

The Manning Community News

MONTHLY

SHARING COMMUNITY NEWS AND VIEWS

MAY 2015

This paper is being published as a community service to provide readers with factual and independent coverage of news, people and events in our district. If you have a story idea please contact us.

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WHITHER WINGHAM?

FREE
First Edition

What will Wingham look like in twenty or forty years time? Will it be a bustling thriving country community, a sleepy backwater, or virtual ghost town? Or will vestiges of its long history be gone and replaced with a modern township of slick cookie cutter commercial franchises like hundreds of similar towns? Bit like those hotel chains where you feel you could be in any city in the world, so similar and familiar are the bulk furnished, mass produced surroundings.

What do you want for Wingham?

You can have a say. People are weary of token and empty gestures from a Council who really doesn't get what community consultation is all about and have their own agenda and plans no matter what we think.

Wingham-ites are tired of being patted on the head and told what's best for them.

How can the town move forward with a long term plan while the council hiccups from one idea to another, achieving little and antagonising half the populace.

Pulling down heritage buildings while promoting Wingham as the "Heritage Town" makes no sense. The loss of the Palace Emporium years back and the Wingham Hotel grand stables shed more recently, remain a great tragedy.

Why is the Council hierarchy surprised

at the uprising over their plan to sell off parks and Open Spaces? This is everybody's backyard.

And even more sinister was the further mooted plan to sell off "old" and unaffordable buildings in Wingham like the Courthouse, the Wingham Pool, Cuddle Pie Pre-School and even the Town Hall – though it would be "over my dead body" declares Lt. Col. (Ret) Eric Richardson. Let's hope that thought bubble has been shot down in the corridors of Council.

One has to also question the commitment of decision makers who do not live in our valley and are relatively new to the area. People who move here because they love the setting, the scenery, the people, the lifestyle, choose to make a commitment and become part of the community. Those who simply work here as a career move with no intention of staying and investing in this area surely can't have the same commitment.

There is a very inspiring organisation in the US, initially a privately funded Foundation, called the *Orton Foundation's Community Heart and Soul*. They have devised a sophisticated program for communities to develop, bring out the best and grow economically. They describe it as ...

... "reconnecting people with what they love most about their town and translates those personal and emotional

connections into a blueprint that serves as the foundation for future community decisions. It's a barn-raising approach to community planning and development designed to increase participation in local decision-making and empower residents to shape the future of their communities in a way that upholds the unique character of each place.

"The Orton Family Foundation believes that the strength of a community lies in the hands and the hearts of the people who live there, and that the community's heart and soul is the common cause that they will rally around. Communities that acknowledge and value their heart and soul are able to take action to strengthen it... That there's something special about every town—the old downtown, the pastures or woodlands, a get-it-done spirit, or an everyone-is-welcome ethic.

Whether they are places, traditions, or attitudes, these community characteristics are the things that really matter to people. They draw people to a place and make them care about where they live. Such characteristics are a community's heart and soul."

Instead of keeping the community out of the picture why don't our leaders include a "heart and soul committee" to have input and help make decisions which affect all of us. (The Orton Foundation offer a lot of free advice and help.)

Why do we not think of upscaling and aiming higher rather than the defeatist attitude of slash and burn, and go down market?

The Manning Valley has a lot to offer. But unless we fight to improve our area and keep and develop our towns and villages as we want them to be, we can lose all we love about this area.

Like too many other places we are threatened by the effects of Coal Seam Gas and fracking at Gloucester which could destroy our water, a struggling economy, lack of funding for roads and bridges just for starters, opportunities for youth employment, a lack of marketing and promotion of our area and a myriad other issues our Council has to deal with. But surely there are more creative and positive ways to move forward. The apparent Mexican standoff between council executives and some councillors, between the Mayor and our State and Federal members is not proving to be productive judging by the lack of any significant government funding for the Greater Taree City Council.

