

## Ross Ditchfield



Ross Ditchfield with Pont Du Gard in the background. (a Roman aqueduct built in 80A.D.)

FORMER Coonambilla, Ross Ditchfield, has just completed a 1400 kilometre bike ride from Tramacastilla in the Spanish Pyrenees across southern France and over the French Alps to Alba in Italy.

During the 15 day ride he and 25 team mates climbed a gruelling total of 30,000 metres and traversed many of the iconic Tour de France stages including the Col du Tourmalet 2115m and Mont Ventoux 1600m.

This special tour was organised by Berry Mountain Cycles based in Berry NSW where Ross now lives.

The team was accompanied by guides who recounted the history and features of the regions the cyclists passed through, a sommelier or wine expert and a soigneur to massage those aching legs at the end of the day's ride.

Accommodation was often in 14th Century chateaux, monasteries or boutique hotels specialising in cuisine from their region.

Ross commented, "I can't quite believe that I now think of 100km ride as an easy day. It has been an amazing tour."

## Audit relief possible for community groups

WORD is spreading about changes approved by the state government in 2016 which removed the requirement for small incorporated associations to have an annual independent audit of their finances.

It's worth checking if any small organisations you are involved with are aware of recent changes to the Associations Incorporation Act.

Smaller, or Tier 2 associations (with gross receipts less than \$250,000 or current assets less than \$500,000) are required to submit a summary of their financial affairs to their Annual General

Meeting (AGM) but may NOT need to have an independent audit completed.

Associations must lodge their financial summaries in the approved form with Fair Trading within a month after the AGM.

While NSW Fair Trading may not require audited statements, it is worth checking if any funding bodies or any associations your group is affiliated with have specific requirements of your organisation.

There are also other rule changes that groups need to know about including changes to the model constitution.

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## Letters to the Editor

All correspondence received is printed at the discretion of the editor  
All correspondence must be signed & include an address & phone number

### More on Western Slopes Pipeline Community Consultative Committee

To the Editor,

On behalf of APA, I write in response to Don McKenzie's letter of September 20 regarding the initial Western Slopes Pipeline Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings held in Narrabri and Warren on September 13 & 14.

APA thanks all members of the CCC for their participation and constructive contribution to the process. A wide range of views regarding the Project were aired and APA appreciated the opportunity to share information and address a number of items of concern to committee members.

The Independent Chair of the CCC, Mr Michael Silver, is in the process of compiling the minutes from both meetings. These will be publicly available in coming weeks on the Project website.

Whilst Mr McKenzie reported his own recollection of the items discussed, APA recommends interested parties refer to the official, detailed minutes of both meetings - as confirmed by Mr Silver - for a complete and accurate record of discussions.

The Minutes will include copies of APA's presentation to members and responses to specific questions for review.

One area where we fully agree with Mr McKenzie is his repeated references to the importance of landowners discussing and negotiating specific items with APA. I'm happy to advise we have worked closely with a number of landowners along the length of the proposed alignment to make modifications to the route that have significantly reduced potential impacts on their landholdings.

This opportunity can only occur through open, two-way communication between landowners and APA as the proponent of the project.

With regard to advice by various Project opponents that refusing to engage with APA is the best way to respond to the Project, we respectfully suggest this is misinformed and runs counter to the best interests of individual landowners.

We again invite any landowner along the proposed pipeline alignment who is yet to discuss the Project with APA to contact our Project team.

As always, we look forward to continuing to work with landowners regarding their specific interests and concerns.

Jim Fjeldsoe  
Access & Approvals  
Manager  
APA Group

## BARADINE NEWS

## By THE YOWIE

IT CONTINUES to be very dry with hot temperatures and wind over the weekend making it even drier - many farmers are now feeding their stock. Crops are looking to be a complete failure but hopefully the promised October rain will come. School holidays have started and Daylight Saving commences on Saturday night when the clocks go forward one hour.

Birthday greetings this week to Maxine Finlay, Costa Rozco, Jackson Rutley, Jarrod Harvey, Jake Martin and Riley Stensen and a special greeting to Dorothy Keegan who has made it to the great age of 90 and will be celebrating this weekend with family & friends.

