THE MENANGLE NEWS

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The Menangle News is a monthly newsletter first published in 1981.
Website for past issues: menangle.com.au (Menangle – the Birthplace of Australian Agriculture)
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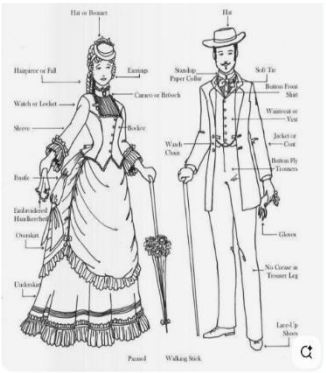


SATURDAY OCTOBER 24th
St James Sesquicentenary (150 years!)

Everyone is invited!

THE PLAN

1. The Processional Walk and Bells



10.15am Gather at the steps of the Old Menangle School.

10.30 Welcome and walk up the path to St James **NOTE: The top of the church lane (from the memorial wall) will be closed to traffic from 10.30 – 10.45 for the procession.**

2. The Church Service 10.45

This will be a journey through historical liturgies, with grand old hymns played on the organ, bible readings and prayers.



THE ORGAN

The organ was purchased second hand from William Hill & Son, Organ Builders, Camden Rd., Islington, London in 1902 by Mrs. E. Macarthur-Onslow.
Up until the year 1947 the organ was pumped by hand, a boy from the village performing this duty for the sum of £1.0.0 per annum
In 1947 an electric motor was installed by Public Subscription as a memorial to Mrs. Madeline Darby, organist for 40 years.
It is interesting to note that Mrs. Darby was a grand daughter of John Hourn who did so much of the hard work of the actual building of the Church.
In 1970 the organ was extensively repaired and a new electric motor installed by Mr. Quentin Macarthur-Stanham as a memorial to his parents, Sir Reginald and Lady Stanham.

3. Luncheon – provided 12.00

The Store's finest salads: Broccoli, Potato and Mediterranean Pasta

Sausages cooked by the Menangle RFS and Tea and Coffee from The Salvos

Celebration Cake and delicious home-made slices for dessert

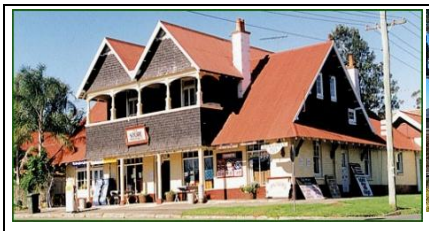


History Booklets, and Sesquicentenary Medallions and Tote bags for sale.
Banners to sign.
Activities for the kids.



4. History Display in the Rectory

URGENT REQUEST
Do any of the óld local' families have photos/ memorabilia relating to events held at the church by yourselves or past family members e.g. weddings, baptism, funerals that we could copy to use in our Historical Display. Things should be labelled with names and dates of people in events.
If you could send them to barbiewood.1953@gmail.com
OR drop things to Sue Peacock (10 Station Street)
OR arrange to meet at the Kids Shed at the Rectory so we can photocopy straight away (Barbara- 0413212302)
It has been so surprising and wonderful what has already turned up from boxes, cupboards, drawers and even off walls!!!!! We would greatly appreciate your help!





THE STORE MENANGLE

Temporarily operating from the Caravan of Courage in the grounds of the Old Menangle School, this is a great place to connect with neighbours, sample delicious foods and enjoy excellent coffee.

TRADING HOURS:
Monday closed.
Tuesday to Friday
7am – 2pm
Weekends
8am – 2pm

POST OFFICE
Negotiations with the P.O. are heading in the right direction, and Shane is hopeful to offer a P.O service for Christmas.