It is easy to criticise and lay blame. But being defensive and secretive doesn't help. We need a council that is genuinely prepared to listen, to consult and take constructive outside ideas on board.

PROMOTING THE MANNING

The late Jim Revitt, ABC TV and Radio correspondent, amongst many other roles, was born in Wingham. He established and trained the first Aboriginal journalism cadets for the ABC, was a community activist on Sydney's northern beaches fighting – and winning – for Pittwater to secede from Warringah Council and become the electorate of Pittwater, plus fighting – and winning – to save the Narrabeen wetlands.

For many years, Jim was a producer for the iconic TV program on ABC-TV's, "Weekend Magazine." (It had no presenters letting the words and vision tell the story.) It was 25 minutes long after the 7pm News (a 5 minute long bulletin) each Sunday night and it ran on a shoestring and covered unusual and interesting stories from every corner of Australia. It was mandatory viewing every Sunday evening. Inevitably the program came to the Manning

Valley in the 1970s. In his memoirs Jim writes ...

"I headed for the Manning Valley to tap into a pile of stories that I knew through living there. Wingham emerged from virtual obscurity to be a place seen by millions...there was the town's passion for horseshoe pitching, and the factory that once made slippers now making horseshoes for blacksmiths all over the country and export. And while on the horse scene, a day out with retired Sergeant Ron Livermore of the NSW Mounted Police who had taught the police musical rides to the Wingham Pony Club.

Viewers got a good look at the fine Manning River scenery with a trip on the last of the steam-driven paddle-wheelers still working on the river, while another story took them into the riverside rainforest in Wingham's main street. Up in the hills we went to a rodeo for kids in the idyllic setting of a

paradise called Little Plain. And up the railway line a bit we had a look at the beautiful garden created on Telegraph Point station by the stationmaster. Not surprisingly, Wingham experienced a population boom as a lot of city people decided it would be a nice place for retirement. The town prospered on the strength of its long running housing boom, which included a novel council scheme for helping young people finance their first home . . . an initiative that was shown on Weekend Magazine and then copied by a great many councils all around Australia."

Oh, that it was still on the air. "Australian Story" borrows some of the format but concentrates on peoples' stories only. The TV channels make token efforts at local stories or the offbeat, but the whimsical and penetrating eye of the Weekend Magazine team took a well researched and thorough look at people, events and places in detail and

depth. And with humour where suited.

When the story on Wingham Council's revolutionary plan to give loans to landholders to build a home, people came from all over Australia to buy land and get a start and were to enrich the Valley.

Where is the creative thinking of our Council today to promote our area and attract visitors, new residents and businesses? It doesn't take simply money, which our Council cries it never has, but some clever thinking, some strategic plans, and a good dose of entrepreneurial get up and go.

Taree businessman Bill Kennedy who served on Taree council from 1956 to 1971 and was Mayor from 1965 to 1971 when he was elected to the NSW Legislative Council, was pro-active in going to Sydney and "selling" the Manning to various businesses, many of whom moved here and are still operating today.

OUR OWN WOLLOMBI PINE?

We have one of the world’s rarest, critically endangered species of orchid - the Wingham Donkey Orchid (*Diuris flavescens*) secretly surviving around our district.

Botanist Andrew Paget of Wildwood Flora in Upper Lansdowne is its passionate protector along with several local authorities and Greater Taree City Council.

There are three known sites, one on private land which is fenced off, but keeping the orchids from being smothered by weeds and growth is an endless problem.

Andrew, who monitors the orchids, says the population has grown from 31 plants ten years ago to 880 plants but they are still critically endangered. Threats include cattle, wildlife, climate change, weeds and orchid collectors!

There are other gems in our area including an orchid that’s one of the rarest in the world, but there are only six plants tucked away somewhere in Old Bar.

And if you want to be the re-discoverer of a rare grevillea a little climbing might be in order. The unidentified grevillea was spotted in 1904 by an amateur botanist which he took home but was exhibited at a Sydney herbarium conference. No one in Australia seems aware of this tree.

