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Santa at the Plaza



Lilly-Anne Maben, 6, and Stirling Cumner, 3, caught up with Santa at Highfields Plaza Shopping Centre last Friday afternoon. – Photo Ann Lomas



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Crows Nest
page 4



Goombungee
page 8

Skin Cancer

Don't risk it ...

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Season's
GREETINGS

High Country
Herald

From the team at the Herald



Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this publication possible each week.

Have a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year

This is our last edition for this year. Our first paper for 2023 will be January 10.

Letters to the editor welcome

Letters are accepted on the understanding they could be edited for grammar, punctuation, spelling, repetition, verbosity, legal considerations, etc. Herald policy is to retain the writer's intent in all correspondence, subject to the above conditions. The editor may accept or reject letters without further reference to the writer. All letters are treated confidentially. Under no circumstances are they referred to third parties before publication. Please include full name, address and daytime telephone number. - Ed.



Hospice appreciates support

On behalf of the Management Committee, staff and volunteers at the Toowoomba Hospice we sincerely thank the community groups, schools, clubs, individuals and businesses of Toowoomba and surrounding districts for choosing the Toowoomba Hospice as one of their preferred charities during 2022.

This year we celebrated 19 years of providing professional palliative care for clients and at the same time provided support to their families and friends.

We would not have been able to do this without our dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

We must also acknowledge the continued support of your newspaper as well as all other media outlets and we look forward to this ongoing support in 2023.

Finally, on behalf of all the team at the Toowoomba Hospice we would like to take this opportunity once again to thank all our supporters for their generosity in 2022 and to wish them the very best for the festive season.

We look forward to working with you all in 2023.
- **Graham Barron OAM chairman and Mark Munro, Administration and Fundraising manager, Toowoomba Hospice**

Reader finds charity op shops expensive

I refer to the article in the paper on December 6 re the Lifeline Highfields shop closing down.

I visited this shop once and found it to be a well presented op shop with a great selection of items for sale.

But the prices of the shoes and clothes was exorbitant!

All of the items in these shops are donated and the shops are run in the main by volunteers.

How can they justify the prices put on their merchandise?

The op shops are supposed to be there to help people - not price gouge. I was in the shop only five minutes or so - \$25 for a pair of jeans, \$15 for a top, \$30 for shoes. No thanks!

I will patronise other op shops or purchase new items when I can afford them.

All the big name charity op shops are becoming too expensive to shop at for a bargain these days.

Many people like to buy from op shops to reduce landfill and prevent perfectly good items from being thrown out. - **Toni Sherwin, Douglas**

Performance criteria in aged care

I note in the press majors that the information regarding performance criteria of aged care providers would be available on the MyGov web site. Many of the aged community would not have access to that site. Love their work. - **John Healy, Glenvale**

Community carols at The Hub

Community members are invited to The Hub in Highfields Road for Carols on the Green this Friday night, December 23, hosted by Highfields Community Church.

Reverend Marius Kruger said, "We have organised a family friendly night with six local acts including the Toowoombells who will be performing classic Christmas carols.

"With there being plenty of space at the venue, families can bring a picnic blanket and set themselves up comfortably on the green and settle in to enjoy the night.

"There will also be free face painting and other crafts for children to enjoy before the carols begin at around 6.30pm."

The carols will finish at 9pm. Admission is free.

Highfields QCWA Sub-Branch Christmas party at the Highfields Tavern



Janet Rochford



Cheryl Bradley



President Gladys McKay and her husband Colin at back with treasurer Susan Schulz and secretary Sandie Kingston.



Member Janette Alden and husband Gordon

The Herald welcomes contributions of news and story ideas from readers and community organisations
Let us know by Phone 4615 4416 or email herald@highcountrynews.net.au

Local wattles in flower

One of the common local wattles is *Acacia irrorata*. These are covered in fine soft bipinnate leaves unlike most wattles that have flattened leaf stalks for leaves (phyllodes.) This Green Wattle is just now bursting into flower.

The wattles, like most vegetation, have had a great growing season.

There are some now covered in a mass of pale cream to pale yellow balls. As a three to 15 metre tree, they can be quite spectacular. - **Dougal Johnston, Hampton**



Acacia irrorata



**TOOWOOMBA REGION**

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Roll out your picnic rug, set up your deck chairs and gather your friends and family to welcome 2023 at our New Year's Eve fireworks!

Date: Friday, 31 December 2022

Time: 8.15pm

Location: Queens Park, Toowoomba

For more information, visit www.tr.qld.gov.au/events

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our customer service counters are closed from Saturday, 25 December 2022, reopening on Tuesday, 4 January 2023. If you experience a Council-related emergency during the holiday period, we have after hours staff available on **131 872**. This includes things like water main bursts, water leaks, traffic signals not working, trees on roads etc.

To find out more about our Christmas and New Year operating hours across our facilities, visit www.tr.qld.gov.au/christmashours



Bin collection services

There are no public holidays for wheelie bins. They have a critical job to play over Christmas - keeping hold of present packaging, party paraphernalia and much more. Our collection trucks will be in the streets earlier on Christmas Day - from 5am. To ensure you don't miss your collection, put your bin out the night before.

To download a copy of our bin services collection calendar, visit www.tr.qld.gov.au/waste

Waste facilities over Christmas

Are you planning on cleaning out your house or ripping out old gardens on your holidays? All waste facilities are closed on Christmas Day, except for the Toowoomba Waste Management Facility, which remains open for commercial customers with vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. Usual operating hours recommence on Boxing Day.

For the latest updates on facility opening/closing hours across our Region, visit www.tr.qld.gov.au/waste

Crossword Number 1058

1		2	3		4		5		6
			7						
8	9				10				
			11						
12		13			14	15		16	
17				18		19			
			20						
21					22	23		24	
			25						
26						27			

ACROSS

- Tread
- Cables
- Greek letter
- Ghastly
- Venerated symbol
- Imaginary monster
- Previous
- Wild animal
- Celerity
- Boy's name
- Hairpiece
- Scold
- Sculler's poles
- Wooden strip
- Had better

DOWN

- Small dog
- Oriental sash
- Lower in rank
- Look at
- Key in again
- Logo
- To harvest
- Maniac
- Stitching
- Gold bars
- Dock
- Lived
- Cry of triumph
- Old Japanese coin

Sudoku Number 1058

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

Sudoku Difficulty Level - Medium

SUDOKU RULES

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There is no math involved. You solve each puzzle with reasoning and logic. Each puzzle only has one solution.

SE	M	S	P	I	N	G			
U	O	H	E	A	L	A			
B	U	R	R	O	S	K	I	D	
U	T	W	E	T	R				
R	O	A	D	S	O	A	K	S	
B	I	R	O	C	R	I	S	P	
L	Z	O	O	K	A				
T	Y	R	E	P	R	I	E	D	
A	A	N	T	E	D	E			
J	A	W	S	S	L	O	G	S	

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

Solutions to

Crossword and Sudoku No. 1057

Doors open to a new-look Soldiers Memorial Hall

Toowoomba RSL Sub Branch members and the Toowoomba Regional Council have celebrated the opening of the refurbished Soldiers Memorial Hall.

The council opened the doors to the memorial hall after going through a \$4.4 million refurbishment and a year of re-construction.

Toowoomba Region Mayor Paul Antonio said the building was brought up to standard and would have a much longer life than the previous building.

"All the necessary and essential infrastructure has been brought up to date and contains new features, a new entrance from Herries Street, a new lift and more," he said.

Along with renovating and restoring areas of the original hall, the project also involved demolishing partition walls and reconstructing new spaces within the building to reconfigure the space for modern-day use, providing office, meeting room and function spaces, including People with a Disability-compliant facilities and an updated kitchen.

Toowoomba RSL Sub Branch president Scott May said the sub branch executive was talking with the council as to how they would occupy the space.

"Our membership is very excited to be back at the Soldiers Memorial Hall.

"Many of them consider it to be the traditional home of the Toowoomba RSL Sub Branch," he said.

RSL member Nick Hannay's family has been involved with the Soldiers Memorial Hall and felt pride being able walk back into the building.

"The Memorial Hall means a lot to my family.

"My great grandfather and great uncles went to WWI from here.

