

Redhead Village Newsletter

No 20, September 2017

Andrew Walker and Glenn Keys: Update on Redhead Heroes

In our November 2016 newsletter, we reported on the National Entrepreneur of the Year award won by Redhead natives and friends, Andrew Walker and Glenn Keys, who run a company called Aspen Medical. Representing Australia, the pair has since come a close second out of 49 country finalists at the International Entrepreneur of the Year awards in Monaco, so our congratulations are in order.

Not to rest on their laurels, this year their company has taken on the management of field hospitals in Mosul for the World Health Organisation (WHO), providing some 80 medical and hospital administration staff to manage four field hospitals. After his time in one of the hospitals there a few months ago, Andrew said "The WHO have done an incredible job putting a field hospital in a defunct cement factory. The facility is safe and secure and fully functional albeit minimalist. But what it lacks in the latest state-of-the-art technology is made up for by the superb skills of the entire team – both Aspen Medical health professionals and hospital management and the Iraqi clinical staff. I was bowled over by the amazing work these brave and committed professionals are doing day-in day-out under very difficult conditions for the people of Mosul. The bulk of the work in the trauma hospitals is the result of bullet wounds and explosions from IEDs and it is really heartbreaking that so many children are coming in with bullet wounds." Hopefully the worst of the conflict is now over in Mosul and we wish Andrew and Glenn all the best in helping the people of Mosul to recover.

NBN in Redhead

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is now available in Redhead.

Before connecting, check your prospective service provider's average download speeds at both peak and off-peak times

and get one that suits you. If you are already connected to the NBN, you can check your on- and off-peak download speeds. If your speeds are unsatisfactory, contact the service provider to check options for increasing the speed. Fibre to The Premises (FTTP) can be provided at extra cost, either through a "Premises Switch" for an individual house, or through an "Area Switch" for a community or group of houses. Each type of system requires a fee, individual design and installation to suit the site etc. and cost may be substantial so there is probably some benefit in groups of houses with similar speed requirements, getting together.

With 31 service providers offering connections to the NBN in Redhead there are plenty of choices and should be a plan that suits your needs.

Join the War on Waste

Woolworths and Coles recently announced they would be phasing out single use plastic bags over the next 12 months. Since then, I've read and heard people complaining that they can't live without plastic bags. It's funny, isn't it? I remember when we went to the shops with home-made bags, or came home with the groceries in paper bags, because that's all the supermarkets had. We didn't line our garbage bins with plastic bags – we washed them out regularly instead. We lived without plastic bags then, so I'm sure we can do it again now.

NSW is one of the few Australian states and territories that haven't banned single use plastic bags and many overseas countries made the move to ban the bags years ago, so I welcome the announcement by the supermarkets. Plastic is clogging up our waterways and killing animals and it's getting into the food chain, which ends up on our dinner plates. Our family has been taking their own bags shopping for years now and my mother has the most beautiful set of hand-made shopping bags, based on the grey, single-use plastic bags as a template. She holds

up the line at the checkout as people exclaim over her shopping bags. Who says you can't accessorise your grocery shopping? She has also made a whole lot of mesh fruit and veg bags. The produce goes in the bags at the store and it stays in the bags in the fridge.

I know it's hard to remember to keep the bags in your car and to get them out of the car when you go shopping, but give it a go. When you have to pay for the bags, you'll soon learn, so ditch the plastic and help save our environment.

Alison Cleary

**Keep an eye out for free re-usable
canvas bags available now in
Redhead shops!**

Webb Park Upgrade

You've probably noticed that work has begun on the long-anticipated upgrade to Webb Park. The new facilities will include a wave-shaped climbing frame, flying fox, covered picnic area and a new amenities block. Wheelchair access will also be available with disabled parking spaces and ramp access to the park and amenities being added as part of the upgrade. Work is expected to be done by Christmas.

Stewart McLachlan Defends World Title

Redhead paddleboarder Stewart McLachlan has taken out the top spot for the second year in a row at the Molokai 2 Oahu world title in the 12-foot stock category.

McLachlan posted a record-breaking time of 5 hours, 2 minutes and 43 seconds in the gruelling 51.1-kilometre paddle between the Hawaiian Islands, beating his winning time from last year by almost 3 minutes.

His goal for next year is to crack the 5-hour mark before he turns his sights on the unlimited category. Congratulations Stewart!

