alarm as misinformation surrounding sodium fluoroacetate (known as 1080) undermines its critical place as a lifeline for native species.

“Effective 1080 baiting is the ‘thin green line’ that protects many of our threatened and other native species from extinction,” Ms Basnett said.

“The facts around 1080 are clear: native animals have a higher tolerance to this toxin than introduced predators.

“It’s important to remember that baits are not 100 per cent toxin and only authorised and properly trained operators are permitted to handle 1080 and prepare baits.

“Each bait is carefully developed to contain the minimum amount of 1080 required for the target species, in this case a feral cat or fox,” Ms Basnett said.

The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions’ CEO, Shauna Chadlowe, endorses the use of 1080, stating it is currently the best control tool available.



The use of 1080 can help preserve native species that are the prey of feral cats and foxes.

He said along with advocating for best practice invasive species management using current methods, the Centre prioritises

humaneness and is committed to collaborating with its partners to develop new and improved control tools.

\$3.5M investment in biosecurity for grain growers

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and Plant Health Australia (PHA) have recently signed a joint \$3.5 million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bolster the Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan 2023–28.

Realistic biosecurity simulation exercises, the development of an Australian grains’ biosecurity guide and the appointment of a national biosecurity co-ordinator are some of the latest proactive steps being taken to protect Australian grain growers against exotic plant pests.

The additional investment will support the implementation of the national biosecurity plan, which was announced in August last year to strengthen biosecurity protections and help safeguard Australia’s \$32 billion grains industry.

The extra \$3.5 million from GRDC adds to

the substantive investment Australian growers make to biosecurity through the PHA/Biosecurity Activity Levy (approx \$2M/year), the Exotic Plant Pest Response Levy (approx \$1M/year) and a range of GRDC investments to address biotic threats (totalling \$56.8M in 2023–24).

The Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan has been developed to give industry, governments and stakeholders the expert framework and focus needed to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to grains-specific biosecurity incursions.

Developed in collaboration with industry leaders and biosecurity experts, the plan identifies more than 1300 different exotic plant pests and disease threats that could impact the Australian grains industry.

It also details a number of programs and proactive measures required to protect growers, industry and the economy.

“GRDC on behalf of Australian grain growers is investing in this work with our main partners Plant Health Australia,” GRDC Managing Director Nigel Hart said.

“We are doing this to support the industry to develop improved biosecurity practices, so we are prepared and proactively guarding against the very real threat exotic pests and diseases pose to agriculture.

“Importantly this plan has the support of the entire industry.

“We are working together to ensure the systems are in place to allow us to be responsive and act in a timely way – two critical factors that can be the difference between effective control and industry devastation.”

Sarah Corcoran, PHA Chief Executive Officer, emphasised that while grain growers and the broader agricultural sector were the main beneficiaries of a strong and proactive biosecurity plan,

benefits extended to governments, industry, researchers and the wider Australian community.

“The grains industry is a vital contributor to both Australia’s national economy and many regional economies,” Ms Corcoran said.

“As biosecurity threats grow more complex in our changing world, it is crucial that we unite our efforts with a shared purpose and clear, measurable outcomes.”

The biosecurity plan will be reviewed and updated regularly over coming years with a particular focus on three main areas:

Pest risk scanning
Ongoing coordination of the development and management of preparedness information resources.

Reviewing the plan’s progress to improve understanding of pest risk profiles. The plan also details development of an enhanced partnership approach.

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Front Row Man Mountain to Don Green & Gold



Apparently, the central New South Wales based Kootingal-Moonbi Roosters were a bundle of excitement back in mid-2022 when they unearthed exciting rugby league find in Ryan Kelly-Payne.

Well, be assured Wattles coach Travis Burns was also somewhat overwhelmed when he initially bumped into the giant front-rower popularly known as KP at the Warriors opening training session at Platz Oval on January 16th.

Twenty-one-year-old Kelly-Payne will certainly appear an imposing figure at the helm of Wattles engine room.

Not prone to exaggeration, but a Burns whisper suggests Kelly-Payne may block out the Wattles soon to be installed new field lighting.