"One uncle survived Gallipoli but would later die in France and they are commemorated here," Mr Hannay said.

"As a sub-branch member, it's good to see the rebirth of the Soldiers Memorial Hall as a place of reflection for service people current and past."

The hall was built by the community in 1923 as a place to commemorate those who have fallen during service.

The upgrade of the hall was funded by the previous Federal Government through the Building Better Regions Fund and the Toowoomba Regional Council.



Member for Groom Garth Hamilton, John McVeigh, Toowoomba RSL member Nick Hannay, Toowoomba RSL president Scott May, and Toowoomba Region Mayor Paul Antonio.

"We're excited for the new chapter in this building's story. What we're doing here is preserving something special in the community's history," Cr Antonio said. - Sean White

Crows Nest tribute to fallen colleagues



Crows Nest Police Station's tribute in memory of the two police officers who sadly lost their lives at Tara last week



Thornville Uniting Church

(10k South of Cooyar on New England Highway)

Carols Night

5.30pm

Friday, December 23

BYO Chair * Supper After

Everyone Wel-

Covid safe



Weather update and more information: 4692 6103

Outdoor





HGC

HIGHFIELDS GARDEN CENTRE

New England Highway-Opposite Tmba Christian College

Merry Christmas

from everyone at Highfields Garden Centre.

Our opening hours over the break are as follows:

Saturday Dec 24	8am-3pm
Sunday Dec 25	Closed
Monday Dec 26	Closed
Tuesday Dec 27	Closed
Wed-Sat Dec 28-31	9am-3pm
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Monday Jan 2	Closed
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Crows Nest Christmas at the showgrounds

Christmas in Crows Nest, sponsored by the Lions Club of Crows Nest was held at the showgrounds on December 9.

Families each received a Christmas bag of goodies courtesy of Heritage Bank and the Lions Club.

Activities included facepainting by the Crows Nest Children

Centre, water activities, Christmas tree ornament making and biscuit decorating. A sausage sizzle was provided by members of Crows Nest Mens Shed.

The highlight of the night was Santa's arrival on the back of the fire truck with Blazer Bear. He handed out bags of lollies donated by C2C
 - Ann Lomas



Crows Nest Lions Club member Narelle Gluer and Darani Pyers handing out Christmas bags



Crows Nest Lions Club member Sebastian Pyers and Julie Proud who organised a tug-a-war and a gift for the children.



Crows Nest Mens Shed members running the barbecue for a sausage sizzle.



Isabella Tracey and Loretta Fleming with their Christmas bags sponsored by Heritage Bank and the Lions Club.

TALKING GROOM

Garth HAMILTON MP
 Federal Member for Groom

LNP LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY

Community comes back together

This year saw our community come back together. Events, festivals, and meetings that were cancelled during the pandemic returned bigger and better than ever. It has been an absolute pleasure to get back on the road and meet so many people. Highlights for me have been spending time with the Highfields Men's Shed, opening the new Highfields Library, and of course attending Goombungee's Jacaranda Day.

Together, we were also able to stand up to some tough challenges like the threat of foot and mouth disease, industrial relations reform, and rising interest rates and inflation. I know cost of living pressures will be on many people's minds this festive season, and I will keep fighting to see Labor honour its promise to lower power bills by \$275.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please enjoy this time with loved ones and thank you for your support.



Garth at the opening of the new Highfields Library

Garth

[\(07\) 4632 4144](tel:0746324144) [516 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, QLD. 4350](mailto:garth.hamilton.mp@aph.gov.au)
garth.hamilton.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by G.Hamilton, Liberal National Party of Queensland, 516 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350.



Isla Pickering of Crows Nest had her face painted by Alicia Diesing from the Crows Nest Children's Centre.



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during the week?
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and about?*

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on 4698 2197 or at bakescrowsnest@live.com.au*

Darling Downs Health taking flight in 2023

DRONES DELIVERING SUPPLIES, TEST SAMPLES and PHARMACEUTICALS

Darling Downs Health has welcomed the announcement by the Federal Government that Swoop Aero has been successful in their Emerging Aviation Technology Partnerships program, which will see remotely piloted drones traversing the health service.

In conjunction with Swoop Aero, Darling Downs Health will facilitate a trial drone program that will see dispatch hubs launched within the health service, delivering essential supplies, test samples and pharmaceuticals between facilities.

DDHS executive director infrastructure Dr Paul Clayton said the trial would allow the health service to evaluate the capability of this technology.

“We’re continually searching for ways to enhance our capability as a health service, and we’ll be looking to see if this trial improves the outcomes for patients and our community,” he said.

“We’ll be considering the time it takes to plan a tasking of the drone, the dispatch and retrieval of goods and of course how that all integrates into an already efficient service.

“What is really exciting about this trial is it is just the beginning of integrating new AI technologies which have the potential to transform how we work and provide care.”

The trial will utilise Swoop Aero’s latest and most advanced aircraft, the Kite, which can travel at maximum speeds of up to 200km/h with 4.7 kg of payload and would be dispatched from multiple hub locations across the Darling Downs Health

Service to deliver goods to surrounding hospital and multipurpose facilities.

Swoop Aero CEO Eric Peck added that the EATP program will enable Swoop Aero to exponentially scale the integrated drone logistics network, which is already proven to yield immediate benefits to the healthcare system through its ability to deliver medical supplies in a timely manner.

“We have sustained integrated drone logistics operations for more than five years across a number of countries globally and achieved more than 22,000 operational flights to date.

Funding from the Australian Federal Government will accelerate the value we can add back to Australian society, across industries including medical transport, search and rescue, agriculture and government,” he said.

“The large-scale trial, set to commence in the first half of 2023, will present life-changing opportunities to patients and communities.

Swoop Aero has already successfully deployed this technology across 14 countries and four continents, delivering over 1.2 million items.”

The trial comes after a successful series of demonstrations in Goondiwindi this year which Darling Downs Health staff attended.

Darling Downs Health is committed to remaining at the forefront of healthcare provision and continues to identify emerging technologies and providers that can improve patient outcomes.



Executive Director Infrastructure at Darling Downs Health Dr Paul Clayton with Australian Operations Manager for Swoop Aero Daniel Scandar.

Heritage funds nebulisers



Bill Armagnacq, Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation Chair, Petrina Fraccaro, Cystic Fibrosis Queensland Chief Executive Officer, and Paul Old, Heritage Bank Charitable Executive Officer

Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation grant funds nebulisers for those living with cystic fibrosis on Darling Downs

A \$15,000 grant from the Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation will help provide much-needed nebuliser equipment to at-risk Darling Downs people living with cystic fibrosis.

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland has been selected as one of five charities that will share a total of \$85,000 in the Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation’s third grant round, announced today.

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland will use its \$15,000 grant to purchase personal nebulisers for 27 people living with cystic fibrosis in the Darling Downs region.

These nebulisers are critical in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, used to deliver vital medication directly to the lungs, where it is needed most.

Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation executive officer Paul Olds said supporting the Cystic Fibrosis Queensland’s Fight 2 Breathe on the Darling Downs was in great alignment with the Foundation’s core focus areas of support.

“Cystic Fibrosis Queensland does an amazing job supporting Queenslanders living with this life-shortening chronic disease that attacks the lungs, airways passages and pancreas,” he said.

“Their intimate understanding of the people they assist ensures

the nebulisers go to those on the Darling Downs who are most at-risk - those from a low socio-economic background, with a lung capacity of only 30 per cent or less.

“Through this grant we are helping provide direct and life prolonging healthcare support to vulnerable Australians in a regional centre.

“The impact of this grant is immediate, with 27 people living with cystic fibrosis in the Darling Downs receiving a nebuliser that they may otherwise not have had access to.”

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland CEO Petrina Fraccaro said there was no designated State or Federal Government funding to provide support, services or research for the cure for cystic fibrosis. And with the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, floods, inflation and stagnation of wages, it had been a particularly challenging time for fundraising.

“We are very grateful to receive this support from the Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation. We can continue to make a positive difference to people living with cystic fibrosis.”

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Perseverance Hall people gives thanks

President of the Perseverance Hall Association Jen Saunders has thanked the local community for the way it celebrated their community Christmas party on December 3.

