



Rylstone-Kandos district newsletter

Community Capers

March issue, 2026
Volume 322

Welcome to the March issue of Community Capers, volume 322. Our April issue will be distributed on March 26. The deadline for this issue is Friday, March 20. News items, events, dates for the calendar etc. are inserted free. Email them to the editor, Brent Barlow at brenbar@winsoft.net.au or phone Brent on 0427 791 020. For details and prices on advertising, sponsorship etc., contact Brian Neaves on 0402 976 925.

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Volunteers recognised on Australia Day

Rylstone Memorial Hall was packed to overflowing for Mid-Western Region's Australia Day ceremony on Monday, January 26. Prior to the awards ceremony, Mayor Des Kennedy welcomed nine people from across the region to become Australian citizens.

This year's Australia Day Ambassador, celebrity chef and media personality, Lyndey Milan gave an outline of her achievements. Honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to hospitality and the community, Lyndey said she embraces her role as an Australia Day Ambassador with pride.

With a big number of nominees put forward this year in the various categories, judges certainly had their work cut out for them. Each winner received outstanding applause amidst cheering from the audience.

Citizen of the Year is Carol Morrissey. Carol is recognised for more than 50 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Kandos and Rylstone communities. She has generously given her time to schools, sporting clubs, churches, community groups and major local events.

Young Citizen of the Year is Ellie Rowlands. Ellie is a passionate volunteer and advocate and has contributed to numerous local causes, including Clean Up Australia, National Tree Day, and the Mudgee Wellness Program. Through the Max Potential Youth Leadership Program, Ellie created an intergenerational project connecting aged-care residents with her trained service dog.

Community Event of the Year was awarded to Mudgee and District Bikers 41st Toy Run. Now in its 41st year, the event is a true community tradition that brings people together to support local families in need at Christmas. Over the past six years alone, the Toy Run has raised more than \$75,000.

The Glen Johnston Memorial Award, Music and Arts goes to Belinda Innes who is honoured for her outstanding contribution to the arts in the Kandos and Rylstone region. As Director and long-time member of the Junior Twin Town Players, Belinda has helped create inclusive, creative spaces where children and young people can build confidence, express themselves, and participate in live theatre.

Sports Award was presented to Mckayla Grobler for her amazing journey in shot put, becoming the Australian Under 16 Girls Shot Put National Champion, winning gold with a new personal best throw that broke the meet record and the 20-year-old Australian Under 16 national record. She finished her season ranked 34th globally in the World Athletics U18 Women's Shot Put rankings.

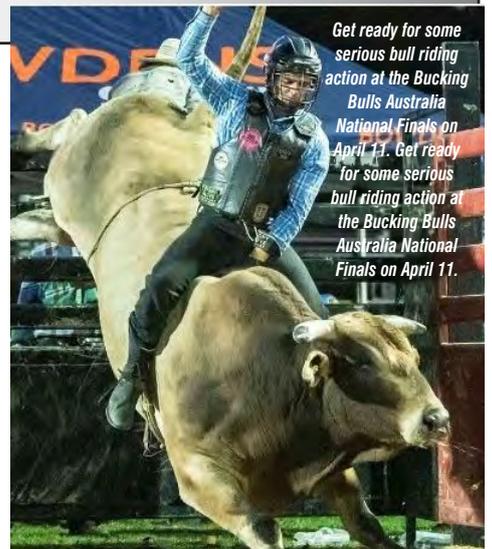
Volunteer Services Award goes to Colleen Yates for her outstanding contribution to the community through her leadership of the Community Charity Shop. Since 2013, Colleen has been the driving force behind the shop's success, raising and donating substantial funds to support local hospitals, schools, swimming clubs, community events, and families doing it tough.



Citizen of the Year, Carol Morrissey. She was presented with her award by Mayor Des Kennedy and Australia Day Ambassador Lyndey Milan.

Bucking Bulls

Rylstone will become the focus of Australian bull riding elite when it hosts the Fernside Pastoral Company Australian National Finals on Saturday, April 11. The event will replace the usual Bull A Rama for this year and enthusiasts are absolutely thrilled by the opportunity to see some of the best bull riding action available in the Bucking Bulls Australia National Finals. This Bucking Bulls event is guaranteed to draw big crowds of locals and visitors from across Australia to enjoy some of the best bull riding ever seen at Rylstone Showground. It will be the 'best of the best' with the top 15 bulls in every category competing and the top 15 bull riders in Australia challenging each other for some big prize money.