BEERSHEBA DAY BREAKFAST 2026 at CLUB MENANGLE Friday OCTOBER 30 at 6.45am

THE CHARGE THAT BEGAME A LEGEND

The desert was as dry as dust. Khamseen desert winds swirled the sand into the eyes, noses, and mouths of the men and their horses.
The ANZAC soldiers and their horses were very thirsty, they had been on these barren hills a long time.
Many times, they had ridden out to fight against the Turkish Troops. Each small section of 4 soldiers rode out to the battle line. Then one soldier took all the horses back to safety while the others advanced on foot, shooting their rifles.
Many ANZAC and British soldiers had been killed and injured in this type of battle, but the Frontal Attack was the way war was fought in the desert.
Unless water could be found for the huge army of 88,000 British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers they would surely die.
The water supplies had been cut off by the Turkish soldiers, and the nearest water was 5 kilometres across open ground that was guarded by Turkish soldiers in trenches with many machine guns.
On October 31st, 1917, Australian General Harry Chauvel had been ordered "to capture Beersheba today, in order to secure water and take prisoners." Beersheba was protected by 35,000 Turkish Soldiers stretched along a 40-kilometre line.
The need for water was so desperate that General Chauvel gave permission for Brigadier-General William Grant to mount a charge with the Mounted Desert Troops he commanded.
"Put Grant straight at it" he was directed.
The sun was just sinking on the horizon, and dusk had arrived. The 800 soldiers of the 4th (from Victoria) the 12th (from NSW) Light Horse Regiments formed into long lines across the plain of Beersheba.

They moved in formation: firstly walking, then a slow trot, then at the General's signal they leapt together into full charge galloping wildly towards the blasting machine guns. They charged so quickly that the Turkish machine gunners could not change the aim of the guns quickly enough to hit them – they galloped under the sights of the guns!



When they came to the trenches the Light horsemen leapt over the Turkish gunners taking many captives.
Even though the Turkish soldiers had laid explosives into the wells ready to blow them up, the Light horsemen were so fast that the Turks had no time to detonate them.

Once the Light Horse Regiments had captured the wells of Beesheba, all the British soldiers and the rest of the ANZAC troops were able to drink as much water as they wanted and water their horses.
It was an amazing, unexpected, unlikely victory, taking less than one hour, won by brave mounted soldiers on their courageous war horses. 800 men took part in the charge and 30 soldiers died as heroes that day. It is sad that lives were lost but truly miraculous that 770 soldiers survived that headlong plunge into and over the machine guns of the Turkish Army.
Happy Beersheba Day! From Sue Peacock

ALLIES FOR A STRONG AUSTRALIA A VIGIL TO REMEMBER OCTOBER 7

The Macarthur District Chapter of Allies for a Strong Australia, gathered for a vigil at 6pm on Wednesday October 7th in Koshigaya Park. Campbelltown

October 7, also known as "Black Saturday," was the largest murder of Jews since the Holocaust. The massacre carried out by Hamas and Islamic Jihad (IJ) terrorists, both known terrorist proxies of Iran, was one of the largest and bloodiest international terrorist acts.
At 6:30 A.M., 2,500 rockets were fired toward Israel. Not only the towns near Gaza were hit, but also towns dozens of kilometres from the Green Line. Sirens went off across the south of the country, as well as in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The attack caused massive civilian casualties, with direct hits on residential areas including Ashkelon, Ashdod, Be'er Sheva, and Sderot.
The terrorists fired mortars at guard towers located on the demarcation line with Gaza and broke through the protective barrier on ATVs and cars; some of them flew into civilian areas on paragliders. One of Hamas' elite commando units managed to get to the beach near Kibbutz Zikim via boat.
The terrorists used explosive devices and bulldozers to destroy the fences between Israel and Gaza. In total, the terrorists broke through the fences in more than 100 places. The terrorists targeted villages around Gaza, where they carried out a full-scale invasion and abducted hostages from their homes. Additionally, IDF military bases in southern Israel were targeted.

THOMO'S CORNER

The children were lined up in the cafeteria for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.
The Nun made a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching".
Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of Chocolate Chip cookies.
A child had written a note: "Take all you want. God is watching the apples".

ST PATRICKS CATHOLIC CHURCH



5.00pm Mass
1st Sunday of the month

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



2nd Jessica Foulks
5th Jonathon Koeford, Jade Richardson
6th Shirley Maher, Pauline Peretin
9th Libby Strassmeir
13th Kim Koeford
15th John Redmond
16th Conner McFarlane
17th Peter Foulks, Annalise Erskine
18th Laura Taylor, Indyana Worthington
23rd Gary Luke
24th Maree Holz
25th James Collison,
26th Melissa Lamrock, Kerin Weatherill, Lisa Dickson
30th Jacqueline Bell, Jessica McNevin

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

1st Warren and Pam Gammage – 60th in 2026
1st Josh and Maddie Clifton
9th Meredith and Stephen Cross
11th Phillip and Narelle Dark 50th 2026
12th Natalie and Sean McMullen
24th Peter and Sharon Foulks

Ellel Ministries

Upcoming Courses
October 16 – 17: *Overcoming Fear and Anxiety*
November 7: *Understanding Generational Iniquity and Soul Ties*
December 4 – 5: ***Walking Closer with God*** *– Learning the Rhythms of Grace.*
This course will help you to "learn to live freely and lightly" (Matthew 11:28-30 MSG) as you partner with Jesus day by day. ***Call the office to book – (02) 4633 8102.***

