



The Federal Redistribution 2006  
NEW SOUTH WALES



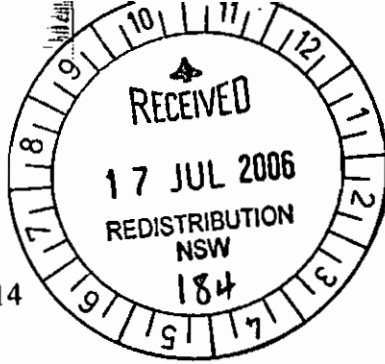
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**Public Objection Number: 184**

**Name: Mrs Marion SCOTT**

**Page(s): 7**

Redistribution Committee  
for N.S.W.,  
P.O Box 20014.  
WORLD SQUARE, NSW 20014



9 Cromarty St.,  
QUIRINDI NSW 2343  
13 July, 2006

Dear members of this committee,

As a 4th generation, & now a grandma, living in this rural district I'm thoroughly disgusted at your cruelty to regional Ausstralians. Hell, your ask one person to represent 47% of NSW. What a hide? You are all sitting in your comfortable seats in World Square, in Sydney, so why would you CARE? NSW, certainly stands for Newcastle, Sydney & Wollongong!

Only last week, the district of Gunnedah was quoted as having the highest suicide rate in Australia, on Prime TV, due mainly to the drought.

Sydney is Australia's most grossly over populated city, gives off the most pollution from its thousands of vechiles, putting carbon monixcide into our atmosphere. NOTE; Your committe certainly has DOUBLE STANDARDS. On ABC Radio 11/7/06 one of your members stated that the proposed amalgamation between Gwydir & Parkes is about equalisation. What a lie? Our smallest state, Tasmania, has 5 representatives in Federal Parliament & more representatives per head of population any where in Australia. Why can't you take a Sydney seat, away, its so over represented anyway. People are human beings not just statics.

Note that 97% of NSW is in drought. How do you expect one representative to cope with 47% of this. Get real!

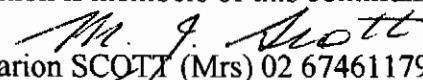
Quirindi & Scone have been in Gwydir since 1901, the year of Federation. I have no objections to Tony Windsor, he is a personel friend, but as he says, "The loss of a country seat is disappointing in that country people are losing representation in Parliament after the next election".(see photocopy). On ABC Regional Radio, on 10/7/06 Tony Windsor stated that every person has easy access to their political representative in Sydney. Would you call one person representing 47% of NSW easily accessible?

We have, & still are experiencing, the worst drought in 100 years & you do this. Note the photocopy of the article that 97% of NSW is again in drought In Qld in 2003, one poor man "ran out of money & feed for his cattle, so he shot all his cattle, so they wouldn't starve to death & then shot himself." This would never make headlines in a Sydney paper. Sydney papers are too interested in who won the world soccer, & how the world partys. How about some interest in the so called, "fair dinkim Aussie," who is doing it hard?

Note how former Premier Bob Carr has basically destoyed this region.

I hope that my true story of deally with drought, makes you wake up to youselves & the story of "A Drover's Dilemma," from the North West Magazine, dated the 27 Oct.,2003, makes your realise it from a female point of view. Could you live on the road for 8 years, working 7 days a week?

I have media access & remember you took out two growth centres , Quirindi & Scone to achieve this reduced number. Also remember within this district live some of Australia's wealthy, & they often own property in Sydney. You may find yourselves under investigation if members of this community decide to take action.

  
Marion SCOTT (Mrs) 02 67461179

# Loss of Gwydir tragic for rural representation

Federal Member for Gwydir, John Anderson, as expressed his disappointment over the loss of the seat of Gwydir in the recently proposed federal electoral distribution of New South Wales.

"Gwydir is a Federation seat, which means it has existed since 1901 when Australia became a nation, and it is one of a handful of purely regional seats left in Australia. To see it abolished is particularly upsetting, because although New South Wales loses a seat to Queensland because of population changes, there is no need at all to create this mega seat in New South Wales," Mr Anderson said.

"The seat will be so big it will make it very hard for any member to be readily available for constituents. It will also make it extremely hard for a Member to be at a senior level in the Government, where they can really give a powerful voice to rural concerns, and still look after the electorate," Mr Anderson said.

