

Allora Advertiser

Issue 3836

Your free local since 1935

Ph **4666 3089** E-Mail editor@alloraadvertiser.com

Wednesday, 19th March 2025

Gentle Giants Delight Crowds



Allora was home to the annual Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival at the weekend.

Competitors and spectators arrived from northern New South Wales and western areas of Queensland as well as many from the local region.

The organising Committee was pleased with the good attendance considering the wild weather conditions leading up to the weekend.

Already planning is underway for the 2026 Festival to be held on 14 and 15 March.

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Member for Southern Downs



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Teals' 'fake online newspaper' an insult to regional communities and media outlets

Leader of The Nationals David Littleproud said the Teals' 'fake online news site', funded by Teal donors, is extremely misleading to local communities and harmful to regional Australian media organisations.

Mr Littleproud said it is disappointing the Teals have launched online 'Gazette News' in a bid to deceive residents where Teals are taking on The Nationals MPs and candidates.

It comes amid revelations Gazette's three major funders, who are based in Sydney, have donated more than \$1.7 million to Climate 200 and associated candidates.

The outlet includes coverage of its Climate 200-backed Independents.

"Regional media outlets and newspapers are the backbone of our regional communities," Mr Littleproud said.

"The Teals lectured us about integrity in politics in the 2022 campaign, so why not just be honest with people, that this is just another form of political party advertising?"

"The Melbourne millionaires running the Teal Party are taking country people for mugs, but they don't understand that's not



David Littleproud MP.

how we do things in regional Australia.

"A key funder of Gazette News falsely claims the outlet provides journalism to communities where local news has 'declined or disappeared'. This just happens to be in their target seats."

Mr Littleproud added regional papers rely on advertising, not Facebook, to survive.

"If the Teals are so desperate to spread their message, why are they shunning our local journalists? The Teals turning their backs on regional media outlets is also the Teals turning their backs on the local community, to boost their own self-made stories."

The Opposition has made a formal complaint to the Australian Electoral Commission.

Win Win For Helpers At Heritage Weekend

The Allora Heritage Weekend Committee would like to let the Community know of donations handed out to groups who helped out in some way during this years event.

Allora State School Year 10s received \$2,518.32 making up to \$5,000 for trip away.

Years 5/6 of Allora State School combined Group was given \$500.

Allora Sports Club received \$500 with thanks for use of their buggies.

Clifton Lighthouse Brigade was presented with \$500 for leading the parade.

The Committee also thanks all volunteers who helped in any way to make the weekend so successful.

The Allora Heritage Weekend is an important event on the local calendar.



President Graeme McMillan.

Local businesses would also like thank the Allora Heritage Weekend Committee for bringing to Allora thousands of visitors to enjoy the "Best little town on the Downs."



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This Week's Specials

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2kg & over - Beef Mince.....	\$15.50 kg
2kg & over - Beef Sausages ...	\$14.50 kg

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THANK YOU ALLORA

The Committee of the Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival would like to thank the Allora community for their wonderful support of the Festival held at the weekend.

It was a very successful festival with record entries received from competitors and attendance was high with spectators enjoying the diverse program of events.

We are now looking forward to next year's Festival with plans already underway.

- Clint Kenny President DDHFF
on behalf of the Committee



Clint Kenny with his winning Percherons 'Rivoli Royal Revelation' and 'Rivoli Shield Maiden' (Photo - Chris Munro)

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Parade down Herbert Street on Friday afternoon.



A mule is the hybrid offspring of a male donkey (a jack) and a female horse (a mare).



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LifeFlight capability clear with night vision goggles

LifeFlight's specially trained aeromedical crews are learning to see in the dark with the help of night vision goggles.

New data released this week shows 32 per cent of airlifts in the year's first quarter so far have taken place at night.

For Chinchilla Hospital nurse Xanthe Dewar, the technology was vital in airlifting her son late at night during a medical emergency.

Ms Dewar was camping

at Goomburra last year with her husband Ben and their twin four-month-old boys Harvey and Patrick.

Harvey woke up one morning with increased respiratory effort, with a nasty looking rash on his right leg and a swollen fontanelle, Ms Dewar was concerned he may have meningococcal.

