

# THE MENANGLE NEWS

Vol 33 No 4

APRIL 2023

The Menangle News is a monthly newsletter first published in 1981.

Website for past issues: [menangle.com.au](http://menangle.com.au) (Menangle – the Birthplace of Australian Agriculture)

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## ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

Enquiries: [office@menangleanglican.com.au](mailto:office@menangleanglican.com.au)

Sunday Services: 8.30 am and 10.00 am

10.00 am service is live-streamed at

[www.menangleanglican.com.au](http://www.menangleanglican.com.au)

Thank you St James for sponsoring the printing of  
this edition of the Menangle News

## ST PATRICKS CATHOLIC CHURCH

6.00pm on 1st Sunday each month

## SALVATION ARMY HOME CHURCH

SUNDAYS: 9.30am

@ 10 Station St

Sue Peacock 0425 203 429



### Free Sausage Sizzle April 30

Dean McGrath Park 18 Station St, Menangle.

## THOMMO'S CORNER

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks move up to 10-lb potato bags.

Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at this level put a potato in each bag.

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2024

To add some fun to next year's Australia Day Breakfast the Menangle News is once again inviting people to nominate neighbours for Awards.

Start taking note of people who contribute to the rich tapestry of our Menangle Community!

## THE STORE MENANGLE

Phone 46338101 Fax 46338686



### OPENING HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY: 7.00am – 2.30pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8.00am – 2.00pm

Delicious Full Breakfast and Lunch menus now available!

### POST OFFICE

open 9 – 5 Monday to Friday

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4<sup>th</sup> Clayton Butler  
4<sup>th</sup> Micah Lau  
5<sup>th</sup> Andrew Black  
5<sup>th</sup> Michelle Campbell  
6<sup>th</sup> Carol Redmond  
6<sup>th</sup> Yasmin Luke  
11<sup>th</sup> Nancy Caffyn  
12<sup>th</sup> Margaret Ritchie  
14<sup>th</sup> Christine Hughes  
14<sup>th</sup> Jenni McGrath  
19<sup>th</sup> Vicki Blight  
21<sup>st</sup> Brittnie McFarlane  
23<sup>rd</sup> Emily McFarlane  
23<sup>rd</sup> Monica Symons (nee Charles)  
24<sup>th</sup> Nikita Reece  
27<sup>th</sup> Paul Shipley  
29<sup>th</sup> Katie Mealing  
30<sup>th</sup> Peter Gordon



To add your birthdays (or correct any errors) please email [susan.peacock2@gmail.com](mailto:susan.peacock2@gmail.com)

## IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

This morning as I was praying with a friend over the phone, I caught a glimpse of a significant spiritual truth.

**Everything Jesus did and said  
was to show us the way of love.  
God is love.**

A walk through Holy Week – the last week of the life of Jesus- dramatizes this way of love.

As a very close friend planned to betray Him, Jesus washed his feet.

Knowing Peter would deny Him, Jesus warned him ahead of time.

Knowing His other friends would be lost and confused by the death He was about to die, Jesus gave them a special meal – Communion – The Eucharist to comfort them and help them understand that His death as the “Passover Lamb” was planned all along.

As the Roman Governor judged Him in court saying “Don’t you know I have the power to have you killed?” Jesus respectfully replied: “You only have that power because My Father has given it to you.”

As His friends deserted Him and He died a torturous death at the hands of Roman soldiers, He cried out “Father forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing”.

In everything Jesus responded in love. This is the way He calls us to live – to follow Him in the way of love.

And the victory of love – love that is stronger than death – is what we celebrate on Resurrection Sunday!

Blessings and love

Sue

**Thank you so much our dear friends who have supported my granddaughter Maeve’s and my mission trip to the Philippines in May. Her costs are covered!**

**It will be a life changing experience for us both as well as the dear people to whom we minister We would love your prayers from May 13 – May 27 for this adventure into remote areas of Tacloban.**

## CAMDEN AGLOW MEETING

At 10 Station St, Menangle at 2.00 pm  
TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY

Enquiries Sue: 0425 203 429

Aglow is an international, interdenominational Christian movement in over 170 nations.



