

CAMDEN HAVEN LOCAL

FREE

LAURIETON | NORTH HAVEN | DUNBOGAN | KEW | KENDALL **NEWS** BONNY HILLS | LAKE CATHIE | SEPTEMBER 2026

plane people

picture this

magic roundabout

guess the local

coloured balls

safe connections

Gardening Recipe Music Stargazing People Travel
Reviews What's On Pets Community Chat Happenings

Happenings on the home front.

A safe connection.

by Alison Stewart

For decades, the dream of a safe, continuous pathway between Kendall and Laurieton has been discussed, planned and pushed for. Now, at last, there is a renewed sense that this long-held community ambition is one step closer to reality.

I hope you've noticed the reinvigorated push, both on social media and print publications, for a continuous, safe shared pathway connecting Kendall and Laurieton. I'm a firm believer this is a vital initiative, and that every information outlet available to us needs to be utilised if we are going to keep the momentum going.

I was first approached last year by a very frustrated Schools to Schools committee. Their message was simple: they wanted a safe pathway connecting Kendall and Laurieton. So many people have poured their heart and soul into this idea over the years, in fact, decades, that I couldn't begin to name them all.

In the meantime, their children have grown up, and perhaps some of those original advocates are no longer able to ride or walk the distance themselves. But the issue has always been much larger than that. It is about creating the opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to walk or ride safely throughout the Camden Haven community.

Understandably, there has also been a sense of dejection when the committee has seen infrastructure delivered for other equally important projects, such as Beach2Beach and Googik Track in Port Macquarie. These are valuable projects and we all benefit from them, but if you want to know what really hits home for many locals, it is the prospect of a continuous shared pathway between Kendall and Laurieton.

When I originally looked into the matter on behalf of longtime advocate and activist Ian Oxenford, I found a press release dated September 2025 celebrating "reaching another milestone with the completion of a design



linking Kendall and Kew to Laurieton."

It sounded promising. But the community's initial elation was quickly dampened when the release went on to say, in bold print no less, that **"construction is not yet funded but the intention is to deliver the pathway in line with water and wastewater upgrades."**

In other words, the pathway was designed, but there was still no money to build it. Our long-awaited pathway remained a pipe dream - perhaps, given the circumstances, a water and wastewater pipe dream.

But things are changing.

We are now witnessing a rising tide of enthusiasm and, dare I say, hope.

Rather than repeat the detailed media reports I've encountered, I encourage you to read them for yourselves. The first is by Ian Oxenford in the August edition of the Kendall Chronicle, and the second by Luke Hadfield in Camden Haven News of the Area on 7 August. The Council advice mentioned above can also be found on the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council website by searching for

"Schools-to-Schools Shared Pathway".

So, where are we today?

Hope has been reignited by new Kendall resident Naomi Lewis, who has established an online petition with the assistance of our State MP, Robert Dwyer. Well done Naomi and Robert (as always)!

If we can attract 10,000 or more signatures, the issue will be presented to the NSW Legislative Assembly. To my knowledge, this takes the project further than it has ever gone before.

The ePetition has already attracted considerable support, but every signature counts. It can be found on the NSW Parliament website, with direct links also being shared through various local community Facebook pages.

So I ask everyone to consider the value of this initiative. If you believe a safe, continuous connection between Kendall and Laurieton is important, please sign the petition - and then share it with your family, friends and the wider community.

Nothing happens without people getting behind an idea and making their voices heard.

And perhaps most importantly, we should be encouraged, rather than discouraged, by the success of other pathway projects.

Their success is proof of what can happen when a proactive and determined community works together with government towards a common goal.

We've waited long enough.

Now is the time to pick up the torch, add our voices and help turn the Kendall to Laurieton pathway from a long-held dream into a reality.

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CAMDEN HAVEN LOCAL NEWS

Cover Illustration: A Gipsy Moth over Camden Haven.

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Community Chit Chat.

Welcome to the Camden Haven. In a roundabout way.

by *The Editor*

For many visitors arriving from the south, their first glimpse of the Camden Haven is not one of our beautiful waterways, mountain backdrops or welcoming villages. Instead, after leaving the motorway and turning onto Nancy-Bird Walton Drive towards Kew, they encounter a rather tired and neglected roundabout.

Broken kerbing, weeds, uneven furrows and damage caused by vehicles struggling to negotiate the turn (or sometimes deliberate) have left the area looking messy. It is certainly not the first impression our region deserves.

The issue was recently raised by reader Raymond Sinclair, a former volunteer at the iKew Visitor Information Centre and Driver Reviver, who suggested the site could become a genuine "welcoming face" for the region.

Rather than simply highlighting what is wrong, perhaps this is an opportunity for the community to imagine what could be created there. Could the roundabout feature attractive native landscaping, a low-maintenance garden or a striking "Welcome to the Camden Haven" sign? Perhaps it could incorporate local stone, timber, public art or imagery reflecting the river, mountains, beaches and villages that make our region so special?

There may also be opportunities to recognise the area's Indigenous heritage,



Artist impression ©

timber history, farming communities or the many towns and villages that together form the Camden Haven.

The question of which authority is responsible for maintaining the site appears to have caused some uncertainty over the years. However, rather than becoming caught in a debate over ownership, perhaps local organisations, government agencies, businesses and residents could work together towards a practical solution?

The Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce, which operates the iKew Visitor Information Centre, has been made

aware of the suggestion. There may also be opportunities to explore government grants, community partnerships or sponsorship to help fund a future beautification project.

Most importantly, we would like to hear from you, our readers.

What would you like to see at the southern entrance to the Camden Haven?

Send us your ideas for landscaping, signage, artwork or another welcoming feature that could turn this neglected roundabout into a 'magic roundabout' and gateway our region can be proud of. Email: editor@camdenhavenlocalnews.com.au

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Caring for a family member or friend can be rewarding, but it can also be tiring, stressful and sometimes extremely isolating.

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Community Chit Chat.

Bridge over troubled water.

from PMHC

Major construction has begun on the \$6.5 million replacement of Stoney Creek Bridge, delivering a safer and more flood-resilient crossing for residents and motorists using Pembroke Road.

The project will replace the existing single-lane temporary bridge with a permanent concrete structure. Improvements will also be made to the bridge approaches, road width and alignment, providing a safer and more reliable connection for the Pembroke community.

The former timber bridge was destroyed during the devastating March 2021 floods and has since been replaced by a temporary crossing. The new bridge represents an important step in restoring damaged local infrastructure and strengthening road networks against future flooding.

NSW Minister for the North Coast and Minister for Recovery Janelle Saffin joined Port Macquarie-Hastings Mayor



Information and photo supplied by PMHC Media Alert

Adam Roberts, Member for Oxley Michael Kemp MP, councillors, council staff and representatives from Alliance Construction Group to formally mark the beginning of major works on Wednesday, July 29.

