

Primary entry #58: St Mary's Primary School Scone



ST MARY'S NEWS



James Sutcliffe ready to lead.
Picture: Katie Sutcliffe

Upper Hunter beef bonanza

By **HARRISON ATKINSON**
and **HARRISON TYE**

STUDENTS from St Mary's Primary School Scone are once again participating in the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza. This event began in 2007 and the school has been successfully involved every year since then.

As part of the program, the students were given a steer which was donated by Waverly Station which they need to care for. During the 100 days that they have the steer they must learn to lead it, wash and blow dry it, feed it and ensure it is cared for correctly. This year the steer is named Elvis and is being cared for by 13 students from years 3 to 5.

During the Beef Bonanza weekend each child leads the steer and also participates in Junior Judging of the cattle. Mrs Sheppard who co-ordinates the program at St Mary's school believes the program is a rewarding experience as the students gain so much knowledge learning about handling cattle and the beef industry.

Students who participate in the program enjoy the opportunity to learn new cattle skills. Thomas Cameron, who has been involved in the program for two years, said his favourite part of the program is leading the steer in the judging ring. Katie Sutcliffe said she really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about caring for animals while spending time with her friends. She hopes the skills she learns will help her to become an agricultural teacher.

By **AIDEN COOPER** and
JUSTIN BURT

THE small country town of Scone in the Upper Hunter is divided in half by a railway line.

Many times a day large coal trains go through the town and block both railway crossings at once. Trains of over 70 carriages can take a long time to pass through the crossings. This presents a problem when there is an emergency and vital services such as ambulance, police and fire brigades are unable to cross the line to attend to the emergency.

Scone residents are frustrated when a coal train divides the town in half. They have been asking for a solution to this problem for some time and finally have received some information that may help.

The local council is proposing a bypass of the town which will allow traffic to cross the rail line when a train is blocking the access. The bypass is scheduled to begin in 2017 with completion hopeful for 2019.

The federal and state governments have announced the preferred option for future upgrades. This project will cost \$45 million and will be funded jointly by both.

The bypass is a welcomed solution to the town as it would make it easier for the townsfolk to make it to the other side of town.



The train line divides the town of Scone in half.

Picture: Fergus Hartmann

This would allow them to get to sport, special activities, birthday parties or even school events without delay.

Many residents state that they have been in a rush to get to a sport and find a train blocking them from getting to the grounds.

Residents believe that coal trains are slowing the process of a

clean flow through the town. A bypass would allow people to cross town a lot quicker. It would also reduce the noise of traffic and make it easier for people travelling through the town. The bypass would also be welcomed by pedestrians who would find it much safer. This will allow them to cross the rail line without waiting.

Some people are currently being impatient and jumping over the fence which could seriously harm or kill them.

The bypass will be a great improvement to the town. It is a great step forward as hopefully residents can be traffic jam free and move through town swiftly and safely.



A dog trap used by Local Land Services.

Picture: Supplied by Local Land Services

Wild dog attacks anger farmers

By **WILL OLTEANU**, **FERGUS HARTMANN** and
ISABELLA WEBSTER

AN increase in the number of wild dog attacks on livestock has been occurring in the Scone area. This is not new to farmers as each year wild dogs and foxes cause lots of damage in deceased livestock, such as sheep and cattle. These attacks could be caused by any dog including a dingo, or a dog which

has become wild.

Craig Crooks from Local Land Services in Scone, advised that if anyone were to see a wild dog, they should stand their ground if they try to attack and tell an adult.

People should also call Local Land Services on 6545 1311 so they could help with trapping or baiting.

Farmers who wish to protect their livestock could use traps or baits such as Dogone and De-k9. Others may wish to use guard llamas, dogs, donkeys or mules.

Local Land Services helps farmers by working with them to set traps and bait. There are currently over 100 traps set up in the area. A common time to see wild dogs is before dusk and dawn when they are feeding.



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