New Conference Facilities Opened at Award Winning Scone Motor Inn

Story & Photographs by Katrina Partridge.

The official opening of the new conference and meeting rooms at Scone Motor Inn took place on 14 September with the Mayor for the Upper Hunter Shire Lee Watts and Marketing Manager for Tourism Hunter Jo Thomas on hand to officiate proceedings.

Construction of new meeting rooms commenced in April and was made possible by funding support received from Destination NSW through the Regional Tourism Product Development Funding Program.

The air conditioned conference and meeting rooms cater for groups of between ten and sixty people. The three new meeting rooms suit four to twelve attendees. Catering and

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accommodation packages for any business function are also available.

“Scone Motor Inn’s newly refurbished and extended conference and business centre certainly fills a local gap in regards to meeting room space accompanied by award winning accommodation,” said UHSC Mayor Lee Watts.” I have no doubt that these facilities will be well utilised by the local business population. I also suspect the motel will also now be able to market itself to an even broader group of business visitors. That is great news not just for Trevor and Joanne who own the business but also Scone itself.”

Jo Thomas said that whilst across NSW there has been a continual decline in domestic visitation the Hunter continues to remain strong. She said that in 2011 the Upper Hunter received around 234,000 international and domestic visitors who contributed fifty eight million to the local economy.

Scone Motor Inn and Conference Centre is no stranger to success, Trevor and Joanne Kratzmann have collected a slew of awards in recent years including Australian Accommodation Assoc. (AAA) Property of the Year, the AAA Gold Award Winner Superior Accommodation, Hunter & Central Coast Tourism Awards Hall of Fame, Australian Tourism Gold Award Winner Standard Accommodation 2010 & 2011, NSW Tourism Gold Award Winner 2010, 2011, and Hunter Tourism Gold Awards Winner 2009, 2010 & 2011. Trevor and Joanne also claimed the silver award in the ‘Meetings and Business Tourism’ category at the 2012 Hunter and Central Coast Awards for Excellence in Tourism.

Community Race Day

Muswellbrook Race Club Community Race Day will be held on Monday November 5.

Guest speaker on the day will be Craig Hamilton, ABC sports commentator, regarding Mental Health Awareness. Murray Hartin - Poet, Author and Entertainer will be acting as MC.

This event will be in support of Muswellbrook Hospital, Beyond Blue and local community charities.

Moangoola Coal Marquee - Air conditioned (11.30am - 5pm), tables of 10 (individual tickets can be purchased).

Includes: race course entry, reserved seating, race book, alternate drop luncheon, afternoon tea, cash bar, beer/champagne on arrival, guest speakers, tea & coffee and fashion in the marquee.

For further information, please contact Sophie Chaffey at Harvey Recruitment on 6541 0426

NSW Rural Fire Service Open Days

The following NSW RFS Brigade stations have organised a range of events to educate people from fire fighting demonstrations to promotional giveaways.

Saturday September 22 - Jerrys Plains Rural Fire brigade, Pagan Street Jerrys Plains - 10am to 2pm. Broke Rural Fire brigade, Broke Street Broke - 10am tp 2pm. Wybong Rural Fire brigade, Yarramin Road Wybong - 10am to 2pm.

Sunday September 23 - Putty Rural Fire brigade, 426 Putty Valley Road Putty- 10am to 2pm

Luxury Accommodation
Restaurant Open 7 Days
Subject to bookings
Catering for Special Functions
Business & Gourmet Breakfasts
Solar Pool & Spa
18 Hole Golf Course (Opposite)
Personalised Styling That Online Shopping Can’t Buy

Story Katrina Partridge.

Precious Pieces has been a part of the Denman streetscape for the past ten years. Originally a small gift shop, the business - owned and run by Jodie and Louise, has evolved to also stock a range of ladies clothes plus shoes, handbags and jewellery.

“The summer collection is arriving daily,” says Louise. “There is a lovely new range of shoes, scarves, and handbags with loads of quality accessories which will appeal to those ladies attending the races over the Spring Carnival. We have just had six pallets delivered … that’s loads of wonderful new things for summer!”