The project is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments through the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Once completed, the upgraded crossing is expected to improve safety, access and resilience for local residents, emergency services and other road users travelling through the area.

Sinfonia sounds off.

by Jennie Wright

Sinfonia MNC, our local Symphony Orchestra, is proud to announce performances at Camden Haven Anglican Church, Lakewood, on Sunday 1st November at 2pm, with tickets going on sale shortly. As well as announcing that the Orchestra will be playing for the High School students of the Hastings, at Camden Haven High School on Thursday 26th November.

This "Symphonic Symbiosis" showcases the many instruments played in an Orchestra, with skillfull arrangements by Sinfonia's Conductor and Musical Director, Mr Iain Pole. "Symbiosis" implies a close and long term interaction between two different species, in this case, the Brass, Strings, Percussion and other Orchestral instruments. A fantastic concert of well known works, with each section of the Orchestra playing its part. Prepare to hear, "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" by Benjamin Britten, works from JS Bach, Handel, Mozart, Saint Saen's "Carnival of the Animals" and themes from Forrest Gump, Slide and Family "Bones".

Everyone is invited to the performance. Further performances also to be held in .Tuncurry and Manning Valley Anglican College. See our Advertisement page 6 or contact: Jennie Wright, 0418 205 971.

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Don't forget to clean your night guard or retainer

Most people know they should brush and floss their teeth every day – but did you know that your night guard, retainer or clear aligners need regular cleaning too?

These appliances spend hours in your mouth every day (or every night), making them the perfect place for bacteria and food particles to accumulate. If they're not cleaned routinely, they can develop an unpleasant smell, become discoloured, and even contribute to dental problems.

Why Is Cleaning So Important

Every time you wear your appliance, it is exposed to saliva and naturally occurring bacteria in your mouth. Without regular cleaning, this buildup can lead to:

- Bad breath and unpleasant odours
- Plaque and tartar deposits on the appliance
- Increased bacteria and yeast growth
- Gum irritation and inflammation
- A greater risk of tooth decay, particularly if bacteria are trapped against the teeth
- Staining and premature wear of the appliance

Keeping your appliance clean not only helps protect your oral health but also helps it last longer and fit properly.

Cleaning Is Quick and Easy

Fortunately, keeping your night guard, retainer or clear aligners clean only takes a few minutes each day.

After removing your appliance, rinse it under cool or lukewarm running water to remove saliva and loose debris. Most removable appliances can then be gently cleaned using a soft toothbrush and a mild, non-abrasive cleanser such as fragrance-free liquid soap. Avoid using regular toothpaste, as many formulations contain abrasive particles

that can scratch the plastic surface. These microscopic scratches can make it easier for plaque and bacteria to accumulate over time.

Research has shown that combining gentle brushing with regular soaking in a cleaning solution is the most effective way to reduce bacterial and fungal biofilm. Once or twice a week – or more frequently if recommended by your dental professional – soak your appliance in a commercially available cleaner designed for retainers, dentures or other removable dental appliances, following the manufacturer's instructions. After soaking, rinse the appliance thoroughly with water before placing it back into your mouth.

If you wear clear aligners, always follow the cleaning instructions provided by the manufacturer, as some products have specific recommendations to maintain the clarity and fit of the material.

A Few Things to Avoid

Some common cleaning methods can actually damage your appliance. Avoid:

- Hot or boiling water, which can warp the plastic.

- Toothpaste, as many brands contain abrasive particles that scratch the surface.
- Bleach or harsh household cleaners.
- Putting your appliance in the dishwasher or microwave.

Tiny scratches may not seem important, but they create rough surfaces where bacteria and stains can accumulate more easily.

Store It Properly

When you're not wearing your appliance, keep it in a clean, ventilated case. Avoid wrapping it in a tissue or napkin—it is surprisingly common for retainers and night guards to be accidentally thrown away this way!

If you have pets, be extra careful. Dogs, in particular, seem to find dental appliances irresistible and frequently chew them beyond repair.

Bring It to Your Dental Visits

Remember to bring your night guard, retainer or aligners to your regular dental appointments. Your dental team can check that it still fits correctly, look for signs of wear, and recommend professional cleaning or replacement if needed.

A Healthy Habit Worth Keeping

Looking after your removable dental appliance is an important part of maintaining a healthy smile. Just a few minutes of cleaning each day can help prevent bacteria buildup, keep your breath fresh, reduce the risk of dental problems, and extend the life of your appliance.

If you have any questions about caring for your night guard, retainer or clear aligners, don't hesitate to ask your dental team. They're always happy to help keep your smile healthy.

Speak with the team at Sundial Dental if you'd like personalised advice on caring for your dental appliances.

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A person of plane fame.

Another local claim to history. Kew's Nancy Bird Walton.

by the Editor

Long before Nancy-Bird Walton became one of Australia's most celebrated aviation pioneers, her remarkable story began in the small timber town of Kew, in the heart of the Camden Haven.

Born Nancy Bird on 16 October 1915, she spent her earliest years surrounded by country life. Her father, Herbert Bird, operated the local general store in the building now known as the Kew Corner Store. It remains a tangible link to the childhood of a woman whose name would eventually be carried by roads, awards, aircraft and an international airport.

Few people passing through Kew today would imagine that the little girl who once lived there would become known as Australia's "First Lady of Flight" and the "Angel of the Outback".

Nancy's fascination with aviation began early, but it was a journey from Kew to an air pageant at nearby Wingham, travelling on the back of a cream truck, when she was 13, that turned curiosity into a lifelong ambition.

Nancy paid 10 shillings for her first joy flight in a de Havilland Gipsy Moth. After landing, she spent the remainder of her week's wages on a second flight, asking the pilot to perform aerobatics.



Nancy Bird in a Gipsy Moth at the Kingsford Smith Flying School, 1933.

Flying, she later said, had become "the ruling passion of my life".

That day also brought Nancy into contact with Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Australia's great aviation hero. He told the determined

teenager he was preparing to establish a flying school at Mascot in Sydney and encouraged her to enrol.

Back in Kew, Nancy worked in her father's general store and saved towards her dream. Raising money for lessons and accommodation during the Depression was no small achievement. Her father opposed the plan, believing aviation far too dangerous, particularly for a young woman. Nancy was not easily discouraged.

On 11 August 1933, she began training at Kingsford Smith's newly opened flying school. She trained intensely and also learned navigation from celebrated aviator P. G. Taylor. Within seven weeks

she had gained her private pilot's licence. By 19, Nancy had earned a commercial licence, becoming the youngest woman in the British Commonwealth qualified to fly commercially. While many women of the era learned to fly recreationally, Nancy intended to make aviation her profession.

