

Up Country

entertainer

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YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE
FREE

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Thursday 16th February, 2017

Missed an issue? www.huntervalleyprinting.com.au/Pages/Entertainer.php



Image: 43rd Muswellbrook Art Prize winner, Nick Ferguson with the winning work Swimming (Bruce Spence) 2013, oil on canvas.

See inside



Finalists announced for the 44th Muswellbrook Art Prize

After receiving a record 710 entries for the 44th Muswellbrook Art Prize, this year's finalists were announced to the public.

The Finalists Selection Panel members, well known arts consultant Bruce Tindale and the Arts Centre's Jade Goodwin and Brad Franks, have chosen 31 Painting section finalists to vie for the \$50,000 major prize; 23 Works on Paper section finalists and 16 Ceramic section finalists.

Continued page 3



Next Race Day
Friday 17 February 2017
8 TAB races
Gates open 11.30am
FREE ENTRY



SCONE RACE CLUB
434 Bunnann Road Scone NSW
Tel: 02 6545 1607
events@sconeraceclub.com.au
sconeraceclub.com.au SRC20159

SESSION TIMES: THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY - WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Cinema is closed on Mondays outside of school and public holidays



Muswellbrook Cinema

12-15 Sydney Street
Muswellbrook
Phone: (02) 4044 0600



SPLIT
(M) 117mins
Thu, Fri & Wed
9.00am & 8.20pm
Sat 11.20am & 6.30pm
Sun 1.40pm & 6.30pm
Tue 9.00am & 6.45pm



THE GREAT WALL
(M) 103mins
Thu, Fri, Tue & Wed
9.10am, 11.20am & 6.10pm
Sat & Sun
9.00am, 4.00pm & 8.50pm



LA LA LAND
(M) 128mins
Thu & Fri
4.00pm
Tue & Wed
11.15am



HIDDEN FIGURES
(PG) 112mins
Thu & Fri
1.30pm, 3.40pm & 8.45pm
Sat & Sun
9.00am, 3.40pm & 8.50pm
Tue & Wed
1.20pm, 4.30pm & 9.10pm



FIFTY SHADES DARKER
(MA15+) 118mins
Thu & Fri 11.15am, 1.20pm & 6.30pm
Sat 11.00am, 1.40pm & 6.30pm
Sun 11.20am, 1.20pm & 6.15pm
Tue 1.50pm, 3.40pm & 8.20pm
Wed 1.50pm, 3.40pm & 6.50pm



MONSTER TRUCKS
(PG) 105mins
Sat ONLY
1.20pm



SING
(G) 113mins
Sun ONLY
11.15am

COMING SOON
Kong - Skull Island : Logan
Beauty and the Beast
A Cure For Wellness
Boss Baby : Smurfs The Last Village
The Lego Batman Movie
Ghost in the Shell

Live in Muswellbrook? Don't forget the Courtesy Bus is available to get you to the cinema.
Ph: 6543 2011

www.muswellbrookcinema.com.au



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what's on



KING OF THE RANGES

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24th – 26th February 2017

MURRURUNDI NSW

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THREE-DAY PASS: Adult \$45; Junior (13-17) \$25; Family \$95; Aged Concession \$25



EVENT & ENTRY INFORMATION
0419 207 910
kingoftheranges@gmail.com

www.kingoftheranges.com.au

Paws Up at King of the Ranges

One of the highlights at the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge (KOTR) later this month will be the display by the Paws Up team.



The Armidale-based initiative is a highly-successful dog high jumping team, they are currently the world record-holder for Working Dog High Jump and travel around the country to different shows competing and giving displays.

The Paws Up program focuses on the strengths of the participants, both human and canine. Through working with and training the dogs, it shows the previously disenfranchised young men how much they can achieve.

The Paws Up team are part of the BackTrack Youth Works. Backtrack accepts young people that are sometimes known as the intractable 5%, the group that schools, youth services and VET providers cannot work with. Often these young people have faced a lot of family difficulties and negativity; BackTrack provides a stable and disciplined family environment so that participants can learn work skills, success and how to contribute to your community, this provides a sense of wellbeing and confidence.