The staff at Precious Pieces are committed to making every client’s shopping experience a personalised one whilst ensuring the shop offers a variety of quality new products each week.

“We assist people with their styling, people get to try the clothes and shoes on in-store, we ensure every garment fits beautifully, and we assist in accessorising each outfit as well. You certainly can’t get that experience on the Internet,” says Louise.

Christmas is but fourteen weeks away and a number of people are already turning their thoughts to Christmas gift lists.

“We are seeing quite a few people starting early for Christmas this year,” reports Louise. “We would certainly encourage people to pop in and see if we can assist you with gifts for any of those ‘hard to buy for people’ that are on everyone’s list!”

Precious Pieces is located at 31 Ogilvie Street Denman. Phone: 02 6547 2016.

Top image: [L-R] Susan Richardson, Louise Ayre, Jody Sowter and Kerri Brown
Exhibition Promises Much Artistic Delight!

Story by Cheri Gibson, photographs by Katrina Partridge.

Lose yourself in the beauty and interest of art - the 2012 Scone Art Prize Exhibition currently showing at Scone Arts & Crafts Centre encompasses a range of photography, water colour, drawings, pastels, sculptures and ceramics.

“All categories are well represented and the exhibition is a fine example of artistic expression, mostly from the Hunter Valley.” stated the committee’s president, Pam Saunderson-Macleay.

Supported by a team of hard-working volunteers, the exhibition’s co-ordinators Betty Lambley and Scott Cooper are extremely pleased with the number of stand-out works in this exciting exhibition.

Past visiting artist tutors whom also exhibited their works attended the exhibition to both support and witness their student’s submissions from previous workshops held throughout this year.

The committee extends a warm invitation to the community to come and view the exhibition which is open daily from 10am – 4pm until 22 September (excluding Mondays).

Raffle tickets will remain available for purchase until the conclusion of the exhibition with the prize being donated by artist, Rod Bathgate.

Next week: results from the Scone Photographic Competition.

Images: Left to Right
Krysten Walker-Cox sculpture AMELIA's SHOES
Scone Photo Comp_Travel Section winners
Yvonne Langshaw’s winning acrylic ORANGE POT
Tradition Lingers at Historic Eaton

By Katrina Partridge

Drive north along the New England Highway through Muswellbrook and the eye can’t help but be drawn to the elegant exterior of Eaton’s Hotel.

The Federation Filligree pub dates from the 1850s with a hotel operating on the site since 1839. The building was once a stopover for the Cobb & Co coach and visitors can see the original cobblestoned entryway at the now heritage listed site.

Publican Phil Ryan and his wife Kia have managed the property for the past 9 years.

“We have done a fair bit of work to the old building since we bought it,” says Phil. “We added an eating area at the back of the property and 12 months ago we renovated and extended the kitchen and that's been going well with our new local chef Dean.”

The family-friendly bistro offers an extensive menu and is open daily for lunch from 12 -2pm and for dinner from 6-9pm.

“It's always a busy time during the Muswellbrook Carnival of Cups which is about to get underway,” says Phil. “Melbourne Cup is also a favourite at Eatons for the locals.”

With the festive season on the horizon Eaton’s offers an excellent alternative venue for the office Christmas Party; for those travelling from further afield there are also thirteen standard accommodation rooms.

With such a long history, Eaton’s is obviously doing something right; drop in and find out what it is for yourself.