Andrew, however, thinks he once spotted it growing beside the cliff face of Ellenborough Falls.

NEW WEEKLY FARMERS MARKETS?

Popular German smallgoods maker Rudi Mentges from Rudi’s Meats in Taree is planning to invite local farmers (and backyard growers) to sell their produce each Thursday morning at his new premises from 7.30am – 11am. At the moment with monthly markets growers aren’t geared up to supply a weekly demand, so everyone is planting winter vegies like mad.

Carl Bayer is also at Rudis’ each week selling his sourdough bread.

Oh, for a full time Italian breadmaker in the district making traditional wood fired breads daily!

If you have some produce to sell, Contact Les Mulder on 6550 7213.

MILK MEMORIES AND MARKETING

For some it’s a childhood memory of the milk being delivered around our district from the old Wingham butter factory by horse and cart in the wee hours. Freshly poured into a clean billycan or jug left on the front verandah, mailbox or front step, the obedient horse clapping and stopping undirected at each gate, while the overnight steam train sped it down to Sydney’s breakfast tables. Our milk and fresh baked and delivered bread was what country living was all about. And a few chooks of course. Times change. And not always for the better.

Wingham businessman and dairy farmer Tim Bale has shed some intriguing light onto the great dairy debate. He is quoted in the 100th edition of the excellent *Outback Magazine* in an article on Australia’s Dairy Farmer of the Year, Greg Dennis from near Beaudesert, Queensland.

Dennis is regarded as something of a risk-taking revolutionary who tore up a contract with his milk processor and borrowed a large sum and built his own dairy factory and bottled his own milk – in glass bottles. He now produces 30,000 litres of pasteurised milk to 200 independent outlets within two hours of his farm.

Tim Bale has a lot of time for Dennis and says, ‘I would have liked to do the same thing fifteen years ago. It was never the same after our Wingham and Taree factories closed down and milk deregulation. We even bought land with a dream of starting our own factory. I have talked to all kinds of people including the Chinese, Indonesians and the Indians but they tend to talk and talk. More tyre kicking than decision making. But my door is still open.’

To his knowledge no Chinese company has yet bought a dairy in Australia.

Tim Bale took a different route to Dennis in attempting to get the best deal for local Manning Valley farmers spirited by the low prices processors were offering. He established a small group of dairy farmers prepared to go the extra mile in standards and quality.

‘I know how good Manning Valley milk is and so we established a collective bargaining group which I headed,’ says Bale. ‘So after fighting them for years we decided to join them, as a means to give us some stability and security.’

He came up with a proposal he put

to Woolworths extolling the virtues of the healthy, green Manning Valley, its rainfall, its dedicated family farmers. Woolworths General Manager was impressed and suggested Bale come down and talk to them.

Bale countered with, ‘Why don’t you come up here and see for yourself. So four blokes from Woolworths came up and met the farmers and looked around and two years of meetings later we had a deal and “Farmer’s Own fresh from the Manning Valley” was on the shelves of Woolworths.’

It was Bale’s idea to promote the farmers with their faces on their milk cartons as well as selling the Manning. (An idea now appearing on other products.)

The initial run was to sell Farmers Own milk from Forster to Port Macquarie. But sales swiftly went up 33 percent.

‘So Woolworths decided to sell our milk all over NSW. People came in to stores looking for it,’ says Bale. ‘People really can taste the difference. In fact we recently won a gold medal for our milk. The concept is now spreading all over Australia using the same labelling – The Ottways Victoria, Margaret River WA, Barossa Valley SA and Mary Valley Qld.’

Once sales are national they hope to add milk products to the range of pasteurised, unhomogenised (with the cream on the top) and light milk.

‘The Manning has lost an opportunity to have a factory here,’ says Bale. However he hopes to bring in more farmers prepared to meet a higher standard of production to add to their collective bargaining base.

