

COVID-19 Boost for NECC

A \$35,737 State Government grant for New England Community College (NECC) will provide a much needed boost as they prepare for the return of face to face classes that have been on hold since COVID-19 restrictions were imposed.

Face-to-face has long been the main mode of delivery for NECC's successful hospitality, building and business courses, however due to social distancing they have been replaced by online learning.

Announcing the grant, Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall said that NECC, is an important part of the region both as an employer but also as a contracted provider of Government programs which help vulnerable students connect with jobs by re-engaging their learning and preparing them for work.

"This funding will support NECC to continue operating by covering the wages of its educators and office staff, as well as the cost of overheads like rent and power," Mr Marshall said.

"When it comes time for our economy to come out of pandemic "hibernation" organisations like NECC will play an important



Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall inspected work on the refurbished GALA Centre, with Centre Coordinator Dorothy Lockyer and NECC President Campbell Wolfenden

role in reskilling those who may have lost employment because of the crisis or who are looking for a new direction in their careers."

It is more good news for the centre with work on a \$71,875 refurbishment almost complete. The work is being carried out thanks to a State government grant which was announced in November 2019.

As part of the refurbishment

the original training room has received a much needed coat of paint and new carpet. The room has also been reconfigured to allow for an increased number of students to participate in courses.

The building's front office space has been expanded to provide more room for front of house staff, while the kitchen and the toilets have been refurbished. The final touches are expected to be complete next week, in time for the return of students.

Face-to-face learning at NECC will resume on May 11th, with classes limited to ensure social distancing requirements are met. Classes are being run only in Guyra for the time being, concentrating on classes which will assist students in obtaining employment.





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Download the COVIDSafe app Available on the App Store

Visit health.gov.au

Download the COVIDSafe app today to keep yourself and your community safe by helping our health workers to notify you quickly if you've come in contact with someone who has Coronavirus.

With your privacy protected by law, COVIDSafe keeps a secure note of other users you've been near if you have to go out. So, if they test positive for Coronavirus, you'll be notified. It'll help us stop the spread sooner, so we can all get back to the things we love.

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Sales hot as auctions go online

Guyra District properties are continuing to sell, with strong enquiries and auction clearances despite restrictions that have been imposed due to COVID-19. The move to online auctions was forced upon agents due to social distancing, and while it may not have been the initial choice it has turned out better than they expected.

Co-Director of Ray White Rural, Andrew Starr said that they had to rethink their strategy for auctions being conducted in recent weeks, but have been pleased to see that demand remains strong.

On April 23rd Ben Lomond district property "Oakholme" went under the hammer, with seven registered bidders participating in the virtual auction. The property was offered on behalf of Prue Melville, with bidding starting at \$3 million dollars.

There was keen competition and the price quickly rose with

to terminating Ms Law's contract.

on a technicality.

17 bids placed for a final sale price of \$4.8 million. The property was purchased by John Jackson of Jackson Agriculture with the price equating to \$4688 per acre which set a new benchmark for the district.

Also selling was Carawatha, which had been owned by the Fitzroy family since 1927. Once again bidding opened at \$3 million, and the property eventually sold for \$4.3 million, also via online auction. Successful bidders were neighbours Richard and Prue Post.

"The auctions were livestreamed allowing bidders to be fully interactive when placing bids," Andrew said. "To be honest it worked much better than we expected and the feedback from both buyers and sellers has been extremely positive."

"Even with widespread restrictions we were still able to conduct business efficiently and ensure our clients received



good results, so from that point of view we are grateful that property sales were able to go ahead.

"Once this is all over I still think we will go back to the traditional auctions, however I also think there will be some elements of the online auction incorporated in the future the online system has proven to be a useful platform for remote bidding.

Mr Starr said that the sales reflect strong demand for high elevation, high rainfall and safe country that we have in this area.

"Despite the recent drought we are still held in high regard for the ability to produce maximum kg per hectare," he said. "I think agriculture has a strong future and Guyra will be at the forefront of this.

While larger properties have sold well, smaller livestyle blocks have felt the impacts of the COVID 19 restrictions according to another local agent, Michael Jackson.