They drove to Warwick Hospital where the doctor confirmed meningococcal was a possibility and Harvey would need to be airlifted



LifeFlight crews undertake comprehensive night vision goggles training to ensure they are proficient in their use. (image - LifeFlight)

to Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH).

By 9pm she was in the LifeFlight helicopter with Harvey enroute to Brisbane and 29 minutes later, touched at the QCH helipad.

"Thankfully, our little man didn't have a life-threatening disease and was treated for a viral infection and thanks to LifeFlight, we were able to get to Queensland Children's Hospital quickly to rule out meningococcal."

The mission to airlift Harvey was one of thousands undertaken at night by LifeFlight crews using night vision goggles (NVG), which are an essential tool of the trade for emergency medical services.

LifeFlight Head of Flying Operations Jeremy Ovens, said the technology is lifesaving.

"You could have someone stranded on the edge of a cliff at night, and

that rescue just wouldn't be possible without using night vision goggles," he said.

"There are many landing areas where there is a lack of light at night, such as school sports ovals or paddocks, so the goggles enable us to execute landings safely.

"We can also see obstacles such as trees and power poles, which without the goggles would be impossible because it's pitch black."

LifeFlight Chief Operating Officer Lee Schofield, said the increasing frequency of night-time airlifts means more Queenslanders need help.

LifeFlight is currently fundraising to ensure every LifeFlight helicopter aeromedical team has access to additional state-of-the-art night vision goggles. www.lifeflight.org.au/NVG

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Hemp defies cyclone's big blow

An experimental crop of industrial hemp proved too strong for Cyclone Alfred when it pounded paddocks at Gatton last week.

Only one week ahead of harvest, the small plot of low-THC hemp withstood winds gusting up to 125kmh and the floods accompanying the once-in-50-year weather event.

"The outer plants bore the brunt of the wind, but protected the rest of the crop," said Lauchlan Grout, chief operating officer of the hemp seed company undertaking the field trials at the University of Queensland farm.

The 110-day crop stands 4m high. "We expect to redeem about 90% of this crop, even after a major cyclone," Mr Grout said.

"The cellular rigidity of the stems – the property that makes hemp so suited to building materials – kept the plants upright through it all.

"It proves our varieties are sturdy – they can withstand the elements. Hemp offers growers a cash or break crop when other crops are prone to flattening."

Mr Grout, who is also vice-president of the Australian Hemp Council continued: "Our industrial hemp fibres offers unparalleled tensile strength. Enriched with



The sturdy Wongarra variety of Hemp at the Gatton trial plot. Photo taken last week post-Alfred.

silica, industrial hemp develops fortified cell walls and vascular structures.

"Industrial hemp is nature's ultimate survivor. Deep root system anchors it firmly in the soil, its resilient fibres withstand extreme forces and its adaptive biology thrives in the face of drought, floods and storms."

Mr Grout highlighted the value of locally developed hemp varieties. "Australian-bred industrial hemp strains are tailored for our unique climate, providing higher viability and better agronomic performance compared to imported seeds," he said.

He added that, with the possibility of more future weather events driven by climate change,

adapting to hemp could offer cropping continuity for broadacre farmers.

"Moreover, the large-scale planting of industrial hemp provides additional environmental benefits, including significant carbon offset potential.

"This dual role of hemp, in both remediation and carbon sequestration, positions Australia to lead in the development of biomass-based remediation technologies.

"The HFA varieties are specifically bred to deliver optimal harvests for fibre or health-giving hemp-seed," he said.

BACKGROUND

HFA is the country's largest Australian family-owned breeder

of low-THC, non-GMO hemp genetics.

Hemp Farms Australia (HFA) is a proudly Australian-owned and operated enterprise headquartered in Brisbane.

Established in 2013, HFA has a dedicated team of seasoned agronomists boasting two decades of collective expertise.

It stands as a pioneering leader in the industrial hemp sector, renowned for unwavering commitment to delivering top-tier, low-THC seed varieties.

HFA has been at the forefront of innovation, meticulously breeding and cultivating industrial hemp strains tailored to excel in Australia's unique conditions, soils, and climates.