We have friendly, lively bible discussions, pray for and encourage each other, remember Jesus by celebrating communion together, and always have a delicious afternoon tea.

## MEN’S SHED

Open on Mondays and Thursdays 8.30am to 12noon in the old Whiteman’s shed, Stevens Rd, Menangle. (Public holidays excepted.)  
Contact Allan Webb: 46339886; 0409 246 117

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The Wollondilly mobile library visits Menangle every Tuesday between 9.30 am and 11.30 am  
Dean McGrath Park Station St.

Check out **Wollondilly Library website** which offers a wide range of free resources including books to your phone through borrow box; movies via beamafilm.

## MENANGLE DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Menangle District Probus Club especially caters for retirees in our community, and is designed for friendship, fellowship and fun.

Meetings are held in the Durham Green Club Room at 10.00 am

APRIL MEETING

Monday 17<sup>th</sup>

Guest Speaker - STEPHEN PEAD - Former Media Industry Trainer/Coach “The Lighter Side of Doing Business in India”

If interested, please contact:

President David Llewellyn 46263460

Or Secretary Sue Peacock 0425 203 429



## Ring For The King

For centuries, bellringers have rung in good times and bad, in moments of celebration and at times of mourning. The coronation of a new monarch is certainly an occasion to commemorate. Across the

commonwealth and English-speaking world from Westminster Abbey to St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney bell towers will be ringing out to proclaim the coronation or King Charles 111.

St James Anglican Church is in good company attempting to ring a peal on the 6th May.

The village of Menangle is in a unique position having a peal of bells.

### So what is a peal?

In bellringing a peal is the special name given to a specific type of performance of change ringing which meets certain conditions for duration, complexity and quality. It must consist of sufficient numerical sequences or changes, if there are seven bells or lower working bells the peal length is 5040 changes and above seven working bells 5000 changes are required to qualify for the title of peal. Some other conditions required when attempting to ring a peal are:

a peal shall start and end with rounds (ringing down the scale)

12345678 rounds go

5040 changes

12345678 rounds end

### DIDJANO DPRB

The "little research" into how the Menangle Viaduct made railway history revealed a lot more than the author anticipated. A substantial amount of the following information was obtained from an unnamed publication dated 18 June 1963. It would appear that the centenary of the Menangle Railway Viaduct was celebrated towards the end of June 1963. The history of the structure holds an important place in early railway life. It is the oldest railway bridge in use in New South Wales. Both the Nepean River and the Hawkesbury River caused more financial expenditures for the construction of viaducts and bridges over those waterways than for the building of any other structures. Because the river drained over such a large land area, the long viaduct was necessary, particularly during periods of prolonged rainfall. It is recorded that during extensive flooding the Nepean River would rise up to 60 feet above its normal level. The Avon, Nepean, Cordeaux and Cataract Dams didn't exist back then, but the waterways with the same names did. Numerous other water courses emptied into the overall Upper Nepean Catchment area, upstream from Menangle.

How appropriate that Menangle means "A swampy place". Back to the viaduct. By necessity the viaduct approaches had to be long. There are two distinct sections of the Main Southern Rail Line in this area. The first is from Campbelltown to the northern bank of the Nepean River and obviously the second is from the southern bank of the Nepean River to Picton. Tenders for the construction of both the masonry piers and the ironwork were processed successfully in 1860. Designs were prepared accordingly for a Northern Approach Viaduct of 978 feet, and for two similar viaducts on the southern side of 430 feet, and 270 feet respectively. The design for the main bridge consists of two box girders, continuous over three openings, each having a clear opening of 150 feet and 6 inches apart in the clear, each forming a continuous girder 486 feet long extending over two immediate piers. How about that!

The piers which are built of masonry are 80 feet by 20 feet at the base and tapered to 52 feet by 12 feet at the top and were spaced at 162 feet centre to centre.