She said it was a pleasure to co-host the event with the Ravensbourne/Perseverance Rural Fire Brigade and the Ravensbourne and District Landcare Group.

“Every contribution that is made whether in time, donations, discounts, running around, artistic ability, balloon blowing,

ladder climbing, mailbox judging or just words of encouragement helps to make such events possible. It is good to remember that such events keep so many people connected in our community,” Ms Saunders said.

“To the planning team, the set up team, the busy bees on the night, the clean-up team, the food-makers, the money-takers, the donors for the coveted and highly prized raffle draw, and the RFS, aka Santa’s helpers - thank you!



Perseverance Hall

Jen Saunders thanked the TRC for the movie set up and the marquee and urged Kylie to keep up the good work!

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All specials available from Wednesday 14th December 2022 until Tuesday 3rd January 2023. Images are for illustrative purposes only. Specials available only in the state of Queensland. Prices may vary in country and far North Queensland. Different pack sizes and variants may not be available in all stores. Bottlemart supports the responsible service of alcohol. QLD_P26_16x3_HCN

Journalist appreciates time on Herald

INVOLVEMENT with the LOCAL COMMUNITY

After more than two-and-a-half years and 132 editions of the High Country Herald, it's time for me to say good-bye to you, the readers.

Last week's edition was my final publication as I take the next step in my career.

I started at the High Country Herald in April 2020 when I was offered a job as a journalist by the publication's management.

My previous experience working in the media had not been pleasant which made me apprehensive about taking up this opportunity.

But after being unemployed during the lockdown and having to hock two guitars to pay the rent, what did I have to lose?

I had a slight idea of what I was signing up for having interned with Herald during my time at university but the more I got involved with the communi-

ties in our readership, the more I realised what was offered.

It was an opportunity to become involved with the local community.

Since April 2020, I have been able to cover a wide range of stories from community news, local government, sports, crime, local disasters and more which was only possible with the help of you, the community.

It was my great pleasure to be able to get to know and highlight the surrounding communities Highfields, Crows Nest, Hampton, Goombungee, MacLagan and more.

There is so much happening in these communities that gets overlooked because it isn't in Toowoomba and to give them representation in the High Country Herald was an honour.

I want to thank the people who had helped me since 2020



SEAN WHITE
A learning curve

like the officers from Highfields Police, Highfields Chamber of Commerce, Crows Nest Show Society, Goombungee-Haden Show Society, Oakey Show Society, Goombungee Police, the QCWA Darling Downs Division and the local sub-branches, Progress Crows Nest, Crows Nest Lions, North Eastern Downs Lions, Darling Downs Environment Council, Toowoomba Regional Council, the various local schools and more.

To my colleagues at the High Country Herald, I want to thank you for the past two-and-a-half years. It has been a pleasure to work with you all and I have learned a lot from you all. I can't express my gratitude enough for giving me this opportunity.

Lastly, I thank the readers who support the High Country Herald. Your support allowed me to do this job.

I wish everyone I have worked with and the readers all the best moving forward to 2023. - Sean White

We wish Sean all the best in his new position. He was a delight to have on staff. He was particularly keen to report on events throughout the community, many of which occurred on weekends. - Neil Lomas editor

New seating for Gowrie Little Plain Hall

The latest renovations at the Gowrie Little Plain Hall have been completed courtesy of a gambling grant. This grant enabled the committee to insulate and line the seating area of the hall as well as replace all the lights inside and outside with LED lights, and most of the chairs have been replaced with arm rest chairs, so come along and enjoy a New Year's Eve dance with Rae Blinco, hourly door draws, supper, raffles. Enquires please phone Shirley 46304384.



Update on Toowoomba Bypass work

The eastbound lanes of the Toowoomba Bypass will remain closed while contractor Nexus works to remove a significant volume of material, reducing the potential rock fall from the cutting.

This additional safety work started on 13 December and was based on expert geotechnical advice after accelerated movement of the cut face was observed following recent rainfall.

The safety of construction workers and the public is Transport and Mains Roads' top priority. Given the difficult terrain it is critical all work is carefully planned so it can be safely delivered.

As works progress over the next couple of weeks, Nexus will gain a better understanding of how quickly it can safely remove material, which will then provide an indication of when an eastbound lane can be reopened.

Adverse weather presents a safety risk, which can cause delays to the scheduled work and date for reopening.

Nexus will reopen one eastbound lane as soon as the safety work has been completed.

Permanent works will follow the safety works,



Work has started to remove material to reduce the amount of potential rock fall from cut 26 on the Toowoomba Bypass. A moxy (articulated dump truck) is stockpiling material removed from the cutting by an excavator.

and they are expected to start in March 2023.

We thank the community for its ongoing patience while this vital work is completed.

Council checks pet information

Toowoomba Regional Council will soon undertake inspections to check properties where 'Regulated Dogs' are kept, and to check on dog registration and dog and cat microchipping requirements in the Region.

At the meeting on December 13 the council approved the programs to take place from January 1 to May 31.

TRC Environment and Community Committee Portfolio Leader Cr Tim McMahon said

one of the priorities of the program was to provide a level of safety for the community.

"Over the past year or so, we've seen too many cases where a dog attack has caused injury to one of our residents and other pets, and this is heartbreaking to see," Cr McMahon said.

"The selective inspection program is targeted at all premises, property and places, where 'Declared Dangerous Dogs' or 'Declared Menacing Dogs' are kept,



Cr McMAHON

Responsible pet ownership according to council records.

"Ideally, we would prefer not to conduct these programs.

"But history has shown us that a high number of dogs and cat owners are prepared to take their chance and that it's only through intervention and follow-up inquiries that we're able to gain compliance.

"There continues to be significant numbers of cats and dogs impounded, with records indicating 905 dogs and 1020 cats were impounded between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

"Of these, only 350 were microchipped and only about 400 of these dogs were registered.

"Having a dog or cat and the connection you share with your pet is special, but it's also a responsibility that needs to be managed."

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Christmas Trading Hours

CLOSED

Friday 23rd Dec 2022

REOPENED

Monday 9th January 2023



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Goombungee GACE Place Christmas

OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Goombungee's community Christmas at GACE Place on December 9 was the well supported best dressed elf competition.

More than two dozen adults and children dressed in theme and paraded for judging led by GACE member Cynthia Canard.

After much deliberation, the judges announced the winners Tiani and Jabon Pope and sons Alex and Luke, Ayla Tonscheck and Evelyn Geraghty. The prizes, all purchased from local businesses, were donated by GACE.

Market stalls, face painting, free snow cones and candy canes, and music added to the ambiance of the event until the much-anticipated visit by Santa who arrived in his sleigh and had a small gift for the young ones.

He happily took letters from a

number of children on the night.

Festive outdoor trees were supplied and decorated by community members while the ones in the church building were beautifully decked out by GACE members with the trees and decorations having been donated by Toowoomba Regional Council.

Organising committee member Barbara Scott made special mention of the contribution by Toni and Andrew Gorry who created the Christmas Light Magic display in the grounds of GACE Place.

The event was the organisation's opportunity to give back to their community who had been so supportive in the setting up and success of the town's Not New Op Shop. the elf competition.

- Ann Lomas reporting



Tiani and Jabon Pope and sons Alex and Luke - the family winners in the elf competition



GACE members Cynthia Canard and Maria Golding



Evelyn Geraghty and Ayla Tonscheck, junior winners in the elf competition



Anthea King from Goombungee had her face painted by Jen Stark from Smiles and Rainbows



Jack Pope and Labradoodle Teddy

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

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This Week's

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2017 Kia Cerato YD MY17 This Kia Cerato Sportshift Hatchback is a 6 speed automatic. This Vehicle comes with 2 keys, logbook and owners manuals. Call today for more information and book a test drive. 118,998 kms \$18,990 Stock No. 083327 Drive away	2019 Mazda CX-3 DK MY19 S Touring (FWD) Perfect first car. This CX-3 Touring is a front wheel drive, 6 speed automatic. Call today for more information. Dont miss out! 54,078kms \$28,880 Stock No. 083332 Drive away	2017 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GDJ150R MY16 VX (4x4). Luxury 7 seat wagon. This Prado VX has full log book servicing, owners manuals and 2 keys. Ready to go and fitted with towbar & RedArc electric brake controller, carpet floor mats, and tinted bonnet protector. 161,456 kms \$55,500 Stock No. 083320 Drive away	RAV4 Hybrid Cruiser-AWD 2.5L Auto CVT Wagon Beige interior. One owner vehicle, full service history, log books and manuals. Fitted with Alloy ECB bullbar, rear cargo barrier, towbar, bonnet protector & headlamp covers, dash mat, CelFi phone booster, rubber cargo mat, window tinting. 66,187kms \$56,990 Stock No. 083333 Drive away
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Sales Consultant

OH WHAT A FEELING

Pumpkin, the orphaned koala

Written by Barbara McKay with assistance from granddaughter Kassandra McKay

"Stop the car, Becky. Stop the car," said Sandy's Dad James, as they drove along the New England Highway near Crows Nest.