While Bale is modest about his achievement in promoting the Manning Valley, he does feel that, ‘The area is not marketed enough and we lack tourism promotion.’

However Tim Bale hasn’t totally given up on his dream to do his own thing.

‘We had some Indonesians looking to set up and increase production yet they wanted to drive the price down. Instead of 53 cents a litre they wanted to pay 40 cents where in reality they should pay 63 cents. As Greg Dennis says,

“Farmers need to become price makers, not price takers.”

ONE BROTHER’S JOURNEY

Steve Posselt describes himself as an engineer, author, adventurer, eco-warrior and grandfather.

Steve, aged 62, is currently paddling his kayak up the Mississippi on a personal campaign to raise awareness of global warming.

Steve, from the NSW Northern Rivers, plans to continue through the Great Lakes to the sea at the top of Canada, then fly to the UK where he will paddle across the UK including the Thames, across the English Channel and up the Seine to Paris for the UN Climate Summit in November 2015 where he will present a petition. A journey of 8000 kilometres he began January 15 this year.

‘I hope to represent all Australians who feel angered and dissatisfied by our government’s inaction around climate change,’ Steve explained.

‘A majority of Australians want deep emission cuts to be the outcome of the Paris Climate Talks,’ he says, and advises, ‘If you want to do something about climate change, buy green energy. With battery and solar costs coming down people will start to simply go off grid, most likely well before 2020 and what will that do? Who knows but it will be a new paradigm.’

And what motivates him most?

‘I want to be able to look into the eyes of my grandkids and say, ‘Well, at least I did my best,’ says Steve Posselt. And his final message is for the National Party – ‘The National Party is about the land and its future. CSG destroys the land as we know it. To all of those who use groundwater, forget it when CSG comes to town. Life as you know it will be over. To all good National Party supporters who love the land: please do not let it be destroyed.’

Steve paddles to the banks of the Mississippi and sets up his tent each evening. If you want to follow his adventures go to his diary on - www.kayak4earth.com.

And if the name sounds familiar, the intrepid eco-warrior Steve is the brother of the General Manager of Greater Taree City Council – Mr Ron Posselt.

REMINDER

from Wingham Family Health Clinic to get your flu shots. It’s free to everyone over 65 and a long list of other people who have chronic conditions. All patients need to do is see the nurse. If not covered by Medicare they have vaccines on site that you can purchase very reasonably. While the shots don’t guarantee immunity to everything it stops the more serious viruses and doctors don’t like older patients being hit with respiratory infections.

SWITCH YOUR POWER AND HIT THE ENERGY GIANTS IN THE POCKET

The Big 3 power companies – Origin, AGL and Energy Australia - are using their might to set back the path of renewable energy, be it solar, wind, wave energy or others. Power prices will no doubt go up as a result. The reliance on fossil fuels with all its attendant environmental damage is being rejected by the rest of the world. Only a large public outcry, especially from their customers and shareholders, will stop them. The Energy Retailers Association of Australia has compiled a list of “green” or alternate electricity and gas suppliers. If we all switch from the Big Three, they might re-think what they’re doing especially when their shareholders start screaming.

ALINTA ENERGY

In its submission to the RET Review panel, Alinta credits the scheme with expanding Australia’s renewable generation portfolio, but says this has come at “significant cost to consumers and presents a material risk to security of supply.” It also argues that the current costs of the RET go beyond its projected future benefits. Following this line of logic, it is Alinta’s belief that “no new renewable energy should be supported under the RET and all new renewable energy projects, whether small or large scale, should be required to compete in the market without subsidy.”

The company, which retails in South Australia and Victoria, calls for the RET to be capped at current capacity. Failing this outcome, it recommends the RET be closed and existing

CHINESE WHISPERS

What people tell us! Conspiracy theories, rubbish or a grain of truth? You decide.

There’s a local carrier who sold a couple of his trucks locally to an Afghan dealer for a very good price and who ships them overseas. He also buys old batteries paying well over the scrap metal price. The dealer is on the look out for specific older model 4WD Toyotas and Nissans. They are being used as gun mounts and rocket launchers. The batteries are made into bullets.

