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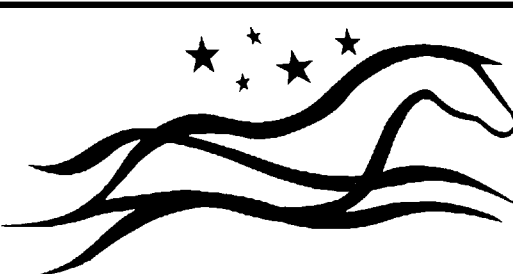
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North West Equestrian Expo

Further coverage of the North West Equestrian Expo, including photos and results, will appear in next week's Coonabarabran Times.



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Region struck by earthquake

On Friday, 8 June, an earthquake registering 4.8 on the Richter scale hit approximately 16 kilometres north-north-west of Lake Keepit, with the force felt as far away as Coonabarabran.

According to local physicist and hobby seismologist, Dr Andre Phillips, the first event occurred at 9.31.05pm, quickly followed by a second 4.6 aftershock at 9.32.43pm. "The ground in Coonabarabran moved backward and forward about 0.1 millimetres with a top speed of about 0.25mm per second, moving backward and forward two to three times per second," Dr Phillips explained.

"It was more of a small brief rattling effect, like a truck driving past one's house....just enough to get a China cabinet tinkling, but not much else.

"The earthquake hardly had any effect in town,

unless it was in something that already has natural motion or rattle, much like my son's bunk bed which alerted him."

Dr Phillips said Friday evening's event was the biggest quake located within 150 kilometres of Coonabarabran since the historic earthquake on 1 January, 1969.

Keen New Year's revelers from Coonamble to Dubbo felt the earth move more than 43 years ago at 2.10am, and while there have been a number of local quakes since, none have occurred at this size.

"There is a limited history of earthquakes anywhere near Lake Keepit, but that's not to say there

haven't been very small tremors," Dr Phillips said.

"Small local quakes occur frequently, but are too weak to be detected by Geoscience Australia seismic recording stations, which are located at distances greater than 250km from Coonabarabran - the nearest one at Armidale, 250km away.

"Small local quakes are logged by me from seismic station EPSO, five kilometres west of Coonabarabran."

For more information on Dr Phillip's measurements visit www.map.id.au/seismic.

Locals close to the action at Lake Keepit

A handful of Coonabarabran people who spent the long weekend at the Manilla Ski Gardens, near the epicentre of the earthquake, were in for a shock last Friday evening.

Korff and Co real estate agent, Tamara-Lee Slade, said she was outside of her van at Lake Keepit when the first earthquake struck.

"It was the strangest thing, as if something

had exploded right underneath us," Ms Slade explained.

"It wasn't huge, but it made everything shake on the walls and there was this loud rumbling sound.

"Everyone came outside to find out what was going on.

"We thought it might have been an explosion from one of the mines.

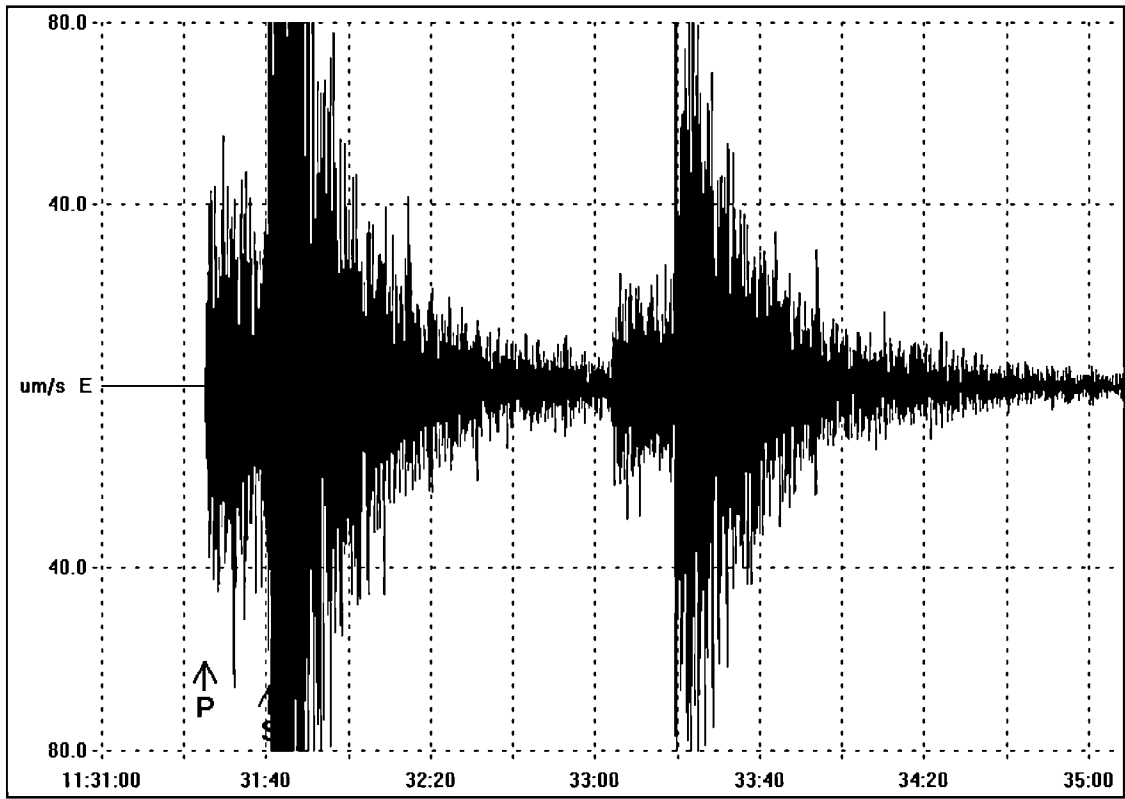
"Some local farmers called up because they thought a gas bottle must have blown up, other campers thought it was somebody banging on their van.

"But about an hour later, we found out via the Internet that it really was an earthquake."

Although there was no damage recorded at properties located at the Ski Gardens, Ms Slade said the unique event did give everyone something to talk about for the duration of the weekend.

However, it was a colourful Coonabarabran character's submission to another newspaper which encapsulated the sentiments of most local people:

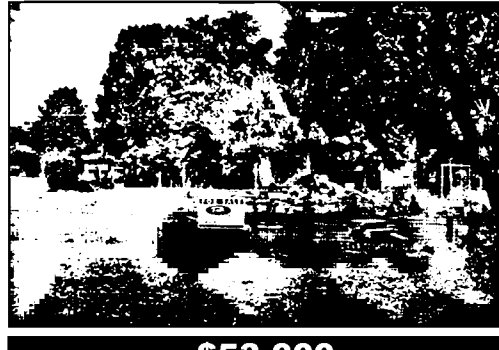
It's 9.30pm Friday evening here in Coonabarabran, I am lying in bed with beautiful wife, Kate, and she says, "Did the Earth move for you, darling?" and after 18 years, I could finally answer, yes!



Seismograph trace showing last Friday's two earthquake events which occurred nearby Lake Keepit, recorded at seismic station EPSO, located five kilometres west of Coonabarabran. (Note - time scale is Greenwich Mean Time).

COONABARABRAN

Corner Block...



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