Standing 194 cm and weighing in at 115 kg, the man mountain was an unexpected bonus for the Wattles coach as he focuses on building a seventeen-man team to launch into the 2025 Toowoomba Rugby League season.

Burns has been very impressed by his latest forward acquisition's commitment to training, "he's obviously a big mobile man, but also dedicated and certainly wants to learn".

As far as the coach is concerned Kelly-Payne's giant frame is the ideal fit for rugby league, "he's an athlete indeed and will achieve under our coaching."

After a league pedigree developed with the South Lakes Roosters Junior Rugby League Club in the Newcastle region, Kelly-Payne was impressing with

the Gunnedah Under 18 and top-grade sides, before venturing to Kootingal-Moonbi's Roosters outfit.

It was there that he caught the eye of former Sydney Roosters forward Geoff Sharp who rated the towering young forward highly, based on his size, work rate, speed and footwork.

A try from the kick-off by Ryan setting off from deep in his own territory is a lasting memory for Coach Sharp.

Last season saw the Wattles newcomer mixing it in the Ipswich Rugby League in the colours of the Fassifern Bombers, and also stepping up to representative level with the Ipswich Jets Under 21's.

This week will see the biggest thrill of Ryan's rugby league involvement when he jets off to the USA for a fortnight as a member of the Wellington Wedgetails.

The Wedgetails hail from Wellington in New South Wales, and are competing in the 'Rugby League Nines' competition that is part of the NRL extravaganza currently descending on Las Vegas.

While playing in the 'Nines', the Wedgetails will also participate in a First Nations cultural exchange with an Indian tribe in the Las Vegas region.

A firm friendship with Wattles star backs the Jennings brothers Austin and Daniel played a role in attracting Ryan to Platz Oval, Daniel and Ryan were team mates last year in the Fassifern Bombers line-up.

While more than keen to learn from his Wattles team mates and Coach Travis Burns, the burly bookend is totally focused in his new league venture being the Toowoomba Rugby League, arguably Queensland country's toughest competition, and also experience the rough and tumble of the Southern Downs local derby the pre-season Barrett Family Shield trial on March 22nd.

Glyn Rees



Giant front-rower Ryan Kelly-Payne will run on with the Wattles Warriors in 2025. (Image: Harsant Photography)

Allora Bowls Notes



ROUND 4 - RESULTS –

RINK 1: Doesn't Matter 17 d. Do It Again 11; **RINK 2:** Warwick Rollers 16 d. Ghost Gate 4; **RINK 3:** Generation Gap 22 d. Spring Creek 12; **RINK 4:** Pig Lures 14 d. Slices of Wood Fired Pizza 10; **RINK 5:** Beers, Bowls & Bitches 15 d. Gina's Babies 14; **RINK 6:** Phoenix Rising 20 d. Got Ya By The Bowls 15; **RINK 7:** Stone Cutters 9 draw Cool Cats 9.

Well done to Beers, Bowls & Bitches with a win over Gina's Babies, looking back over the years it is interesting to see this happened in 2022 & 2023.

Also each year we have complained about the corellas damaging the green. Some things never change.

A good way to start the season is to remember the names of other people in your team, again no names mentioned.

Not often that the scribe is written about but I will admit what team members thought was me giving a

hand gesture to the person I was talking to was me merely demonstrating what was put on Facebook by a hacker who was found out. A word of advice – don't give anyone your phone number on Facebook or Messenger – some local people have been scammed big time.

TOUCHERS for chocolates – Noah, Kev, Simon, Toni F, Rusty & Ben Mills.

RAFFLE winners – Robyn C, Rusty, Tom, Toni F, Greg Patto & Ben Mills.

WINNERS on the night with a rattle of the tin - Beers, Bowls & Bitches and the lucky **LOSERS** – Gina's Babies, even the losers can be winners, each team member scoring a voucher sponsored by the Allora Sports Club.

Thank you to our sponsors Allora Sports Club, Allora Butchery, Railway Hotel, Amy's Café, Right 1st Time Cleaning, The GreenKeeper & Brodie Sharman & each week a prize for raffles is donated by a team which next week is Stone Cutters.

See you all back again next week for Round 5 for a great night of fun & laughter & a 'who cares if we don't win attitude', it's all about enjoying the game.