Sophie Brownhill and her partner Marcus will be married during the school holidays. Sophie teaches at St Johns School in Baradine and staff and students are very excited.

Sympathy and condolences are extended to Carmel Munne on the passing of her mother Mrs Sallie last week.

Cathy Purdy of Baradine once again took part in the 'Ride for the Chopper' fundraising bike ride for the Westpac helicopter. Participants over 850km in six days. Nea Worrell presented Cathy with a donation of \$200 from the Baradine Campdraft and overall Cathy raised over \$2,000 towards the ride.



Nea Worrell presents Cathy Purdy with a cheque from Baradine Campdraft Association.

Baradine Campdraft made a generous donation of \$800 to the Preschool Committee and representative Nea Worrell had the pleasure of handing over the cheque to committee members last week. The money will go toward the new building project they have planned.

Coonambilla arrived last Wednesday with some 350 students and musicians from all over Western NSW taking part. Two Baradine Central School students - Rachel and Paula Evans - participated this year. A large audience attended a free concert for residents on Friday afternoon at the Baradine Memorial Hall. Some of the

Sydney in November

On Tuesday 12 September Savannah Carey, Ashanti Pennell, Madison Naaman, Billy Carey, Nariah Cunningham and Marsh Pennell travelled with Mrs Melissa Wright to Mendocano to compete in a junior judging competition organised by the Mendocano P&H Association. Students judged grain, merino sheep, meat sheep, miniature horses and wool. All students did a fantastic job and were commended on how great they looked in their Agricultural uniforms.

If you are driving past the school yards opposite the Bowling Club take the time to stop and admire the top quality flat steers at the ag plot. Mrs Wright and her show team have been preparing the steers for the Soore Beef Bonanza scheduled for next month. The steers will all be judged on the hoof before being slaughtered and judged on the hook. The pastiock to plate lessons are always a bitter sweet exercise for the students as they become quite fond of the animals.

Great things happen when partnerships develop. The Baradine Central School Year 7 & 8 students produced some amazing art work under the guidance of professional artists and mentors. The students have created a large mural on the wall of the Baradine Local Aboriginal Lands Council (LALC) building. The joint

project between the school, LALC, Youth Express, Up and Up and Koori Outcomes focuses on developing connections to community.

Assisted by Coonambilla artist, Jason Russell and Up and Up youth mentor Lashie Myall the students took the mural from design on paper to wall art. The mural story is about the kangaroo, emu and goanna, which connect to the country of Baradine. The handprints of kids and elders represent communication and the gathering circles represent the men's place, the women's place and community place. The sculptures in the scrub is also represented in the painting at the end of the story circle.

Year 12 students Hsley Dawn, Eathan Andrews, Kane Olsen, Stephen King, Rachael

Sensen, Stephanie Bowling and Elizabeth King were farewell by the school at their final formal assembly on Friday. They also enjoyed a school formal. Now they will be gearing up for their HSC exams and looking toward their future.

These students have made an enormous contribution to the school and been exemplary role models.

Schools are now out for the next two weeks and reconvence on October 9. There are a number of activities planned for the holidays including science in the Enrory, Summer 8's Soccer commencement and team to draw wildlife diases at the Piliaga Forest Discovery Centre.

For the upcoming weekend there is a Piliaga Tag Along Tour

and during October there is a Discovery Programme at the Moquirie Marshes.

The Baradine Bowling Club had their AGM on Sunday with 24 members attending. Ray Duclos presented his Annual Report and mentioned that the Cool Room had been renovated and new lighting had been installed. The Club are waiting to hear if they have won a grant that will go toward more renovations. Results of the election of officers are: President - Ray Duclos; Vice Presidents - Adrian Worrell (Senior) and Alex Hewson (Junior); Treasurer - Paul Daniels; Committee - Cathy Duclos, Brett Madden, Lorraine Condon, Ron Dodd and Murray Munne.

Baradine Central School students proudly showing their new mural painted on the Lands Council Building in Wellington Street.