Her first aircraft was a de Havilland Gipsy Moth, the type that had first inspired her at Wingham. With fellow pilot Peggy McKillop, she began barnstorming through country Australia, landing near agricultural shows and offering joy flights. For many passengers, it was not only their first flight but the first time they had seen an aeroplane close up.

These adventures required courage and resourcefulness. Country landing grounds could be rough paddocks, weather information limited, navigation basic and the open cockpit offered little protection from wind, cold or rain.

Nancy's career soon took on a more serious purpose. Reverend Stanley Drummond invited her to assist with an aerial medical service connected with the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme. From 1935, she flew doctors and nurses to isolated communities across western New South Wales, reaching families for whom medical care could otherwise be days away.

Her Gipsy Moth effectively became a small air ambulance. She flew enormous distances over country with few landmarks and landed where proper aerodromes did not exist. This work brought essential health services to remote children and families and earned Nancy the affectionate title "Angel of the Outback".

As her career expanded, Nancy upgraded to the enclosed-cabin de Havilland Leopard

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Tuncurry Memorial Hall
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In 1936 she entered an air race from Adelaide to Brisbane and won the Ladies' Trophy. Later she travelled through Europe, studying civil aviation and meeting international pilots. She also flew

in the advanced Messerschmitt Bf 108 Taifun, reflecting her enthusiasm for new aircraft and technology.

When the Second World War began, Nancy returned to Australia. Although women were not permitted to fly operational military aircraft, she helped train women in



Nancy Bird with Jack, Charles' nephew.

technical and organisational skills supporting the Royal Australian Air Force.

She married Charles Walton in 1939 and became widely known as Nancy-Bird Walton. Her contribution to

aviation continued long after her pioneering flying years. In 1950 she founded the Australian Women Pilots' Association, creating a network through which female aviators could support one another and encourage future generations.

Nancy returned to competitive flying in

1958, entering the American all-women's transcontinental race known as the Powder Puff Derby. Despite limited experience in her hired Cessna 172, she finished fifth in a field of 61 entrants.

Her achievements were recognised with an OBE in 1966 and appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1990. She continued advocating for aviation and women pilots into her later years, remaining a much-loved figure in Australian flying circles until her death in 2009 at the age of 93.

Today, her legacy reaches from her Camden Haven birthplace to the skies above Australia. Nancy Bird Walton Drive at Kew provides a daily reminder of her local beginnings, while Western Sydney proudly carries the official name Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport.

It is an extraordinary journey: from a country general store in Kew, to a cream truck bound for Wingham, an open-cockpit Gipsy Moth and a lifetime of aviation achievement.

Nancy-Bird Walton's story belongs to all Australians, but it belongs especially to the Camden Haven. The place where a determined young girl first began looking towards the sky and created a life full of successful achievements.



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Heaven on the hill.

Haven Ridge. Open fire. Gourmet delights.



Tucked away in the rolling countryside of Bonny Hills, Haven Ridge is quickly becoming one of the region's most inviting places to eat, relax and enjoy a little country hospitality.

New owners Marianne and Alex Vosso welcome visitors to experience a venue that combines good food, and a spectacular setting. Surrounded by natural beauty, Haven Ridge feels pleasantly removed from the everyday rush, yet remains close enough for an easy afternoon or evening outing.

At the heart of the experience is the impressive open fire pit, creating a warm and welcoming gathering place as the sun begins to set. It is the sort of spot where conversations linger, drinks are enjoyed slowly and guests settle in for a relaxed evening beneath the open sky, kangaroo spotting.

Sunday entertainment adds another dimension, with live music bringing an easygoing atmosphere to the property. Whether visiting with friends, family or a partner, the combination of music, food and rural surroundings makes for a memorable way to finish the weekend.

Entry to Haven Ridge is free, making it an accessible outing for locals and visitors alike. However, bookings are required, particularly for popular Sunday sessions and special events.

For those who would prefer to leave the car at home, private mini bus transport is also available by booking on their website. This is a welcome option for groups, celebrations or anyone planning to enjoy a few drinks without worrying about the drive home.

Those wishing to extend their visit can also take advantage of onsite accommodation. A stayover allows guests to enjoy the evening at a leisurely pace before waking to the peaceful atmosphere of the Bonny Hills hinterland. It is particularly convenient for weddings, private functions, group gatherings and special events.

Haven Ridge is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as for selected special events. The venue's flexible spaces, beautiful location and friendly approach make it equally suited to casual visits, celebrations and organised occasions.

More than simply a place to dine, Haven Ridge offers an experience shaped by atmosphere, hospitality and location. With Marianne and Alex at the helm, the property is beginning an exciting new chapter while retaining the relaxed country character that makes it so appealing.

Anyone looking for good food, welcoming hosts, live Sunday entertainment and a scenic place to unwind, Haven Ridge is well worth discovering. www.havenridge.com.au.

September's Recipe



Rack of Spring Lamb Greek style

Ingredients - Serves 4

2 racks of lamb, about 6-8 cutlets each (*Wiggly Tail*)
3 tablespoons olive oil
Juice and finely grated zest of 1 lemon
4 garlic cloves, crushed
2 teaspoons dried oregano
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1 teaspoon sweet paprika
1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
500g baby potatoes, halved
1 red onion, cut into wedges
1 lemon, cut into wedges
½ cup chicken stock or water
Chopped parsley, to serve

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C, or 180°C fan-forced. Combine the olive oil, lemon juice and zest, garlic, oregano, thyme, paprika and rosemary in a small bowl. Season generously with salt and pepper.

Place the lamb racks in a shallow dish and rub the marinade all over the meat. Leave for at least 30 minutes, or refrigerate for several hours for a stronger flavour.

Arrange the potatoes, onion and lemon wedges in a roasting dish. Pour over the stock and drizzle with a little extra olive oil. Season well and roast for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, heat a large frying pan over high heat. Sear the lamb racks, fat-side down first, for 2-3 minutes, then briefly brown the remaining sides.

Place the lamb on top of the potatoes and return the dish to the oven. Roast for 18-22 minutes for medium-rare, or slightly longer for medium.

Transfer the lamb to a board, loosely cover with foil and rest for 10 minutes. Continue roasting the potatoes during this time if they need extra browning. Slice the racks into individual cutlets and serve with the lemony potatoes, roasted onion and pan juices. Sprinkle with parsley.

Serve with Greek salad, tzatziki and pita bread.

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Gardening and cheffing.

September in the garden.

September heralds the beginning of Spring, the gardener's busiest and most rewarding time of the year.

September Garden Care

Hibiscus are looking very weathered, and now is the time to give them a hard prune – ideally, 2/3 of the growth. Feed with well-rotted manure and a good handful of Hibiscus fertiliser around the base of the plant.

As **Azaleas** and **Magnolias** finish their flowering, mulch them well for summer and give a good handful of Organic Life pellets around the drip zone of each plant. Remove spent flowers and lightly prune to shape if necessary.