Warriors Planning A 60 Year Celebration



It's certainly amazing how time gets away when you're having fun, and while 60 years have lapsed since teams representing local rugby league hero's the Wattles Warriors first took the field, the countless good times will be certainly highlighted later this year with the club currently planning deserved celebrations.

Way back in those days of formation the title of Wattles was yet to be raised, it was Allora-Clifton that had its beginnings back in 1966 when the Clifton and Allora Rugby League Clubs combined. The Wattles name attached some years later in 1969, as a result of competition organised by Mr Mal Eiby to give the club a name.

The club's first President was former Allora footballer and Wattles Patron & Life Member the late Brian Smith. Brian, along with inaugural Senior Vice-President Jack Enright, James Gleeson and David Achilles were largely responsible for the formation of the Allora-Clifton club.

The club has always played in their traditional green & gold colours, their jerseys in their initial year of 1966, green with gold numbers.

The Allora-Clifton club's first matches were pre-season trials against Warwick club Collegians on Sunday March 6th, 1966.

Collegians won all three grades played on the day, with local Warwick newspaper, the Warwick Daily News, reporting that "for Allora-Clifton, hardest worker was Dave Achilles.

Bevan Crothers penetrated well at five-eight while Rob Lester made several good runs in the backs.

Ted Cowley played his usual honest game and Kev 'Gunner' Smith led the forward pack".

The very next week the two clubs clashed again in another round of pre-season trials at Warwick's Queens Park, Collegians again winning all matches.

Allora-Clifton players to impress in the first-grade match lost 14 – 16 included Des Cantwell, Russell Cass, Des Power & Rob Lester.

A feature of the match was Ted Cowley busting through the defence and racing 60 metres before off-loading to Mal Henry to score.

A third and final pre-season trial saw the new Allora-Clifton club play its first games at Allora, at the club's home grounds 'Tom Cowley Oval' within the Allora Showgrounds arena.

The Allora-Clifton team were defeated by Warwick based club Eastern Suburbs by 25 – 10.

Allora-Clifton ran on in their first official club fixture in the Warwick District Rugby League competition on March 27th, 1966 against Millmerran at Allora, winning the match in a positive start to the season.

The "Greens" as Allora-Clifton were known met Collegians in their second match of the 1966 season at Warwick's Queens Park, suffering a 26 – 5 defeat.

Centre Barry Donegan scored Allora-Clifton's only try.

The Allora-Clifton side that played the first-grade match that day were Tony Cartwright, Mal Henry, Des Cantwell, Rob Lester, Stuart Sparksman, Bevan Crothers, Barry Donegan, Ted Cowley, Dave Achilles, Des Power, Tom Zeller, Russell Cass, Kev Smith (Captain).

Allora-Clifton only played one season, 1966, in the Warwick District competition, being admitted to the Toowoomba Rugby League in 1967 along with the Oakey Bears, Millmerran Rams and Pittsworth Danes.

Wattles first premiership was won by an Under 16 team, defeating Toowoomba's All Whites 17 – 7 in the 1968 Grand Final a team that included current Wattles club Patron Neil Phelan.

The club has tasted much success in its 60-year history.

First grade premierships silverware takes pride of place in the Club's Platz Oval trophy cabinet as a result of successes in 1970, 1997, 2014, 2015 & 2022.

The Warriors also won Toowoomba Rugby League reserve grade premierships in



The late Brian Smith, inaugural President of the 60 Year Old Allora – Clifton Rugby League Football Club that adopted the name Wattles in 1969. (image – Glyn Rees)

1976 & 1992; Third Grade honours in 1992; Under 19 in 1998; Under 18 in 1976, 1977, 1991 and Under 16 (When the grade was included in the senior competition) in 1968, 1974, 1975 & 1977.

Wattles highest club award is the Clifton Courier Shield for the club's "Player of the Year", sponsored annually by local Clifton based newspaper the Clifton Courier.

Many great players names adorn this trophy, the Clifton Courier Shield, including International representative forward Greg Platz, future Australian Rugby League/National Rugby League players Robbie Tew & Tony Duggan, three-time winner Sam Achilles, five-time winner Cameron Hamblin and seven-time winner of the "Player of the Year" award Matt Duggan.

