

Merimbula NEWS WEEKLY

MERIMBULA PAMBULA TURA

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 2012

\$1.60 including GST

Serving the community since 1988

MIXED RESPONSE TO HOLIDAY SEASON
PAGE 4

Domain
Just what you're looking for
Broadwater lakefront

2012 SPORTING CALENDAR
INSIDE



FIRST BABY FOR 2012
PAGE 8

Eyes on prize for Pambula Power



• Pambula Power women's veteran team has had a stellar run in the gruelling 2012 Navy George Bass Surfboat Marathon as it makes it way down the coast - after leaving Batemans Bay on New Year's Day. It has snared first place on each of the three legs competed so far which makes it a clear winner and puts it in a good position to win the event when it concludes in Eden on Saturday. Be sure to give them a big welcome when they pull into their home beach, Pambula, at about 11am on Friday morning. It was all smiles from the women and their 72-year-old coach and sweep Bob McGeachie when they posed for this picture at Turass Heads on Monday afternoon. (The names may not match the order in which they are standing) Amanda Rafferty, Tania Dwyer, Kristy Papalia, Margie Briggs, Kym O'Halloran, coach Bob, Tara Stone, Rebekah McLeod, Kelly Reicke, Kirsty Byrne. MARATHON UPDATE and MORE PICS BACK PAGE.

2012 the year NYE lost some sparkle

STORY DENISE DION

There have been mixed reactions to Merimbula's New Year's Eve fireworks display with visitors complaining that fireworks were hard to see from some positions around the lake. Chantelle Smith who works at the Merimbula Visitor Information Centre said: "The following day we had many tourists complain that it was too far away and not long enough. Worst they have ever seen, especially in Merimbula." The fireworks, organised by the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce using \$10,000 donated by Bega Valley Shire Council, were set off from the end of the Merimbula Airport runway. In previous years there was a free concert at Ford Park but president of the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce, Nigel Ayling said that insufficient volunteers were available to help run the concert this year. Mr Ayling had said that the firework shows would be featured around the lake with "plenty of vantage points around the lake, including Spencer Park, the boardwalk, the bridge and the lake foreshore". As it drew close to 9.30pm from the first display of fireworks, Beach Street foreshore, Spencer Park and Fishpen foreshore became increasingly crowded as families waited expectantly. But there was disappointment, especially from those on Fishpen, who didn't have a good view. *The News Weekly's* editor, Liz McCormick was among those on Fishpen and said that she witnessed the disgruntlement of visitors, first hand.

Continued Page 2

2238141

A TOUCH OF *Denk*
Boutique & Accessories

Handbags, Jewellery, Home Giftware, Baby Boutique, Wedding Accessories

Chic, Sophistication and Glamour

5 Market St, Merimbula | P. 6495 2122

THE GREAT SILVER SALE

Get **20% OFF** silver jewellery* for the month of January. Stocks are limited, hurry!!

*excludes brands

10 Market St, Merimbula 6495 1820
sales@merimbulajewellers.com.au

MERIMBULA'S LEADING EDGE Jewellers

A COMPLETE AND CARING FUNERAL SERVICE

Mark Lawrence Brenda Simpson

24 HOURS A DAY SERVICE, EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR
PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLAN AVAILABLE

SAPPHIRE COAST FUNERALS PTY LTD (02) 6495 7077

Munje Street, Pambula, NSW, 2549 2194546

New Year's Eve a sparkler for some



• All set to see in the New Year at the Pambula Merimbula Golf Club were back: Georgie and Roger Stroud, left, Jenni and Pete Fisher, Jill Goodchild with front: Jill Hambling, left, Colin Dunn and Steve Goodchild.



• This group of girls had Ford Park almost to themselves, back: Jayde Hounsell, left, Sophie Turner, Theresa Lenahan, Georgia Young with front: Amber Webb, left, Laura Gooden, Casey Madigan and Eilysh Thompson.



• Michael and Louise Nadin, left, Kerrie O'Connell and Bob Caulson were in the party mood at the Merimbula RSL Club.