"Waubic" at Tenterden was passed in at \$550,000 and "Avalon" at Black Mountain was passed in at \$1 million dollars when they went to auction last week.

While he is still confident that sales will go ahead following negotiations, he believes that the inability of interested buyers from interstate to inspect these properties has impacted the outcome.

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> > o f

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significantly more. He expressed frustration at his fellow councillors, who he said are actively trying to stop the CEO from doing her job and that the implications are quite severe.

CEO stoush on again

Armidale Regional Council CEO Susan Law is facing a new showdown, with councillors once again calling for her resignation. ARC Mayor Simon Murray has confirmed that he has received a new request for an extraordinary meeting with the view

The request was delivered by Cr Debra O'Brien and signed by six councillors, believed to be Crs Tiley, O'Connor, O'Brien, Robinson, Galletly and Murat. A similar request, also supported

by Cr Bailey, went before council in February but was dismissed

Ms Law's future is set to be decided at an extraordinary meet-

Cr Murray said that he has still not be told the reason behind the move, but is concerned at the financial implications for the

community. He said the cost will be at least \$800,000 to pay out

her contract and begin recruitment for a new CEO. If Ms Law chooses to pursue legal action against Council the cost would be

ing which is set down for next Tuesday, May 12th.

"I believe that council staff and the community want stability and financial accountability," he said. "Any payout will eat into our cash reserves and risk our ongoing operations."

"We also need to be mindful that the high turnover of CEO's in recent times means that potential replacements may view Armidale as toxic and be reluctant to take on the position."

"The community needs to know why these six councillors have called for this to happen and to give their reasons for what they are doing," he said. "If they can't do that, they should take a step back and begin working together to ensure that the Armidale region can continue to move ahead."

What's HOT

FROM THE ARCHIVES Rumbling Mountain

RELAXATION of rules that allow a little bit more freedom

PETROL PRICES going down

ORDERING takeaway to support our local eateries

RENOVATIONS happening around town - can't wait to see what is behind the black plastic

DISCOVERING a bit of local history

What's **NOT**

STILL NO news on when sport will be back

NOT UPDATING business opening times so customers can support you

QUOTE of the week

There is only one pretty child in the world and every mother has it

Bureau of Meteorology



MATCH

Guy	r	а	M	PS	,

Date	Day	Min	Max	Rain
28	Tues	9.4	17.6	0
29	Wed	8.9	19.5	0
30	Thurs	10.4	17.5	0
01	Fri	1.7	9.4	8.6
02	Sat	-1.1	9.3	0
03	Sun	1.8	11.0	2.2
04	Mon	-0.7	14.3	0
Rain	this we	10.	8 mm	
May.	rainfall	10	.8mm	
Rainf	all YTD	439	.4mm	
Rainf	all last	167.2mm		

Information supplied by Jeff Martin, Observer for Bureau of Meteorology

Ave. rain to Mayl

402.9mm

This week we continue the story of the Rumbling Mountain based on newspaper reports from 1935

VARIOUS THEORIES. Old aborigines knew of the mountain and explained the noise by saying, 'The spirit of the Great, Big Blackfellow,' who was chieftain of all the tribes ranging the mountains and flat country, lived in The Basin and waged a great many big fights with the spirit of the kangaroo. Someday the Big Blackfellow would come out to sit in the sun, and the top of the mountain would fall in and bury the kangaroo for ever. The mountains are of hard, slatey formation, not granite mountains, although granite appears in parts and carry very little soil. They are covered with timber and scrub and are Crown property. They will not hold water, and on some areas of, say, 5000 acres, even after very heavy rain which floods the gullies, no water can be found 24 hours after.

THE GUYRA LAGOON. As the Guyra lagoon is an intake bed that feeds the artesian waters of the West, and as experienced men feel sure these mountains are also large intake water feeders for the western bores, the rumble may be caused by large bodies of water held back by huge air bubbles until the pressure becomes so great the air bursts through and releases the water that tumbles into the air spaces with a great underground roar. The air is not released to the surface, but as the water recedes the air follows, only to be trapped by the next rush of water, and the explosion is repeated. These rumbles are worst in wet seasons, and at the beginning and end of wet seasons, and, if in dry times, it is a sign of rain, reasonably soon afterwards.