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33 Years of Tradition Kicks On



Southern Downs rugby league clubs the Warwick Cowboys and the Wattles Warriors take to the turf at Warwick's iconic Father Ranger Oval this Saturday evening for the hotly contested Barrett Family Shield & pre-season trials.

The local derby games, highlighted by the first-grade clash for the highly esteemed Shield, will kick off their 2025 Toowoomba Rugby League on field campaign for both clubs, and additionally Wattles 60th year since club formation.

The Cowboys were to match up in a trial against South Coast club the Helensvale Hornets in an early season trial on March 15th, but weather concerns saw the match cancelled.

Saturday will see the 33rd contest between the Cowboys and the Warriors for the honour of hoisting the Shield that has evolved into the prize for pre-season Southern Downs league supremacy since the silverware was introduced at Father Ranger Oval for the season opener in 1993.

Since the inaugural clash for the coveted shield, the Warwick Cowboys have claimed success on eighteen occasions, with Wattles finishing winners in thirteen matches, the 2000 season producing the only draw at 8 all.

Saturday evening's player of the match will receive the prestigious Terry Doyle Memorial Medallion, the award presented since 2011, won last year by Wattles fullback Jackson Green.

The medallion winners list features some of the Southern Downs outstanding players over the past fourteen years.

Warwick half/hooker Ben Sullivan a sensational three-time winner in 2018, 2019 & 2021; outstanding Wattles halfback Matt Duggan a two-time winner in 2013 & 2020 and Cowboys classy English forward Garry Ellery, also a two-time player of the match winner in 2012 & 2014.

Cowboys Coach Col Speed



Wattles outstanding fullback Jackson Green receives the 'Terry Doyle Memorial Medallion' as 2024 Barrett Family Shield player of the match from Glyn Rees.



Wattles 2024 Club Captain and victorious first grade skipper Ty Gardner accepts the 32nd Barrett Family Shield from family members Michael Barrett and Glen Hamblin at Platz Oval last year.

(both images – Wattles RLF Club)

and Wattles' mentor Travis Burns certainly agree on the point that the opposition in Barrett Shield trials are tough units to roll, "our local derby's breed a fierce competitive atmosphere," said Burns.

"We are certainly looking forward to the Shield clash with Wattles" said Speed, "both sides always lift for this occasion and give their all with respect to the Barrett Family and their association with both clubs."

The concept for the Shield that has become a tradition in rugby league circles across south west Queensland was born at a Wattles

Club committee meeting in 1992, the result of a suggestion that a trophy be introduced for the annual Wattles verses Warwick trial.

Wattles President Mary Hamblin (nee Barrett) offered a trophy in the Barrett family's name.

The Barrett name is synonymous with rugby league throughout the Darling Downs and South West Queensland region, boasting strong league links in the Southern Downs area especially, the family entrenched in the Warwick and Wattles Clubs.

The Toowoomba Rugby League can boast a no more

intensely contested encounter in the crank up for the 2025 season on the Southern Downs, President Dayne Barrett and his Warwick Cowboys committee are expecting an overwhelming crowd at Father Ranger Oval.

Barrett Family Shield and Pre-Season Trials - Saturday 22nd March 2025, Father Ranger Oval, Warwick - Warwick Cowboys v Wattles Warriors

Gates Open - 2.15 pm

Under 19 - 3.30 pm

Reserve Grade - 5.00 pm

A Grade - 6.30 pm

Glyn Rees



Club Championships - The 4th and final round of the Allora Golf Club Championships were played on Sunday in rather warm conditions. We lost a few players along the way after ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred forced a weekend change but still the competition was strong and relentless. The 4th round produced a new leader in B grade with only a handful of shots separating first and second place getters in all 3 divisions.

The winners were - Club Champion: Ben Duff.

A grade: 1st: Ben Duff - 308, 2nd: Adam May - 310.

B grade: 1st: Lindsay May - 323, 2nd: Tom Brown - 329.

C grade: 1st: Hethe Ramus - 354, 2nd: Noel Wallace - 359.

Allora Golf Report

Allora Sports Club President, Kev Harrison, Ben Duff, Lindsay May and Hethe Ramus.