Citrus will respond well to a spring feed. For those in the garden, a good application of well-rotted compost and manure, as well as a handful of Fruit and Citrus fertiliser. Potted-grown varieties are best fed with a slow-release Citrus food.



Indoor plants can be given a small feed of slow-release fertiliser and re-potted if they are pot-bound.

Perennials

Remove dead or damaged growth, and trim spent flowers to encourage repeat flowering. Feed with a handful of Organic Life pellets. Regular applications of Power feed or Five in One liquid will ensure healthy growth for the season.

Prepare new gardens for planting

Soil preparation is the foundation for success in the garden. Heavy clay soils can be improved with the addition of organic matter, compost, and Gypsum to help break down the clay.

Sandy soils will benefit from the addition of well-rotted compost.

Watering

With the current drier conditions, now is a good time to check and maintain irrigation systems. Newly planted plants will require regular watering to help establish new root growth. Water deeply and thoroughly; early morning is the best time to water if possible. The addition of a wetting agent to the soil can assist with soils that have become water repellent.

Happy gardening and enjoy the wonderful spring season ahead.

Mal's Plant of the month

Bacopa

Excellent plant for hanging baskets, window boxes and as a flowering groundcover.

Producing masses of flowers from late winter through to Autumn in shades of white, mauve and pink.

- Best planted in Full sun or part shade
- A well-drained soil
- Feed monthly to promote healthy growth.
- Attracts bees and other pollinators.

*Happy Growing,
Malcolm McKinlay
Garden Clubs of Australia Zone Coordinator*

Serving up success.

Laurieton United Services Club recently celebrated an important milestone for Head Chef Heshan, who has officially received his Australian Permanent Residency.

Since joining LUSC, Heshan has become a valued member of the team, bringing not only his culinary skills to the kitchen but



also a strong work ethic, friendly nature and commitment to the club.

His positive attitude and easy smile have made him popular with fellow staff, members and guests, so there were plenty of people pleased to share in the good news.

Achieving Permanent Residency is a significant step and follows years of dedication, patience and determination. The occasion was made even more special with Heshan's wife, Thilini, currently visiting and able to join him for the celebration.

For LUSC, Heshan's story also reflects the friendships and connections that can develop through a local workplace. Colleagues have become good friends, and important personal milestones often become something the wider team enjoys celebrating as well.

Heshan's journey was also supported by former LUSC General Manager and now Member for Port Macquarie Rob Dwyer MP, who had followed and encouraged his progress on achieving Australian Permanent Residency and beginning an exciting new chapter with Thilini. It is a well-earned milestone for a popular member of the team.

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Writers corner.

Through books, life's stories may not be lost.

by Kevin O'Sullivan

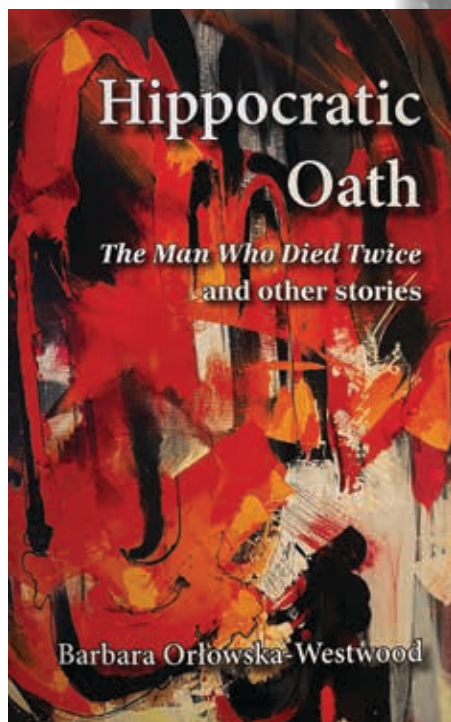
Stories that are not told all share the same fate: they die. They are removed from the stock of the world. Any inspiration, any encouragement, any clarity or comfort they may have afforded are lost to us all. That's why a collection of stories like *Hippocratic Oath* is important. In them, Barbara Orłowska-Westwood reaches back over the years of her life in Poland, first under the Nazis and then under the Soviet regime to give us rare, first-hand glimpses into a life beset with difficulties but crowned with achievement.

little girl who tasted dirt, of the teenager who dreamed of being a doctor, the young woman who bought a skull with a bottle of vodka, the mother who protected her

We connect most deeply with writers who make themselves the most available to us. They are writers who allow themselves to be vulnerable, not as a literary device, but as a genuine offering to the rest of us. It is a rare treat to hear one of our contemporaries speak with quiet authority about how things were for her. People sometimes say that works of art, like this collection, teach us things. They don't. They simply are. Whether or not we learn something, take something away, is entirely up to us.

You can read this book and say, How interesting! or, How beautifully written! but the book's real question is: what do you feel?

Here you may find compassion and strength, you may find a sense of awe for the



Two collections of poetry, *A Chapbook of Verse* and the beautifully illustrated, *Living Lines are Never Straight*, have appeared over the past ten years and another is in preparation. Her

child. Put simply, what Orłowska-Westwood is writing about here is care, the care that lies at the heart of the *Hippocratic Oath*: First, do no harm.

The most beautiful thing about this collection is the language. Barbara is first and foremost a poet.

work is in the great tradition of writers like Iris Murdoch and Rodney Hall, writers of prose who are also writers of poetry: and it shows. Her prose is sparse, stripped of every superfluous word. Her sentences are short and her word pictures are vivid. Her scenes are intimate. We are invited into the family home, around the table, into the cellar as the bombs fall, into anatomy lectures and hospital wards; and, finally, we are invited to hear the Tram Company band play Chopin at the funeral of her stepfather, mentor and model. The intimacy of the collection is deepened by the inclusion of five poems among the stories and the insertion of stanzas of poetry into the first story, *Taste of Dirt*.

This is gentle, inviting prose: it will reward attentive and repeated reading.

TIP OF THE MONTH

WHAT YOUR TEETH ARE TRYING TO TELL YOU

There are several common dental symptoms that are easy to overlook, but they may be signs that something needs attention:

- **Bleeding gums** – may indicate gum inflammation or plaque build-up.
- **Tooth sensitivity** – can be caused by decay, enamel wear or receding gums.
- **Bad breath** – may indicate poor oral hygiene, gum disease or infection.
- **Jaw pain or headaches** – can be linked to clenching, grinding or an uneven bite.
- **Cracked or chipped teeth** – small damage can worsen and lead to bigger problems.

Early attention can help prevent small problems from becoming bigger ones.

📍 12 Seymour Street, Laurieton 2443 ☎ 6559 8660 🌐 www.laurietonfamilydental.com.au

 **Laurieton Family DENTAL**



Picture this. Picture that.