Get ready for some serious bull riding action at the Bucking Bulls Australia National Finals on April 11. Get ready for some serious bull riding action at the Bucking Bulls Australia National Finals on April 11.

Capers info

Community Capers is published by Kandos Rylstone Community Radio Inc. (KRR) at PO Box 99, Kandos NSW 2848. Funding has also been provided by the Mid-Western Regional Council and we acknowledge their support. Thank-you also to businesses and individuals across the region who have placed advertising or sponsored pages. Our publication could not continue without your support. Thank you everyone.

Community groups and other organisations are welcome to list their meeting times, events, dates and venues. Please send all information to the editor, Brent Barlow, 38 Mudgee Street, Rylstone, NSW 2849, or email him at brenbar@winsoft.net.au or phone on 6379 1020 - mobile 0427 791 020. For advertising or sponsorship, please contact Brian Neaves on 0402 976 925.

Come and sing

Calling all soapbox sopranos and bathroom baritones! Your local community choir, Wollemi Singers invites you to join them. Musical Director Stephen Anderson says they'd love to have you come along.

"Why not do something for yourself this year and join with some wonderful voices in harmony. We are currently working on a new repertoire for a possible early winter concert, so now is the perfect time to come along and join in with everyone learning together. It's a very friendly, fun and social group, there are no auditions, you don't need experience and it's free."

Wollemi Singers meet at St Dominic's Hall, Dangar Street Kandos every Tuesday evening from 6pm to 7.30pm during school terms. For more information, contact Virginia Handmer on 0460 432 964.



The Wollemi Singers enjoyed a great evening performing at the Christmas Concert in December.



Staff, volunteers and supporters of Rylstone District Care & Transport gathered together to celebrate Marjorie Monks' 100th birthday with a morning tea. Marjorie is in the centre of the photo.

One hundred years young

Rylstone District Care & Transport had the privilege of hosting a morning tea for Mrs Marjorie Monks who turned 100 in January this year and has been one of their clients for well over a decade. Staff and volunteers attending on the day celebrated with many stories of conversations held during their trips. Marjorie was quoted as saying when asked what the secret was of living such a long life.

Her response was as follows, "There are three things that contributed to it, having a good husband, being kind and not having children." RDCT staff said that Marjorie is an inspiration to those who know her and hope that they too have her vitality into their older age.

WAYOUT art

The art exhibition 'The Beauty and the Terror' opened at WAYOUT Artspace on January 17 and brings together nine regional artists whose work celebrates the loud, messy, broken and smoky cultures that shape life in places like Kandos. Coinciding with the ever-popular Kandos Street Machine and Hot Rod Show, it's a celebration of everything locals love about the annual show at Simpkins Park. The large paintings of wrecked demolition cars by Jo Shand from Murrurundi are eye-catching and indicate her connection to the world of car shows. Her father was a mechanic and she retains a strong attraction to the colours and twisted metal forms of demolition derby car wrecks. Her ceramic works are equally compelling. Other featured works are also impressive and include paintings, video, ceramics, and experimental media by Andrew Robards (Terminal Velocity, the Burning, and Crush, Mosh, Loop, Slice,) Bridget Baskerville (Galena), Ben Lloyd (a diverse collection of drawings and paintings), Ellie Kaufmann (eye-catching paintings), Josephine Starrs and Leon Cmielewski (Chapel of Rubber), Jason Wing (Smoking Ceremony), and Lulu Wulf (drawings). Curated by local artist Gabrielle Bates, who also has a unique connection to this show (her father raced old cars at places like Amaroo, Oran Park and Mount Panorama), says 'these artists draw on the habits, traditions and values that come from regional life and respond with curiosity, care and a real sense of respect.' The show runs until Sunday, March 1.