Redhead Railway (Fernleigh Track)

Work started on the railway from Adamstown to haul coal from mines in the Dudley/Redhead area early in 1889 and by the end of 1891, the main line had been completed as far as Burwood Colliery. Extensions to the Redhead Company's Ocean Colliery and to the South Burwood (Dudley) Colliery were both briefly open to traffic in late 1892, but these mines were closed a short time later and coal haulage on the Redhead part of the line was temporarily stopped.

The First Passenger Service

On the Newcastle to Dudley link, however, a twice daily passenger train service went into operation in January 1897. The trains usually comprised an engine hauling either six or eight 4-wheel and 6-wheel old time carriages with a brake-van and the journey between Newcastle and Dudley took about 40 minutes.

The Redhead and Belmont Line

In January 1900, the new Lambton B Colliery was opened at Redhead and shortly afterwards coal was transported over the line from Redhead to Dudley Junction.

For the convenience of employees at Lambton B Colliery the Scottish Mining Company decided to operate a passenger service on the line between Lambton B and Dudley Junction. This service started with the opening of the mine and was worked by the engine "Newcastle" hauling a tram-car. This car was a 70-passenger steam-trailer.



3079 stands at Belmont station with a passenger train on 4 August 1954

In 1905 the railway and all property owned by the Redhead Coal Mining Company was sold to the New Redhead Estate and Coal Mining Company and alterations were made to the service to provide Dudley residents with a three-time-a-day service with connections to Redhead.

After 10 years of operation, and starting with the summer timetable of 1910, a through service of passenger trains was introduced between Newcastle and Redhead, and the two tram-cars belonging to the Scottish Australian Company were

sold, having carried some 1.6 million passengers during the period 1900-1910. In 1915, work was started on the extension of the line from Redhead to Belmont. Small platforms were erected at Whitebridge, Redhead, Jewells Swamp, and Belmont and the extension was opened in December 1916.

A six times daily train service was run on weekdays, with an extra train on Saturdays and four trains on Sundays.

The passenger service utilised steam engines and carriages until the last few years of the service when with declining patronage, a diesel rail motor was used.

Redhead Station

Redhead Station was opened as a station in February 1925. During the 50's and early 60's, the station boasted beautiful flowers and blooms, and won the state-wide railway garden competition three years in a row. The station site can be seen along the Fernleigh Track a few hundred metres north of Collier Street.

Long-term Redhead residents, Lorna Maybury (Ramplin) and Vivian Walker have fond memories of the train service. "The train left Redhead at 7:20 am and often I would have to run from home in Burns Street near the creek, up to the station to catch the train on time, so I could get to work in Newcastle." Lorna said. "Then it left Newcastle at 5:20 pm to come home. People always had a seat for the 40-minute journey and the passengers all knew each other. It was a chance to knit and do craft work, but you needed to be careful of the soot from the steam engine."

94-year-old Vivian Walker is the daughter of Ernie Evans, the station master for 30 years until he retired in 1962. She said, "From the station, my dad could see the pathway through the mine site to Collier Street, and would hold the train until Lorna was safely aboard." "For some time, we lived in Bullsgarden Road, and Dad cut a track through the bush so that he could ride his bike to work each day"

Last Trains

Following the suspension of passenger services in April 1971, the station staff still worked at Redhead because the signal box needed to be manned to control coal train traffic. The last coal trains passed through from John Darling Colliery in March 1988 and the last shift worked at the signal box was in mid May 1988. The end came for the Redhead Station building later in May 1988 when it was engulfed by flames and

burnt to the platform level.

The last train left Lambton Colliery on 19 December 1991 thus bringing to an end a railway operation spanning over 100 years.



Redhead boys on the last train to leave Redhead in 1991

Eastlakes University of the Third Age

Membership of Eastlakes U3A continues to surge with word of mouth from existing members apparently the main driver. As of early July, membership numbers stood at 812.

That marks a steep rise from the end of 2012 when membership totaled 551, and 772 at the end of last year.

Eastlakes U3A (University of the Third Age) now provides more than 100 courses aimed at keeping retirees active in mind and body.

They include physical activities such as tai-chi, aquarobics, Pilates, various forms of dance, as well as languages, computer skills, music (including ukulele and guitar lessons), history, philosophy, creative writing and many more.

Courses are all run by volunteers and for a modest annual membership fee (this year \$45) you can enroll in as many courses as you can comfortably fit in.

To check our course program, go to eastlakes.u3anet.org.au and for more information phone 0490 515 187.

