Two Rivers wins gold at the 2014 Hunter Valley Wine Show

See story page 6.

Image: Brett and Linda Keeping of Two Rivers Wines receiving the Ed Jouault Memorial Trophy. Photo courtesy of Two Rivers Wines.
Happiness is an X-Press Espresso  By Rebecca Jenkins

There’s an age-old saying that money can’t buy you happiness. Well, there’s one thing money certainly can buy that will warm your insides and provide that perfect pick-me-up on a long, cold, winter’s day. That is - a fresh coffee prepared by the well-known and specially-trained baristas of X-Press Espresso.

Peter and Katherine Tullia, known proprietors of the Colonial Motor Lodge in Scone, have joined forces with their daughter Laura Edwards to create a new branch of the already-buzzing business. X-Press Espresso is a mobile café service that is all about providing perfect quality coffee to Scone and the surrounding areas. X-Press promises to have all areas covered, from taking pre-orders during the day to being available for hire for a wide variety of outdoor events. There is even a loyalty card in the works, because once you’ve had your first X-Press you’ll be back for your second…and third!

Peter, Katherine and Laura have all had plenty of experience with brewing the beans. Katherine and Laura have both had formal training at Cremé Coffee Academy and Peter has spent a good eight years perfecting his barista skills on-site at the motel. Between them, they will operate the X-Press Van at various locations. It’s believed by Peter that this will be a fantastic new avenue for the Colonial and is always up for a new challenge that involves meeting new people.

For all those interested in hiring, the X-Press Van itself can be viewed on site at the Colonial Motor Lodge during the week. All information can be received by dropping in at the Colonial Motor Lodge or phoning on 6545 1700. The service can also be contacted if they’re out and about on 0457 204 819. The friendly, family service and the brilliant brews would be a perfect addition to any outdoor function. Enquire today to discover why “Money Can’t Buy You Happiness, but It Can Buy You an X-Press Espresso.”

Image: The X-Press Espresso mobile cafe.
Shelley Minson - rockabilly songstress and pin-up girl

By Rebecca Jenkins

A few years ago there was no way former (Castle Rock) Muswellbrook girl and rockabilly songstress, Shelley Minson would have been able to brave being in front of an audience. But with the support of her husband, Lawrie, Shelley has broken down that wall with a bang! Releasing her own single in 2013 was only the start. She's been performing with Lawrie ever since in front of a number of different crowds and soon the musical couple will bring their talents to the Muswellbrook Creative Arts Fair on Saturday 8 October as a part of the Muswellbrook Spring Carnivalé.

Shelley has said that she always wanted to be a singer, but simply lacked the confidence to perform. It wasn’t until she took lessons from Australian Idol contestant, Roshani Pridids, in Tamworth that Shelley’s self-confidence began to bubble to the surface.

“I was having lessons with Roshani here in town and she had a night a couple of years ago where all her students got up and sang,” remembers, Shelley. “I didn’t want to do it, and I was really nervous, but afterwards I thought, wow! I’ve done it and it went ok!”. ‘Ok’ is putting it mildly.

Continued page 4.
Shelley Minson - rockabilly songstress and pin-up girl

Continued from page 3

The boost it gave led her to writing and recording her first single with her muso hubby, Lawrie Minson. The honky-tonk tune is entitled ‘Betty Bang’ and was written with pin-up queen, Betty Page in mind. Take one look at the beautiful Shelley and you can understand why she chose Page as subject matter. Along with Marilyn Monroe, Betty Page is one of Shelley’s style icons. Her bright and bubbly taste in clothing, much like her personality, matches the honky-tonk style of her single perfectly, says biggest fan and husband Lawrie. “It’s enabled Shelley to take her fashion onto a path that’s still connected to country roots.”

Lawrie has been a key component in Shelley releasing her fears of performing. Lawrie co-wrote and produced ‘Betty Bang’ as well as the video clip for the single. Already having quite a broad reputation within the country music industry and having quite a few skills in the area, Lawrie put everything into working together with Shelley to make this a perfect debut single. Not long after the single’s release, the couple began performing as a duo and have continued to do so ever since.