Artists Ben Lloyd and Jo Shand with Curator Gabrielle Bates (centre)

Cycling classic expands

The Mudgee Classic cycling weekend is set to expand in 2026 with the introduction of two new Dirty Mudgee gravel courses, giving riders more off-road terrain than ever before and further cementing Mudgee's reputation as a premier cycling destination. The new gravel courses will start and finish in Cooyal on Saturday, May 2, opening up fresh sections of the Central West's iconic back roads and delivering a more immersive gravel riding experience than previous editions. In addition, the Road Gran Fondo will return on Sunday, May 3 when over 2,000 participants are expected to join from across Australia and internationally, with riders from Singapore and Austria already registered for this year's event

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Rylstone District Care and Transport is funded for Meals on Wheels, Transport and Social Support. For further information on any of the above services please contact their office on 6379 1519 or call into the office at 58 Mudgee St, Rylstone.

Why I Love Kandos

A large crowd gathered for the closing of the current window exhibition 'Why I Love Kandos' at Kandos Projects in Angus Avenue on Thursday, February 12. The exhibition was originally prompted by a comment 'Let's bring Kandos back'. During her talk about the exhibition on Thursday evening, Cheryl Neilsen (nee Franks) said "Bring it back from where? I'm old enough to have been here when Kandos was grey. We never saw a green mountain. Now when we drive back from Mudgee I can see Baldy and it's green. Women in Kandos never got their washing on the line and got it in clean. Yes we may have had a few extra shops and a few more people, but when we did the big shop we went to the major centres like Lithgow, Mudgee or Bathurst and I think this still happens today. Anyway, I couldn't help thinking of all the people who have moved to Kandos since the cement works closed, who love Kandos for what it is now. We have so many things here that we didn't have in the good old days," she said. The exhibition began some weeks ago after Cheryl spoke to Gabrielle Bates and Ann Finegan about doing an exhibition that would express the things that people love about Kandos. Gabrielle set up a workshop. Others contributed and they came up with lots of words that ended up in the windows of Kandos Projects. Some of them include: 'Kandos - It's way more than you can see', 'I love our friendly and helpful community', 'I love Kandos' creative spirit', 'I love the Charity Shop, the pool, the CWA, Street Machine, IGA', 'Clean waterways', 'Dunns Swamp-Ganguddy', and the list goes on.



As a final tribute to Kandos, Cheryl asked every member of the audience to say a few words about what they like about the town. It was clear that everyone liked different aspects but they really didn't want to be anywhere else at the moment.

Cheryl Neilsen talking about the window exhibition 'Why I Love Kandos' at Kandos Projects.

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Archibald prize for region

Australia's most recognisable portrait prize, the Archibald Prize 2025, will be touring to Mudgee for the first time with Mudgee Arts Precinct hosting the prize from March 20 to May 3 this year. This prize for portrait painting is Australia's most celebrated art award with the winner receiving \$100,000. Entries to the Archibald Prize must be painted in the past year from at least one live sitting.

The Young Archie Competition is being hosted alongside the Archibald Prize for the first time in our region. Celebrating the talented young artists of the Mid-Western Region it invites artists between the ages of 2 and 18 to submit a portrait 'of someone who is special to them and plays a significant role in their life'. There are five age categories in Mudgee Arts Precinct's Young Archie competition and each Young Archie competition is judged on merit and originality. The judges for the region's inaugural Young Archie Competition will be local artists Sam Paine, Kim Harding and the Mudgee Art Precinct's Gallery Curator, Lizzy Galloway. Both exhibitions will be on display from 20 March to 3 May 2026. An exhibition walk-through will take place on Friday, March 20 at 5pm, followed by the official exhibition opening. Mudgee Arts Precinct is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. Entry is free

Acoustic Hangover

Local artist and renowned sculptor Ludwig Mlcek has embarked on a quest to complete around 30 sculptures for an exhibition at Mudgee Arts Precinct next year. It will be part of the exhibition 'Acoustic Hangover' and will comprise all musical instruments and motifs. A number of his completed works are currently on display at the Coxs Creek Road Multi-Purpose Community Centre where they are much admired by visitors. They are stunning examples of his craftsmanship and creativity. Ludwig previously operated a very successful timber and fine woods business in Katoomba and later concentrated on his joinery business. Following his move to the Rylstone Kandos district he acquired a property on Coxs Creek and beautifully restored and renovated an old farm house. He is now concentrating on his sculptures, some of which adorn part of his property in all shapes, colours and sizes. His fine musical instrument pieces and motifs are quirky breath-taking and beautifully crafted. Ludwig's latest masterpiece is a tribute to Jacqueline du Pré, one of the greatest Cellists of all time. Du Pré was born in Oxford, England and at the age of four she is said to have heard the sound of the cello on the radio and asked her mother for "one of those". She enrolled at the London Violoncello School at age five, studying with Alison Dalrymple. In 1965 at 20, du Pré recorded the Elgar Concerto for EMI with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir John Barbirolli, which brought her international recognition. This recording has become a benchmark for the work, and one which has never been out of the catalogue since its release. Her brilliant career was tragically cut short when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She died at age 42.