Locals producing creative photography.

by Camden Haven Community College

The Photographer's Eye photography course at Camden Haven Community College has been a great success, receiving strong student engagement and excellent feedback from participants. Designed for beginners and enthusiastic photographers who want to make the most of their cameras and a variety of lenses, the course provides a structured learning path that guides students from fundamental camera skills through to the creation of a professional fine art portfolio.

The program is divided into four progressive stages: Basic Skills, Advanced Practical, Creative Refinement, and Fine Art Portfolio. Students begin by building a solid understanding of camera settings, composition, light, and the exposure triangle before moving on to a wide range of photographic genres, including landscape, portrait, wildlife, sport, architecture, and travel photography. As their skills develop, participants explore more creative subjects such as abstract, macro, still life, urban night, street, and flash photography, eventually working towards developing a personal visual style and a cohesive portfolio suitable for exhibition or professional presentation.

Throughout the program, participants gain a deeper understanding of camera operation, photographic composition, the creative use of light, visual storytelling, and contemporary photographic practice.

Through practical exercises, field assignments, and creative projects, students learn how to transform everyday scenes into compelling images that communicate meaning and emotion.

An important part of the course involves image reviews, constructive feedback, and photographic analysis. Students are encouraged to present their work for



discussion, allowing them to learn from one another while developing a critical eye for composition, lighting, timing, and visual impact. These review sessions help participants refine their techniques, strengthen their creative decision-making, and gain confidence in evaluating their own photographs.

The enthusiastic response from students reflects the value of photography education in fostering creativity, confidence, and self-expression. Many participants have not only improved their technical skills but have also discovered new ways of seeing and interpreting the world around them.

The success of The Photographer's Eye, designed and taught by world-renowned documentary and travel photographer Rafael Ben Ari, highlights the important role that Camden Haven Community College plays in supporting lifelong learning and enriching the local community through accessible and inspiring educational opportunities. The course continues to inspire photographers of all skill levels to develop their creativity, technical expertise, and personal artistic vision.

For more information contact Camden Haven Community College on 02 6559 6699.



Column 1: Peter Fitzroy x2,
Column 2: Rafael Ben Ari, Barbara Martin,
Victor Pasani,
Column 3: Philippa Patterson x2,
Barbara Martin x 2

WHAT'S
ON

LUSC
laurieton united services club

Seymour St Ph 6559 9110 laurietonclub.com.au

KCCm
kew country club

Kendall Rd Kew Ph 6559 4203

LUSC

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12TH
SEP**

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SAT 19 SEPT

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Silver Springs • Go Your Own Way • All the Hits



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.....

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**SUNDAY 2.30 PM
27TH SEPT**

What's on and gig guide.

Live music, gigs and events!

THU SEP 3 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Gary King (*Live Music*)
 Club North Haven
 1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI SEP 4 Open 4.00pm Music 6.00pm
Craig Stewart (*Live Music*)
Friday Nights at The Jetty
\$1 oysters. Beer Specials. Margis \$15. Antipasto \$20
 LUSC Seymour St - laurietonclub.com.au

FRI SEP 4 Doors 6.30/7pm Open Mic 8pm
Kendall Music Exchange
Laurier Tunes & Spiral Time (*Live Music*)
 School of Arts Hall Comboyne Rd
 Tix: \$5
kendallmusicexchange123@gmail.com

FRI SEP 4 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Possum Scratchers (*Live Music*)
 Club Lake Cathie - 45 Evans Rd
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT SEP 5 8.00pm – 11.00pm
 (*Live Music*)
 Laurieton Hotel - Bold St, Laurieton
www.laurietonhotel.com.au

SAT SEP 5 7.00pm
Love Buzz Band (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern 1609 Ocean Drive
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN SEP 6 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Hudson Rose (*Live Music*)
 Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
 613 Ocean Dr North Haven

SUN SEP 6 12.00noon – 5.00pm
Fathers Day
Bootleggers (*Live Music*)
 Haven Ridge 743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
 Tix \$10 adults online. Kids free.
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN SEP 6 1.00pm
Martin Becker (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern - 1609 Ocean Drive
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN SEP 6 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Beau Bennett (*Live Music*)
 Club Lake Cathie - 45 Evans Rd
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

THU SEP 10 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Pete Ball (*Live Music*)
 Club North Haven
 1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI SEP 11 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Happy Dave (*Live Music*)
 Club Lake Cathie - 45 Evans Rd
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SUN SEP 12 Onsale 5.00 pm Drawn 6.30pm
\$3,000 Spring Raffle
 LUSC Seymour St - laurietonclub.com.au

SAT SEP 12 7.00pm
Rhys Callinan (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern
 1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN SEP 13 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Sebastian Jones (*Live Music*)
 Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
 613 Ocean Dr North Haven

SUN SEP 13 12.00pm – 5.00pm
Sunday Sessions
Zoe Rain (*Live Music*)
 Haven Ridge - 743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Free entry. Bookings recommended
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN SEP 13 7.00pm
Reuben Carr (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern - 1609 Ocean Drive
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

FRI SEP 13 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Besty (*Live Music*)
 Club Lake Cathie - 45 Evans Rd
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

THU SEP 17 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Shane Peters (*Live Music*)
 Club North Haven
 1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI SEP 18 Open 4.00pm Music 6.00pm
Gary King (*Live Music*)
Friday Nights at The Jetty
\$1 oysters. Beer Specials. Margis \$15. Antipasto \$20
 LUSC Seymour St - laurietonclub.com.au

FRI SEP 18 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Stevie B (*Live Music*)
 Club Lake Cathie - 45 Evans Rd
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SUN SEP 19 Open 4.00 pm Music 6.00pm
Starshine: Fleetwood Mac & Stevie Nicks
Tribute Tix: 36
<https://lusc.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent167147>
 LUSC Seymour St - laurietonclub.com.au

SAT SEP 19 8.00pm – 11.00pm
 (*Live Music*)
 Laurieton Hotel - Bold St, Laurieton
www.laurietonhotel.com.au

SAT SEP 19 7.00pm
Luke Cousins (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern - 1609 Ocean Drive
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN SEP 20 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Ali Mcleod (*Live Music*)
 Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
 613 Ocean Dr North Haven

SUN SEP 20 12.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday Sessions
Archie Geromi (*Live Music*)
Winner of Sydney Blues Society Youth Artist
 Haven Ridge - 743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Free entry. Bookings recommended
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN SEP 20 1.00pm
Charlie O'Derry (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern - 1609 Ocean Drive
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN SEP 20 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Simon Gudgeon (*Live Music*)
 Club Lake Cathie - 45 Evans Rd
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

THU SEP 24 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Charlie O'Derry (*Live Music*)
 Club North Haven
 1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI SEP 25 Open 4.00pm Music 6.00pm
Brad Lockwood (*Live Music*)
Friday Nights at The Jetty
\$1 oysters. Beer Specials. Margis \$15. Antipasto \$20
 LUSC Seymour St - laurietonclub.com.au