YAWNING CREVICE. Mr. Bill Beasley, who lived in the mountains for some time, says one day when a loud rumble and tremor occurred, cattle stampeded out of the scrub, his horse broke away and bolted, rocks shook, and it would scare any man. He also knows of a large cave, inside of which is a

huge crevice from which damp foul air comes, keeping moist the rocks around. No animal will go near it. Mr. Beasley is prepared to take any Government man into these mountains and show him the cavenous opening. Mr. Easy's theory is that, owing to the huge depth of the hole, foul air is enclosed and cannot escape, thus exploding and causing the sharp reports. But he cannot make out what causes the rumbling, unless it is land sliding. Possibly, a recording instrument could be left at his home and results report-ed. There is no doubt at all that the mountain rumbles, and all those living within, say, ten miles, have heard it quite frequently of late.

Guyra Argus June 1935 More about MT. Rumble. A Resident's Experience.

Mr. C.A Spicer, "Kepsie" Guyra, writes to the Guyra Argus:-

In your valuable paper on May 23rd I noticed a long piece of news about Mt. Rumble. I have been waiting for a more able pen than mine to take this matter up, but now I would like to state the facts about it.

I hold a selection of 1140 acres with a 3-mile frontage to George's Creek, which is actually the roughest frontage to this creek. It was held for many vears by Laura Station, but I won it in 1919 and took up residence there, with my wife in July of that year. A very dry time, in fact the start of the 19-20 drought. We lived here continuously for eight years, and my son and I still put in a lot of our time there. It was no-uncommon occurrence to hear pop-pop or reports in that year. but I took no notice when it shook the crockery, for I had heard of it doing so for about 46 vears before- on and off.

We made the acquaintance of Mr Russell Baker, and knew him well; he was then boundary riding for Laura. We often discussed old Mt Rumble. He still lives at the Basin and rides for Mr Friend. He has been at the Basin for 16 years and says he thinks the rumbles are in the east of where he lives, and fronting Winter Station creek.

He is a first-class bushman, and believes what he has told me

I was talking to Mr Godfrey Junr, a few days after the last big rumble. His father, Mr S.A Godfrey, Armidale has the top end of Laura Station leased. Young Godfrey says that from their camp at the foot of the mountains in the top end of the Basin, the rumble appears to be the north of them. When they are up on the tops it appears to be on the south of them.

In my sixteen years of the matter, I would say the rumble is south of my place, but would not say where. My experience also is that heavy rains generally follow an extra-large rumble within three weeks, unless in a dry time like the present one and then it meant a continuance of drought like it did in 1919-20.

Mr Russell Baker, Bundarra, or Mr B.G Jackson "Idaho" Guyra could perhaps say with some certainty about where these rumblings take place. The again, Mr Easy might be right.

But about those caves: I lived there a long time and knew many men working on Laura at different times, but the only caves I ever heard mentioned are on my property, about 30 chains from the creek. In 1920 Mr Phip Skinner and I explored these caves and measured them. As near as possible, we made them 88ft wide and 108 ft back, with an up slope, but we were big men, and not able to be exact. We discovered any amount of Kangaroo and wallaby carcases and skeletons in them. Later my wife and I found a nest od fax cubs in the rocks just below these caves.

Last year Messrs T.F and R.F Williams, Stan Dawson and Tom Copas were in every corner of these caves.

Car can reach my bottom place in fine weather, but to do exploring it would have to be undertaken during winter, as serpents would be dangerous in summer time. There is only a short walk of about a mile by a fair track to reach these caves from my house, and to anyone really interested there is also some good scenery.

FROM THE ARCHIVES Everett School

Everett School pupils with teacher Harry O'Donnell who taught at the school from 1924 until 1963.

The first Everett school was completed in1886, and despite temporary closures during times of low enrolments, it served the community until the 1960s. The school was located four miles from Guyra near Sandy Creek.

