

Bega District News

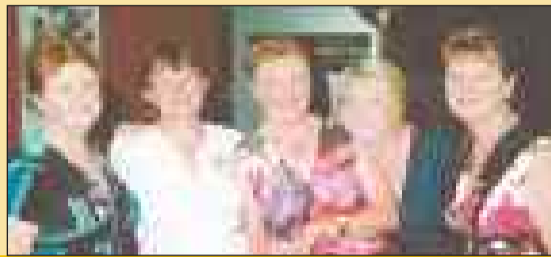
Proudly part of the community since 1864

Bega Bemboka Bermagui Candelo Cobargo Quaama Tathra Wolumla

\$1.50 including GST



Bonza Bemboka Banquet
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Bega District Diary
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Marathon Challenge at Tathra
Sport

Xmas trade booming for some

ROBERT Hayson, president of the Bega Chamber of Commerce, was very upbeat about Christmas business in Bega.

"Ninety per cent of businesses did really well and it was particularly busy on the last two days," he said.

Mr Hayson's business, Fletcher's Photographics, did particularly well with canvas prints, digital cameras and enlargement of wedding and family photos for presents.

Across the road Magpie Music's proprietor, Liz Broomfield, said Christmas spending was slow to get going and kicked in later than last year, but once it started it was good.

"Susan Boyle's CD was our hot item," she said.

Ron Wall from Mitre 10 said trade had been good and on a par with last year with people buying goods "right across the board".

A member of his staff said that the Saturday and Monday before Christmas had been the busiest days.

Both supermarkets, Woolworths and Coles, said they had had bumper sales over the Christmas period and both butchers, Kydd's and Wilson's were also satisfied with their trading, with ducks the big item at Kydd's and fresh turkeys, fresh pork and ham appealing to Wilson's customers.

At Candelo Books, Barbara Helland said business started surprisingly early in December, so there wasn't the same very busy build-up as last year, but trade had been good.

Sue Baskey said Stephanie Alexander's Kitchen Garden Companion, Bart Cummings' My Life, Larsson's The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest and Hilary Mantel's Wolf

Hall were "walking off the shelves".

Other businesses who were happy with their Christmas business were Plevy's where wrought iron items, umbrella stands etc were popular, Priceline where the customers chose men's packs and luxury bath items, Georgia's Fine Jewellery where Pandora charm bracelets were all the go and Lifestyle Boutique who did big business in handbags and gift lines.

Bega Business Systems also did well with diaries, organisers and art materials and Target with Ipods, Wii and DSi and tins of confectionary and chocolates.

Go-Low was on a par with its 2008 Christmas trading period.

There were also a number of businesses whose trade was below that of last Christmas.

These included the Bega Newsagency, Phases and Fads, Rockmans, Bakers Delight, Get Dressed at Kims, Look 'N Good and the Gift Box.

Proprietors gave two reasons for this.

The first was that last year's trading figures came in after the Federal Government's stimulus package had encouraged spending over the Christmas period.

Most said there just wasn't the money around this year for record spending.

Some said that there were only too aware of how the drought was affecting the district and you couldn't expect people to buy too much for Christmas when they were buying in water and stock-feed.

The general opinion of these business people was that the drought was hurting everybody and even if they didn't do as well as last year it could be blamed on the weather.

Happy New Year

• Samara George leaps into the new year on Windra Classic as she competes in the Caltex Bega Showjumping Cup on New Year's Eve.



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