You can see the amazing progress these young men and their dogs have made during the event from February 23 – 26 in Murrurundi. For further information on KOTR visit www.kingoftheranges.com.au

PAWS UP: The Paws Up team is currently the world record-holder for 'Working Dog High Jump'. Image is courtesy of the KOTR.

Extreme and sizzling

Regional New South Wales has endured one of its worst summers yet when it comes to extreme temperatures.

The mercury tipped 46.5 degrees at Scone Airport on Sunday February 12, not far behind Bourke which recorded the state's top temperature of 47 degrees on Sunday. The warm dry weather fanned a fire near Cassilis which saw smoke drift across the Hunter including Denman and Muswellbrook.

Shop online for tickets and vouchers at www.majesticcinemas.com.au

MAJESTIC CINEMAS

www.majesticcinemas.com.au

PROGRAM INFORMATION THURS 16th FEBRUARY to WED 23rd FEBRUARY

Mat Damon in **THE GREAT WALL (M)**
Ben Affleck in **LIVE BY NIGHT (MA15+)**
Christian Grey & Ana Steele are back in **50 SHADES DARKER (MA15+)**
Have fun in **MIDDLE SCHOOL (PG)**
Mark Wahlberg in Boston Marathon story **PATRIOT'S DAY (M)**
James McAvoy plays multiple characters in horror thriller **SPLIT (M)**

Select Series Emma Stone & Ryan Gosling in **LA LA LAND (M)**
Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman star in **LION (M)**

CHECK WEBSITE OR PHONE FOR SESSION TIMES

21 Ryan Ave, SINGLETON Ph 6571 5252

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Would you like your story, event or advertisement in Up Country Entertainer?
Contact Cheri Gibson at Hunter Valley Printing
E publications@huntermvalleyprinting.com.au
P: 02 6545 2888 F: 02 6545 1465

WIN two double passes!

The Entertainer in conjunction with Majestic Cinemas are giving away two double passes each week to two lucky readers.

Look for the handwritten word "WINNER" along with the editor's signature on this page above HVP logo.

Present the winning Entertainer edition to the Muswellbrook office of Hunter Valley Printing, 6 Wilkins Street Muswellbrook and collect your passes.
(must be claimed within one week of publication date)

Stand-up comedy in Scone



ORIGINAL AND WITTY: Uncle Nath will deliver a show that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

Uncle Nath is letting out the pain with his new show ***Dads Have Feelings Too*** - and you can witness the pain when he brings his show to Scone.

The show is an explosive ride - but even as Uncle Nath endures constant defeat at every turn, you'll never once hear him swear. Uncle Nath prides himself on delivering sharp adult stand up without the profanities, which means the show can be enjoyed by the whole family.


"Yep, all these years later and the swear-jar is still empty," he says.

"When I first started doing stand-up, I was advised to keep it clean and clever. So I have been able to perform in all kinds of places, including churches!"

Original and witty, it weaves together a series of strange mid-life-crisis cures, with some moving moments and plenty of jokes, giving audiences "something different".

"I want dads to be able to bring their children along and say to their kids 'See what I deal with?'"

You can catch the show at Scone's Old Court Theatre on Friday March 3. Buy tickets online at unclenath.com or from Hunt-a-book in Scone. Knight's members get \$5 off.




Stand Up Comedy

"He's the every man...
And he's a bloody ripper."
- Newcastle Mirage

The Old Courthouse Theatre SCONE
FRIDAY 3rd MARCH @ 7pm
\$15 ADULTS & \$10 CONCESSION
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Finalists announced for the 44th Muswellbrook Art Prize

Continued from front page

Bruce Tindale, a former manager of the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre and the final adjudicator of the 41st Prize back in 2011, said that though the field was particularly large many works stood out almost immediately.