Location: 178, 180-188 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook, NSW 2333
PUKARA ESTATE OLIVES
Where: 1440 Denman Road, Muswellbrook 2333
When: Open seven days, 9.30am to 4.30pm

Pukara Estate’s extra virgin olive oils are amongst Australia’s best, winning over 32 awards in shows nationally. Visitors to the Estate can taste the complete range of Premium and Flavoured oils, table olives and many gourmet products. All products can be purchased direct from the grove. Toby’s Estate Coffee and home made slices also available. Open 7 days a week 9.30am – 4.30pm.
Phone 6547 1055
www.pukaraestate.com.au

HUNTER BELLE CHEESE FACTORY & CAFE
Where: 75 New England Highway, Muswellbrook 2333
When: Open seven days, 9.00am to 3.00pm

High quality gourmet cheeses handmade from the milk of Brown Swiss cows. Tastings 7 days ~ 9am-3pm Cafe ~ Coffee and cake, delicious lunches, giftwares and cheese platters.
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Author helps Students With Their Creativity

More than 4000 Upper Hunter primary school students were inspired by popular children's author and illustrator Terry Denton this week as he helped them celebrate Upper Hunter Book Week thanks to support from Coal & Allied.

Mr Denton talked to students about what inspired him to pursue a career in creating children's books and shared some tips on writing and drawing.

Image: Upper Hunter Book Week author Terry Denton, students and Simon Mulready

Local Junior Wins NSW Primary Schools Golf Title

Local Scone golfer Will O’Donnell won the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) golf title with a 1 shot win at Forster last week.

Will, a Yr 6 student at Scone Grammar School, won from a field of 72 golfers from around the State.

After a score of 86 on the first day Will trailed by 6 shots but a 77 on Day 2 enabled him to win and bring home the prestigious trophy.

Will was presented with his Trophy by golfing legend Jack Newton.

Will has the distinction of having his age (12) as the same as his handicap.

In 2011 Will made history at Scone Golf Club by taking out the Kevans Knockout at the age of 11.

Denman Bargain Bazaar

The next Bargain Bazaar at Denman is coming up on Saturday 22 September from 8am.

The event will be held at the Denman Anglican Parish Hall, 50 Palace Street, Denman.

Stock includes summer and in between season clothing for everyone, bed linen, curtains as well as lots of bric-a-brac, jewellery, books, bags and shoes, good toys, games, jigsaw, lots of assorted drink glasses, pictures, photo frames, can ware, furniture and all sorts of things.

Enjoy a cuppa whilst having a friendly chat to others. Come and look, there is bound to be something there that you may not need but will want to buy.
Flea Season Hits

Article written by Dr April Brenan, Pet Medical

Spring is in the air! The weather is warming up, and with it comes the resurgence of that pesky parasite familiar to all pet owners- the flea. Fleas breed a lot faster in spring and summer so it is at this time that we need to be aware of how to effectively prevent them.

Fleas not only cause itching and irritation but can suck significant amounts of blood (especially in puppies and kittens), cause anaemia, scratching, skin infections and allergies such as flea allergy dermatitis- an intense irritation in some pets skin caused by an allergic reaction to the fleas saliva.

Most people have seen a flea at some point on their pet and are familiar with its black, long legged appearance and ability to jump, however adult fleas that you can see are usually only 5% of the total flea population in your environment- the tip of the iceberg! 95% of a flea population in a household is in the egg, larva or pupa stage somewhere in your house or yard. Each flea can produce up to 50 eggs per day and over a lifetime it may produce thousands of eggs so prevention is always best.

There are many flea products on the market, some of which kill all of the stages of the flea lifecycle, while others may only kill the adult or developing fleas and not the other life cycle stages. Some are a tablet to give while others are applied to the skin. Your Veterinarian or Veterinary nurse is the best person to ask as to which product is best for your animal. It is very important to note that not all products are safe to use on young animals or cats so always ask before purchasing a product.

If you notice your pet already has fleas, there are products which can act within 15 minutes to start killing fleas so never fear! We can also recommend products for other pets in the household as well as treatments to kill the developing fleas in the environment. However good flea control can take several months to achieve, so come in today and ask which prevention is right for you!
Heritage listing for Scone Post Office

Story by Katrina Partridge

Scone’s Post Office has been placed on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

The building was constructed in 1879 by the New South Wales Colonial Architect’s office under the aegis of James Barnet, with additions in 1908 and 1914.

It is one of 15 post offices from around Australia that have been placed on the Heritage List, recognising it as a site of historical and social significance for the local community.

Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon has welcomed the announcement.

“This announcement is important because it provides national recognition for significant community icons”.