Anyone for a tune? Ludwig's whimsical 'Sextet' created from his large collection of musical instruments.



Ludwig Mlcek with his tribute to Jacqueline du Pré, one of the greatest Cellists of all time

School's swim carnival

Kandos High School held its annual swimming carnival on Friday, February 13 and this year Kandos Rylstone Community Radio (KRR 98.7 FM) was there to witness and broadcast live from the fabulous event at the Kandos Swimming Pool. The day got off to a rather cool and windy start but this didn't deter students from diving in, competing and enjoying the day. Two of KRR's presenters pool-side were KHS teachers who have programs on the local station and this gave them an opportunity to show students the operating panel, microphones and other equipment and to describe how it all works. Students were also encouraged to read the weather report on air and do interviews with one another. There were many highlights during the day including some great swim times by students, but another that attracted a lot of attention was the relay race between nine teams: Kandos IGA, R & K Engineering, Birch Family Butchery, Police, P&C, Teachers, Students, Globe Hotel and Rylstone Club. Each team puts in \$100 to enter and the winner takes the money. Results were Globe Hotel 1st, Birch Family Butchery 2nd and R&K Engineering 3rd. The \$900 prize money was generously donated to the Community Charity Shop. All up, the day was an example of a strong school community pulling together with the wider community to support our next generation.



High School teachers and members of KRR Trevor Hopkins and Leanne Besant each enjoyed a session on air during the live broadcast from Kandos pool.



Student Janine Maw interviewing Emily Gallaher during Leanne Besant's session on KRR



Students making a splash in a free-for-all towards the end of the carnival.

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For further details

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 The Cottage Museum, Rylstone is open every Sunday from 10am to 3pm.	2 Ilford-Running Stream CWA meets 10am, 1st Monday of each month at the Ilford Hall.	3 Rylstone Rural Fire Brigade meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm - training on 3 rd Tuesdays	4 R/K VRA Rescue Squad meeting 7pm.	5 Scrabble on 1 st , 3 rd and 5 th Thurs. 10am at Rylstone Club. *RRCA Comm. Open Space 1 st Thurs. Cox Creek Rd.	6 Rylstone CWA meets at 10am 1 st Friday. *Cudgegong Valley History Group, 11am to 3pm at Henbury Sport & Rec. Club 1 st Frid.	7 The Kandos Museum is open Wednesdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm.
8 Anglican Church services at St Laurence, Kandos, 10am on 2 nd and 4 th Sun. and St James Ryl, 10am on the 1 st , 3 rd and 5 th Sun. *Make and Mend 2pm at Kandos CWA Rooms.	9 Scouts and Cubs meet at 4.30pm on Mondays at Kandos Scout Hall.	10 Clanulla RFS 7.30 pm 1 st Tues. of the month at Clan. Fire Shed. Training on the following Sunday at 9am.	11 Kandos RSL Sub Branch meeting.	12 Kandos CP&SA, 2pm on the 2 nd Thurs of each month at the Kandos RSC Club.	13 Ryl. Hosp. Aux. Meetings 2 nd Friday of each month at 10am. *Youth Alive St James Ryl. 6.30pm Fridays during school term.	14 Rylstone Markets Movie Night
15 Uniting Church services at Rylstone 9.30am every Sunday. *Running Stream Christian F/ship 10.30am at old Schoolhouse Sundays *Boot Sale Mudgee Railway Station 8am	16	17 Rotary meets Tues at the Rescue Squad Shed, Ryl. 6.30 for 7pm.	18 The Craft Group, 10am each Wed. at the Rescue Squad shed, Rylstone.	19 Walking group meets at Rylstone Showground Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8am in summer, 8.30 spring and autumn and 9am in winter.	20	21 Kandos Community Markets
22 One Life Family Church services, 10am 1 st , 3 rd and 5 th Sundays at the cnr. of Noyes and Dunn St, Kandos. *3 rd Sunday Markets at the Globe 10am. *Alive@5 at St James Ryl 3 rd Sun. *Street Machine Club meeting.	23 Aqua Fit is Back. Tuesdays and Fridays 10am to 11am Wednesdays 4pm to 5pm. ^o	24 The Wollemi Singers, 6pm Tuesdays during school term at St Dominic's Hall Kandos. *Walking group Tuesdays & Thursdays.	25 Kandos CWA meeting, 6pm on last Wed. of month.	26 Ladies Tennis, 9am Thursdays at Henbury Sport & Rec. Club Kandos.	27	28 Kandos Crop and Swap, 10am at White Crescent Park. The Common Loop Social Run Club
29 Rylstone-Kandos Street Machine Club meeting on last Sunday of month at 11am. *Glen Alice Church Service at 9.30am	30	31 Dance to be fit, 4.45pm Tues. at St James Hall. Rylstone.	Writing Group 10.30am Wednesdays at Kandos Library.		Storytime for kids, 10am to 11am Fridays at Kandos Library.	KRR Broadcasting on 98.7FM

