

13 FEB, 2020

EMERGENCY REPORT



Dubbo Photo News, Dubbo

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The Dubbo Photo News column dedicated to the hard work of our emergency services personnel.

NEWS OPINION AND ANALYSIS
by **JOHN RYAN**

Andy's P-Plate theory

FORMER long-time Dubbo resident Andy McQuie moved to Coffs Harbour last year and last weekend he conducted his own road safety experiment.

A keen environmentalist, he picked up 37 'L' and 'P' Plates in a one kilometre stretch of the Pacific Highway during a walk.

"Do the maths and this means there are about 16,280 on the road between Coffs Harbour and Sydney," Mr McQuie said.

"It probably also means there are a lot of inexperienced drivers out there that we don't know about because their plates are lying discarded in the gutter."

Just another thing to worry about on our roads.

Narromine pursuit, arrest

POLICE have arrested a 23-year-old man after a car and foot pursuit in and around the town.

Just before lunch on February 5 officers were patrolling Narromine CBD and observed a Ford Falcon travelling on Burraway Street.

They attempted to stop the car after checks revealed it was displaying plates belonging to another vehicle.

Police allege the driver wouldn't stop so a pursuit was initiated and it continued through several streets and properties in Narromine and came to a stop after police deployed road spikes on an Old Backwater Road property.

The driver and passenger fled on foot and were arrested after a short foot pursuit and both were transported to Dubbo Police Station.

The 23-year-old driver was charged with police pursuit – not

stop – drive dangerously, use unregistered motor vehicle on road, use registrable vehicle not displaying authorised number-plates, destroy or damage property, and drive motor vehicle during disqualification period.

The passenger, a 29-year-old woman, was released following further inquiries.

PCYC farewell

LAST Friday night about 100 people gathered at the Dubbo PCYC to say thank you as they farewelled long serving club manager Mark Nuttall who retired after 15 years at the helm.

Under his watch as manager, Dubbo PCYC went from having membership in the hundreds to having membership in the thousands and he was also at the helm when significant modifications and extensions to the Dubbo PCYC were undertaken, including the completion of a state of the art gymnastics facility.

Mark has also been the driving force behind many PCYC activities, and when the PCYC caravan was out and about, at venues around the community, you'd always find Mark assisting with making food and serving patrons.

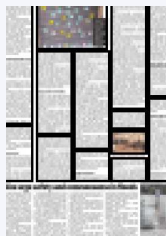
Everyone present wished him a long and happy retirement.

Firies need to breathe

THERE'S been growing concern during the past few months that volunteer fire-fighters don't have adequate protection against the constant inhalation of smoke into their lungs.

This fire season, many volunteers have been exposed to far more bushfires and for far longer periods of deployment, and public concern was so great that crowd-funding campaigns were initiated to provide masks which filter out deadly toxins.

The fire-fighter C.A.N.C.E.R Coalition (Coalition Aiming for



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National Carcinogen Exposure Reduction) claims current equipment doesn't do the job and the state opposition weighed in, with Labor's shadow emergency services minister Trish Doyle scathing in her attack.

"The Berejiklian Government should be giving our fire-fighters what they need to stay alive. Fire-fighters should not be given insufficient masks which are the lowest and cheapest form of protection," the shadow minister said.

"The dangers of bushfire smoke have been known for decades – our fire-fighters need protection against the carcinogens and toxic chemicals that can potentially

cause cancer," Ms Doyle said.

Labor Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council Mark Buttigieg joined the fray.

"We are concerned about the long-term health of our fire-fighters," Mr Buttigieg said.

"Fire-fighters are risking their lives in hazardous conditions and they should not be forced to supply their own essential safety equipment or rely on crowd funding," he added.

Emergency services minister David Elliott said he's recently met with representatives of the Firefighter Cancer Coalition to discuss the welfare of fire-fighters and the issues around smoke exposure during bushfires.

"The welfare of our fire-fighters is always our utmost priority, we are committed to ensuring that our frontline emergency services personnel, be they salaried or volunteer, have adequate protections as they go about their duties to keep us safe," Mr Elliott said.