Mr Tindale continued, "A huge number of entries this year, which must please the sponsors, the Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited, immensely, but which makes the task facing the Selection Panel a long and difficult one."

The adjudicator this year is Professor Ian Howard an internationally-acclaimed arts educator and artist. Professor Howard is currently on the academic staff at the University of New South Wales Faculty of Art & Design. He will be warding the \$50,000 prize for painting, the \$10,000 prize for a work on paper and the \$10,000 prize for a ceramic at the opening night ceremony to be held at the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre on Saturday 11th March 2017. Doors open at 6.00pm.

The full listing of finalists in the 44th Muswellbrook Art Prize can be found on the Arts Centre's website www.muswellbrookartscentre.com.au

Face to Figure: From the Collections / 8 Artists: Different Strokes / Face to Figure: Workshop Studies / Collected: Max Watters Collection
Exhibition Dates > 14 January - 5 March 2017 Opening > 6pm Friday, 13 January 2017

muswellbrook regional arts centre

Corner of Bridge & William Streets, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
t 02 6549 3800 e artscentre@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au w muswellbrookartscentre.com.au
Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm Weekends 10am - 1pm Mondays by appointment only Closed public holidays

Janelle McCloy,
Morton Bay Fig, graphite.





Gunsynd's breeder's posthumous Order of Australia by Brian Russell

John Clift, a former Liverpool Plains farmer, grazier and horse breeder who passed away a year ago at 91, gained fame as the man whose JC brand was carried to glory on Australian racetracks on the side of a horse named Gunsynd, aka the Goondiwindi Grey. John bred him half a century ago on the family's historic property, The Dip at Breeza.

Gunsynd was a great joy in John's long life, but was not the reason for his receipt posthumously in the Anniversary Day Awards of the Order of Australia (OAM). The notation said that it was for his service to thoroughbred breeding and racing, but a stellar caring servant, he contributed much from a young age also to Local Government, Tamworth Show Society and the community in general.

In breeding and racing he served for over seventy years on race club committees and also had a long stint on the board of directors of the NSW Breeders Association. He made a big contribution to racing as Tamworth Jockey Club president, a service recognised by the opening at the racecourse in 2013 of the John Clift Grandstand and Function Centre.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA: The late John Clift received posthumously an OAM for his service to thoroughbred breeding and racing along with being a stellar, caring servant. Image is courtesy of HTBA Media.

Australia's richest racing carnival – a Noel Leckie legacy by Brian Russell

Although he had not enjoyed the best of health for some time, the sudden death at Scone on January 24 of 64-year-old Noel Leckie was a huge loss for the local community and NSW racing. Principal of a chartered accountancy practice in the town, he had been a driving force as race club president in one of the greatest adventures in country racing, the staging of a \$2million two-day Scone Cup Carnival over Friday and Saturday in mid-May each year.


A grand finale to the annual Scone Horse Festival, the carnival embraces eight black type races and a stand-alone Saturday program replacing the Sydney meeting. It is the richest and most black type adorned country carnival in Australia, and possibly the world.

Much of its success has been through Noel Leckie's drive and enthusiasm and ability to work with Racing NSW and liaison with the major Hunter Valley studs, a group whose financial support has been crucial in the development of the carnival.

He had been on the committee of the Scone Race Club since they opened the town's new racing centre in 1994, most of the time serving

as either vice president or president. He was instrumental in building an upstairs members section in the grandstand which has few peers outside of metropolitan tracks.

Noel Leckie was not only a highly-respected Scone racing administrator and businessman, but a successful breeder and owner of racehorses. Only two weeks before his death, he had the joy of being the breeder of Houtzen, an I Am Invincible filly who remained unbeaten after three starts when she took out the \$2million dollar Magic Million 2YO Classic at the Gold Coast on January 14 and who is prepost favourite for the Golden Slipper.