The carrier wishes he’d known their fate before selling his trucks.

capacity eligible for subsidy be brought under an alternate mechanism for the purposes of run-off; or (worst case scenario) the baseline be a ‘real’ 20% target and include all renewable generation, with the end-date of the scheme extended to 2030 and technology not requiring subsidy be removed from the RET.

RED ENERGY

Owned by the Snowy Hydro, the company has fallen in line with the position of its ultimate owners, the NSW state government. This essentially means changing the fixed 41,000GWh target to a “real” 20 per cent target, which is similar to origin energy’s position.

However, Red Energy suggests while the 2020 target could be “moderated” the end date could be extended beyond 2030. It does not want the large scale and small scale targets to be combined because small scale solar, and commercial solar, could “crowd out” large scale investments.

Red Energy also recommends increasing the “fixed cost” component of electricity bills to offset what it sees as the impact of rooftop solar on reducing demand from the grid. critics say this will reduce the incentive of energy efficiency and penalise lower income and lower volume users.

Red Energy also argues against “banding” – a mechanism reserving capacity to certain technologies such as geothermal or wave which may be favoured by some Senate independents – and argues in favour

of “exit payments” to encourage coal generators to leave the market permanently, rather than just being mothballed.

MOMENTUM ENERGY

Momentum is a subsidiary of Hydro Tasmania, the biggest renewable energy producer in the country. It says the RET is a key policy for the transitioning of the country’s energy sector, and should be maintained, and expanded beyond 2020.

It says the current 41,000GWh target for large scale renewable is technically feasible, but concedes it could be argued to extend the target, but it also wants the end date pushed out beyond 2030, and future targets for 2030 and 2040 that could only consider increases in the target, rather than decreases.

“If the RET was repealed or effectively ended, it would almost certainly terminate any further investment in large-scale renewable energy projects, and put at risk the long-term viability of existing renewable energy assets,” it says. Hydro Tasmania strongly supports both the architecture and objectives of the current RET, including the aim to achieve at least 20% renewable energy by 2020.

Momentum says the large and small scale targets should not be combined, it opposes banding, and suggests incentives for rooftop solar such as the deeming measure (upfront payments) could be phased down more rapidly than currently legislated.

HORTICULTURE AS A CAREER

Caitlin Sawyer is continuing the family tradition of a career in horticulture inspired by her grandfather Ralph Sawyer (Wingham Nursery) and her parents, Tanya and Chris.

Caitlin is heading overseas on a Sir John Pagan scholarship for Horticulture as YoungHort Ambassador.

YoungHort is an Australia-wide organisation inspiring young Australians to choose a rewarding career in horticulture. Their aim is to highlight the many different career paths in the Horticultural sector and the importance for more young people between 18 to 35 to take up the challenge of furthering their education through either TAFE or university courses.

YoungHort can actively assist them

into a career by means of guidance and support.

Says Caitlin, “This offers the opportunity to connect and network with people from the same demographic who are like minded and passionate about horticulture. It gives them the opportunity to create links within the industry at future conferences, have access to apprenticeship/traineeships offers before they are launched, Interaction on the YoungHort Forum website, assist in the decision making for YoungHort’s future and the future of the Australian Horticultural industry as a whole.”

They may involve more creative fields such as landscape design, architecture and Botany or more science based fields such as production, nursery,

POWERSHOP

Powershop, owned by New Zealand renewable energy giant Meridian Energy, says the RET has helped to reduce costs for consumers, and to hedge against rising gas prices and a potential future energy crisis. It is the only retailer to call unequivocally for the current target to be retained.

“The LRET should be retained in its current form, to deliver value for consumers and support regional development. Calls to dilute the policy are driven by powerful Big Three incumbents who seek to maximise revenues from coal and gas, conjuring up fears as to affordability and achievability of the policy.”