U3A is a movement that started in France in 1968 and has spread worldwide. The third age refers to retirement years, the first age being childhood and schooling and the second age work and parenthood. We are also keen to hear from anyone with some knowledge or skill they wish to impart by running a course with us.

Community Noticeboard

A free community noticeboard has been placed outside the Op Shop on Cowlshaw Street. All residents are welcome to post notices and are asked to be respectful of others and to remove notices once they are out-of-date.

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Healthy takeaway home-cooked meals are now available at Café on Cowlshaw. All come with mashed potato and 3 seasonal veggies. Options include:

- Homemade rissoles and gravy
- Shepherd's Pie
- Braised Lamb in onion gravy
- Beef or Chicken Lasagne
- Quiches
- And lots more!

Pop in and see us for our full takeaway meal menu. Meals are served cold to be reheated at home. Order over the phone in the morning and collect your meal by 2:30pm.

Free home delivery available after 3pm

4944 8896

New Lookout for Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway



Redhead residents Sam Rees, Annabel Rees, Paul Hubbard, Beth Nelson and Jester the dog enjoying the view from the new lookout

A new lookout has been built on the Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway replacing the badly weather-beaten one that stood in its place. Accessed via the Cain Street car park, or from any entrance to the walkway, the lookout is excellently located for spotting swans and other native wildlife. Its bench seating also makes it a welcome stopping point for walkers.

Marching for Honour, Recognition and Adventure

Following the launch of Neil Bowd's book on Redhead residents' involvement in the First World War *Marching for Honour, Recognition and Adventure* in May this year, and its presentation to local schools and libraries, there are still 4 copies available for purchase at \$20 each. This collection of local stories is a treasure that should adorn every Redhead bookshelf. If you are interested in purchasing one please contact the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group (see the 'Contact Us' section below). Note: if there is great enough demand a 2nd printing run will take place.

Calling All Bookworms! Your Library Needs YOU!

Redhead Community Library is calling for new volunteers.

Opening Hours are
Thursday & Friday 3pm-5pm
Saturday 10am-12pm

If you would like to volunteer your time pop in and see us during opening hours at 16 Hutchison Street.

Come support your local library and check out our great selection of books!

Dog Area Signs

Signs have been put up around Redhead denoting on-leash and off-leash dog exercise areas to help educate dog owners and drive down dog attacks.



Signs like this are now located around Redhead

According to Lake Macquarie City Council, 490 dog attacks occurred in the city in 2015/16, up from just 83 in 2011/12. In Redhead alone in 2016/2017 there were 8 major dog attacks, 5 infringement fines issued and 3 people who decided not to pursue the infringement process. Assuming similar statistics to 2015/16 Redhead accounts for more than 10 percent of reported dog attacks. Take the time to check out the new signs next time you take your best friend for a walk.

For more information see the brochure provided with this newsletter.

Historic Discovery at Redhead Primary

A 93-year-old poster advertising the sale of new blocks of land in Redhead was recently discovered in a storeroom at Redhead Primary School. The full-colour 760mm by 1010mm poster, dating from 1924, is one of only two in existence. Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group is professionally preserving and framing the poster for permanent display at the school.

To fund the project a limited number of copies will be made from a good-quality archived copy of the poster which will be available for purchase.

The prints will be available in original size or a slightly smaller A1 size and printed on either poster grade paper or frame-mounted canvas.

A1 Paper quality semi gloss	594 mm x 790 mm	\$45.00
A1 Canvas on timber frame	594 mm x 790 mm	\$155.00
Full size Paper quality semi gloss	760 mm x 1010 mm	\$55.00
Full size Canvas on timber frame 7	60 mm x 1010 mm	\$170.00

For more information and to order your piece of Redhead history email us with your name, address and phone number (see Contact Us section below) with '1924 Redhead Poster Order' as the email subject.



The poster depicting lots for sale on the Bluff

Electronic Copies

If you prefer to receive environmentally friendly full-colour copies of future newsletters please shoot us an email (see below), including your home address, or call our secretary on 4944 8110.

Newsletter Contributions

All contributions and comments are welcome from anyone receiving our Newsletter. If you have an article you'd like the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group to include in our next edition, or would like to learn more about us, please see our 'Contact Us' section.

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors Redhead Family Dental, Jenni Clipperton, Philip Rankin and Café on Cowlshaw.

Contact Us

sustainableredhead.wordpress.com
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www.facebook.com/RedheadSustainableNeighbourhood