Mr Anderson said that one member will now be covering an area that two used to be, reducing the 'say' that the bush has.

"It should be a Sydney seat that goes, as this will cause much less interruption

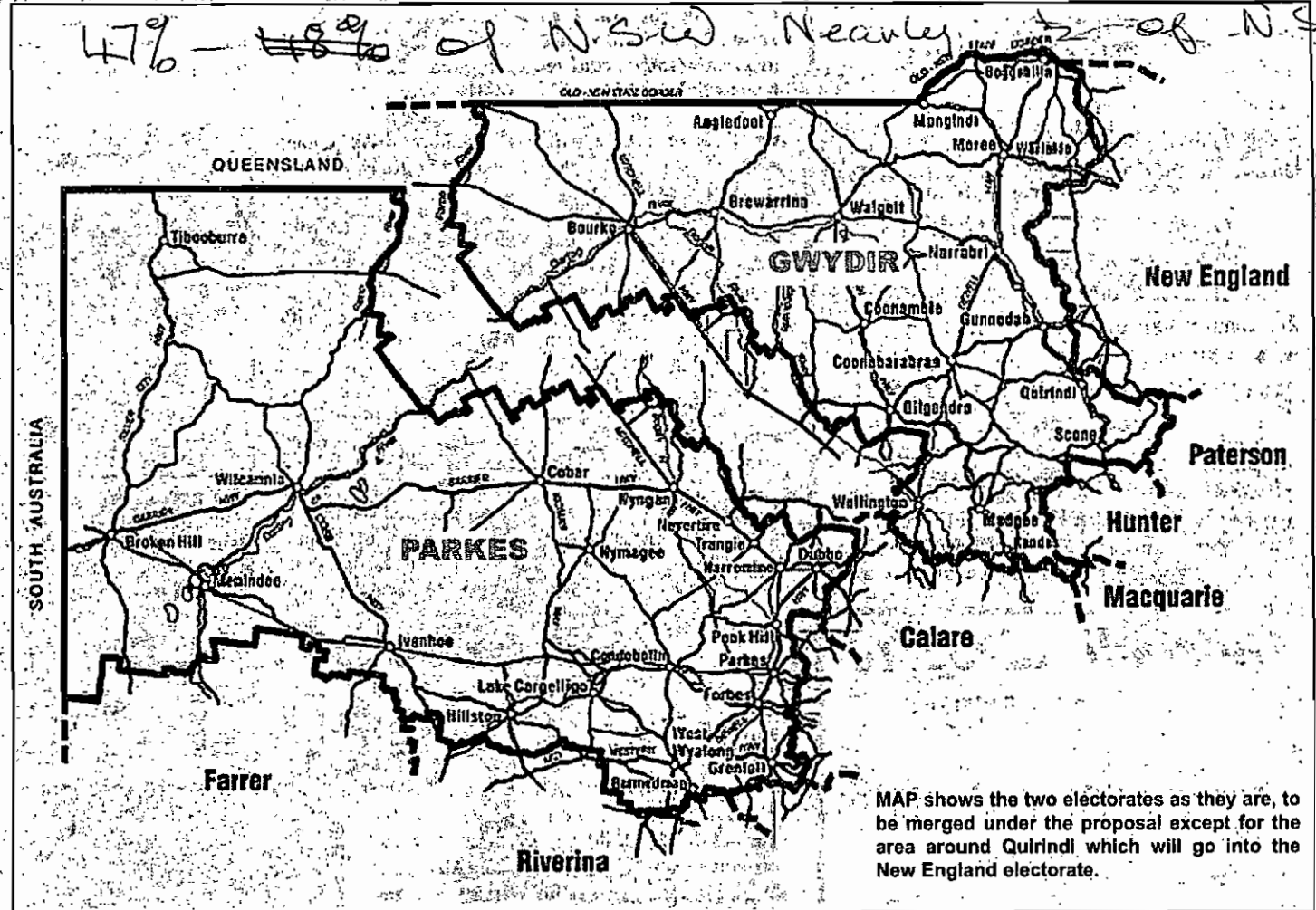
and loss of representation for voters," Mr Anderson said.

The total area of the new electorate will be 379,474 square kilometres which is 47% of the state. The electorate will be bigger than Japan and bigger than Germany, nearly twice the size of Victoria and five and a half times the size of Tasmania.