PowerShop says it is “simply untrue” to suggest the 41,000GWh target cannot be met by 2020, but suggests that a self correcting market system that resets future year targets could be implemented if the build out fails to meet expectations, rather than allowing big retailers to pass on penalty prices to consumers.

It does not favour recombining large and small scale schemes, but days it does not have sufficient expertise to comment on level of rooftop solar incentives.”

Compiled by Energy Retailers Association of Australia or visit their website:

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/who-is-the-greenest-energy-retailer-in-australia-90911>

pest and disease control. They may focus on parks and garden ecology or concentrate on one particular plant species.

These courses can be studied through TAFE and for full qualification a tertiary education course would be required.

Anyone of any age can also become a member of YoungHort which gives access to newsletters, blogs, conferences, and a list of mentors who are experienced and passionate about the industry and offer support and guidance to students, drawing upon their own experiences and knowledge.

For details see:

www.younghort.com.au

A LITTLE OUT OF TOWN ...

Are you aware of the US military incursion, or build up, that's happening in Darwin?

Soon another 1,150 marines will land bringing the permanent peacetime deployment of foreign troops on our soil to over two thousand before we know it and then what? And it's not just boots on the ground it's the full kitbag of weapons, ammunition, vehicles and support infrastructure.

It seems it's all to do with the USA's paranoia, no, we take that back, let's say, the USA's fear of "losing Asia" and as always, Australia will welcome them with open arms.

According to Admiral Harry B. Harris, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, in a speech in Sydney last month, China is building a massive "wall of sand" on submerged coral reefs in the South China Sea, an area they claim almost in total, never mind what the Philippines and others think. This sunken cement artificial land mass built on the sand base will be used to construct all manner of support infrastructure for military bases. The plan being, no doubt, to boost China's territorial land expansion.

And can you imagine if a foreign company decide to make shipment of

coal easier by building such a terminal over the Barrier Reef by dumping cement on top of the living breathing beautiful coral of our Reef?

This commitment of foreign troops based in Australia will no doubt be hailed by the Defense Department as boosting the local economy, giving our troops the benefit of training with US troops, keeping us in step with American military strategy.

(Perhaps some Aussie Vietnam vets might have a few thoughts on how the US military operates.) But the bigger issue is how is this happening without any discussion with the Australian public?

Surely there is a middle road we can take without adopting a sycophantic foreign policy of strategic dependence on the USA.

Why can't Australia take a middle road on an independent foreign policy in dealing with China and the US?

The bigger concern is that our Government is not being transparent in explaining its plans to the Australian public.

And as to questions about the extension to, and role of, Pine Gap. . . well let's not go there at this moment.

Jane MacKenzie is a new arrival to the Manning.

She and her husband Neil are the proprietors of Mansfield on the Manning Rural Retreat and many of us have enjoyed delicious food from Neils on Wheels travelling foodie van. Jane, who is English, comes from a career in marketing and promotion in London. They chose to move here and start a business because of the beauty and potential for tourism here. Jane has some thoughts on "selling" the Manning :

"It's almost a year since we moved to the Manning Valley. We left a dull London on 31st March 2014 and arrived in sunny Sydney on 2nd April – then it was an excited drive to our new home – Mansfield on the Manning in Tinonee.

Many people have expressed their surprise at our move direct from the hustling, bustling hive of activity that is London to the peace and tranquility of Tinonee. But what's not to understand?

Over our last couple of years in London I had become increasingly despondent about how 'selfish' people were. Every day I'd see hoards of commuters, heads down, engrossed in their mobiles, oblivious to anyone else around them. Nobody talked to anybody else, nobody looked out for anybody else.

Here in the Manning Valley, with its beautiful unspoilt parks and reserves, its stunning beaches and rivers, there is a feeling of time to enjoy life and have a chat with your neighbour or a passer-by in the street. Australia is known for its friendliness and laidback vibe, but here it seems to happen so naturally – as the tag line for Manning Valley tourism says!