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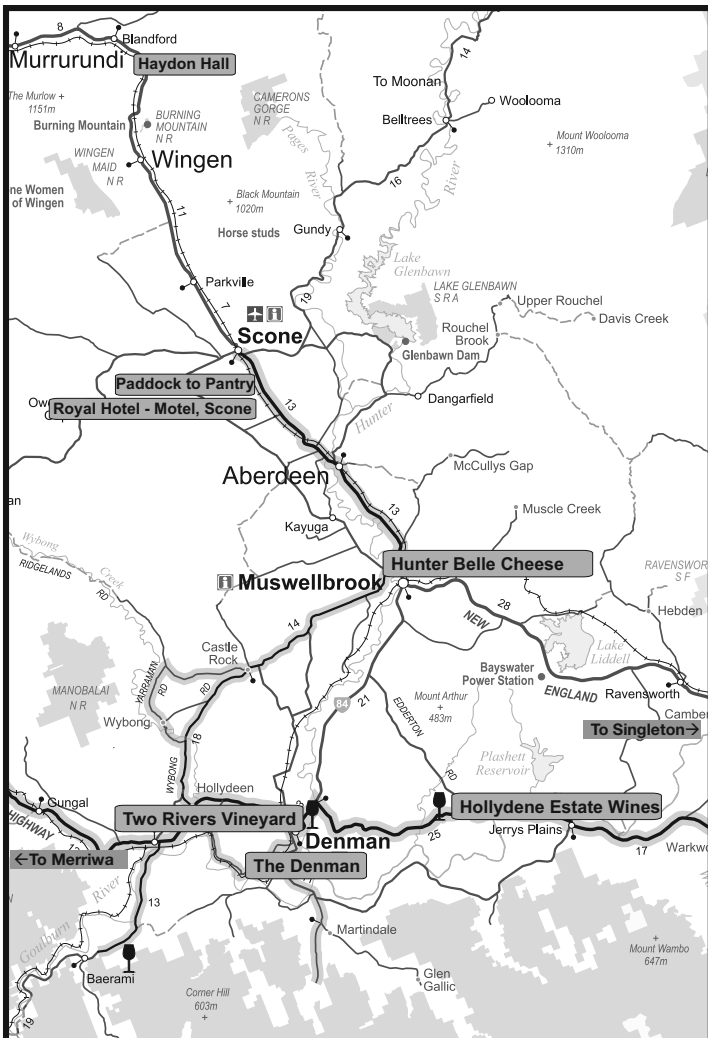
Singleton ratepayers will see a new inclusion on their Annual Rates and Charges notices from 1 July 2017 when the Emergency Services Property Levy comes into effect.

The new State Government levy replaces the Emergency Services Levy which applied to insurance policies to help fund Fire & Rescue NSW, Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES).

Similar collections are already in place in other mainland Australian states.

As well as the levy, the State and local governments also contribute to funding emergency services.

Singleton Council's contribution for the 2016/2017 financial year was \$556,000.



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126 Bridge Street (library), Muswellbrook
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www.upperhuntercountry.com.au

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Ph: 02 6547 2799
www.visitdenman.com.au



A new Australian comedy for MATS

You can be one of the first people to see a new Australian play's premiere performance right here in the Hunter.

Nicky Peelgrane's new play *Whatever Gets You Through the Night* will be staged for the first time ever at the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music in Muswellbrook on March 28, 31 and April 1. The comedy chronicles the madness of motherhood and is proudly presented by the Muswellbrook Amateur Theatrical Society.

Buy tickets now at mats.org.au and stay tuned to Up Country Entertainer for further information.



Could you be the next Upper Hunter Showgirl?

The 2017 Upper Hunter Showgirl will soon be open for nominations.

Girls need to be between the age of 18 and 24 years as at May 1st 2017. Don't miss out on the big winner's announcement on Saturday 1st April. The 2017 Muswellbrook showgirl will go on to represent the Upper Hunter at zone level. If you haven't voted get yourself a copy of the Muswellbrook Chronicle and vote for who you would like to see crowned People's Choice Showgirl.