"This is a matter that crosses party lines and is above politics, as the real issue is the lack of proper political representation for people living in the electorate. I urge all members of the public, regardless of political persuasion, to register their disappointment with the AEC. This outcome was not recommended by any of the parties, and I believe it will ultimately result in the loss of a representation for rural Australia in the Federal parliament," Mr Anderson said.

Organisations and individuals can lodge their objection to the proposed redistribution by writing to Redistribution Committee for New South Wales, P O Box 20014, World Square, NSW 20014.

Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor on the other hand has mixed feelings about the proposed redistribution, with the loss of the seat of Gwydir but the



MAP shows the two electorates as they are, to be merged under the proposal except for the area around Quirindi which will go into the New England electorate.

expansion of New England to take in all of Liverpool Plains Shire Council area.

"The loss of a country seat is disappointing in that country people are losing representation in the

Parliament after the next election. The Gwydir region in fact had the highest population loss of any region in Australia," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is however

happy with the inclusion of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council area into the seat of New England. "It is an area with which I am very familiar having lived and worked in the area all my life," he said.

"I understand the concerns of the people of the Liverpool Plains region and trust that the people of this area have the confidence in me to represent them in the Federal Parliament."

"I would also regard it as a great personal honour to represent the people of Quirindi district as my great-grandfather was the first Mayor of Quirindi," Mr Windsor said.

from left, Krista Hathway, Kasia Thomson, Brendan McIlboen and Stacie Ward enjoying warm winter sunshine in the school grounds. Inside this week's issue, the North West Magazine looks at Education and Training, focussing on the many outstanding facilities available to parents and students. Turn to page 9. Photo courtesy of Peter Lormie and k&p darkROOM, Gunnedah.

# Drought declared hits 97 per cent

Ninety seven per cent of New South Wales has been declared in drought.

The NSW Farmers' Association has labelled the latest drought figures as 'devastating' and 'despite good falls of rain throughout the north over the June long weekend, the situation doesn't look likely to improve in the short term.'

While farmers have been looking to the skies for an Autumn break, seasonal rains have failed many around the State - with drought declared areas jumping by more than 25 per cent.

President of the NSW Farmers' Association, Jock Laurie says this is alarming and has called on both the Federal and

State Government to urgently re-assess the situation.

"The rainfall figures in May were the worst in half a century, at a time when many farmers needed decent rain to put in their winter crops," Mr Laurie said.

"While the figures are not surprising for farmers who are living through the drought - listening to the official statistics always comes as a crushing blow," Mr Laurie added.

"We look forward to seeing some real assistance from both Governments to get NSW through this drought that has dragged on for several years," Mr Laurie concluded.

Stock mill around a water tank on a dry, parched stock route north of Gunnedah. Photo k&p darkROOM, Gunnedah.

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19 June, 2006 - North West Magazine

Wed 16 June 20  
2004

# Letters to the editor

## How many more losses can rural Australia take?

Sir, - One never stops wondering how much more we can take. Bob Carr talks about decentralisation, but is always doing the opposite.

Now he plans to close 50 Business Enterprise Centres (becs) and make 18 Super Centres. This will hit rural businesses hard as reported on Prime TV, June 9, 2004. For example, the Tamworth centre helped 5,540 people find jobs, as well as giving advice to small businesses. We will only have one in this region if this proposal goes ahead and that will be based in Armidale. Luckily for us the five centres in our area are combining and will work together to obtain Government grants to assist them. But Will they receive those grants?

As well, Mr Carr is trying to join together New England Health with Upper Hunter Health based in Newcastle. Don't people north to the Queensland border deserve more than this? Tamworth Base Hospital and our Tamworth Specialists serve a huge area and we are crying out for more regional doctors and nurses and we get this "thrown at us".