The arrival of Mr O'Donnell ushered in an era remembered by many for its long tenure. When he started at the school, it had the reputation of not being able to keep a teacher for more than three months.

He proved to be a stabilising factor in the school's history and remained at the helm until 1963. O'Donnell Avenue in Guyra in named in his honour



Teacher Harry O'Donnell pictured with his students in 1961 - can you recognise any familiar faces?



COVID -19

COVID-19 has been a huge part of everyone's lives for the past three months, but slowly social distancing restrictions are starting to be eased as a means of restarting the local economy.

I want to thank everyone for doing their bit to stop the spread of this deadly illness, by staying at home and following good hygiene practices.

As you would be aware, from Friday 1st May, two adults (and any dependant children) can visit another person's home to provide care or support. While you are visiting you will still need to practise social distancing and good personal hygiene and take extra care when visiting vulnerable people.

Over the period of May, I expect we will see a further lessening of restrictions around public gatherings and the hopeful re-opening of businesses.

These changes will be staged, and will rely on the community continuing to do the right thing when it comes to maintaining distance between themselves and others.

COVID-19 still poses a considerable risk to the community and it is advised you should be tested if you exhibit cold or flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, tiredness or sore throat. To be tested for COVID-19 you can contact your GP.

Should you need clarification on any of the restrictions as they are eased you can visit www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

New shelter for the Guyra Lamb and Potato Festival

I was pleased to be able to announce a \$130,000 State Government grant to help construct a permanent undercover performance and dining area, alongside the New England Highway, which will be utilised by the Guyra Lamb and Potato Festival.

Every January it is a gamble as to what the weather is going to do, with it nearly guaranteed Guyra will experience all four-seasons over the duration of the event. To protect patrons from rain, a 10 metre by 18 metre shed on a concrete slab will be installed directly behind Guyra's famous Big Lamb.

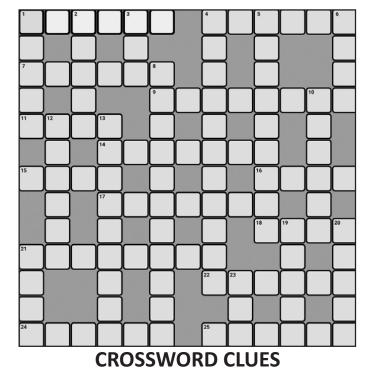
The permanent building will be equipped with plastic pull down shutters which can be utilised during Guyra's torrential summer storms or opened during a sweltering January afternoon.

The new shed will make attending the festival a more enjoyable experience for everyone and remove the need for the festival's organising committee to spend thousands of dollars each year hiring a giant marquee.

Each year the Lamb and Potato Festival is a quality showcase of what the Guyra area has to offer and hopefully this new building will support the committee to grow and develop the event into the future.

Contact my office: Phone: 02 6772 5552 Fax: 02 6772 5026 Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au • Chinese doctors have confirmed the name of the first person to contract Coronavirus. His name is Ah-Chu.

• Don't worry, the Corona Virus won't last long ... It was made in China.



Across

1. Networks like Facebook or Twitter say

4. Repeated behaviour pattern

following a round shape

- 7. Brown from sunbathing
- 9. Teach
- 11. Amounting to nothing
- 14. Totally or absolutely
- 15. Eagerness or enthusiasm
- 16. The largest of the world's

continents

- 17.Transporter of luggage or disease
- 18. Kind of breath
- 21. Make the first move
- 22. This part of a URL can be
- .com, .gov. or .edu
- 24. To stick fast to something
- 25. Relating to the mind

Down

1. The Devil

- 2. Artificial waterway
- 3. Gorilla or baboon
- 4. Being held back or forced to do something
- 5. A yard wholly or partly sur-

rounded by buildings or walls 6. Unorthodox religion or sect 8. The interruption of a settled and peaceful condition

- 10. Ocean trip for pleasure 12. Odd
- 13. The time in the middle of
- the day when meal is eaten
- 19. To make a law take effect
- 20. Relating to punishment
- 21. Tiny or scarcely detectable
- amount
- 23.A mineral mined for metal