From Page 1

Ms Smith said: "I also know some restaurants like the Waterfront Cafe stayed open especially for them (the fireworks). I haven't spoken to them but I would say their patrons probably couldn't see the fireworks from there."

She added that it was fortunate that the pubs and clubs all had great entertainment going on.

Mr Ayling said: "Those who took advantage of the advised vantage points along the Boardwalk, bridge and Spencer Park would have been treated to a spectacular display of fireworks which lasted for nearly 10 minutes.

"Unfortunately there was some confusion about the best place to view them from, as rumours run rife about the exact location and some people were expecting to see the fireworks above the main lake, but this was not possible. Some people on the Fishpen had a restricted view and were disappointed that they could not get to see the full impact.

"It was a shame some

people did not get to see the full view of the fireworks because it was a fantastic display."

Mr Ayling said: "We were advised to keep the location a secret for security reasons as it was actually within the confines of the airport."

But Peter Eaton, of Merimbula said that people should have been told from where the fireworks were being launched as they could have made their own "educated, viewing decisions".

Kylie Watson, of Canberra called the event "laughable" and said her party of 15 people would not be returning to Merimbula again for New Year's Eve.

Asked whether he would use the same location again, Mr Ayling said: "I think the venue was fine, but perhaps we could have tried to be clearer about the best place to view them."

Some people chose to go to local clubs to see in the New Year. At the Pambula Merimbula Golf Club about 100 people dined and danced to roll and roll band, Shadoogie.

Manager at the club, Noel Robertson said that numbers were down on last year and he felt that the uncertainty about the fireworks in Merimbula had followed through to the tourists.

"I expected a better location for the fireworks. I also think it could have been promoted better to the visiting public. It needs a much more co-ordinated effort."

Mr Robertson said he knew of people who chose not to visit Merimbula for the New Year because there was no concert.

At the Merimbula RSL Club there was a good crowd in the lounge listening and dancing to the band, Gravity and at Club Sapphire Merimbula, the Best of Brothers New Year's Eve event was booked out.

By 10pm as the families started to disperse, the Lakeview Hotel was rocking and a long queue of young people waited outside to have their passes checked for entry.

Police were reported to be generally pleased with New Year's Eve activities

although police at Batemans Bay said that there had been a number of underage drinkers caught and people given infringement notices for urinating in public.

After much of the public was tucked up in bed, the council team led by Ned O'Donovan, assembled at 3.30am to start the clean up.

Mr Donovan said: "It was a fairly good mess and well spread compared to other years when it was mainly at Ford Park but overall we had a pretty good run."

He said that many of the young people had gravitated to the beaches where they had partied but they told him they missed the concert at Ford Park.

"The young ones must have really enjoyed that concert over the years. They seemed lost and kept asking what happened to the music."

But Mr Ayling was adamant that the night had turned out well.

"Taking everything into account I think the night was a great success," he said.



• This barbecue looks like fun for Mary Couper and Gabe Hutchinson.



• Gay and Terry Beschi were very happy to have a photo with their grandson, Caleb Beschi-Cunningham.



• This group from Wagga Wagga had their barbecue and tent set up along the foreshore on Fishpen Road, Nathan Willis, left, Kelly Grist, Jordan Willis, Wylie, Alana and Timothy Wilson.

WINNER
Outstanding
Business Awards
Health &
Fitness
2010



join today ~ enjoy the privileges

- enjoy exclusive offers
- enjoy free membership • enjoy valuable savings

- FREE Medication Reviews
- Private Consulting Room
- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Consumer Medicine Information
- Weekly Medication (Webster) Packs



Warren Seeto
B.Pharm, MPS



David Dodd
B.Pharm, MPS, MACPP, JP



Tania Dwyer
B.Pharm, MPS, MACPP



Jessica Seeto
BSc M.Pharm, MPS



Linda Badewitz-Dodd
B.Pharm, MPS, DHP, JP

Seeto & Dodd Merimbula Pharmacy

Your local  **Chemist**

FREE Prescription Delivery
Merimbula, Tura Beach & Pambula

Agent for **DIABETES AUSTRALIA**

Market St, Merimbula
6495 1244