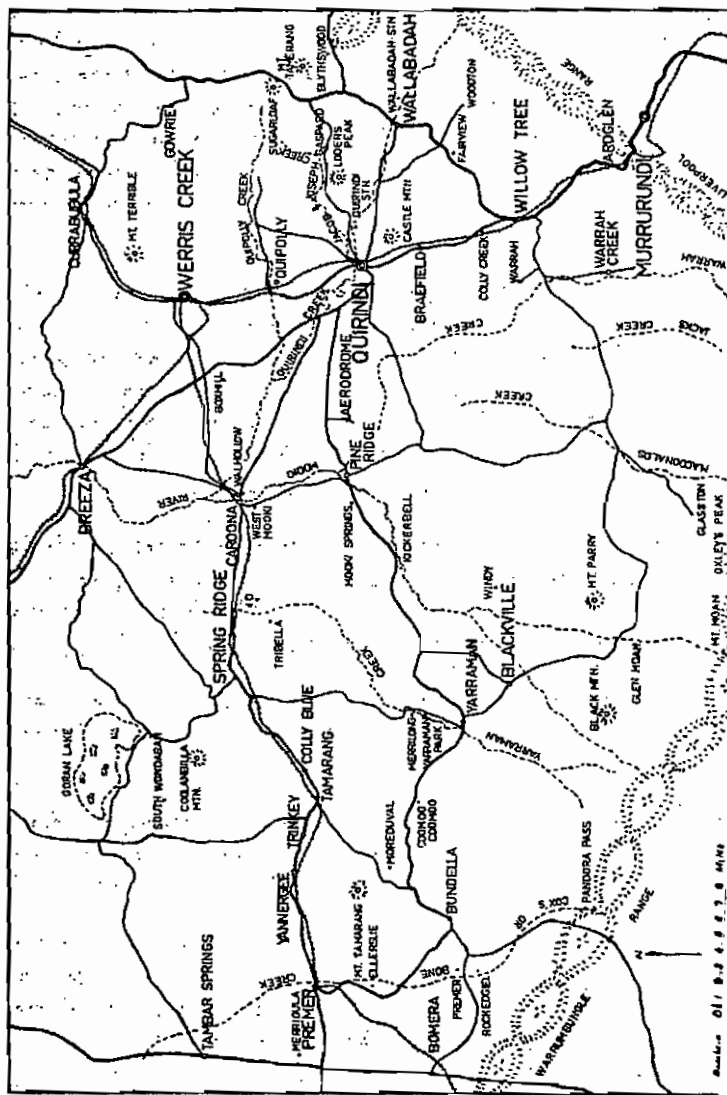
I admire Richard Torbay and Peter Draper and the Shires Association for fighting this but the question is, "will Mr Carr take any notice?"

Bob Carr forced the Shire amalgamations after telling Peter Draper that there would be no forced amalgamations (in the article published May 21, 2003). He, or rather Tony Kelly, told Murrurundi Shire Council that there would be no forced amalgamations. See article May 28, 2003.

Now jobs are being cut in TAFE administration. For example, Armidale TAFE staff are being reduced from 6 to 2 positions. (Prime TV June 10, 2004.)

What is Bob Carr and the Labor Party's hidden agenda? He reminds me of a dictator. Why is it not what the people want, but what Bob Carr and Labor wants? Is it to sneak in an Australian Republic and wipe out all regional power? Just think about it. We have 6 states under Labor control and if Mark Latham wins power this could be a possibility. Mark Latham already has broken the rules by putting up Peter Garrett who only joined the Labor Party on June 11, this year and who does not reside in the electorate of Kingsford-Smith. This is the beginning but what will the long term results be?

MARION SCOTT  
Quirindi



Rough - Copy only.  
"Advocate" My Copy. - Printed in "The Qdi  
The Northern Daily Leader".  
12 Aug, 04

### DOES NSW LABOR, GREENS & DEMOCRATS HATE RURAL AUSTRALIA?

Alas, when watching local Prime TV at 6pm 4 Aug., 04, I was shocked to hear the green & the democrat senators from the NSW Senate say that they would support a 90% cut in water licences west of Qdi, as well as in rural NSW.

Doesn't it matter that our cattle, sheep, horses, goats etc starve to death for lack of supplementary feed from hay, corn, chaff etc in our 3rd year of the worst drought in 100 years? One should ask the RSPCA to charge them with cruelty to dumb animals if this happens!

Did they count the number of cattle on the stock routes shown on Prime TV the previous week around the Qdi District? Our underground water system will make sure they won't die of thirst, but will they starve to death?

Since 1988 Sanitörium have bought their corn from west of Qdi, to produce their cornflakes. My cousin is a retired manager & no doubt helped in this decision.

Eykamps grow their kikyeu seed & sell it all over the world. As well sunflowers, canola, sorghum, lucerne, wheat, barley & other food crops, both irrigated & dry land are grown west of Qdi, as well as other parts of rural NSW.