The Ty Gardner Concreting Monthly Medal was played in conjunction with the 4th round of the championships and the winners were: 1st: Darren Laherty - 66 net, 2nd: Lindsay May - 67 net, 3rd: Aaron Simpson - 68 net.

Nearest the pins: 4/13: Aaron Simpson, 7/16: Peter Weston, 8/17: Noel Wallace.

Approach shots: 6/15: Adam May.

Long putt: Kerry Haines, Chris Kneipp.

Long drive: Adam May.

Congratulations to all our winners!

Coming up:

Sunday 23 March: Allora Butchery 2-person Ambrose.

Sunday 23 March: Pennants round 1. Sponsored by Kerch's Trawler Fresh Seafood.

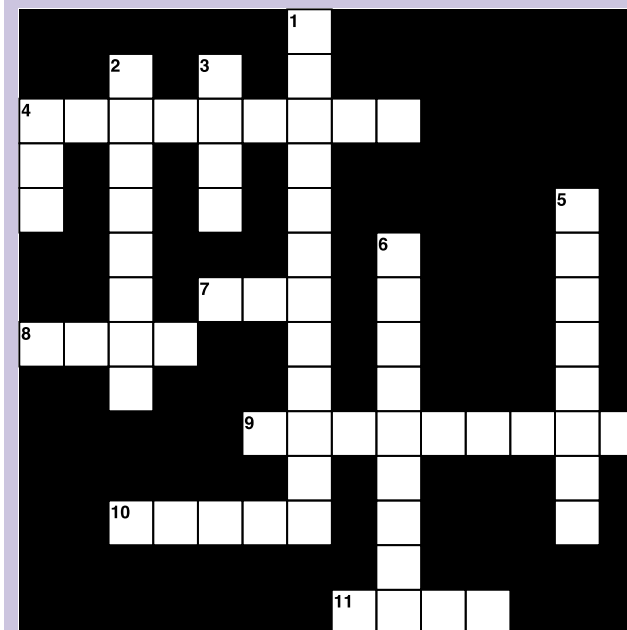
Sunday 30 March: Amy's Cafe Monthly Medley.

Please note: The Allora Hardware duck run on Friday 21 March will start after 1.30pm due to the Allora State School cross country being held on the course.

CREATIVE CORNER



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

4. Black hair and mane, dark skin, dark eyes.
7. Mouthpiece for a horse.
8. A male donkey.
9. A wide strap around the rear of a horse.
10. Leisurely gait between walk and canter.

11. Strap attached to 7 across.

Down

1. Clydesdale, for one (7,5).
2. Part of a horse's mane that falls in front between the ears.
3. White marking on the lower part of a horse's leg.

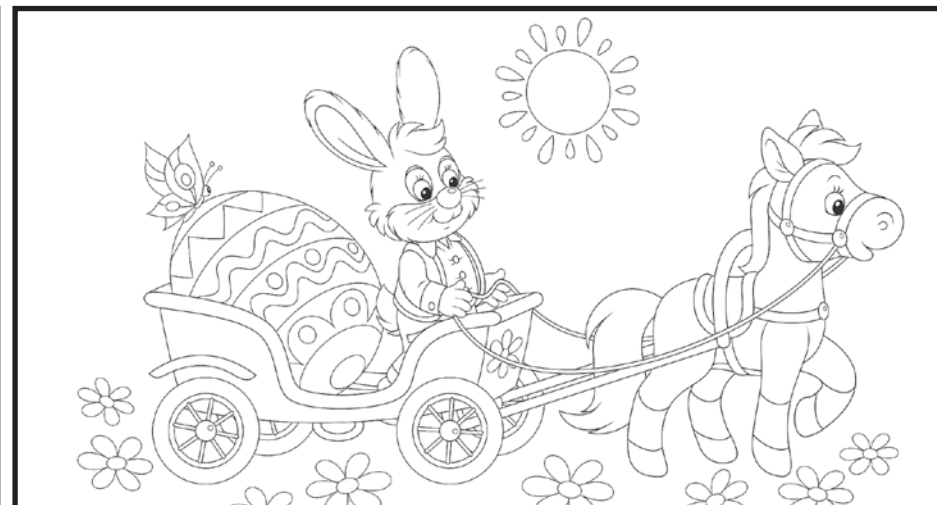
4. Short-legged strong horse.
5. Golden-brown (relating to a horse).
6. Something lucky that's on the hoof?