“This is also important because heritage listing provides protection into the future.”

Images: [Top] Scone Post Office (then and now) – courtesy Australia Post. [Right] Current Scone Postmaster Lindsay Hodge outside the Post Office - image by Katrina Partridge.
Muswellbrook Creative Arts Fair

Muswellbrook Creative Arts Fair is on again … bursting with artistic personality! 10.30am - 2.00pm

• Saturday 29th September 2012 ‘The Pothouse’ Lions Park, Lower Brook St, Muswellbrook
• Exhibitions and displays
• Photography
• The Artists’ Spring Sale – pick up the perfect Christmas gift
• The Famous (and Infamous) Artists’ Shootout at High Noon – ‘Art in an Hour’ Songs, dance, buskers and more
• Refreshments and food
• Auntie Elizabeth’s Art School for Kids
• Face painting

Bring your friends and do coffee at the outdoor Café

Artists’ Shootout at High Noon competition categories Junior Section 12 years and under: $100 prize sponsored by Kings Cycle Works Senior Section 13 years and over: $250 prize sponsored by Aaron Henry Optometrist Open to all levels of expertise

For more details go to: www.muswellbrookcarnivale.com.au
Muswellbrook Visitor Centre, 87 Hill Street Muswellbrook • Phone: 6541 4050

Family History Fair

Sunday 21 October 2012 – The Maitland & District Genealogical Society will be hosting a family history fair at the Maitland City Bowls, Sports & Recreation Club, Arthur Street, Rutherford.

Doors open to the public at 9am and close at 3pm. The fair will be of interest to anyone interested in their family history from beginners to more advanced researchers.

Those interested in local or general history will also find plenty to look at, buy or talk about among the stalls, displays and speakers in attendance on the day.

There will be stalls from local groups as well as from as far away as Taree, Port Macquarie and several from Queensland.

This year the fair will be sponsored by Findmypast Australia who will be in attendance on the day with demos, giveaways etc.

If you are interested in having a stall or need further information please contact us at mdgs012tpg.com.au or 0249 051878 Wednesdays and Saturdays 9.30am – 3pm.
Fat as Butter

Tickets are close to selling out!

The Fat as Butter Festival held on Newcastle’s pristine foreshore this Saturday 22 September features something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

The FAB organisers are very excited with this year’s line-up of acts with a selection of international and local talent spanning from dance, hip hop, rock, punk and everything in between.

Acts such as Good Charlotte, Grinspoon and Yellowcard just to name a few are some of the major drawcards for the festival. There are limited tickets available. For further information email info@fatasbutter.com.au

Muswellbrook Race Club’s Carnival of Cups 2012

Great racing, fashion & excitement!

Monday 1 October: Coolmore Sky Racing Gold Denman Cup
Tuesday 16 October: Telstra Business Centre Carnival of Cups
Monday 5 November: Community Race Day
Tuesday 6 November: Mt Arthur Coal Muswellbrook Gold Cup
*Booking forms available from the website

Silks Restaurant & Function Centre
Weddings, birthday celebrations and corporate seminars.

All enquiries 6541 1699 www.muswellbrookraceclub.com.au Find us on

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MUDGEE MOTORFEST, Cassilis Road Mudgee - Contact Lyndel Butler (Cudgegong Cruisers) 0411 194 315 for further details

Sunday 11th November
GLOBAL VILLAGE MOTORFEST & FAIR - Muswellbrook Showground - Hosted by Upper Hunter Motoring Association Inc - Contact Geoff Budden 0407 247 998

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th November
SINGLETON STREET MACHINE SHOW & SHINE - Singleton Showground - Contact Alfie 0428 600 239

Require more detail on these events or need an insurance quote for your special bike or car including laid up for vehicles under restoration - call Colin McLean on 0467 772 784

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End Of Month Raffle

Thursday 27 September
$1800 worth of prizes
Tickets on sale from 6pm
Raffle commences at 7pm

Muswellbrook District Workers Club 15 – 17 Sydney St, Muswellbrook
02 6543 2011

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