

VOICE, INTERESTS AND EDUCATION OF WOMEN

Lennox Head Evening VIEW Club

The October Newsletter — Spring Edition 🌸

Hello, lovely ladies (and curious newcomers)!

Spring is in full swing, the clocks spring forward this Sunday (4 October) and the jacarandas are getting ready to show off. It's the perfect month to get out, catch up with friends and do some good along the way. Read on for the highlights from our last meeting, what's on around the Northern Rivers, and how to join us for dinner.

In this issue: Meeting highlights • Birthdays • October in Australia • Fun trivia • This month in history • Northern Rivers what's on • VIEW & The Smith Family • Zone news • Anniversary Dinner meeting notice • Looking ahead

When Every Second Counts

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Some emergencies leave no room for delay. At our recent dinner meeting, **John Bancroft** from the **Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service** reminded us just how true that is — and how much stands behind every rescue. He gave us a fascinating insight into a service that can quite literally mean the difference between life and death.

John described the helicopter as a **flying intensive care unit**: a highly skilled medical team delivered straight to the scene when minutes decide outcomes. Behind that aircraft sits an enormous operation.

5 AW139 helicopters	1.5M people covered in Northern NSW	10 emergency missions a week (average)	\$600 per hour in fuel alone
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Government funding and corporate partners cover much of it, but **community support fills the gap** that keeps a helicopter fuelled, staffed and ready at a moment's notice. Thank you, John, for a talk that gave us plenty to think about (and a few goosebumps).

October in Australia

October is Australia's "things are looking up" month. Here's what it's best known for:

- **Spring in full bloom** — wildflowers, wattle-free sneezes (almost!) and the purple haze of jacarandas arriving.
- **Daylight saving begins** in NSW on Sunday 4 October — longer evenings, but one hour less sleep.
- **Labour Day long weekend** in NSW on Monday 5 October.
- **Term 4 starts** — the school year's final stretch, and the countdown to Christmas begins.
- **Spring racing carnival** — hats, fascinators and a lot of optimism as we head toward Melbourne Cup in early November.
- **Awareness month** — October is Mental Health Month and the month for pink ribbons supporting breast cancer research.

Fun Trivia Corner

Why "October"? It comes from the Latin *octo*, meaning eight — it was the eighth month on the old Roman calendar, even though it's now our tenth.

Birth flower: the marigold (or cosmos). **Birthstones:** opal and tourmaline.

Star signs: Libra (to 22 October), then Scorpio.

Calendar quirk: October 2026 has five Thursdays, five Fridays and five Saturdays. That's plenty of excuses for a catch-up!

This Month in History

- 31 Oct 1917** The Australian Light Horse charge at Beersheba — one of the last great cavalry charges in history.
 - 20 Oct 1973** Queen Elizabeth II officially opens the Sydney Opera House.
 - 26 Oct 1985** Uluru is handed back to its traditional owners, the Anangu people.
 - 1 Oct 2000** The Sydney Olympics close, with Sydney widely hailed as having hosted "the best Games ever".
 - 14 Oct 2023** Australians vote in the Voice referendum.
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What's On in the Northern Rivers

Ballina, Byron and surrounds — grab a friend and go exploring.

- **Richmond RiverFest** (to 24 October) — a month-long celebration of our river, with tree plantings, art workshops and paddling. Highlights: Wardell River Festival on Saturday 17 October and the Picnic by the River finale in Lismore on Saturday 24 October. - <https://richmondriverfest.com/>
- **Ballina Farmers & Producers Market** — every Sunday morning. Fresh produce and a good coffee. Say no more.
- **DINGO Music & Arts Festival**, Bangalow (around 8–11 October) — a brand-new jazz-led festival with music, chefs and thinkers. - <https://www.dingofestival.com/>
- **Casino Show** (9–10 October) and the **North Coast National Show**, Lismore (mid-October) — showgirls, sideshow alley and the all-important fairy floss. - <https://casinoshowsociety.com.au/>
- **Byron Bay International Film Festival** (16–25 October) — its 20th edition, with screenings around Byron and the Northern Rivers. - <https://www.bbff.com.au/>
- **Savour the Tweed** (21–25 October) — food and wine for those who like to travel for lunch. - <https://www.savourthetweed.com.au/>
- **Byron Latin Fiesta** (29 October – 1 November) — Australia's longest-running Latin dance festival. Dancing shoes optional but encouraged. - <https://byronlatinfiesta.com.au/>
- **Ballina Shire Concert Band - Around the World in 80 Minutes** - Free community concert - <https://www.facebook.com/events/4621066261509794/#>

Dates are correct to the best of our knowledge — please check organisers' websites before heading out.

VIEW & The Smith Family

Every dinner and raffle ticket we share supports **The Smith Family's Learning for Life program**, helping young Australians experiencing disadvantage stay engaged with their education. That's what VIEW is all about.

National events this month:

VIEW Treasurer Audit Training 2026

Throughout October and November 2026, VIEW National Office will be hosting a series of webinars to support VIEW Club treasurers preparing their financial records for the 2026 audit. The training sessions are open to all interested VIEW members but will be most relevant to current or future treasurers.

Each session will cover the same content:

1. The Audit Checklist
2. Balancing your cashbook
3. Documents for Audit
4. Resources and Support

Zone VIEW Club Updates

- Brunswick Valley VIEW Club - We send our condolences to the family and loved ones of Vale Rita Strong, President of Brunswick Valley VIEW, who passed away on Sunday, after a long and painful battle.
- Ballina VIEW Club - Meeting Date: Wed, 14th October, 7 PM Start, Ballina RSL Club
- Zone Councillor Message

"I have sad news to share with you. National President, Lorraine Thomson's husband, Bruce, passed away early this morning, 20 September, after a long battle with cancer. They live at Robina so I have had a long VIEW association with Lorraine. Please keep Lorraine and her family in your thoughts and prayers as they work through the coming days & weeks.

*Regards,
Your friend in VIEW.
Di Lutze*

14th Anniversary Dinner Meeting Notice

When: Tuesday, 13th October 2026, 6 PM for 6:45 PM Start

Where: Seven Mile Meeting Room, Lennox Hotel

Guest speaker: VIEW Members

Cost: \$35 for dinner, \$5 for raffle tickets

RSVP to: Sue - 0409 728 814 by Friday, 9th October

Thinking of joining? Come along as our guest! You'll meet a warm bunch of women, enjoy a good meal and hear from a great speaker — no pressure, just good company.

Looking Ahead

- **November meeting:** Tuesday, 10th November 2026, Speaker: Pip Carter - Advanced Aged Care Solutions
- **Ballina Players Charity Musical Night:**  Thursday, 19th November — *The Rocky Horror Show*
- **Christmas Luncheon & End-of-Year Party:**    Tuesday, 12th December 12NN, Lennox Hotel
- **Helping the helicopter:**  Inspired by John's talk? [Optional: club donation, raffle or fundraising idea.]

Until we meet again, stay curious, stay kind and keep an eye out for jacarandas!

Keep smiling!

Lianne Brennan

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www.thesmithfamily.com.au/view-clubs

VIEW Clubs of Australia — making connections, making a difference.

Proudly supporting The Smith Family's Learning for Life program.

Know someone who'd love VIEW? Forward this newsletter and invite her along!