One of their upcoming gigs will be at the Creative Arts Fair held in Lions Park, Muswellbrook on the October long weekend. Shelley and Lawrie will be performing together from 2 - 3pm and definitely a performance you won’t want to miss. Apart from the fair’s star attraction, there will also be a wide variety of activities and displays such as Loose Change Busking Competition, Book Readings, Raku Firing and Pottery Displays, Stick Figures Charteris Awards of Australia, Artists’ Shootout at High Noon, Duelling Bagles and Pipes, Belly Dancing, Auntie Elizabeth and the Kids’ Funshop with her sidekick Max Watters, food and refreshments, arts and craft stalls, African drumming workshops and plenty more!

The event kicks off at 10am on the 4 October and is due to finish at 3pm. Entry is free and all are invited. For more information on the Creative Arts Fair and the Muswellbrook Spring Carnivale head to www.muswellbrookcarnivale.com.au

For more information about Shelley, head to her Facebook Page at https://facebook.com/ShelleyMinsonsPinUpRockabillyPage

Image: Shelley and Lawrie Minson – photo courtesy Retrobillia.
Libraries celebrate Children’s Book Week

It is Children’s Book Week (16 – 22 August) and Upper Hunter Shire libraries have been helping children connect to reading.

Children’s Book Week is run by the Children’s Book Council of Australia to celebrate books, Australian authors and illustrators. In its 69th year it is the longest-running children’s literary event in Australia.

Scone Library is holding 14 reading activities for children from Scone Public School, St Mary’s Catholic School, the Early Learning Centre, Scone Pre-School, Upper Hunter Family Day Care and Upper Hunter Holistic Approach Family Day Care.

Due to recent wet weather library staff and Councillor Kiwa Fisher brought books to read to over 100 children at Scone Public School and Scone Pre-School.

The year 2 Scone Public School students listened attentively to readings of Australian books including The Windy Farm, The Big Red Kangaroo, Granny Grommet and Me, and King Pig and then discussed the stories with Cr Fisher.

A show of hands revealed about half the students are members of the library and they could list the many items that could be borrowed including books, CDs and DVDs.

Cr Fisher said the Shire’s libraries are a valuable resource and encouraged all parents to help their children join and use the free services.

Upper Hunter Libraries have books for all ages, tastes and abilities including: audio books you can listen to on a CD player; large print books; eBooks that can be downloaded to an iPod, iPad, mobile phone or laptop and foreign language books.

For more information on activities at your local library phone:
Aberdeen Library 6540 1303; Cassilis Library 6376 1295; Merriwa Library 6521 7007; Murrurundi Library 6540 1363; Scone Library 6540 1183

Image: Upper Hunter Shire Councillor Kiwa Fisher reads books to Year 2 school children at Scone Public School including Aleesha Harrington and Heath Pittman.

2014 Orchestra Camp

Applications are now open for the 10th Orchestra Camp. This year’s camp will be held at St Joseph’s Aberdeen on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 September 2014, commencing at 9am on both days.

This year’s camp will be led by Margaret Hoban, a well respected conductor and educator and in 2014 will include junior strings and concert band sections. Junior strings will cater for students with a playing standard of preliminary to second grade. Concert band is open to brass, woodwind and percussion players with a minimum playing standard of 2nd Grade AMEB.

Campers will have the opportunity to work with our guest tutors, including Peta Dries, Garry Clark, Trevor Mee, Tanya Mee, Steven Lavis, David Cooper and Trish O’Hearn. Some of the UHCM teachers will be on hand too.

Registrations are now open. For more information, please download the orchestra camp brochure and registration form on the website www.uhcm.com.au. Enrolments close Friday 22 August 2014.

Image: The Upper Hunter Conservatorium orchestra.

denise lthgow: Travelling West – From the Ocean to the Desert

Exhibition Dates > 9 August– 14 September 2014  Opening > 6pm Saturday, 8 August 2014

Image: Denise Lithgow, Pebbles No. 3 Vessel 2014, felt.
Two Rivers wins gold at the 2014 Hunter Valley Wine Show

Two Rivers Wines, situated on the outskirts of Denman in the Upper Hunter Valley has been awarded the Ed Jouault Memorial Trophy for Best One-Year-Old Semillon for their 2013 Stones Throw Semillon.