SAT SEP 26 8.00pm – 11.00pm
 (*Live Music*)
 Laurieton Hotel - Bold St, Laurieton
www.laurietonhotel.com.au

SAT SEP 26 1.00pm
Besty & Andy Duo (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern - 1609 Ocean Drive
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN SEP 27 Doors 2.00pm Show 2.30pm
Camden Haven Concert Band
& Laurieton Voices
Poseidon's Playlist Concert
Free Entry Community Event
 LUSC Seymour St - laurietonclub.com.au

SUN SEP 27 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Brody Ireland (*Live Music*)
 Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
 613 Ocean Dr North Haven

SUN SEP 27 12.00pm – 5.00pm
Sunday Sessions
Craig Stewart (*Live Music*)
 Haven Ridge 743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Free entry. Bookings recommended
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN SEP 27 1.00pm
Bill Roberts (*Live Music*)
 Lake Cathie Tavern - 1609 Ocean Drive
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN SEP 27 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Chris Rose (*Live Music*)
 Club Lake Cathie - 45 Evans Rd
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SEPTEMBER MARKETS

August 2nd 9am-1pm
Kendall Showground Markets

August 9th 8am-1pm
Comboyne Museum Markets

August 16th & 30th 8am-1pm
Laurieton Riverwalk Markets

Coloured balls. Big local events.

Tennis' coloured ball series serves an ace.

by *Alison Stewart*

Young tennis players participating in the Hot Shots coloured ball learning pathway now have a new tournament series to add to their calendars – the Port Macquarie Hastings Coloured Ball Series.

This involves four tournaments annually to coincide with the professional Grand Slams and, most importantly, they will be played right here on the Mid North Coast. The series kicked off in August when Kendall Tennis Club hosted the inaugural Wimbledon event. Port Macquarie Tennis Club will host the US Open in September, followed by the Australian Open at Laurieton Tennis Club in February 2027. The final event, the French Open, will be hosted by Wauchope Tennis Club in June 2027.

Kylie Hunt from Tennis NSW is driving the initiative locally. She is working directly with the clubs before and during the events to ensure their success. The four host clubs have committed to the series for the next three years and have received funding, banners and

trophies, along with Kylie's hands-on support.

Undoubtedly, one of the standout features of the series is the four impressive, life-sized perpetual Grand Slam trophies. Each trophy is unique and will be engraved with the names of the winners. In addition, winners will receive an individual trophy to commemorate their achievement.



Kendall's Wimbledon event was a huge success, with 32 young players competing on a perfect winter's day. Players travelled from across the Mid North Coast to enjoy the tournament at Kendall's exceptional

tennis facilities.

Wimbledon Coloured Ball Champions

- Green Ball Girl Winner – Maddie Elliott
- Green Ball Boy Winner – Kerby Brown
- Orange Ball Girl Winner – Bonnie Vial

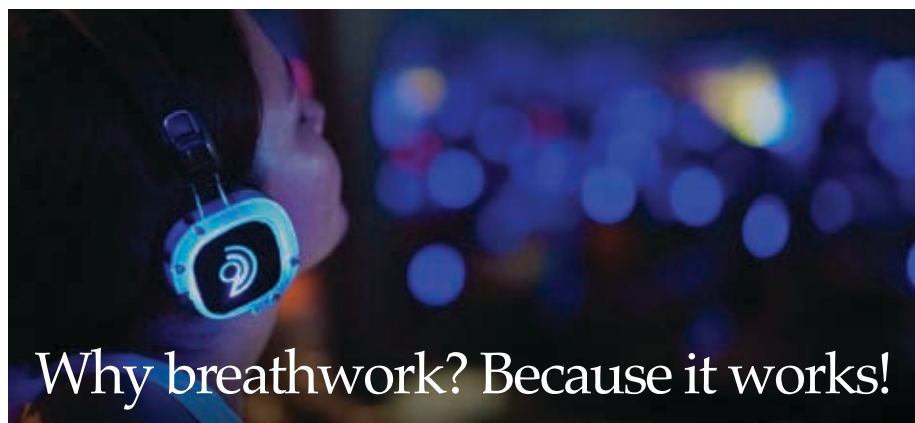


- Orange Ball Boy Winner – Declan Dollery
- Red Ball Girl Winner – Aleah Aulsebrook
- Red Ball Boy Winner – Harry Elliott

Following the success of Kendall's Wimbledon tournament, the series will now travel to Port Macquarie, Laurieton and Wauchope.

It's a great opportunity for young players from across the region to compete, improve their skills, meet other players and, most importantly, enjoy the game.

For further information and registration, visit: Port Macquarie Hastings Coloured Ball Event registration.



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SUNDAY 25th OCT 4-6pm

TUESDAY 24th NOV 6-8pm

WEDNESDAY 23rd DEC 6-8pm

St. John's Hall, Taree

Saturdays 9-11am

15th AUGUST

12th SEPTEMBER

10th OCTOBER

21st NOVEMBER

12th DECEMBER

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Port Macquarie

Sat 29th AUG 9.30am

SAT 5th SEPT 9.30am

FRI 11th SEPT 6.30pm

SAT 19th SEPT 9.30am

FRI 25th SEPT 6.30pm





Healthy connectivity.

A half century creating positive outcomes..



Sometimes good health is supported in ways that have little to do with medicine. A soft pillow after surgery, a handmade quilt during a difficult family stay, or simply knowing that someone has taken the time to make something especially for you can bring a surprising amount of comfort.

That is exactly what the LUSC Friendship Quilters have been doing for more than 50 years.

With support from the Laurieton United Services Club Category 1 ClubGRANTS Program, the group will continue creating up to 100 mastectomy pillows for women undergoing breast cancer treatment through Port Macquarie Hospital, along with 30 handmade quilts for families staying at Ronald McDonald House in Forster.

For women recovering from breast surgery, a mastectomy pillow can provide practical relief by helping reduce pressure and discomfort around tender areas. It can be particularly useful while resting, sleeping or travelling in a car, when even something as simple as a seatbelt may feel uncomfortable.

But there is another benefit that is harder to measure.

Receiving something handmade can offer a sense of reassurance during an anxious or uncertain time. It is a small reminder that beyond the doctors, nurses and treatment rooms, there is also a wider community quietly offering support.

The same applies to families staying at Ronald McDonald House while caring for a sick child. A handmade quilt may seem like a modest gesture, yet anything that adds warmth, colour and a little sense of home can make an unfamiliar environment feel more welcoming.

The project also highlights the

health benefits of volunteering itself.

The Friendship Quilters bring together 39 volunteers through creativity, conversation and shared purpose. Social connection, keeping mentally active and having a meaningful reason to come together can all contribute positively to wellbeing, particularly as we grow older.