Mum Becky pressed the brake pedal bringing the white Proton to a standstill on the side of the road. Dad jumped out and rushed over to the white line dividing the lanes.

"What's happening, Mum?" said Sandy.

As she pressed the hazard warning light, Becky said, "Dad is checking an injured koala."

Sandy and her brother Jakiah wound down the car window and looked out at the injured animal.

A red ute drove towards them so James put up his right hand to say "Stop."

The driver slowed down. Sandy saw her Dad pointing to the furry bundle near the white line.

"Becky, bring me that shopping bag from the boot of the car," James screamed. "I need to stop it from moving away and climbing a tree."

As Becky handed him the shopping bag, James approached it from behind. Then with kind, strong hands, he scooped the koala gently from the road, making sure it was quiet with no stress.

Arriving home, James rang Sandra McKay from KLAWS (Koala Land and Wildlife

Support), who transports koalas to the RSP-CA for veterinary care.

"Don't pat it. It will be frightened," she said. "Thank you for picking it up. I will come immediately."

When she left, she said, "I'll keep you informed."

With great anticipation, our family waited for news from the Wildlife Hospital at Wacol and in a couple of days, a very excited six-year-old phoned me.

"Guess what, Nana? Our koala was badly injured, but she is alive. She had urgent surgery for a broken arm and has lost one eye. They also found a little joey tucked inside her pouch. His name is Pumpkin."

With tears in my eyes, I smiled, knowing the passion of Sandy's dad when he was younger.

His passion was now being passed on to his little girl.

It was a long road to recovery and rehabilitation for the mother koala and baby Pumpkin. Just when all the caring team thought the koalas could be returned to their natural habitat, the mother koala, called Lilly, died from leukaemia.

Little Pumpkin was now orphaned but the wonderful team prepared him well to move back into the wild.

On November 16, 2020, it was time for

Pumpkin to be released back into his natural habitat close to the place where he was rescued.

Sandra McKay from KLAWS opened the crate and Pumpkin climbed out.

"Nana, it was so exciting to see him climb up the eucalyptus tree for yummy food. I want to be a Wild Care Warrior," she said.

Sadly, the bushfires surrounding the town of Crows Nest had destroyed many eucalypt trees preventing koalas travelling safely from tree to tree.

The good news is that little Sandy at eight years of age is now a Wildcare Warrior with her own Instagram page managed by her older sister.

Her Mum and Dad have moved to acreage at Crows Nest and planted many food plants for the koalas who live on their property.

• This story features in the book, Pen to Paper, a collection of 58 poems and short stories from Crows Nest and surrounds collated by Lorayn Walcroft. The book is available for \$10 from local outlets including Crows Nest Arts and Crafts, Crows Nest Museum and Historical Village and the High Country Herald office.

Funds from sales will go to community groups including the Crows Nest Australia Day organising committee, the museum and the local ambulance committee.



Long road to recovery and rehabilitation

Oakey Senior Citizens party at break up for 2022

Members of the Oakey Senior Citizens Club enjoyed cards and bowls and a wonderful feast at their last day for 2022.

Meetings will resume on January 18. Everyone of any age and ability is welcome to join in the fun and friendship of the club.

For more information, contact Valma Austin 0487 319 899.

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANYONE OF ANY
AGE AND ABILITY



Chris Acworth and Betty Acworth



Kath O'Brien and Sandy Engle



Valma Austin and Vera Parkinson



Leanne Sutton and Reg Parkinson

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Christmas Greetings

Merry Christmas

Mayor Paul Antonio and the Antonio family thank you for your support throughout 2022 and extend our best wishes to the community for the festive season.



Every best wish for a safe and happy festive season from our family to yours.

Cr Geoff and Lisa McDonald



HIGHFIELDS CENTRAL PLAZA

All our businesses thank you for supporting local and wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2023











Merry Christmas

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and love-filled, joyous and healthy 2023.

From Councillor Rebecca Vonhoff



Phone 0417 064 878 Email Rebecca.Vonhoff@tr.qld.gov.au   

Merry Christmas

Wishing residents and visitors a Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year

Cr Carol Taylor



Christmas Greetings

Highfields
AUTO CENTRE
Seasons greetings
to all our clients
and thank you for
supporting us in 2022

FRANK HILL
A Grade Motor Mechanic

Closed
December 21
to January 9

Phone: 4698 7561

**Merry
Christmas**
from

Highfields
CURRY GARDEN

Highfields Plaza, 1 Plaza Circle, Highfields
Ph. 4615 4752

Cr. Nancy Sommerfield
wishes all a
Merry Christmas
May your
Christmas sparkle
with moments of
love, laughter and
goodwill



  www.nancysommerfield.com

Christmas is a time of giving.
I'd like to give my cherished clients a
huge thanks for your continued support.
My family and I would like to wish you
and your family a very Merry Christmas
and a Peaceful, Prosperous New Year.
May your holiday be blessed with
the love and warmth of family
and friends.



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*From my family to yours,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



**Trevor
WATTS**

MEMBER FOR
TOOWOOMBA
NORTH

P 4602 2100 A 182 Ruthven Street, North Toowoomba QLD 4350
• PO Box 285, Harlaxton Qld 4350 E toowoomba.north@parliament.qld.gov.au
W trevorwattsmp.com TrevorWattsMP /TrevorWattsLNP trevorwattsmp

Merry Christmas

With Christmas comes peace, hope and joy.
I wish you and yours a memorable holiday season filled
with great company and good cheer.

THE HON DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP
YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOVA
LEADER OF THE NATIONALS

Authorised by the Hon David Littleproud MP, Liberal National Party, Dalby Qld 4405



57 Cunningham St, Dalby Q 4405 | david.littleproud.mp@aph.gov.au | www.davidlittleproud.com.au

**A very Merry Christmas and a Safe and
Happy New Year from our family to yours**

We thank you for your support and look forward to wishing you a Merry Christmas in 2023
where you can experience the magic of Christmas all year round!
We will be closed from 3pm Saturday, December 24 and re-open at 9am Wednesday, January 4.
January opening hours will be Wednesday to Sunday 9am - 3pm

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Christmas Greetings



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HIGHFIELDS

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No 1 in No 2 business



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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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Open 27-28th December from 10am-3pm

Ph: 07 4696 8111

Mob: 0408 708 247

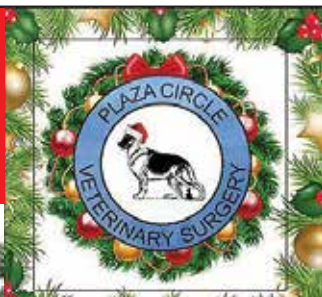
Plaza Circle Shopping Centre

1 Plaza Circle, Highfields

E: sales@onestopstationery.com.au

W: www.onestopstationery.com.au

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year



To all of our valued clients. Thank you for another year of support.

Wishing you a holiday season full of treats, tail wags and time spent with your furry, feathered and scaled family!

