

Community voices can influence this debate

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hears first hand from our community what the impacts of less water mean in terms of our towns, our jobs, our economic base and our future.

It is the voices of the community that can influence the decisions made by the authority and politicians to take into account socio economic impacts that arise from these harmful reductions.

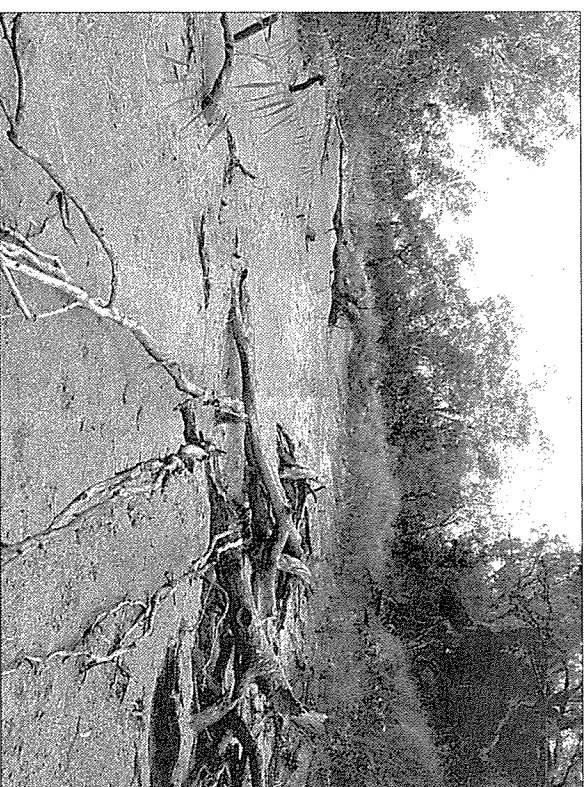
The northern review is coming to conclusion in June this year and despite the local irrigator group Namoi Water working for the past three years to engage on the science projects and technical detail there is little evidence the MDBA has changed its approach to rationalise the amount of environmental water required. There is a perception the NSW portion of the northern downstream reduction is all but met, however irrigators see no

evidence to support this, currently the Commonwealth government holds 13,000 megalitres of Namoi entitlement, this meets our instream water requirements.

The downstream targets within the Barwon Darling require an additional 23,000 megalitres of water from the Namoi at the default volumes however this is subject to change both up or down as part of the northern review. If implemented with no change the Lower Namoi would be a priority target for recovery volumes, over two-thirds of the water licences are located from Mollee Weir west to Walgett, concentrated west of Wee Waa.

The impact on this section of the river could result in a 20 per cent reduction in production, filtering through businesses, jobs, schools and other essential community services

in the surrounding towns. This reduction needn't happen, if the communities within the Narrabri Shire stand up and make both state and federal Water Ministers understand the impacts will be felt by real people, real businesses and long established rural communities. No one disputes we want a healthy river - it just doesn't need more water to achieve this goal. Namoi Water encourages all residents to write to NSW Minister Niall Blair and Federal Minister Barnaby Joyce to ensure they understand that harmful impacts must be avoided. A delegation is set to meet with Mr Blair in Sydney to discuss our concerns in the coming month and information will be provided through local media to update the community on what's at stake and how they can be part of the solution to avoid water reductions affecting our towns.



The Namoi River near Wee Waa on Friday.

Relay raises more than \$20,000

Wee Waa's Relay for Life has been hailed a spectacular success.

The fundraising event for the Cancer Council NSW held at Cook Oval on April 8 and 9 raised more than \$20,000.

There were 45 teams and 246 participants all up at the event. Despite a late change of venue, the event didn't miss a beat.

Cancer Council spokeswoman Amy Walker said it was a "phenomenal effort from the whole community".

"Cook Oval provided a great venue for the event and the weather was mostly kind, with a downpour early Saturday morning 'refreshing' the walkers," she said.

"The feedback we have had from the community has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive, and full credit should be given to the amazing organising committee who spent many hours putting the event together."

Mrs Walker thanked the team captains for their leadership and commitment and said the committee wanted to thank the major sponsor and supporters for their contribution to making the event a success.

The committee would also hold a post-event 'Thank You Function' for all participants at Wee Waa Bowling Club from 6pm on May 12 "to celebrate the success of the Relay and give out awards and pendants."

Anyone who wants to attend should RSVP to Mrs Walker at amyw@nswcc.org.au or phone 6763 0900.