Girls wanting to know any further information are asked to contact Emily Thorn on 0435 744 639.

Image (above) is courtesy of Vivid Imagination.

Huge success for Landmark Classic

A new record sale price was set at the Landmark Classic Campdraft and sale in Tamworth from February 4 – 12. Lot 413 One More Metallic sold for a new top \$210,000.

Congratulations to vendors R&R Livestock from Officer in Victoria. Given the trying conditions, Landmark were inspecting stables and paddocks as a precaution to make sure that all stock had adequate water. Organisers reported they were pleased at the extra care that vendors showed their animals in what were trying conditions.

You can re-watch all the action via the Landmark Equine Facebook page.

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Celebrating seniors

Now in its 59th year, NSW Seniors Festival is the largest festival for seniors in the Southern Hemisphere, reaching up to 500,000 seniors each year.



If you are over 60, NSW Seniors Festival gives you the chance to make new friends or get together with old ones at an array of local community events, many which are free or heavily discounted. Presented by the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), NSW Seniors Festival is designed to celebrate the role seniors play and the contributions they make to the NSW community, aligning to the policy objective of inclusive communities.

Every year during NSW Seniors Festival, government, community and commercial organisations hold hundreds of events across the state, encompassing art, sport, music, entertainment, technology, recreation, health, good nutrition and much more!

NSW Seniors Festival, formerly NSW Seniors Week, runs for 10 days from Friday 3 March to Sunday 12 March 2017. Find out more online at www.seniorsweek.com.au

MUSWELLBROOK CINEMA MOVIE REVIEW



The Great Wall

Rated (M) 103 mins

When a mercenary warrior (Matt Damon) is imprisoned within the Great Wall, he discovers the mystery behind one of the greatest wonders of the world. As wave after wave of marauding beasts besiege the massive structure, his quest for fortune turns into a journey toward heroism as he joins a huge army of elite warriors.

**For screening times check
www.muswellbrookcinema.com.au**

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a double pass to Majestic Cinemas.
See page 2 for details



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15 – 17 Sydney St Muswellbrook 02 6543 2011
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The Gum Ball gets bigger

The Gum Ball has just announced its second round of acts set to sizzle on the stage with the likes of Regurgitator and Tripod (pictured below) in April.



The second round includes some serious rock in the form of HITS and The Go Set, fresh Australian shoegaze from Melbourne's Flying Colours, rising sultry chanteuse and former Sietta voice Caiti Baker, dream pop group Shining Bird, mesmerising folk singer and Dashville Skyline stand-out Irish Mythen and smooth, jazz-soul group The Meltdown. The Gum Ball is a BYO all-age camping festival that also includes an array of amazing gourmet food and markets, licensed bar precinct, popular late night silent disco, a night time kid's crèche, various workshops and activities, morning yoga, pro-skater demos and live artworks.

Tickets are on sale and selling quickly. Adult, pensioner, teenager, youth and child tickets remain. Full weekend and Saturday only tickets are still available, with an option to include a special Sunday night wind-down as an extra add on. Limited tickets remain for the Sunday evening.

The Gum Ball is on Friday, April 21 to Sunday, April 23, 2017.

Pure Decadence

A concert featuring
Aaron Rothmund (flute) & Verna Lee (harp)

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24, 7.30pm



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Adults \$30, Student \$25



Education



Upper Hunter
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BOOSEKA // MICK THOMAS & THE ROVING COMMISSION // GARETH LIDDIARD
THE PEEP TEMPEL // LIZ STRINGER // FELIX RIEBL^(THE CAT EMPIRE) // THE GO SET
THE MELTDOWN // CAITI BAKER // SHINING BIRD // HITS // FLYING COLOURS
THE OCEAN PARTY // IRISH MYTHEN^(CA) // MICK HART // LEAH SENIOR
THE STEELE SYNDICATE // THE SEA GYPSIES // AFRICA ENTSHA^(ZA) // BAGHEAD
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