-Plaza Circle Vets

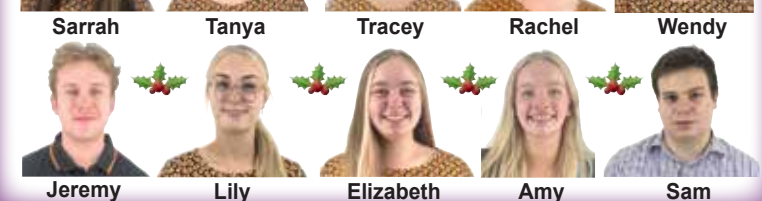
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

from the team at Highfields Discount Drug Store



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Closed December 25, 26, 27 and January 1, 2



HIGHFIELDS Discount Drug Store



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Christmas Greetings

Advertisement



Pat WEIR MP
Member for **Condamine**

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2023.
Have a happy festive season from Pat Weir and staff

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Office: 101 Campbell Street, Oakey, Qld. 4401

CROWS NEST & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Merry Christmas



All of us at the Crows Nest Bowls Club send our warmest Christmas greetings to our many members, sponsors and night-bowlers that supported us in 2022.

Thankyou so much for visiting the club during the past twelve months; and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Wishing you all the best as we head into a new year.



Our best wishes for a safe and joyful festive season

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The team at Eclipse Park Veterinary Surgery wish you and your pets a safe and happy Christmas holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2023



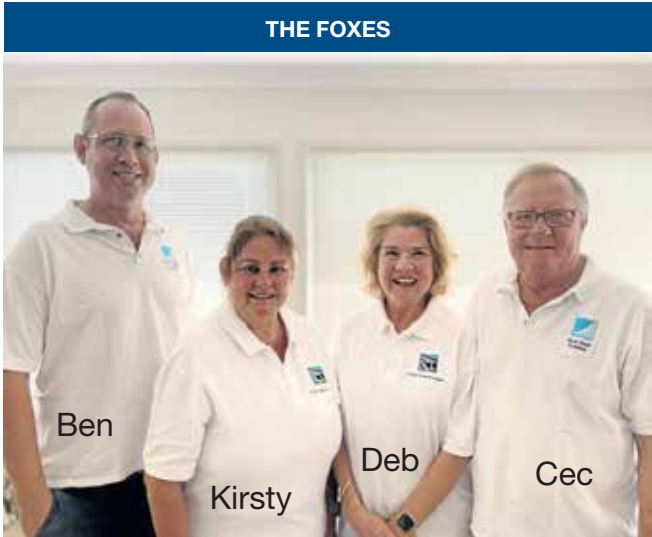
Front Row - Left to Right: Paul Crossinggum, Ruth Devlin, Rachel Smith, Gemma Hicks, Toni Trollope
Back Row - Left to Right: Kyra Harrison, Sam Pigozzo, Emma Bergman, Jenny Nickolls, Jane Sharp, Rebecca Appleton, Madison Chaffey and Kaitlyn Greenhalgh

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing all the hardworking Highfields businesses and the people who support them a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



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GALV RHS					EACH
164	-	3.2M	25 X 25 X 2		- \$18
64	-	8M	40 X 40 X 2.5		- \$85
98	-	8M	50 X 50 X 3		- \$125
12	-	3M	100 X 100 X 3		- \$100
40	-	8M	65 X 65 X 2.5		- \$100
87	-	8M	100 X 50 X 2.5		- \$160
200	-	3M	75 X 75 X 4		- \$80
132	-	2.66M	75 X 75 X 3		- \$75
169	-	3M	75 X 75 X 3		- \$80

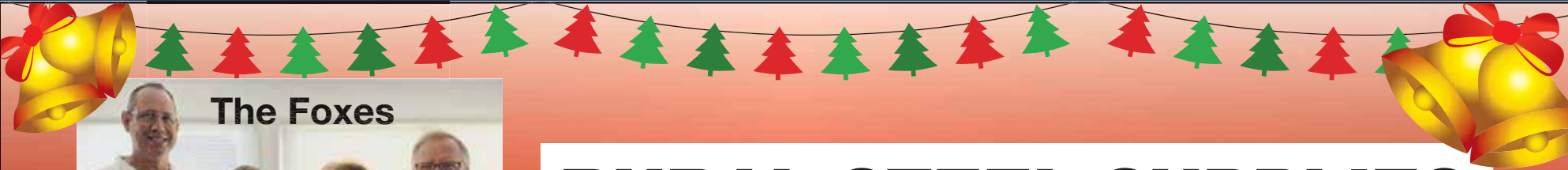
PAINTED RHS					EACH
300	-	2.4M	75 X 75 X 2.5		- \$40
120	-	6M	75 X 75 X 4		- \$160
60	-	2M	75 X 75 X 4		- \$220
8	-	8M	102 X 76 X 3.5		- \$20
BLACK - PIPE - NEAR NEW					EACH
28	-	2M	25NB MBPE		- \$16
12	-	2.5M	80NB LBPE		- \$50
6	-	3.2M	80NB LBPE		- \$60
9	-	2.1M	150NB MBPE		- \$130
500	-	2.7M	80NB HBPE		- \$90
300	-	2.2M	100NB MBPE		- \$55
800	-	3.1M	40NB MBPE		- \$30
GALV PIPE - NEAR NEW					EACH
150	-	2.5M	65NB MGPE		- \$50
572	-	2.4M	80NB MGPE		- \$80
570	-	3M	80NB MGPE		- \$90
GALV SHEET					EACH
40	-		1800 x 1175 x 3MM		- \$160
40	-		1800 x 1200 x 3MM		- \$160
33	-		2400 x 1200 x 2.4MM		- \$190
1	-		3000 x 1500 x 3MM		- \$200

BLACK SHEET & PLATE					EACH
23	-		2400 X 1200 X 1.6MM		- \$95
23	-		3000 X 1500 X 6MM		- \$500
10	-		3000 X 1500 X 8MM		- \$580
7	-		3000 X 1500 X 10MM		- \$650
6	-		3000 X 1500 X 16MM		- \$1500
3	-		3000 X 1500 X 25MM		- \$2400
30	-		300 X 300 X 16MM		- \$20
4	-		250 X 515 X 16MM		- \$30
BLACK SHEET NEAR NEW					EACH
700 - 3000 X 1500 X 2MM					\$180
SPECIAL PRICE					
RED PAINTED PIPE NEAR NEW - 6.5M / LENGTHS					EACH
91	-		25NB MRPE RUSTY		- \$33
91	-		25NB MRPE		- \$50
61	-		40NB MRPE		- \$70
37	-		50NB MRPE		- \$99
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Customers for their support this year,
and to wish you and yours a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy and
Prosperous New Year.

Thank you,
CEC, BEN, DEB & KIRSTY
The Foxes



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HIGH COUNTRY FARMING



Lucerne - the paddock king in controlling weeds



By PAUL McINTOSH
Industry Development Agronomist - Northern region
For Pulse Australia and the Australian Herbicide
Resistance Initiative

A mystery mechanism that many plants possess is Allelopathy and our humble Lucerne plant is one of the best demonstrators of this novel approach and biologically safe way to control weeds, pests and disease.

Allelopathy is a mechanism in some plants using the exudates of various root chemicals to inhibit the growth of nearby plants.

Lucerne is one such plant and a pesky weed like Mint is another example, with an Allelopathic effect on other plants around its growing zone.

Even Lucerne crop fragments that have been ripped out due to age or disease, can still display some non-growing affects on other grass or broadleaf plants such as Portulaca like pig weeds, Ipomeas as in morning glory and even Echinochloa species like barnyard grasses, can be adversely affected by this feature called Allelopathy.

Of course a favourite Lucerne seed planting technique by my father on our family farm was mixing those very small Lucerne seeds (400,000 to 500,000 seeds per kg) with some barley or wheat seed to slow down the flow of Lucerne seed per hectare. Little did he realise in those days

that by sowing these two different species of plants, that they were both having a debilitating effect on each other by this Allelopathic effect.

Many who have read this column over the years, have observed my mission to reduce the weed seed bank of our painful and hugely pesky plants out of place or weeds, such as Feather Top Rhodes and Fleabane.

I have speculated and even recommended to various folks around Queensland that planting and getting Lucerne established is a good way of using Allelopathic affects.

Then we look at Auto Toxicity which can be likened to Allelopathy where a plant like Lucerne emits similar exudates from its below ground parts and even stops its own species from germinating and growing.

So this Lucerne characteristic called Auto Toxicity really makes it difficult to thicken up old or even new patches of Lucerne. Bit like an own goal I guess.

Interesting is this ancient plant we call Lucerne and the Americans call Alfalfa.

However it still has a huge future in our climate extreme regions of Queensland and even Australia.