May 2 & 3...Mudgee Classic Bike Ride, August 1...NRL Penrith Panthers Vs Canberra Raiders, Glen Willow - Mudgee, August 29-30 Rylstone Classic Mini's, September 17 - 20... Cementa Festival, November 7...Rylstone StreetFeast.

Kandos Community Markets

The next Kandos Community Markets are on Saturday, March 21 in the grounds of St Laurence Church, Kandos from 9am to 1pm. For stall bookings, phone Pauline on 6379 4533 or Rose on 6379 4179.

Astrophotography at museum

Southern Sky Astrophotography opens at the Kandos Museum on March 11. It's a showcase of a selection of the 2024 winning photographs from the annual photography competition named after the world-renowned astrophotography specialist David Malin. This exhibition is organised by the Powerhouse, Sydney in association with the Central West Astronomical Society. Come along for an interesting view. It closes on May 31.

New Residents' Night

The Rylstone Kandos Business Chamber extends an invitation to all new residents who have arrived in our towns over the last few years. This is a casual evening and an opportunity to meet others in our community. It's on Thursday, March 26 at 6pm at Santo's Pizza and Pasta, Railway Hotel Kandos. An Italian meal will be provided along with light entertainment. Food will be provided free of charge, pay for your own drinks. RSVP to rkccsec@gmail.com by Friday, March 20.

Third Sunday Markets

The Sunday Morning Community Markets are held every third Sunday of each month from 9am to 1pm in the grounds of the Globe Hotel, Rylstone. It's a community based event and stall holders are welcome.

Rylstone Markets

The next Rylstone Markets are on Saturday, March 14 at the Memorial Hall in Louee Street from 9am until 1pm. If you'd like to join the association, phone Julie on 0458 129 704 or email julzhorn2@gmail.com.

Seniors Festival

The Rylstone Seniors Lunch and Senior Citizen of the Year Award Presentation will be held at the Rylstone Club from 11.30am to 2.30pm. Cost is \$20 per person and you can book with Carol on 6379 1096. The Kandos Seniors Lunch and Senior Citizen of the Year Award Presentation will be held at the Kandos Returned Services and Community Club from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Cost is \$20 and tickets are available from the club. Info: Delma at 0427 207 089.

Kandos Club Markets

The Kandos Returned Services Community Club Markets are on Saturday, March 28 from 9am till 1pm. Stall holders are welcome by contacting the club. The Easter Raffle starts at 7.30pm on March 21 with lots of prizes to be won.

Market & Garage Sale

Rylstone and District Historical Society is holding a Market and Garage Sale in the grounds of the Bridge View Inn on Saturday, March 28. Come and grab a treasure and enjoy morning tea or a sausage sizzle. To book a stall site phone 0427 637 915 and leave details so they can call you back. Cost is \$25 per stall plus \$5 if no insurance. You can pay the fee and fill in the registration on the day.

PAUL TOOLE

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