My next question is why are large cities such as Sydney, Newcastle & Wollongong allowed to have bigger homes often on bigger blocks that need more water to keep their lawns, shrubs & flowers which use lots more water, yet are not producing food for either the people or the animal population to eat? Is this not a double standard? It would seem they would prefer "the world to starve", whether it is people or animals.

How much more water does a 2-3 bathroom house use? What is the total water usage of the metropolitan area known as Sydney in comparison to the water allocated to farmers to feed these people?

To these politicians I say, "look in your own back yards," in your major cities before you "kick rural NSW any more!"

I've recently returned from a 2 week stay in the city of Lake Macquarie near Newcastle & every time I go down there are lots of new subdivisions, suburbs, new homes & new shops & plenty of tree removal. It seems there is a special rule for a large city, but a different one for rural Australia.

Again I say, "look in your own front & back yards!" & stop ruining rural NSW!"

On the same Prime TV Program these politicians have put up enclosed roads rent by by 700% for our drought stricken farmers. e.g when I edited "The History of Werris Creek & District" by Syd Ware in 1976, my late husband & I owned "Kyooma", Werris Creek. It is full of enclosed roads, (which we paid rent on for 20yrs), as the old Great Northern Road ran along the ridges so as the bullock & horse teams would not bog on the black soil plains! I then wrote "The Quipolly Valley" which was launched in 1985. On the map on p. 12 it shows the repositioned Great Northern Road, which is now stock route 707 & a public road starting at Bells' Gate Rd, which runs off the Qdi-Werris Creek Rd 2.5 kms north of Qdi PO & ends as the Werris Creek Stock Route Rd leading into Russell St, Werris Creek. The original closed roads won't ever be usec again. What a "RIP OFF?"

*M. J. Scott*  
Marion SCOTT (Mrs) 02 67 461179

Memories of Droughts in the District of Quirindi and North-West NSW.

As a young wife & mother I went back to teaching in 1971, when our daughter Kathy was only 15 mths old. I taught until 1994, plus tutored.

When my husband Ceph died 25/11/92 I thought that I could follow in his footsteps. I didn't really think clearly. Kathy & her husband Eric bought me a mob of Santa Gertrudus heifers, in calf, in 1993. They had their 1st calves in 1993, but the drought of 94/95 set in. From June 94 until Dec 1994 I spent 7 days a week putting them across the railway line, to feed on Bell's Gate Rd., where in the winter of 1994 they had their 2nd calf. When I had my 2nd pituitary surgery at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sept 94, I paid a drover to put them out. Luckily for me, but not for Eric, he was thrown by a sheep & was trapped under a quadrunner, & was pinned under it for 2hrs before working his way out & being found, so while he was on workers comp., because of his back injury, Eric put them out while I was in Sydney for 7 weeks of ray, Jan/Feb 1995. (3rd pituitary tumor was forming).

As the ray "had knocked me sideways," I put them & their 2nd calves on adjustment at Bundarra, & sold them through Elders, Inverell, May 1995. Then Kathy & Eric left for Qld & the best thing I did was put my farm, "Mornington," Quirindi, up for rent. For all my hard work I made \$200 profit!

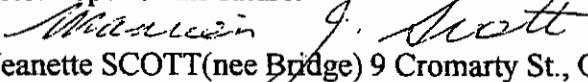
Both my husband Ceph & I worked hard for what we had. He was lucky to have me also to teach & be the supplementary income. After the wool slump of 1970 I went back to teaching 2 days a week as a teacher/librarian. However things got worse & in 1972 the cattle prices slumped & a huge drought set in. In Aug., 1972 I went back to full time teaching. Full time work was hard. After I cooked the evening meal, Kathy went to bed at 7.30, Ceph washed & wiped up, while I prepared lessons, marked books & did report cards 6 nights out of 7. I only took Fri nights off. Weekends were housework, washing etc. + helping outdoors. Most of this time Ceph was 7 days a week on the stock routes keeping our cattle alive. I don't regret it, as it saved our 2000 acre property, "Kyooma," Werris Creek.

My 1st drought help financially was for my dad, Jack Bridge of "Glen Denning", Quipolly Creek, in the 1965/66 drought when I lent dad \$1000, interest free. He paid me back in early 1968. It nearly broke his heart & mine too, when he lost 3/4 of his sheep in the winter of 1966.