"The NSW RFS has worked closely with Safe Work NSW and the Australian Fire and Emergency Services Council to assess our P2 fire resistant masks as fit for purpose.

"I have spoken to the RFS Commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons, who will conduct a review of personal protective equipment at the end of the bushfire season, including any induction and associated

education," he said.

The Government has also announced an independent bushfire inquiry.

It's important to learn lessons from disasters such as the recent bushfires and just fix those things which need to be fixed.

Drugs and guns

A MAN has been charged with numerous offences following a stab-

bing in Lightning Ridge.

Police say on the morning of February 6, two men, aged 31 and 25, were involved in a physical altercation out the front of a newsagency on Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge.

The 25-year-old sustained a large stab wound to his stomach.

He contacted relatives who took him to Lightning Ridge Hospital for treatment and police were contacted.

He was subsequently airlifted to Westmead Hospital in a stable condition.

The 31-year-old also presented to Lightning Ridge Hospital suffering a broken tooth as well as abrasions to his face.

He was arrested and taken to the local police station after receiving medical treatment.

Investigations saw police execute a warrant at the 31-year-old's Lightning Ridge home where they allegedly seized a bolt action .22 rifle, 118 rounds of .22 ammunition, a slingshot, about 1kg of cannabis, a knife, two surveillance cameras and clothing.

He was charged with wound person with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, supply cannabis more than indictable and less than a commercial quantity, possess prohibited drug, possess unauthorised firearm, possess unregistered firearm, not keep firearm safely, possess ammunition without holding licence/permit/authority, and possess or use a prohibited weapon without permit.

He was refused bail to appear before Walgett Local Court.

Narromine sheep stolen

RECENT rains will see a spike in stock prices so I hope rural crime investigators catch the perps who stole 31 cross-bred ewe lambs from a property between Trangie and Dandaloo sometime between January 22 and February 2.

The lambs (pictured) were around six to seven months old and tagged with a green tag, PIC NJ221565. Photos of the stock are shown here.

If you have any information about this theft, please contact the Rural Crime Investigator at Mudgee Police Station on 02 6372 8599 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Coolah quad flogged

WHAT is it about these crims who steal things just before the rain, that will either shoot up in value or which will be sorely needed?

Police are investigating the theft of a yellow 2015 Can-Am 500 quad bike from a property on the Coolah Creek Road at Coolah between February 7 and 10.

The quad bike's serial number is 3JBLGAK29FJ000487 and it was taken from an open shed on the property.

The bike also had two hooks on the handlebars enabling carriage of a rifle and when the ignition is turned on it displays the word Monterey on the display panel.

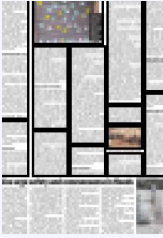
If anyone has any information about this theft, they can contact Coonabarabran Police Station on 02 6842 7299 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Lamb theft and dismemberment

WARREN police are investigating the theft and subsequent killing of two lambs from a rural property on the Bundermar Road, Warren between the February 3 and 4.

The two lambs were 2nd cross and between six and seven months old.

They were stolen from a paddock and found by the owner on the outside of the fence line about six kilometres from the Oxley



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Highway intersection.

If anyone can assist police with this incident, please contact Warren Police Station on 02 6847 4204 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Cumboogle success

ONE positive to come from this horror bushfire season is a renewed appreciation of the efforts put in by Rural Fire Service volunteers.

A few decades ago, when so many more people lived in the bush and smaller towns, people were involved with their local bushfire brigades out of necessity, and everyone knew everyone else in their communities so all pitched in for the common good.

These days there are less people on the land and everyone has less time, so it's great to see a resounding turnout to Cumboogle Brigade's call for new members.

You can read the full story elsewhere in this edition of *Dubbo Photo News*.

● **Send your news tips to**

john.ryan@panscott.com.au or 0429 452 245 txt is best



Andy McQuie picked up 37 'L' and 'P' Plates in a one kilometre stretch of the Pacific Highway during a walk. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