The announcement was made at the wine show luncheon held at the Crowne Plaza in Pokolbin last Friday. “This is a great result for Two Rivers and a fitting reward for the passion and attention to detail of our vineyard and winemaking teams,” commented general manager, Brett Keeping. “The Hunter Valley has such a proud tradition of producing world class Semillon and it is a real honour for Two Rivers and the Upper Hunter to be amongst the trophy winners.”

“It’s heartening to see such a solid progression over the past decade with this wine style”, added cellar door manager, Linda Keeping. “This wine has been a consistent gold medal winner for many years, and this award backs onto the trophy win here last year for our 2013 Hidden Hive Verdelho.”

The Hunter Valley Wine Show is a regional wine show open to wines that are made from grapes grown and made in the Hunter Valley. Industry peers see this show as one of the best regional wine shows in Australia and the Semillon classes always attract record entries. This trophy is highly coveted by Hunter winemakers and shows that Two Rivers is keeping company in the award’s ranks with the best in the business.

The judging panel for this class were: Chairman of Judges, Mr Jim Chatto; Panel Chair PJ Charteris; International Judge Ms Fongyee Walker (wine educator and contributor to the wine documentary Red Obsession); Andrew Thomas, Rauri Donkin, Adam Holmberg and Adrian Sparks along with Chairman of Judges, Mr Jim Chatto.

2013 Stones Throw Semillon Awards to date:
- Trophy & Top Gold Hunter Valley Wine Show
- Gold 2013 NSW Small Winemakers Show
- Silver 2013 Royal Melbourne Wine Show
- Silver 2013 Hunter Valley Wine Show
- Silver 2014 Boutique Wine Show
- Silver 2013 Winewise Wine Show
- Top 40 Best Buys, 2013 & 2014 Winestate Magazine Wine of the Year Nominees:
  - 2013 Stones Throw Semillon
- Silver Medal 2013 Rocky Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon Class 9 2014 Hunter Valley Wine Show
- Top Gold 2014 Stones Throw Semillon Class 9 2014 Cowra Wine Show

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Thursday 21st August, 2014 - The Entertainer - 7
Polo in the Paddock heads to Scone

Scone's annual commemorative Dougal Archibald Cup will be held on Saturday 27 September, featuring home grown talent and rural royalty back from playing the international seasons in Argentina and England.

This year’s event will be held in association with Polo in the Paddock, adding an extra element to the family day of polo, food and wine.

Event organiser Olivia Morgan says that the calibre of players is just one of the highlights of the event.


“Now he’s back on home turf to play with cousins and old friends at the second Polo in the Paddock event for 2014,” Miss Morgan said.

Scone locals Jack Archibald (nephew of Dougal Archibald) and Matt Grimes will appear together again after both playing in the iconic Pinctada Cable Beach Polo event in Broome earlier this year.

The event will also welcome back Australian Polo Captain Glen Gilmore, who for the last two years has been the polo manager at Guards Polo Club, the club most closely associated with the British Royal Family. Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh has been president of the club since its formation on 25 January 1955 and Queen Elizabeth II is its Patron.

The popular seven-goaler will return to NSW for the “job of a lifetime”, managing the Packer family’s Ellerston polo teams in Australia.

The day will offer relaxed country hospitality together with the highest calibre of polo professionals coming home to play in their own backyard. Guests will be treated to three feature matches of world-class polo against the stunning background of the Upper Hunter.

Fresh local produce will be served with Mudgee's Bunnamagoo Estate Wines and Gilbert by Simon Gilbert’s The Goose Apple Cider in the “The Clubhouse” and “The Shed” hospitality options.

The clubhouse will treat guests to a sit-down lunch which includes canapes and drinks in a private marquee with prime polo viewing at $125 per person.

The shed will offer gourmet hampers in an alfresco beer garden style space for families and friends with easy access to bar facilities. Hampers for 2 people that include a bottle of wine and admission are $90 each.