Established in the 1970s, the group has donated quilts, clothing and mastectomy pillows to hospitals, Meals on Wheels, people experiencing homelessness and many other community organisations.

This year alone, around 130 people are expected to benefit directly from their work.

With ClubGRANTS funding helping cover fabric, wadding and other materials, these local volunteers can continue doing what they do best – turning simple pieces of fabric into something far more valuable: comfort, connection and care.

Community strength.

Fifty years of friendship is something worth celebrating – and for the Ladies Probus Club, it represents half a century of connection, companionship and shared memories within the local community.

For generations of women, the club has provided much more than regular meetings and social activities. It has created a welcoming place to form friendships, enjoy new experiences and stay connected with others through every stage of life.

That sense of belonging is at the heart of what Probus is all about. In a world where people can sometimes feel increasingly isolated, community groups such as this continue to play an important role in bringing people together through conversation, laughter, fellowship and mutual support.

Laurieton United Services Club was pleased to host the Ladies Probus Club's special 50th Anniversary celebration, marking an impressive milestone with members, friends and invited guests.

Among those attending were State MP Robert Dwyer and Mel Lillian from Linked Transport, who joined in recognising the club's contribution and longevity.

Fifty years is a remarkable achievement, built not only on organised activities but on the countless friendships and personal connections formed along the way.

Congratulations to everyone who has been part of the Ladies Probus Club journey. Here's to many more years of friendship, laughter and community connection.

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Feathered friends or foes?

Sharing paradise with the birds.

by the editor

Living in a coastal village like Laurieton means sharing the neighbourhood with an extraordinary variety of native birds. Rainbow lorikeets chatter through the gums, cockatoos and kookaburras announce the morning, magpies patrol open lawns and pelicans glide across the Camden Haven River before gathering near boat ramps, jetties and fish-cleaning areas.

These birds bring colour, movement and character to suburban life, but close contact can sometimes create conflict.

As natural bushland is cleared or divided by roads and housing, birds increasingly depend on suburban gardens, waterways and public reserves for food, shelter and nesting sites. Native trees, birdbaths and flowering plants can provide valuable habitat, particularly in our community surrounded by rivers, lakes, national parks and coastal forest.

However, not every encounter is peaceful. Cockatoos can chew timber railings, outdoor furniture or television antennas, while rainbow lorikeets create considerable noise when gathering in large numbers.

Pelicans are generally calm and popular with locals and visitors, but problems can arise when they become accustomed to being fed. Around boat ramps and fishing areas, they approach people closely, compete for scraps or swallow hooks. Discarded tackle can also cause serious injuries to pelicans and other waterbirds.



During spring, magpies and masked lapwings (plovers) may swoop when protecting nests or young birds. Personal experience here, having been bowled over, lol. This is temporary behaviour however.

Feeding native birds may appear kind, but regular hand-feeding can cause poor nutrition, disease and unnatural dependence on people. Bread, processed food and some seed mixes are particularly unsuitable for many species.

Residents can also help by keeping cats indoors, placing decals on reflective windows and disposing of fishing tackle responsibly.

Our native birds are not simply visitors. They are part of the coastal environment that makes the Camden Haven special. With thoughtful choices and a little patience, people and birds can continue sharing village life with fewer feathers ruffled.



Pelicans on patrol.

Down by the river at cleaning time,
The pelicans gather in a crooked line,
With hopeful eyes and bills held wide,
They wait for dinner with patient pride.

One fisherman fillets his morning catch,
While six hungry beaks prepare to snatch,
A scrap hits the table, then disappears,
To flapping wings and pelican cheers.

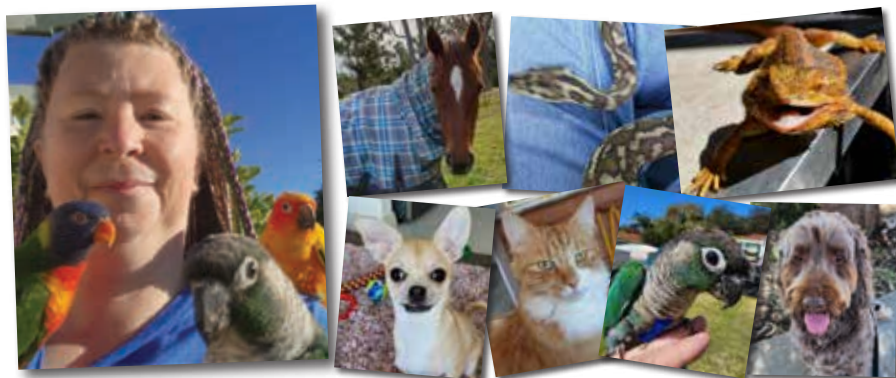
Old Percy Pelican stands to the front,
A seafood expert on every hunt,
Watching each movement, steady and still,
Lunging forward with remarkable skill.

A breem head drops with a slippery splat,
Three birds argue over who owns that,
They flap and grumble, push and shove,
For fishy leftovers they dearly love.

The fishermen laugh, but guard every slice,
For pelican manners are rarely precise,
Turn your back and your lunch is gone,
Only a feather proves what went wrong.

So down on the Camden Haven each day,
The pelican patrol lines up for its pay,
No wages required, no contract or dish
Just stand by the table and wait for a fish!

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Boldly going...

Beam me up Scotty.

Imagine a world where smart phones were considered high-tech and everyone dreamed of cruising the galaxy in a flying saucer. Welcome to the wonderful world of early TV space shows! These interstellar gems, like "Star Trek," "Lost in Space," and "The Twilight Zone," didn't just entertain us; they boldly went where no shows had gone before, and in doing so, they left an indelible mark on our collective thinking. So, let's embark on a light-hearted journey to explore the impact of these cosmic classics on our minds and hearts.

Oh, the catchphrases! From Captain Kirk's legendary "Beam me up, Scotty" to Mr. Spock's iconic raised eyebrow, early TV space shows bequeathed us with a treasure trove of memorable lines. These catchphrases have infiltrated our everyday conversations, turning us all into Trekkies whether we realize it or not.

One of the most profound impacts of early TV space shows was the way they unleashed our imaginations. "Star Trek" in particular dared to dream of a future where humanity worked together to explore the final frontier. These shows turned us into amateur stargazers, encouraging us to look up at the night sky and wonder what adventures awaited us among the stars. Who hasn't gazed at the moon and pondered, "What if?"

Remember the colourful menagerie of creatures that graced our TV screens in these shows? From the affable Wookiee Chewbacca in "Star Wars" to the bizarre but loveable tribbles in "Star Trek," these shows introduced us to an eclectic cast of characters. They taught us to embrace diversity and celebrate our differences, even if our idea of "different" was a talking carrot-man from "Lost in Space."