SUDOKU

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

Solution this page

COLOURING FUN

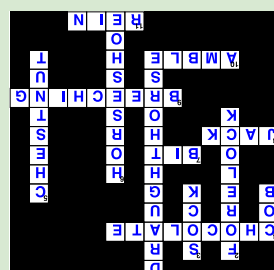


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1	3	2	5	6	4	9	8	7
7	4	6	1	9	8	5	2	3
2	7	3	4	1	9	6	5	8
6	5	9	3	8	7	2	1	4
8	1	4	2	5	6	7	3	9
9	2	7	8	4	1	3	6	5
3	8	5	6	7	2	4	9	1
4	6	1	9	3	5	8	7	2

CROSSWORD



TODAY'S QUOTE - "95% of parenting is thinking about when you can lie down again."



Helen Harm

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BAD JOKE OF THE WEEK

IRISH JOKE TO CELEBRATE ST PATRICK'S DAY ON MONDAY

Paddy O'Reilly opened the Allora Advertiser and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend Mick.

"Did you see the paper?" asked Paddy. "They say I died!!"

"Ye, I saw it!" replied Mick "Where are ye callin' from?"

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Allora Regional Sports Museum Inc.

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Juniors Warriors Geared Up to Challenge Gremlins

The 2025 season will see history making alterations for Wattles Junior Rugby League Club, and all the teams that have been competing in the Warwick & District Junior Rugby League over past decades.

Teams aged from Under 6 to Under 12 along with Girls League tag will compete as they have done in previous years against clubs from Warwick's Collegians & Eastern Suburbs, Stanthorpe, Goondiwindi and MIT Jets (Millmerran-Inglewood-Texas), with Tenterfield no longer in the league.

Teams from Under 13 to Under 17 Boys will join the Toowoomba Junior Rugby League opposing teams from Highfields, Stanthorpe, Oakey-Goondiwindi, Newtown-Collegians, South Burnett, Toowoomba Valleys, Pittsworth, Gatton, Toowoomba Southern Suburbs, Dalby & Toowoomba Brothers.

Pre-Season Trials - President Aaron Gilmore is keen to have Wattles young players hitting the ground running, and new season league action commences this

Saturday when Wattles head to the Granite Belt to take on the Stanthorpe Gremlins in pre-season trials at Sullivan and Crisp Ovals.

Matches kick off at Crisp and Sullivan Ovals from 9.00am. (Players are requested to be at grounds 30 minutes prior to kick-off)

Additional Trials - Wattles Juniors embark on a second round of pre-season trials on March 29th on home turf at Platz Oval against the Gatton Junior Hawks.

Walker Weekend Challenge - Wattles Juniors will again be represented by an Under 13 team at the Walker Weekend Challenge this season, the highly rated Carnival hosted at the Valleys Junior Rugby League Club Pillar Street facility in Toowoomba this weekend on March 22nd and 23rd.

The Two-Day Challenge is named after the Walker family



Last year's Warriors 2024 Nutrien Harcourts Clifton Under 13 team that competed in the Walker Weekend Challenge Carnival in Toowoomba. Back left - Dave Joppich (Leaguesafe), Clayton Brady (Co-Coach), Rylan Saville (Co-Coach), Darren Hart (Leaguesafe). Middle - Jed Hinz, Cooper Zadow, Rory Turner, Jade Bailey, Thomas Patterson, Toby Cruikshank, Matthew Christensen, Jake Burns, Nate Murdoch. Front - Archie Joppich, Will Coy, Dusty May, Levi Zadow, Jackson McMillan, Noah Hart. The Wattles Juniors club will again be represented at the Challenge this weekend.

(image contributed)

who have had such a close association with the Valleys Club in Toowoomba.

Walker brothers Ben, Shane, Chris and Ben's son Sam have all played at NRL level.

Wattles Juniors will challenge Highfields Blue, Pittsworth and

Valleys Red in the first day of play this Saturday.

Inquiries regarding Wattles Juniors and upcoming commitments can be directed to Club President Aaron Gilmore on 0414 245 860.

Glyn Rees

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