I put \$100,000 into "Kyooma", Werris Creek & never can forget that drought of 1972/73, after the wool slump of 1970, & the cattle slump off 72/73. Hard years, but we made it into credit.

My mother told me that I was born in a drought in 1943. Australia has proved itself to be a land of "droughts & flooding rains," as Dorothea McKellar's poem "My Country" states.

I've written this in the 3rd year of drought 2004, plus 2003 & 2002. It is 1 Oct., 2004 & Quirindi & District have had 50 mls or 2 inches of rain & it's still falling. It gives this rural sector hope for the future.

  
by Marion Jeanette SCOTT (nee Bridge) 9 Cromarty St., QUIRINDI NSW2343

# 'A Drover's Dilemma' that will touch the heart

The Australian outback has a million stories of hardship and heart-break.

Since the on-set of the crippling drought now stretching into its third year, working the land in this great country, has become more of a battle for survival than a way of life.

Helen McCarthy, a

unique bush character who has been living on "the long paddock" with her cattle dogs, a goat and donkey for the last eight years, vividly portrays all that the bush spirit encompasses in a new documentary to be screened on SBS television this Sunday.

As the drought tightens its stranglehold on the country, Helen finds

herself in an exhausting battle to keep her animals alive.

One by one, her cows, start dropping from malnutrition and Helen is faced with the heart-breaking decision of whether to send her animals to the abattoir or to struggle on and save their lives as they once saved hers.

Helen believes it was

her cows, which are named, that save her when she lost her farm to the bank.

The bond she shares with her animals is strong and touching.

The only salvation for Helen and her cattle would be a break in the drought.

The original version of *The Drover's Dilemma* ended with Helen's cattle

being saved at the 11th hour by an offer of agistment by a neighbouring farmer Terry Abra.

A happy ending or so it seemed. But there is a twist that will leave feeling for this 64-year-old drover and her animals.

Former Gunnedah man Jonathon Heath and his wife Rebecca, took just on four months to film Helen McCarthy and her struggle for survival on the stockroutes and back roads near Jonathon's family property, south of Gunnedah, late last year.

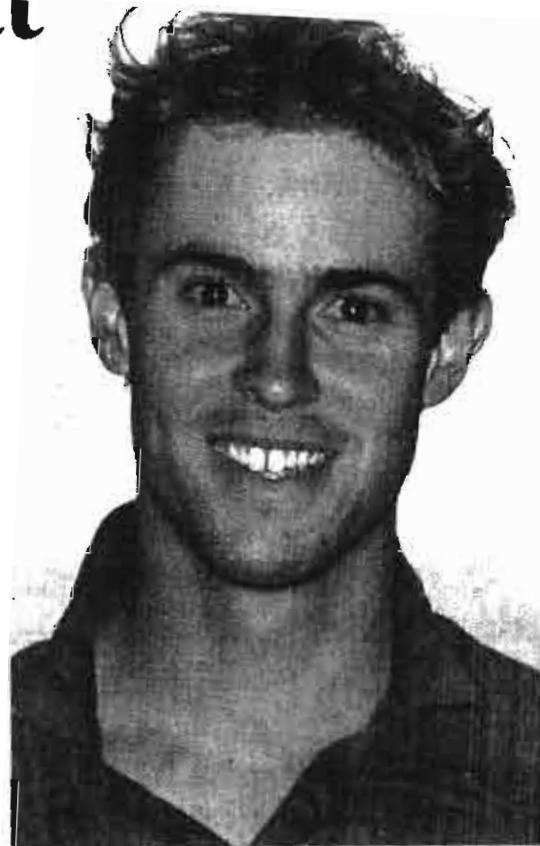
Jonathon was raised in the Gunnedah district on a family property that has been home to five generations of the Heath family.

From 2000 to 2002, Jonathon and Rebecca lived and worked on the property before moving to Sydney to retrain in documentary filming.

Rebecca Heath said of the film, "We feel extremely privileged that Helen allowed us such open access into her life, during both the good times and perhaps more significantly, during her terrible times.

"She is a truly unique Australian character and we thank godness for people like her who make this world a much richer and colourful place."

*The Drover's Dilemma* will screen on SBS this Sunday at 7pm.



Jonathon Heath, who in partnership with his wife, Rebecca, made the documentary *The Drover's Dilemma*.



Helen McCarthy and the van and 4WD which have been her home for the past eight years.

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