Paul McIntosh in one of his favourite cropsLucerne

Prawn and salmon farming sees growth in aquaculture

Prawn farming in Queensland and salmon production in Tasmania are contributing to aquaculture's growth within the Australian seafood industry.

In the latest edition of ABARES Australian Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics, ABARES Executive Director Dr Jared Greenville said the aquaculture sector has continued its recent growth, accounting for 56 per cent of the total gross value of fisheries production (GVP).

"In 2020-21 aquaculture GVP increased by 9 per cent to \$1.7 billion, largely due to increased production of salmonids in Tasmania and prawns in Queensland," Dr Greenville said.

"Over the last two decades we've seen aquaculture grow, helping to boost overall fisheries production.

"In recent years, the aquaculture sector has been broadening the composition of species produced, with an increased emphasis on prawns and finfish varieties, such as barramundi and kingfish.

"Australians consumed around 356,000 tonnes of seafood in 2020-21, equivalent to 13.9 kilograms per person.

Imports made up 62 per cent of that total, but imports declined from the peak of 69 per cent in 2013-14.

"While Australians consume less fish than chicken, pork and beef, they consume more fish than sheep meat."

• Australian Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics for 2021 are available here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/fisheries/fisheries-and-aquaculture-statistics>.

Queensland ag sector confidence stabilises

STRONG COMMODITY PRICES AND POSITIVE SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Queensland farmer sentiment has stabilised as 2022 draws to a close, the latest Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey has found.

The quarter four survey, released today, shows overall farmer confidence levels in the state have held fast, after sector sentiment dived into 'negative territory' last quarter on the back of high input costs and biosecurity concerns.

While there are still more Queensland producers expecting business conditions to decline than to improve in the 12 months ahead, the majority (55 per cent) have a stable outlook. And fewer are pessimistic about prospects for the coming year - at 26 per cent (down from 31 per cent previously).

However, the number expecting a better year ahead had also declined - to 14 per cent (from 19 per cent).

Strong commodity prices and positive seasonal conditions have fuelled those with an optimistic outlook, while concerns about the risk of foot and mouth disease (FMD) have abated.

High input prices continue to be a concern with 55 per cent of Queensland producers who expect agribusiness conditions to decline citing this as a key factor.

An overabundance of rainfall for some was also weighing on sector sentiment, with 21 per cent of those with a negative outlook 'concerned about 'too much rain' with Australia now in its third consecutive La Niña weather pattern.

Increasing interest rates are also a growing worry for producers, cited by 18 per cent of those with a pessimistic outlook, an increase from 13 per cent last quarter.

Rabobank regional manager for Southern Queensland, Brad James said the third La Niña affecting Australia this summer presents a "myriad of scenarios" for Queensland's different agri commodity sectors.

"Cattle producers across the state are generally optimistic about another summer with above-average rain and pasture production," he said.

"There has already been beneficial spring rainfall across much of the central west and even northern parts of the state, which is a little unusual, and has seen a good response from the various pastures.

"The wet spring has been disruptive for grain and cotton producers, particularly around Emerald, but hopefully these challenges are outweighed by the inflows Fairburn dam has received - pushing water levels up to around 40 per cent - which will set local irrigators up for the coming season."

Mr James said while soil profiles have been drying out across the Darling Downs in recent weeks, grain and cotton farmers in certain areas are still having issues getting machinery into paddocks without bogging due to the rain received through spring.

Queensland beef producer confidence has seen a recovery in the survey, which was completed last month, with a decline in those expecting conditions to worsen.

Mr James said biosecurity concerns were found to have eased considerably among beef producers in the latest quarter.

"At the time the previous survey was conducted, beef producers were particularly mindful of the potentially-catastrophic impacts of FMD in the weeks following the news of Indonesia's outbreak - which saw 31 per cent of beef producers expecting agribusiness conditions to decline last quarter. This has reduced to 18 per cent of Queensland beef producers this quarter," he said.

For the state's grain growers, rising input costs were the chief reason cited by those anticipating agricultural economic conditions to worsen in the coming year.

However, Mr James said, the number of grain growers reported in the survey with a pessimistic outlook did decline this quarter.

"While input prices remain high," Mr James said, "producers are experiencing less challenges with limited access to these farm inputs or lengthy delays for chemicals, fertilisers and machinery than they were earlier in the year when geopolitical issues were stressing global and local supply chains."

Confidence among the state's sugar producers has declined this quarter with over half of producers surveyed expecting conditions to worsen in the year ahead.

Mr James said while dry seasonal conditions along much of the coast has deliv-

ered a good harvest - with production up from last year - wet weather had caused a delay in the crush and growers' main concerns were about high input prices and excessive rainfall.

Queensland producers' investment appetite remains stable with 22 per cent expecting to increase investment in their enterprises in the coming 12 months, compared with 24 per cent last quarter.

The number planning to reduce investment had declined to nine per cent (from 15 per cent last quarter), while 67 per cent expected to maintain investment at current levels.

Of those producers intending to increase their expenditure on their business, on-farm infrastructure (nominated by 77 per cent), adopting new technology (48 per cent), purchasing additional livestock (46 per cent), and buying new machinery (40 per cent) were cited as the major investment plans.

The latest survey found demand for property purchase to expand farming operations has lifted since last quarter - with 28 per cent of those producers planning to increase their business investment indicating they were looking to purchase property, an increase from 12 per cent last quarter.

"While demand has increased again, there is evidence that the market has perhaps found its peak based on general activity in the property market," Mr James said.

"That said, it is still very active and healthy based on the sales data. As is generally the case, premium properties are continuing to attract premium prices, however, we might be seeing the property market pause to take a breath."

A comprehensive monitor of outlook and sentiment in Australian rural industries, the Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey questions an average of 1000 primary producers across a wide range of commodities and geographical areas throughout Australia on a quarterly basis.

The most robust study of its type in Australia, the Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey has been conducted since 2000 by an independent research organisation.

The next results are scheduled for release in March 2023.

HIGH COUNTRY
Herald

**PICKUP
LOCATIONS**

TOOWOOMBA

The Paddock, Ruthven Street
Campbell's Newsagency
Northpoint Newsagency
Wilsonton Shopping Centre
Wyalla Plaza Newsagency
Clifford Gardens (at the Info Desk)
KMart Toowoomba Plaza (near restrooms)
Betros Bros
Foodworks Harlaxton
Margaret Street Newsagency

HIGHFIELDS

One Stop Stationery Supplies
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HIGH COUNTRY FARMING



MacLean-Iedema Award recognises outstanding contribution to the irrigation industry

Former director of the Toowoomba based National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA) Erik Schmidt, has been recognised for his contributions to the irrigation industry.

Mr Schmidt has retired from this role and the NCEA has been subsequently renamed the Centre for Agricultural Engineering (CAE).

But he continues his association with the University as an Industry Fellow, and assists with numerous projects in irrigation, water use and evaporation.

Mr Schmidt joined the University of Southern Queensland in 2003 to head up the NCEA following an international career in engineering and agricultural research.

He led the centre as Director for nine years and as Deputy Director for another decade.

Current CAE Director Professor Bernadette McCabe said Mr Schmidt's tenure saw him achieve great results in the area of water management, supporting tools, and extension to irrigators and their advisers.

"Not only did he provide exceptional leadership in these research areas, he also has contributed to countless projects and initiatives," she said.

"His mentorship of students and staff has cemented his enduring legacy not only at our University but the industry as a whole."

Mr Schmidt provided expert leadership in:-

- His oversight in the Smarter Irrigation for Profit programs;
- His role as a leader and innovator in the Co-operative Re-

search Centre for Irrigation Futures;

- Involvement with the commercialisation of the award-winning Irrimate technology for measurement and assessment of surface irrigation systems;

- Leading international research for development projects in South and South East Asia;

- And as the author of more than 65 journal and conference papers.

It's that dedication and his decades-long record of research excellence and innovation that has won him Irrigation Australia's MacLean-Iedema Award, an accolade bestowed every second year to recognise someone who had made outstanding contributions to the industry.

Irrigation Australia CEO Dave Cameron presented Mr Schmidt with the award at the group's recent national conference in Adelaide.