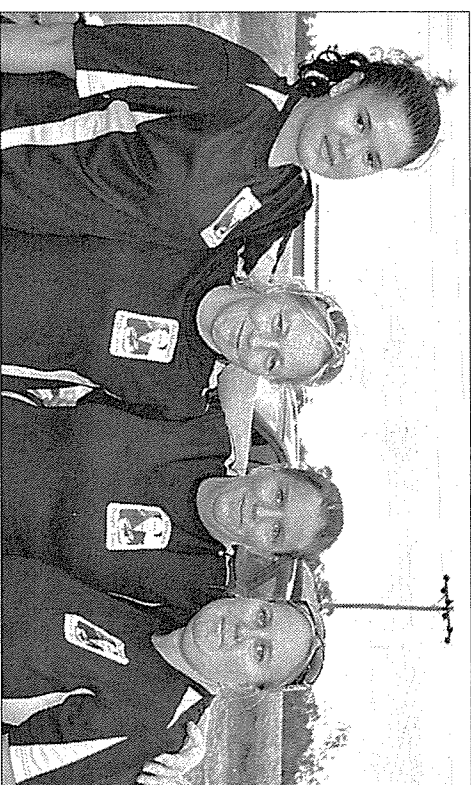
Money raised from the Wee Waa event would be used to support local families affected by cancer, she said. More than 1500 people in the region called the Cancer Council Helpline (13 11 20) in 2013-14 for information, referrals and support.

"We know that number would be even higher if more people were aware of the services we have to offer," Mrs Walker said.

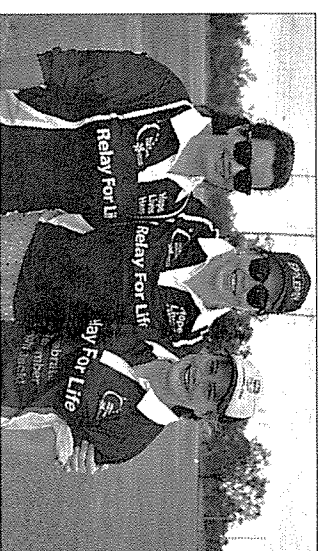
"This year Cancer Council NSW is spending more than \$17 million on cancer research.

"We are unique in that we are the only cancer charity that supports people with all cancers, and research into all cancers with a particular focus on the lesser known, high mortality cancers such as pancreatic, brain and liver."

For more information on Cancer Council NSW and its work visit www.cancercouncil.com.au.



LEFT: Tichkaee Booby, Carlie Symington, Robyn Booby and Michelle Bellamy.



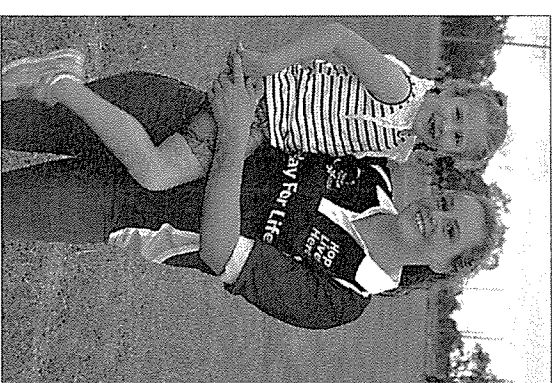
Amber Conomos, Maddison Gallagher and Tarisha Scaysbrook.



Mary Avery, Sara Phillips and Daniel Cameron.



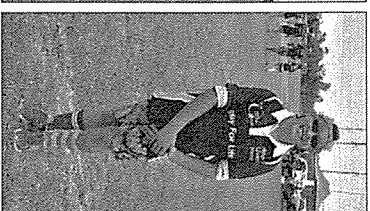
Alice Haire and Sarah Hamilton.



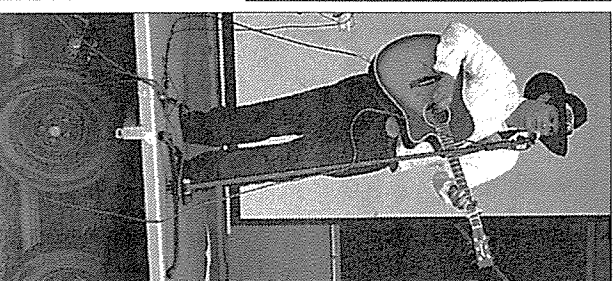
Heldi Morrison and Amba Ross.



Marree Trow and Therese Hamilton.

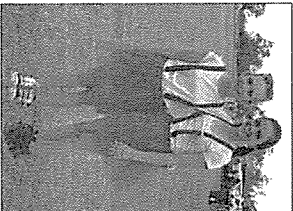


Hayden Shearlin.



Entertainer Aaron Walton.

RIGHT: Tamiela Stewart and Bella Cruckshank.



WHERE THE FUN BEGINS

MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS 11.30AM

BOING

COURTESY BUS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Call the club to make a booking - Picking up and dropping off within a 5km radius of the club

WEDNESDAYS

Starts at \$10,000

Jackpots by \$1,000 each week

Between 6pm and 8pm

Members must be present at the club to claim jackpot

RAFFLES

Wednesday Friday and Saturday

Directors meet raffles from 6pm

End of month

Bonus members' rewards

Earn points & WIN PRIZES!

WEE WAA BOWLING CLUB

69 Rime St, Wee Waa | Phone 6795 4401 | www.weewaaclub.com