Mcgrath Estate Agents will be back to sponsor to the event after supporting the inaugural Polo in the Paddock event at Bunnamagoo Estate Wines in Mudgee in March.

Ray White, Ellerston, Pinnacle, Paradise Investments and Sledmere Stud will also appear.

Event organiser, Olivia Morgan, says she’s extremely excited about the standard of players who will be travelling home from the international seasons in England and Argentina in time to participate in the event along with so many local NSW players who, with their families, show such support for the sport and general polo community.

“It is such a fantastic opportunity to be able to showcase world-class polo players in their own back yard - quite literally,” said Ms. Morgan.

Tickets are available to the public online at www.polointhepaddock.com.au along with all event information. A limited amount of general admission tickets will be available on the day for those who want to take their own picnic to have at a car boot space with family and friends.

The event is strictly No BYO with a bar available on site.

Images: Scone local, Jack Archibald is one of the young players who will be playing at ‘Polo in the Paddock’.
Professional styling enhances sales appeal

The EVENT Storeroom was recently commissioned to style 44 Oxford Road in Scone for sale to maximise buyer appeal.

Located in one of Scone’s best streets, the property is a classic renovated four bedroom, two bathroom weatherboard character home situated on a generous 1012sqm level land parcel that features landscaped gardens. The house offers an open plan kitchen and dining area, formal sitting room with polished timber floors throughout, air conditioning and slow combustion wood fire heater, spacious timber deck outdoor entertaining area with a 2-vehicle carport and 3-bay colorbond shed with lock-up area.

“In metropolitan areas it is increasingly common to style properties that are being presented for sale,” says The EVENT Storeroom director Amelia Wilkinson. “Professionally incorporating designer furniture is the most effective way to spark interest and attract buyers, create a stylish coordinated look that stands out from other homes and maximise a home’s potential sale value”.

“We can complement your existing furniture or create a totally new look to suit your property,” says Amelia. “You would be surprised at the relatively small cost of this service. The return on investment can be remarkable."

Exclusive listing agent for 44 Oxford Road is Landmark Harcourts Scone (Adam O’Regan). Adam can be contacted on 65451377, 0421 721 733 or at adam@wltnet.au

For further information about property styling and how The EVENT Storeroom can maximise the appeal of your property to potential buyers please contact Amelia Wilkinson 0400099761 or info@theeventstoreroom.com.au.

Photography provided by Katrina Partridge Photography.
Muswellbrook High School Trivia Night

By Zack Phillips

Are you interested in tricky questions, friendly competition, and a fun night out with friends? If this is you, Muswellbrook High School has the perfect event lined up for you. On Thursday August 21, grab some of your friends and family, and head to the Muswellbrook High School Trivia Night!

The trivia night has been set up by the Student Representative Council (SRC) to help raise funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service has been serving the community since 1975, and has grown from a part-time voluntary summer beach patrol to a world-class medical search and rescue operation. The Westpac Service has been supporting the Hunter Valley since October 20, 1980. It is a completely free helicopter-paramedic service that helps thousands of people every year over Australia.

The cost of the trivia night is $10 per person and each team gets one table which seats ten people. There will be no food or drinks served on the night, so the school is asking that you bring your own basket supper, but no alcohol will be permitted.

If you wish to register a team, please do so at Muswellbrook High School’s front office, as places are limited. Last year, Muswellbrook High School raised over $3,000 for the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service. This year, they’d like to reach or exceed the goal.

Kicking off at 6.30pm there’ll be raffles and prizes on the night for the winners, and the event is open to anyone who is interested in entering. Wear red or yellow to help support the Westpac Helicopter’s colours.

For more information on this event, pop into Muswellbrook High School’s front office, or call Samantha Wass on 6543 1033.

Images: SRC members [left to right] Brydie Cullen, Jillian Armstrong, Jayde Cutrupi, Miss Samantha Wass, Rhyle Pereira and Liam Davies.
Majestic Cinemas Australian film festival is ready for the big screen

The digital advancement of Majestic Cinemas has enabled the company to bring an array of content to the community of the Upper Hunter Valley and this festival highlights the great local content available for filmgoers.