WORDSEARCH - Computers

H	R	E	T	U	0	R	J	BIT BYTE
Y	Т	R	Ε	W	Q	V	Α	CACHE DEBUG
Н	В	Y	Т	Е	L	S	V	EMAIL HTML
Т	Е	۷	Н	R	C	W	Α	JAVA
М	М	С	U	Α	Ε	Μ	R	MEMORY PROGRAM
L	Α	Ζ	Ν	В	Ζ	Ε	Н	QWERTY REBOOT
С	1	R	1	L	В	М	S	ROUTER SCAN
Ρ	L	Т	G	0	S	0	Α	SURF TAG
U	Ν	D	0	0	U	R	R	TOOLBAR TRASH
G	Α	Т	L	Т	R	Y	Т	UNDO URL WEB
G	U	В	Ε	D	F	Ρ	V	ZIP

•To those who are complaining about the guarantine period and curfews, just remember that your grandparents were called to war,

you are being called to sit on the couch and watch Netflix. You can do this.

SUDOKU - Easy

						'		
8			5					
		7		4		9	2	
2	1	5		7	9	4		8
1		6	3	5		2	7	
	2	3		6	4	5		9
5		4	2	3		8	9	1
	6	1		8		3		
					5			7

CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

1. Integral part of fence and important member of Show committee (surname)

5. Bill Wicks had this building named for him

9. Property, originally an outstation of Ollera

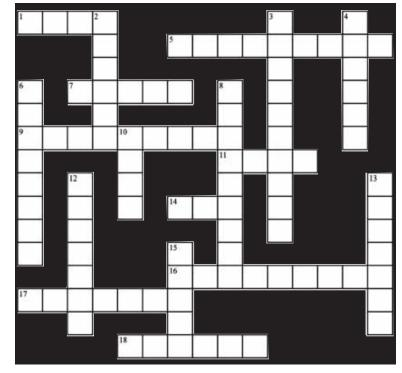
11. What took place for the 112th time this year?

14. Known for their cooking, particularly scones

- 16. Mayor lives near here
- 17. Kids get on their buses to get to school

- 18. Tasty smoked trout Down 2. The T in CT Electric
- 3. War Memorial west of Guyra
- 4. Mayoral Parade
- 6. Mount _____ shares name with
- white cockatoo and an explorer 8. The C in CT Electric
- 10. Road to the beach
- 12._____ in the peonies or on the platform
- 13. Youman family home grown business
- 15. He's quick with your building supplies

HINT: LOCAL KNOWLEDGE



Guyra Gazette

Wednesday May 6, 2020

Page 6

7. Concrete was their business

Classifieds Tradies & Services

MEALS ON WHEELS

7 May	Heather Marchant
8 May	Golf Club Ladies
11 May	Ann Hulbert
12 May	Jan Jordan
13 May	John Mitchell

HOME DELIVERIES

To keep our community safe, local businesses will home deliver. Phone your requirements to:

Guyra Pharmacy	6779 1192
Kirk's IGA	6779 1555
Spar	6779 1991
Dasha's Hardware	6779 2444

CLAIM THE DATE

SUNDAY, 8th NOVEMBER: Guyra Cup (postponed from 19th April).

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

Crossword 29-4-2020

Across: 1. Psychiatrist, 9. Print, 10. Thank, 11. Tee, 12. Ultra, 13. Serbian, 14. Easter, 16. Assess, 20. Provoke, 22. Value, 24. Roe, 25. Night, 26. Rogue, 27. Congratulate

Down: 2. Swift, 3. Cottage, 4. Invest, 5. Tutor, 6. Imagine, 7. Taken, 8. Spouse, 15. Shotgun, 17. Several, 18, Sweden, 19. Ferret, 20. Panic, 21. Outer, 23. Light

Guyra Crossword 29-4-2020

Across: 1. Cathedral, 5. Copeton, 6. Wool, 8. Cosy, 11. Rainbow, 13. Mens Shed, 15. Fortune, 17. Baptist, 18. Gittoes

Down: 1. Columbas, 2. Lions, 3. JoJos, 4. Polocrosse, 7. GALA, 9. October, 10. Polar Bears, 12. Fourways, 14. Sailing, 16. Beans

Guyra Lamb Sale April 29th A yarding of 3450 an increased penning of 2,150 lambs and 1,300 grown sheep. Both restockers and processors were well catered for in the lambs. Quality was mostly good, in line with the very good seasonal conditions being experienced.