The club has produced four Australian International players in the Platz brothers Greg & Lew, Rohan Hancock and former

champion Brisbane Broncos front-rower Shane Webcke.

Robert Keleli, a Papua-New Guinea national joined the Wattles club in 1999 and was selected to represent Papua-New Guinea in 2004.

Training the House Down Yes, the Warriors preparation is well under way for the 2025 season, and interested players are welcome to roll up to training at Clifton's Platz Oval on Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm.

In what is always a massive season drawcard, the Barrett Family Shield the prize for the annual pre-season rumble between Wattles and Southern Downs neighbours the Warwick Cowboys kicks off at Warwick league headquarters Father Ranger Oval on Saturday March 22nd.

The shield brings much history to local league circles itself given its 33-year existence.

Glyn Rees

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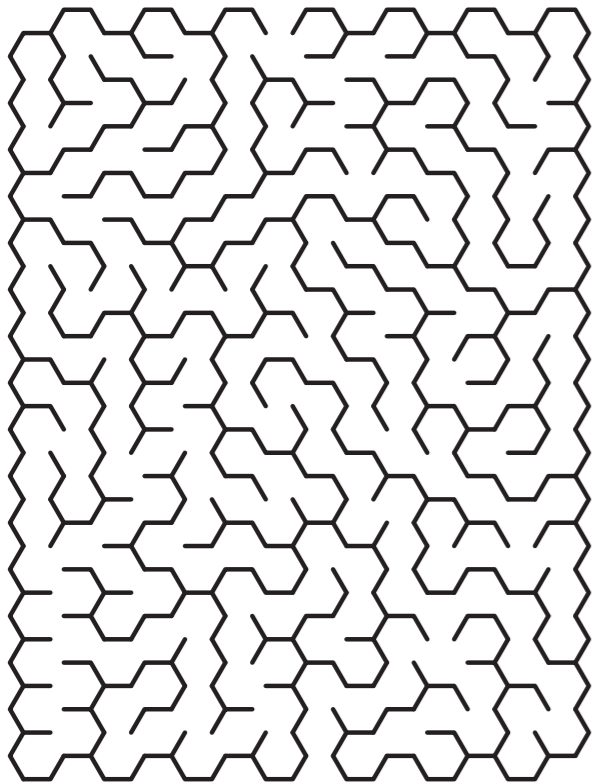
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TODAY'S QUOTE -
"Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go."



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BAD JOKE OF THE WEEK

An invisible man was offered a great job with this big company.

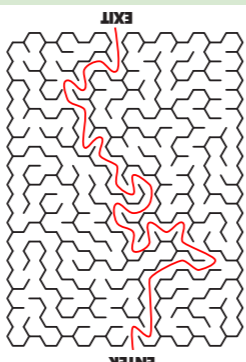
He turned it down as he couldn't see himself doing it.

SOLUTIONS

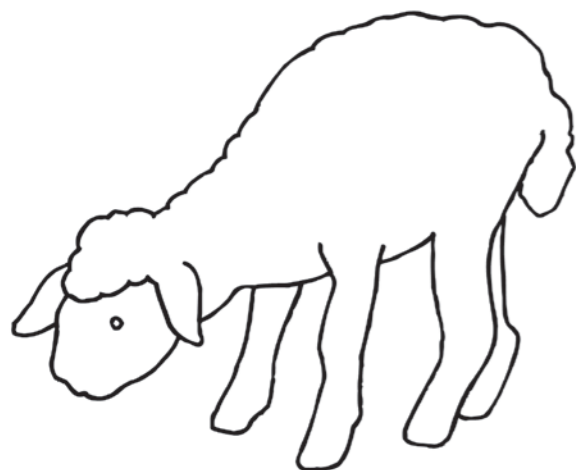
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CRAZY MAZE



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ST PATRICK'S DAY MORNING HIGH TEA - Irish style & entertainment to be held at Victoria Hill Hall 10am 17th March. Prize for Prettiest and Quirkiest BYO Cup and saucer/Mug also Green Outfit. Multi Draw Raffle & Lucky Door Prize. Admission \$20 RSVP 12th March Shirley 0427 509 065.