There were a few redesign issues to be considered before things got well and truly underway. While this was happening a number of floods occurred in 1860.

To provide sufficient clearance for flood waters, it was considered advisable to lift the bridge by over 6 feet.

The iron work was fabricated by the Canada Works Birkenhead and was loaded onto two vessels which sailed in 1861. The first vessel carrying the iron work for the middle span arrived in Sydney in April 1862. The second carrying the balance of the plates was wrecked off the Mersey in January 1862. The loss was replaced and shipped in two vessels which arrived in October and December 1862.

The sandstone for the piers was quarried about 1.5 miles upstream and transported by a temporary tram line.

The erection of the super structure was commenced during the middle of October 1862 and when the work was completed in June 1863, 1080 tons of Iron work had been put into place. On June 29, 1863, the bridge underwent its final tests. It is still standing, so it must have passed the tests.

More about it next month.

### Ring For The King cont.

Every bell must sound at every row throughout the peal. Each bell must be rung continuously by the same person. The bells shall be audible outside the building in which they are contained.

No physical aids to memory in conducting and ringing are permitted.

Any shift or error in ringing shall be corrected immediately. No row shall be struck more than once before the next change is made.

If the ringing should stop for any reason the peal attempt must start from the beginning.

Ringling a peal is a test in stamina for the ringers both physically and concentration mentally.

It is estimated a full peal on St James bells will take approximately 2 ¾ hours, starting at 9 am and finishing before 12 noon 6th May. If successful a memorial plaque will be installed on display in the church tower.

The 6th of May should be a glorious acclamation celebrating the coronation of King Charles, the first peal in the village and for the achievements of the bell ringers.

The occasion has the Blessing of St James Parish Council and the acknowledgement of Wollondilly Council.

Ron Shepherd, Ring Master  
St James Church, Menangle  
ronaldshepherd@y7mail.com

### THE PUPPY LOFT

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or email [annette@thepuppyloft.au](mailto:annette@thepuppyloft.au)



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### OPENING HOURS

**MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.00 am - 6.00 pm**

**SATURDAY 9.00 am - 1.00 pm**

**SUNDAY & PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSED**



# Menangle Rural Fire Brigade April 2023 Update



Over the last month Menangle Rural Fire Brigade responded to a number of local call-outs including motor vehicle accidents and grass fires. The brigade also sent two crews to the Craig's Road Fire in the Upper Lachlan LGA as part of a Southern Highlands strike-team.

A huge thank you to the members who attended these call-outs.

In addition to emergency response the brigade also had a busy month of community engagement. We were very excited to be invited to Bellbirds Early Learning Centre at Menangle Park where we were very impressed by the children's knowledge about what to do during an emergency as well as their skills on the fire hose! The brigade was also honoured to be a part of the Camden Show Emergency Services parade to thank first responders for their service over the last four years through a number of significant emergencies. Menangle 1's tanker featured in the parade alongside vehicles from NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW SES and NSW Ambulance.

## Congratulations to Our Newest Firefighters

The brigade is very excited to welcome three new firefighters who successfully completed their Bush Firefighter course in April, 2023. Congratulations Connor, Sue and Jarod. See you on the fireground!

## Rotary Clubs of Macarthur First Responder Awards

Congratulations to Deputy Captain Connor McFarlane who received a Highly Commended award in the Rural Fire Service category at the inaugural Rotary Clubs of Macarthur- First Responder Awards.

Connor is one of the most experienced Firefighters in our brigade, having joined when he was still at high school.

Connor spent many days fighting the Black Summer bush fires in strike team deployments both in the states North-West as well as closer to home at the Green Wattle and Moreton bush fires. Connor regularly attends call-outs in the local area, as well as putting his hand up for additional deployments including flood recovery and missing person searches.

Connor is one of the Brigade's Training Officers, Crew Leaders and drivers. Connor also assists with the delivery of First Aid training across the Southern Highlands RFS District. Thank you for all that you do for our brigade and the community Connor.