CAE Senior Research Engineer (Irrigation and Water Engineering) Michael Scobie nominated Mr Schmidt for the award and was one of the many researchers to benefit from his guidance.

"I have worked with Erik on dozens of projects across Australia and Asia, in both large and small teams," he said.

"The way he operates and leads these teams is extraordinary. He can challenge and bring together people from a range of disciplines and backgrounds to deliver amazing results," Mr Scobie said.



- Irrigation Australia CEO Dave Cameron (right) presented Erik Schmidt with the MacLean-Iedema Award at the Irrigation Australia Conference Photo supplied by Irrigation Australia Ltd

Broadacre farms largest employers in Australian agriculture

ABARES survey data indicates that broadacre farms used a total of 196,700 workers at peak labour use in 2020-21, increasing from 178,300 workers in 2018-19.

The largest broadacre farms (those earning receipts more than \$1 million) accounted for 90 per cent of this increase in workers.

Most workers used on broadacre farms at peak labour use in 2020-21 were high-skilled workers (38 per cent), managers (24 per cent) or machine operators (16 per cent), with the remainder occupying semi-skilled, unskilled, administrative or professional roles.

Broadacre farms include sheep, beef, cropping and mixed farms, totalling around 57 per cent of Australian farm businesses.

Labour use on broadacre farms tends to be relatively stable from year to year compared with horticulture farms, reflecting the structure of these businesses and the roles typically performed by workers.

Broadacre farms make greater use of family members and local workers who are typically employed as full time or part time workers throughout the year and employ relatively few contractors and casual staff.

The wide geographical spread of the broadacre sector across Australia also means peak labour use periods such as crop sowing and harvest are more variable than in the horticulture sector.

The survey showed Australian dairy farms used a total of 22,000 workers at peak labour use in

2020-21, decreasing from 26,200 in 2018-19, mainly due to a decrease in the number of operating farms, a decrease in the number of domestic workers per farm (driven by an increase in the wages required to attract Australian workers and competitive labour markets), and a reduction in the availability of overseas workers over this period.

Most workers used on dairy farms during peak periods in 2020-21 were skilled workers (43 per cent), managers (32 per cent) or machine operators (19 per cent).

Dairy farms employ mostly Australian workers and total labour use is relatively consistent, with minimal monthly variation compared to broadacre and horticulture farms.

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Yarding: 113 Change: -200

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Quality Angus cows and calves sold \$3200 with an Angus bull finding a new home for \$4600.

DESCRIPTION	Weight	Range c/kg	Average c/kg	Change c/kg
Steers	500-700kgs	342-350	346	+6
Cows	520+kgs	260-274	367	+13
Heavy Heifers	>400kgs	328-354	341	-40
Bulls	>600kgs	N/Q	N/Q	N/Q
Feeder Steers	400-500kgs	N/Q	N/Q	N/Q
Restocker Steers	200-280kgs	496-526	514	-40
Restocker Heifers	200-280kgs	360-400	380	-92

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Pigs

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Christmas Day Mass - December 25,
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All are welcome!



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DECEMBER

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24 - 5.30pm Ravensbourne Uniting Church,
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24 - 6.00pm St George's Anglican Church,
15 Thallon Street, Crows Nest 0409 874 147
24 - 7.00pm St Andrew's Lutheran Church,
17 Malcolm Street, Cooyar 0404 067 454
25 - 6.00am Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
Church Street, Haden 0404 067 454
25 - 8.00am St Matthew's Catholic Church,
20 Creek Street, Crows Nest 4698 1156
25 - 8.00am Crows Nest Uniting Church,
17 Emu Creek Road, Crows Nest 4605 3135
25 - 8.30am St George's Anglican Church,
15 Thallon Street, Crows Nest 0409 874 147
25 - 10.00am St Luke's Lutheran Church, 21
Toowoomba Road, Crows Nest 0404 067 454
25 - 3.30pm John 15 Christian Fellowship,
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Christmas Day - 8am



come as you are

Crows Nest Anglican Parish

Christmas Eve Family Service 6.00pm
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BOWLS

CROWS NEST:
December 14 - Final mid-week social day of the year was won by Keith Herbertson and Paul McEwan. Coming in second were Roy Bell and Chrys Robins.



A modest roll-up, compared to recent weeks, appreciated the complimentary end of season barbecue prepared by the chef du jour.

December 10 - 2022-23 intracub competitions results:

Open singles John Fowler d. Paul McEwan.

Open pairs Tony Collins and Brent Schloss d. Ray Weis and Peter Best. No intracub competition games will be called for the coming month or so to allow for rejuvenation of the green over the end-of-year break.

The Thrifty Thursday group will also shut down for a while, and restart early next year.

Sunday, December 11's Christmas break-up and life members' afternoon was taken out by Tony Collins, John McConnell and Dave Auchterlonie. Ray Weis, Jim Walcroft and Stewart Fraser were runners-up. Many thanks to our life members for their joint support of the occasion.

Quite apart from a large attendance by sponsors, members and guests to share some festive cheer, the afternoon was also celebrated with the presentation of Milestone Awards, certainly not the least of which was Beras Vandersee's acceptance of her Matriarch's Badge. Congratulations, Beras!

The next management committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8, starting at 9.30am.

New members and visitors are always welcome at Crows Nest.

Whether you're an old hand at the game or someone who's never picked up a bowl before in their life, feel free to get in touch with Gary Baker on bakescrowsnest@live.com.au or on 4698 2197. Or, you could log onto our website at www.crowsnestqldbowlsclub.com.au

If you're new in town, or just passing through and looking for a friendly game on any Wednesday or Sunday afternoon when we resume, simply ring the club 4698 1450 before midday to get your name in on time.

If you feel like a game on Thrifty Thursdays, contact Jenni 0417 797 449 before noon to book a spot. You're sure to be greeted with a smile.

President Ray Weis and his management committee wish sponsors, all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Enjoy the break, and we'll see you back in 2023. Lastly, many thanks to Daryl Fraser, Kevin Brandon and the Monday morning chain gang for the fabulous green and surrounds that they provide for members and visitors each and every week of the year. Gracias fellas! - Gary Baker

TOOWOOMBA CITY LADIES: A grade singles final results T. Jones d. M. Frappell.

Our Friday social game is now ended for this year. Start date in 2023 to be announced.

Once again, season's greetings to all. - Bev Borey

RIFLE SHOOTING

SOUTHERN DOWNS: December 18 - 500 yards. F Std Paul R. 115.3 (max 126), Nick K. 112.1, John C. 102.4, Ian G. 96.1.

F open Craig M. 126.12 (max 126) - perfect score, Bruce McAllan 122.8.

Greg W. 122.6, Charlie M. 121.10, Richard McK. 121.7, Dave T. 118.5, Geoff V. 114.2, Margaret T. 111.2, James S. 102.1.

Sporter/Hunter (max 105) Daryl R. 101.9, Adrian B. 93.3.

The next shoot will be on New Years Day (only the brave!) at 300 yards.

Sign on at 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Margaret 4666 1018 for more information.

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SPORT



GOLF

Cabarlah pennants team breaks the drought

CABRALAH LADIES: On September 22, after a 41-year dry spell, the Cabarlah Golf Club took out the ladies Adam Falconer Pennants event - a handicap match-play between seven district clubs.

Captain Janelle Kruse said the competition, which began in 1965, runs throughout the year between the seven club teams.

"The clubs in the Downs South-West District Golf Association include Clifton, Pittsworth, Warwick, Cabarlah, City Golf Club and Toowoomba Golf Club.

"Each club plays every other club during the year with five players in a team."

Janelle said the win was significant to the Cabarlah Club as it is a small club with only 30 women members and just 10 regular competition players.

"It was down to the wire," she said.

"Going into the final game we were just one point ahead of City Golf Club, who had previously won the event 23 times.

"We waited anxiously for the last players to come in to work out the result."

"After the count, both clubs ended up with three and a half wins with Cabarlah remaining on top of the leaderboard to win.

"We played the full season with no forfeits and only seven Cabarlah players taking part including Petae Frazer, Sue Hayes, Paula Heelan, Janese Lloyd, Lynne McCleary, Lotte Pedersen and Paula Heelan."

A grade player Lotte Pedersen, who was also in the winning team in 1981, said many of the players were relatively new to golf, making the win even more impressive.