Neil and I have wanted to run a boutique accommodation for years. We've travelled extensively around Europe and always searched out beautiful but low-key places to stay. We'd got a clear idea of the sort of place we wanted to run – a relaxing, stress-free retreat, with high quality accommodation and a 'nothing is too much trouble' attitude to service.

Once we'd made the decision that the time was right, and agreed that Australia was the destination, we set out to look for properties within a 3-hour drive of Sydney. We spent months trawling the internet and joined every real-estate site in NSW

and spent every night researching different destinations.

By June 2013 we had a shortlist of 3 properties we wanted to see in NSW – 2 of them in the Manning Valley. We booked a 1-week trip and set up the various appointments. By day 2 of our trip we had fallen in love with the Manning Valley – and specifically – Mansfield on the Manning.

We came back out in October 2013, to see Mansfield again and to spend more time in the area before committing to the big leap! We were totally convinced by the end of our trip – we'd spent time at Old Bar beach – and most other beaches in the area – we'd seen Ellenborough Falls, explored the Three Brothers region, been to visit Forster and Port Macquarie, met the flying foxes at Wingham Brush, tasted Comboyne cheeses, sampled many of the local wines, visited some of the weekend markets – and enjoyed the hospitality of the area.

Having been here a year now, I am still surprised by how much of a hidden secret the Manning Valley is to many Australians. We've had guests who came across the area by chance – travelling up the coast from Sydney and needing a one night stopover – who have been so impressed with the area that they've stayed an extra night – or two – and stopped on the way back too! Neil's family from the Snowy Mountains have become smitten with what this area has to offer. Friends from Canberra and Brisbane and Melbourne have all had such a great time that they are coming back for longer stays to explore more. All think this area an amazing secret!

Yet I get a sense that some people are apologetic about the area – have maybe forgotten all the good things and let a few niggles cloud their view. I love what is being done by the Tidy-up Taree team and am inspired by the Thumbs-up Manning Valley Facebook page. Some of our local businesses are doing such a good job to get this area on the map. Those of us who live in the area need to celebrate it and become living, walking adverts – selling the Manning to everyone we meet. I'm very happy – and proud – to take on that role!"

BE SURE IT'S AUSTRALIAN!

Support our growers, farmers and what's left of our manufacturers. To be sure of buying Australian made and produced food, look at the barcode at the bottom. Don't be fooled by things like "Manufactured in New Zealand." Often it might be put in a tin or packet in NZ but the FOOD contents come from China.

There are no food inspection regulations on foods grown or processed in China, Vietnam, Hong Kong or Thailand.

The first 3 digits of the barcode is the country code where the product was made. Example: all barcodes that start with 690; 691 through to 699 are all made in China. 471 is made in Taiwan. Hong Kong is now part of China don't forget. AUSTRALIA's bar code starts with 93.

Here's the list:

- 00 ~ 13 USA and Canada
- 30 ~ 37 France
- 40 ~ 44 Germany
- 49 ~ Japan
- 50 ~ UK
- 57 ~ Denmark
- 64 ~ Finland
- 76 ~ Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- 93 ~ Australia
- 628 ~ Saudi Arabia
- 629 ~ United Arab Emirates
- 740-745 ~ Central America

all 480 codes are made in the Philippines.

Remember if a product's barcode (the number under those black lines they run over the scanner in the checkout) starts with 93 then it's Australian, so safe to buy!

THIS IS NEWS?

Can someone tell us how a "story", with a byline, about a new burger at the local golden arches qualifies as a news story (it was not a paid ad disguised as a story) in the MRT News section (page 6) 1/4/15 ?

We would like to hear from you. Ideas for stories, submissions or Letters to the Editor. Due to space requirements please try to limit letters to 300 words.

Email di@dimorrissey.com. Or write to PO Box 62, Tinonee 2430

Volunteer Contributors to this issue of The Manning Community News include:

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