Allora & District Garden Circle GARDEN GET TOGETHER

On Tuesday, 4th March, at 9.00 am we'll visit Lynn's shady, colourful garden where there are inviting places to sit and admire it.
For more information ring Jane (4666 3868).
A group will leave 1 Drayton Street at 8.50 am. If you'd like to help Lynn catch up with preparing her garden for Winter, bring your gloves, clippers and weeders.

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Allora Golf Notes



Club Championships:
Saturday 1 & Sunday 2
March
Saturday 8 & Sunday 9
March

Each day, tee off times will be from 7am to 12pm as per a timesheet. There must be a minimum of 3, maximum 5 in each playing group. Members can also turn up as normal - names in by 11am for an 11.30am start. Everyone will be teeing off from hole 1.

Grades will be based off daily handicap, not the GA handicap. The categories are: **A grade** 0 - 9, **B grade** 10 - 17, **C grade** 18 plus.

The grade you play in on day 1 of the championships, will be your grade for the tournament.

Please text or call the Golf Club President, Aaron, on 0448 665 999 to book your tee off time in and a group will be arranged for you.

For those not playing on all 4 days, the Monthly Mug and Monthly Medal competitions will be available to play in.

Social golf: Social golfers are welcome to play on Saturday but with a maximum of 4 players per group to avoid hold-ups. On Sunday, social golf will only be available before 9.30am and after 4.00pm.

Sunday's Allora Butchery 4BBBB - The winner's were: 1st: Andrew Cody & Ben McMichael: 51 points, 2nd: Neil Chandler & Max Bielefeld: 44 points, 3rd: Kev Harrison & Jason Nightingale: 43 points.

Nearest the pins: 4th: Kev Harrison, 7th: Andrew Cody, 8th: Garth Simpson, 17th: Mason Blades.

Approaches: 2nd: Andrew Cody, 5th: Rod Simpson, 11th: Lindsay May, 16th: Rod Simpson.

Long putt: 6th: Brent Edwards, 15th: Tom Bartholomai.

Friday's Allora Hardware duck run - The winners were: 1st: Jason - 22 points, 2nd: Errol May - 21 points.

Longest putt on the 17th: Beetle Wakeford.

Pin shot on the 13th: Kev Harrison.

Coming up:
Sunday 2 March - Allora Railway Hotel Monthly Mug (Stableford)

Sunday 9 March - Ty Gardner Concreting Monthly Medal (Stroke)

Improvements At Morgan Park



Council revvs up safety at Morgan Park with fence funding.

Warwick Motorcross Club President Scott Kerridge has welcomed Council's funding of \$13k for a new external fence at Morgan Park in time for the 2025 Australian Penrite ProMX championship to be held on 22 June.

"This funding is a game-changer for our club and the wider Morgan Park precinct," Mr Kerridge said.

"The new fence will not only improve security and safety for our riders but also help limit wildlife access to other facilities in the area, creating a safer environment for all users."

Southern Downs Councillor Russell Wantling said that ongoing investment in sporting infrastructure would ensure the region continues to attract major national events.

"The Southern Downs is a must-visit location for sporting events, and investing in infrastructure like the Warwick Motocross Club safety fence is essential to securing and growing this reputation," Councillor Wantling said.

"Big ticket sporting events such as the 2025

Australian Penrite ProMX Championship and the Australian Superbikes series bring high-intensity competition to our region and also inject millions into local businesses, accommodation providers and tourism operators."

The ProMX Championship is expected to attract close to 5,000 attendees, contributing an estimated \$2 million to the local economy.

The Australian Superbike event the following weekend is forecast to draw around 7,000 visitors, with extended stays injecting approximately \$4 million into the region.

Both events will be broadcast to a national and international audience of 700,000, further positioning Warwick as the Horsepower Capital of Australia.

The new 930m fence will be built along Bill Campbell Way by club members who are licensed fencing contractors, with an additional 270 metres connecting to existing boundaries, and a 1.6-metre high exclusion fence to prevent wildlife from entering the track.

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