Early TV space shows tantalised us with visions of spaceships so advanced that even Elon Musk might be envious. The iconic Enterprise, Millennium Falcon, and Jupiter 2 were more than just vehicles; they were symbols of hope, adventure, and exploration. While we may not be zipping around the



galaxy in these epic spacecrafts, the dreams they ignited have propelled us to make incredible strides in space travel and exploration.

Diversity and inclusivity weren't mere buzzwords in early TV space shows; they were cornerstones of the storytelling. "Star Trek" led the way with its racially diverse cast and was a beacon of hope in a time when societal divisions were still prevalent. These shows inspired us to reach for the stars so next time you face a moral quandary, just ask yourself: What would Captain Kirk do?

Remember those outlandish futuristic gadgets from these shows? Communicators in "Star Trek" look suspiciously like our modern smartphones, and "Lost in Space" featured a robot that could speak as clearly as any Alexa or Google gadget you own. Early TV space shows didn't just predict the future; they helped shape it. It turns out, the possibilities of space travel aren't as far-fetched once thought. Early TV space shows weren't just a form of entertainment, they were a cosmic playground for our imaginations, ethics, and dreams. So, the next time you spot a shooting star or gaze up at the moon, remember that early

TV space shows had a hand in making that moment a little more magical and a lot more interstellar. To boldly go where no show has gone before - they did it, and they took us along for the ride.

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PERCHANCE YEE MAY FIND 27 DIFFERENCES

Jared.



Hidden in plain sight. Guess who!

Behind familiar faces are some remarkable stories.

This is the first of a series about local personalities who have histories we are mostly unaware of. We will attempt to tell their stories without naming names. LOL.

*Just email who you think it is to:
editor@camdenhavenlocalnews.com.au
Answer published next month.*

Her story began in Sydney, where music entered her life almost as soon as she was old enough to reach the keys of a piano. She began learning at five years of age, never imagining that those early lessons would lead her into concert halls, jazz festivals, international performances and the demanding world behind some of Australia's largest orchestras.

Although she has performed on stage herself, much of her working life has been spent just out of sight, ensuring that musicians, conductors, instruments, scores, venues and audiences all arrived in the right place at precisely the right time.

During the 1980s, she worked alongside the management of one of Australia's leading symphony orchestras. She later became responsible for the large ensembles of a renowned Sydney music institution, managing everything from chamber groups and jazz bands to symphony orchestras involving more than 100 musicians.

One especially memorable performance brought together an orchestra of 150 musicians and a choir of approximately 800 voices for Berlioz's Requiem. Conducted by the celebrated John Hopkins, it was described as the largest ensemble to have performed in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

Her career also took her through the Australian Youth Orchestra, the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and, later, the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra. She helped produce chamber music evenings at Government House in Sydney and worked on major events including international music festivals, harbourside jazz festivals and the famous Manly and Newport jazz festivals staged in Sydney.

Jazz became another important part of her life. She coordinated artists, managed stages, contracted musicians and occasionally stepped from behind the curtain to perform herself. As a jazz and a cappella vocalist, she sang at venues including the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Town Hall, Government House Kuala Lumpur and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as well as appearances on national Australian television.

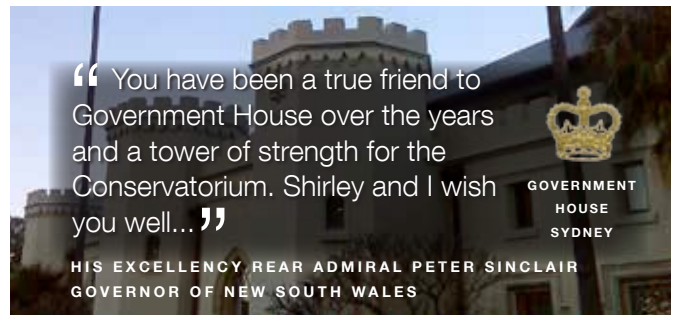
Sydney's legendary Basement jazz club was where she rubbed shoulders with the legends of the era during many evenings. A move north brought another chapter. For more than a decade, she managed events and student services at a prominent Queensland school while continuing to produce concerts, festivals and community celebrations.

Along the way, she shared performances with some remarkably diverse musical personalities. These included the historic Lancer Band, Australia's oldest continuously serving military band, renowned for its ceremonial, concert and big-band performances.

She has jumped on stage with Galapagos Duck, one of the most enduring and influential names in Australian jazz, and Vicky O'Keefe, daughter of Australia's original "Wild One", Johnny O'Keefe. And even sung with James Blundell - known for Australia's boom in modern country music.

Through her own production business, her philosophy was simple: music could be provided for anything from a solo performer to an entire symphony orchestra.

She has also had a regular Jazz gig with internationally experienced guitarist Kevin Briggs, whose career has included touring and performing with the globally successful disco group Boney M. Another distinctive performer was David De Vito, the operatic



singer and restaurateur who became nationally recognised as the "Singing Chef" who reached the finals of *Australia's Got Talent*.

After moving south again, she spent two years conducting a local choir. Rather than remaining comfortably within a familiar collection of songs, she encouraged its members to stretch their repertoire and discover different musical styles. Jazz, gospel and works by a variety of composers were introduced, challenging singers to explore new rhythms, harmonies and ways of performing together. For her, music was not simply about keeping time. It was about building confidence, encouraging people to listen to one another and proving that community singers could tackle music they may once have considered beyond their reach.

Today, life has brought her back to the Camden Haven and to a particularly meaningful Laurieton home. It was built by her grandfather, Len Daley, who was an integral member of the local business community. The house is therefore much more than timber, walls and memories. It represents a family circle completed.

Music, however, has never left her. These days she continues to bring writers, poets, composers, singers and musicians together through a growing local celebration of words and music. How many people know both verses of the national anthem?

She may no longer stand beside a 100-piece orchestra every day, but somewhere there is usually a concert to organise, a performer to encourage or a piano waiting to be played.

A steady voice behind the radio station.



Dennis Owen has made an important contribution to 2WAY FM, both behind the microphone and through his leadership of the volunteer-run community station.

Drawing on more than 30 years of experience in vocational education and training, Dennis brings strong communication, organisational and mentoring skills to his role. His passion for Australian poetry, storytelling and preserving local voices also reflects the station's commitment to sharing the character and experiences of the Hastings community.

As station president, Dennis helped guide

2WAY FM through a period of financial stability and forward planning. His leadership included the introduction of a three-year strategic plan and support for a successful \$13,000 Community Broadcasting Foundation grant, which assisted projects including the station's new website. Dennis has also welcomed young people and community groups into the Wauchope studios, helping introduce possible future presenters to broadcasting. His contribution demonstrates the value of committed volunteers in keeping genuine local radio informed, inclusive and firmly connected to its listeners.

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