Brigade members Cameron Scott (Training Officer) and Natalie McMullen (Community Engagement Officer) were also nominated for First Responder Awards.



## Cooler Weather Is Upon Us

With the arrival of the cooler weather we're sure many of you are lighting your wood fires, unpacking your heaters and putting your electric blankets back on your bed. "The colder months are some of the riskiest times of the year for fires in the home, and most of these fires can be prevented," (Country Fire Association).

We strongly encourage all households to complete the attached 'Winter Fire Safety Checklist' and reduce your risk of house fire this season.

BE SAFE  
NOT SORRY



# WINTER FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

## SMOKE ALARMS

Did you know that you will not smell smoke while asleep? Only working smoke alarms save lives

- Test that your smoke alarm/s are working. If not, change the batteries or replace the alarm.
- Check the smoke alarm is in date. Smoke alarms have a lifespan of ten years.
- Give the smoke alarm a vacuum, if you haven't done so in the last six months, to remove dust and any insects.

To meet legislation you must have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of the home placed between bedrooms and living areas, it's the law.

FRNSW also recommends having one in each bedroom.

Hardwired and interconnected is best.

For more information visit [fire.nsw.gov.au/smokealarms](https://fire.nsw.gov.au/smokealarms)

## ESCAPE PLANS

Having a home escape plan in conjunction with a working smoke alarm will greatly increase your chances of getting out safely. Every second counts.

If there is a fire in your home, do not wait, **EVERY SECOND COUNTS**, GET OUT and STAY OUT and then call Triple Zero (000). Never go back inside a burning building.

- Draw your escape plan, and discuss it with your whole family.  
Download your grid here [fire.nsw.gov.au/escapeplan](https://fire.nsw.gov.au/escapeplan)

***Remember to consider the special needs of children, the elderly or the disabled when developing your escape plan.***

- Know and record two safe ways out of every room. Make sure that your windows and doors are not obstructed and can be unlocked and opened quickly if necessary.
- Practise your escape plan regularly with the whole household including pets. Your letter box is a great place to wait for firefighters arrival.
- As you escape make sure you close internal doors behind you. This can reduce fire spread and minimise damage.

## FIREPLACES AND CHIMNEYS

- Have your chimney serviced by a qualified tradesperson prior to using it.
- Purchase a fire screen if you do not own one. Fire screens should always be placed in front of fireplaces when in use.
- Ensure your wood pile sits at least a metre away from the fireplace.
- Choose a safe place to store matches and lighters where children cannot reach and that is at least a metre away from the fireplace.

## HEATERS

- Check your electric and gas heaters before you use them. If you suspect a fault have the item checked by a qualified repairer or replaced. Check all cords for fraying and damage. Plug heaters directly into wall sockets only.
- Do not overload powerboards.
- Ensure everything is kept a **metre from the heater**.
- Install any new heaters and use as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Check your portable outdoor heaters before use and have serviced or replaced if required. Ensure that the area where you plan to use them is level, well ventilated and away from awnings and other combustible materials.

NEVER use any outdoor heating or cooking equipment inside your home including those that use 'heat beads' or LPG as a fuel source. This type of equipment is not suitable for indoor use and can lead to a build up of lethal gases which could be deadly. Check the manufacturer's recommendations before use.

## ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- Test your electric blanket before use by laying it on top of your bed, feeling the internal wires for any abnormalities and inspecting cords/controls for damage. Turn it on for 5 minutes and then feel for any uneven hot spots. If you notice any of the above the electric blanket should be replaced.
- Ready to pack your electric blanket away? Roll it for storage, folding can cause damage.

Electric blankets are not designed to be used while sleeping. Consider adding additional bedding to keep warm if needed.

## WHEAT BAGS

Wheat bags can easily ignite or burn if overheated and need to be completely cool on a non-combustible surface before storing. They are only designed to be applied directly to the body and should never be used in bed or while sleeping.

VISIT [FIRE.NSW.GOV.AU](http://FIRE.NSW.GOV.AU) FOR MORE INFORMATION