The usual processors were in attendance and there were extra restocker orders. Restocker demand remained high with little but quality and weight related price change in the market. Secondary lambs to processors experienced a similar market trend, somewhat under-

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT 86 Ollera Street. Phone 6779 1529

PUBLIC NOTICES

JIGSAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE now operating at Burgess Garage. Bring in your puzzles to exchange for new ones.

GUYRA HISTORICAL MUSEUM will be CLOSED until further notice. Enquiries: 6779 2132.

FIREWOOD

MIXED FIREWOOD. Ute or bogey trailer loads available. Call 0429 302 600

COURSES

RSA & RCG: 20th & 21st May WHS WHITE CARD: 25th May Call New England Community College 6779 2132

NEW TRADING HOURS

To make things a bit easier for you during this tough time, we have extended our trading hours:

8.00am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri: Saturday: 9.00am - 12.00noon



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pinned by the strong restocker competition. Processor demand for the well finished lambs was This resulted weaker. in cheaper trends throughout.

There was strong processor demand for grown sheep with market trends firm to dearer on the better condition and woollier sheep. The plainer condition and light weight ewes attracted both processor and restocker activity to remain close to firm

- Market Tops:
- Lambs ~ \$245/HD
- Hoggets ~ \$252/HD
- Ewes ~ \$252/HD
- Wethers \sim \$200/HD

Armidale Cattle April 30th -There was a yarding of 831 mixed cattle at Armidale, an increase of 248 cattle. Quality and weight lifting in the young cattle, as well as an improvement in the cow offering, that category seeing a significant increase in trends, particularly in the D4 heavy offering.

All the regular processors, feeder operators and restockers were present and competing in a generally dearer market. Steer weaners sold back to the paddock at substantially dearer trends, topping at 534c/kg.

The heifer portion under

200kg also sold to dearer trends. Yearling steers under 330kg saw slightly dearer trends, while medium and heavy feeders were firm. Medium weight heifers to feed and to processor also sold to firm trends.

Heavy steers to the trade sold to a dearer trend, as did the heifer portion, selling to 319c/kg. Medium weight cows saw dearer trends of 17c, with the D4 cows, carrying increased weights sold to significant rises of 23c/kg. The best bulls also saw an increase in weights to see moderate gains.

Tiny toilets unveiled at rec ground

There has been no sporting action at the Guyra Recreation Ground since March, due to restrictions imposed to control the spread of COVID-19.

Usually at his time of year, Guyra United Soccer would be preparing to commence the winter sport season. The club were preparing to take part in a new competition organised by UNE this year, along with other Armidale Clubs.

While there is still no news of when sport will restart, there has been some action at the fields with a new accessible toilet block being constructed by Armidale Regional Council this month.

The \$80,000 project is expected to be completed in the next few days, with internal fittings being installed in the prefabricated building.

Plans for a toilet, change room and storeroom facility at the recreation ground had been drawn up by the former Guyra Shire Council several years ago.

"We have been unable to obtain a budget to construct the building as it had been designed," Armidale Regional Council Mayor Simon Murray said.

"However, the grounds are a hub for



Guyra cricket and soccer and Council saw the need to allocate some of our annual capital works budget to include an accessible toilet facility for players and spectators," he said.

"It will be a highly valuable asset for the various groups that use the recreation grounds, meeting the most pressing need until further funding becomes available for a multi-use clubhouse."



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Mother's Day

You may not be able to go out for dinner, but you can pick it up from **BP Black Mountain at 7PM!**

7PM PICK UP FROM BP BLACK MOUNTAIN

FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY 5:30