Legacy Property community engagement for Mount Taurus
Thank you to the many Menangle residents who have recently shared their views and local knowledge as part of community conversations about Mount Taurus.
These discussions are helping build a better understanding of the area's opportunities, constraints and community priorities.
Further updates and opportunities to participate will be shared over the coming months.
To stay informed, receive project updates and invitations to upcoming engagement activities, please register your details via the Mount Taurus website.
Web: mounttaurus.com.au

MENANGLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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The 2026 AGM of the Menangle Community Association was held on the evening of THURSDAY 8th October In the Menangle School of Arts Hall

The retiring MCA Executive Team has been extraordinary in many ways: James, Kate, Natalie and I became a committee at an **extraordinary** AGM in February 2022. Covid caused all sorts of challenges in 2021 – one of which was Hans Lothar-Huhn, our then Chairman, returning to live in his home country of Germany, and the second was the death of my dear husband Brian our founding treasurer. These two men were signatories on our Commonwealth Bank Account.
Hans had made quite a bit of headway with architectural plans for this new Menangle School of Arts Hall, and Matt Deeth – observer at that time – had spearheaded grant applications including $875,501 from the Federal Government for Black Summer Bushfire Recovery.
We became the **extraordinary** Executive Committee responsible for a $1.9m civic build. We signed a contract with Jim Nelson on 28th March 2023.
Jim is another **extraordinary** feature of our tenure – a true Menangle hero, who was hardworking, patient and extremely generous towards us. This building stands as a legacy to Jim in more ways than we can count.
We were **extraordinarily** inexperienced (some might even say naïve!) but we have learned a lot along the way.
All was progressing smoothly until we became aware about midway through 2025 that the costs for our building had increased quite considerably – which happens all the time – and to be able to finish and obtain our Occupational Certificate we had to put the brakes on spending. We took a pause while we got our heads around it all!
Funds still had to be spent on the specific things for which grants had been sought with grant acquittals being required for many of them.
We were **extraordinarily** careful with our spending throughout this year and a bit, as we inched our way to the finish line.
Another **extraordinary** feature of this Executive is the respect and unity that has marked every meeting we have held. We collaborated and only made decisions when everyone had their say, and we came into agreement. A truly democratic process!
Our 2026 AGM was held in an **extraordinary** Community Facility, which is a wonderful asset to the Community of Menangle.
I remember Matt Deeth saying at one of our MCA Meetings during the few months he was Mayor that he would put his weight behind getting a Hall for Menangle!
And here it is!
We are hugely gratified to see this project completed and look forward to the opening soon!

Congratulations to the new Committee:
President: Natalie McMullan
Vice President: Matthew Mansell
Secretary: James McFarlane
Treasurer: Matthew Deeth
Committee Member: Sarah Nixon
Committee Member: Michelle Sapsed
Public Officer: Libby Strassmeir

Menangle Rural Fire Brigade October 2026

Menangle Rural Fire Brigade was paged to twelve emergency call-outs in September 2026 including one illegal pile burn, one vehicle fire, three motor vehicle accidents, two automated fire alarms, two bush fires, one tree down, one kitchen fire and one grass fire.

The brigade also attended and held a number of community events including the opening of the Village Meadow Park, Get Ready Weekend and the Douglas Park Public School junior camp. It was great to chat with so many members of our community about the upcoming fire season.

Welcome Back Connor

In August/ September Menangle Rural Fire Brigade member Connor Fownes travelled to the United States of America as part of a six-week joint agency deployment to support firefighting operations as North America experienced significant fire activity.

Connor was staged in Boise, Idaho as part of a strike team fighting the Little Giant Fire where he worked as part of an engine crew and also assisted with property protection.

We're very proud of Connor and all the NSW RFS volunteers supporting the fire response in the USA.





Preparing for a bush fire isn't just about your household – it's about your community too

Take a moment to think about the people around you who may need extra support during an emergency.

A simple conversation before the bush fire season could make a big difference when conditions change.

Consider checking in with: • Older neighbours. • People living with disability or health conditions. • Families who may need help with transport before an evacuation.

Ask about their Bush Fire Survival plan and, if need be, help connect them up with your local RFS brigade.

A prepared community is a safer community. By planning ahead and looking out for one another, we can all be better prepared this bush fire season. Learn more at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/prepare