

DID YOU KNOW ...
The HNTB business survey reflected that in the three months to March 2014, Hunter businesses outperformed the nationally reported improvement in leading performance indicators across the probably reinforced sector.

Solar bowls big power bill

WITH the state government's push to partly privatise the poles and wires of the power grid, community concerns about power prices are again a hot topic of discussion.

All Charlestown Bowling Club, ice-creamy mania local Hackett and his board have had enough of rising electricity costs and have spent \$180,000 on a 304-panel system they believe will provide about half of their electricity needs.

Supplied and installed by Hunter company Solar Australia, the 100 kilowatt system comes with a 25-year guarantee on the panels and a 10-year warranty on installation.

"Our power bills had doubled in the past year even after looking at other suppliers and doing all we could to minimise electricity consumption, so we decided to look at solar and went with Solar Australia after looking at various firms and doing our homework," Mr Hackett says.

Solar Australia energy services consultant Todd Watson said the club should have received an investment of less than \$100,000, saving \$30,000 a year on power bills.

"Primarily it makes no sense to be paying ongoing electricity costs," Mr Watson says.



SAVED: Charlestown Bowling Club's Brett Myers, left, with Solar Australia's Todd Watson. Picture: Dean Osland

THEORY OF CO-OPERATION

"Is the Hunter important? A new perspective from Sydney?"

That's the very catchy headline regional Development Australia Hunter is using to promote an April 14 visit from Lucy Turnbull.

Ms Turnbull is speaking at a Newcastle Northern Region, and is chair of the Committee for Sydney.

"We have the skill, talent and the imperative for Sydney and the Hunter to work together."

Hunter Business has heard such things are theoretically possible...

CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUTUAL

MATTLAND Mutual Building Society chairman John Lane has retired from the board, to be replaced by

THEBIZ

"Voluntarily suspending clearance activity two weeks earlier than planned... will not impact our progress overall and the project remains on track for first coal in March 2015."

Whitehaven Coal chief executive Paul Flynn on Thursday's decision to temporarily stop clearing Leard State Forest for its Maules Creek mine

DINNER SUPPORTS CHOPPER

THE Wyalapa Rescue Helicopter Service raised about \$1000 at a helicopter launch high tea

DIARY DATES

- Today: Alpha Toastmasters Club, 6.30pm, Newcastle Parkview.
- Tomorrow: NFP Concoro Hunter, June Road, 8.30am, Newcastle.
- 7.30am: Hunterford general members' meeting, 4.45pm, 7.30am, Hunterford Hotel, 1000 Main Street, Newcastle.
- Hunter Business Centre My Business is Your Business, Experience Office Furniture, 13 Eastern Point, Lighthouse, 5.30pm.
- Demography Meeting: The Business Centre, King Street, Newcastle, 5.30pm.
- Wednesday: Hunter Networking Forum, Lighthouse, 7.30pm.
- Thursday: Hunter Networking Forum, Lighthouse, 7.30pm.
- Friday: Hunter Networking Forum, Lighthouse, 7.30pm.
- Saturday: Hunter Networking Forum, Lighthouse, 7.30pm.
- Sunday: Hunter Networking Forum, Lighthouse, 7.30pm.

NEW COUNSEL APPOINTED

MULLANE & LINDSAY have appointed Phillip Wainwright as a special counsel to its dispute resolution and litigation group.

Mr Wainwright previously worked at Hunt & Hunt, Moray & Agnew, Speers, Hothers and the Law of Newcastle, where she lectured law.

She said she was delighted to return to the Hunter region and to have the opportunity to give back to the local community and to make a contribution to the practical training which is a key feature of law school at Newcastle. "Ms Wainwright said.

HUNTERNET IN CHINA SHOW

FOLLOWING HunterNet's signing of a memorandum of understanding with the China National Coal Association, HunterNet has been offered an exhibition space at the 2014 China International Mining Equipment and Technology Exhibition in Tianjin City, Shandong Province, at the end of August.

HunterNet chief executive, Greg Cade says the organisation's Asian Business Engagement Project aimed to help identify and create business opportunities for its members, with special focus on China and Indonesia.

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