"With so few players to choose from for the team and not having forfeited any of the games throughout the year, it's quite fantastic."

Team member Sue Hayes said nothing beats a team event.

"The team games have been important to us; especially when one of our treasured members is going through the toughest health battle of her life and another farewellled a loved one days before the final event," Sue said.

"Win or lose we are always supportive of each other.

"In a small club like ours, it becomes a motivational drive and spirits lift with each success.

"Having played a part in this will hold a special place in the highlights of my golfing life."



Lynne McCleary, inset, Janese Lloyd, Lotte Pedersen, Petae Frazer, Janelle Kruse, Sue Hayes and Paula Heelan, inset

INDOOR BOWLS

GOOMBUNGEE: Indoor Bowls, a sporting pastime that has been played in the Goombungee Hall for 50 or 60 years, has just completed another year of activities and is planning for even greater involvement in the New Year.

Club vice president Bryan

Matthews said in recent times, longer 30-foot long mats have been acquired where it had previously used 25-foot long mats.

About 16 people meet to play each Tuesday morning and Mr Matthews said it's hoped the number of participants can be increased in the coming year.

He said they play for pleasure and social activity rather than for competition.

Last week, Christmas break-up activities included a raffle and lunch at a local restaurant.

Prizes were donated by 10 businesses, mostly local. - **Miles Noller**



Back - Des Benit, Andrew Tabor, Kath Lewis, Kevin Crothers, Ned Hagan, and Gloria Matthews. Front - Bryan Matthews, Arlene Edwards, Eva Payne, Wayne Nolan, and Robyn Taylor

PARKRUN

HIGHFIELDS: December 17 - Event number 340. On a picture-perfect morning 64 people ran, jogged and walked our course. Welcome to our 13 first timers and well done to the nine who recorded new personal bests.

Welcome also to visitors from Taroom, Wandooan, Springfield and Toowoomba. Congratulations to Willow (one of our juniors) on 10 parkruns, Will 50 parkruns, Di and Kerriane 200 parkruns each.

That's a combined total distance of 2300 kms or from the Highfields Sport and Recreation Park to Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory.

The event was made possible by volunteers Marty Hogg, Janis Trigg, Dianne Tumbridge, Maureen

Brown, Graham Trigg, Jan Lange, Hope Bishop, Riley Hinton, Justin Clay, Clarrie Sanders and Janeen Gibson.

We will be holding Christmas Day and New Years Day parkruns as well as our usual parkruns, so mark these in your calendars/diaries.

Same time, 7am, same place, Highfields Sport and Recreation Park.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year (if we don't get to catch up at parkrun!)

For more information email highfields@parkrun, com or message via our Facebook page. - **Janeen Gibson**

Heritage Charity Golf Day milestone

Participants at the annual Heritage Bank Charity Golf Day on December 2 were part of something special as the event celebrates 25 wonderful years.

About 160 members of the business community took to Toowoomba's City Golf Club to raise money for inspirational community organisations as part of Heritage's 25th Charity Golf Day.

Over the past quarter century, the event has raised more than \$1 million for about 130 community and charity organisations to support their incredible work.

This year's event will add about \$50,000 to that tally, with money raised to help even more organisations deliver important services to the community.

Holding the Charity Golf Day over the past 25 years has demonstrated Heritage Bank's genuine commitment to supporting the communities in which it operates.

"Every year I really look forward to our Charity Golf Day as it is a tremendous opportunity to raise some much-needed funds for remarkable organisations out there making positive contributions to our community," Heritage Bank CEO Peter Lock said.

"I'm thrilled the rain cleared for us to enjoy a round of golf on the beautiful City Golf Club course while we celebrate 25 years of this wonderful event.

"Holding this event each year is something that everyone at Heritage takes great pride in, especially our team of incredible volunteers who make the time to raise money and ensure everything runs smoothly on the day.

"I also want to thank the generous sponsors who support the event and our efforts to raise money for some truly worthwhile organisations.

"With our merger with People's Choice Credit Union coming into effect next year, this might be the last time this event will be called the Heritage Charity Golf Day, but our commitment to supporting the community will certainly continue."

The community organisations and charities benefitting from the money raised at the 2022 Heritage Charity Golf Day will be announced in the New Year.



Gabrielle Picar-Garcia, Nate Hornery and Mahalia Minz from Heritage Bank



QBE LMI Regional Partnership Manager Darren Bleach, Heritage Bank Chief Customer Officer Stewart Saunders, Heritage Bank CEO Peter Lock



Heritage Bank Chairman Kerry Betros and QBE LMI Head of Partnerships Paul Dennis.



Anne Cherry, Jan Johnson, Grant Graving, Russell Bianchi and Breanne Lancey from Heritage Bank

GOOMBUNGEE: December 15 - Winner men Dave Scutt 40, ladies Val Hartland 38. Approaches men 1/10 Dave Scutt, 2/11 Shane Hughes, 4/13 Gary Shea. Approaches ladies 4/13 Val Drowley, 3/12 Helen Scott and 9/18 Chris Tannock. **December 16** - Chook run. Winner Bill Robertson 36 net, second Dave Humphrey.

December 18 - Bushranger stableford - Gary Shea trophies. Winners Gary Buckley, Shane Hughes, Harry Cover 91 pts, Bradmans Nino Capuzzo, Mark Peters, Dan Darlington. Rundown Bill Robertson, Rodney Mann and Gary Herriman, Wayne Nemeth, Matty Burgess and Robbie McKewen, Robyn and Val Drowley and Dave Scutt. Men pin shots 3/12 Matty Burgess, 4/13 Col Jenkins, 8/17 D. Scutt (eagle's nest D. Scutt and Murray Mc-

Leod), approaches 2/11 Col Jenkins, 5/14 D. Lowe, 6/15 Gary Buckley. Ladies approaches 2/11 Robyn Drowley, 3/12 C. Cover. Members draw No. 99 Jason Delaney not present. Next week \$55. **December 22** - Single stableford medley, club trophy. **December 23** - Chook run from 3pm. All golfers welcome. **December 25** - No competition. - **Trent Peters**

Oakey: December 15 - Thursday Sportsperson winner Dave McMonagle 27. **December 17-18** - Members 18-hole stableford. Winner Andrew King 3ts, runner-up Michael Rietveld 37. Pins 3, 8 and 12 Michael Rietveld. **December 24-25** - No golf. **December 31-January 1** - Members 18-hole stableford.

Merry Christmas everyone and see you on the golf course in 2023. - **Marlene Deans**

BOWLS

TOOWOOMBA CITY MEN'S: Our 2022 bowls calendar has been completed and there will be no play for the next couple of weeks. Wednesday social will return on January 4 at 8.30am on the Denis Healy Green. We can only accommodate 24 players so get your name in early to ensure you get a game. Friday social will resume in 2023. The start date will be advised when known.

The 2023 Summer Sizzle Series for the chairman's shield will be played on Sundays, January 8, 15, 22 and 29 with play starting at 3.30pm to avoid the heat of the day. Played on the Denis Healy Green, this four week round-robin tournament will be played under modified Jack Attack rules in open fours format. Weekly fee \$15 includes green fees and post-game nibbles. The six teams will be selected this week and the draw finalised.

There will be no Tuesday coaching/practice/roll-ups sessions for the next couple of weeks. Coaching will return on the Denis Healy Green on January 3. : Ladies A grade singles final T. Jones d. M. Frappell. Wednesday social: Terry Kratzmann, Col Otto and Russell Zimmerle. Sunday's Jack Topp Electrical Jackpot pairs attracted 12 teams. The round winners were Bill Tedford and Terry Kratzmann with a margin of 20. The jackpot did not go off and will stand at \$148 at the next round in February. Thanks to our sponsor Jack Topp from Topp Electrical. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2023. - **Mick Bianchi**



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Geoff, Julie and the Ray White Rural Oakey team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Contact:- Errol Luck 0427 561 678 or Geoff Byers 0437 732 494

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*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*



Thank you for your support throughout 2022



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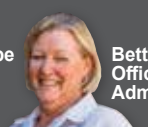
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Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!



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*Wishing all High Country Herald readers a happy
and safe festive season. I have enjoyed achieving
positive outcomes across the region in 2022.
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