“It's the first time we've celebrated Australian films and have therefore sourced a variety of genres to accommodate everyone's tastes,” stated Michelle Weir, manager of marketing and community relations.

Six films across the week from 28 August to 3 September will offer audiences a glimpse into the calibre of locally-produced films; and as an independent cinema they value the importance of their role in providing content from not only all over the world, but our own backyard as well.

To kick off the festival an opening night will be held on 28 August with the film STRICTLY BALLROOM which will be accompanied by a WINE & CHEESE event at 6.30pm prior to the screening with the film commencing at 6.50pm.

Tickets are available for purchase now, as well as festival passes for those that wish to see all six films.

For session times or more information visit majesticcinemas.com.au or call 6571 5252.

SYNOPSIS OF FILMS

THE ROVER (MA) - Guy Pearce and Robert Pattinson in a film directed by David Michod who won international acclaim with Animal Kingdom. 10 years after a global economic collapse, a hardened loner pursues the men who stole his only possession, his car.

GALORE (MA) - Ashleigh Cummings (star of TV's Puberty Blues). A coming of age story set in the middle of the Australian summer. The relationship of four friends is tested under the pressure of a looming bushfire skirting their homes.

CHARLIE’S COUNTRY (M) - David Gulpilil astounded audiences in the revered Ten Canoes and returns with the story of Blackfella Charlie; who takes off from his remote community that has recently come under the policing of whiteman law, to live the old way.

HEALING (M) - Don Hany and Hugo Weaving. At the tail end of a 16-year sentence a prisoner is sent to a low-security pre-release prison where men are paired with injured game birds.

THE BABADOOK (M) - Thriller/Horror. A single mother plagued by the violent death of her husband, battles with her son's fear of a monster lurking in the house, but soon discovers a sinister presence all around her.

STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG) - Baz Luhrmann's masterpiece follows a maverick dancer who risks his career by performing an unusual routine and sets out to succeed with a new partner.
Newcastle Jazz Festival all set to jive
By Rebecca Jenkins

The 27th annual Newcastle Jazz Festival is almost upon us. From the 29 - 31 of August, the Newcastle Jockey Club will be filled to the brim with all the things that would make anybody’s soul sing; good food, good company and in excess of 200 musicians playing in over 40 acts for a good 70 hours in total. This is pinned to be the biggest, baddest (in the BEST way) and most entertaining jazz festival to date. With the Newcastle Jazz Festival owning an already-glowing national reputation - that in itself says a lot!

The bands and musical acts for this year cover a broad spectrum of genres including blues, swing, jazz, gospel, swamp, zydeco, roots, R&B and much, much more! Some of the names featured are Psycho Zydeco, Creole Bells, Half Nelson, Licorice Allsorts, Fish Fry, ‘Miller’s Tale’ - Dungeon Big Band, Andy Firth Quartet, Newcastle Jazz Collective, Frenchman’s Street, Lee Guinness, Chasing the Moon, Brisbane’s Caxton Street Band and plenty of others.

The festival has everything covered this year from an amazing location to the transport to the said location. The Newcastle Jockey Club is surrounded by public transport with buses running frequently and Broadmeadow train station just a hop, skip and jump away. There’s free parking just metres from the main gates and a night bus running on the Friday and Saturday evenings that will take festival goers safely back to the CBD.

After dancing and jiving most of the day away, most will hear the deep, hungry rumbles of a hungry tummy. The Newcastle Jockey Club has a beautiful bistro located in the members bar fit to calm even the most savage of hungers with a variety of food and beverages available. To add to this, there will be a coffee cart and specialty food outlets available as well for those looking for something in particular.

Tickets are selling very fast for the 2014 Newcastle Jazz Festival so be sure to purchase online as soon as possible. Prices start at $30 and limited/early bird packages are available for those who get in quickly. For the location, the music and the variety of food and drink, it is well worth logging onto the jazz festival website at www.newcastlejazz.com.au to purchase without delay. It’s not just a ticket to a festival, it’s a pass to fun, frivolity and the best most enjoyable weekend you will every have! Be there, or be square!

Image: Andy Firth’s Nova Jazz Swing Band who will be performing at the Newcastle Jazz Festival this month.