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WEDNESDAY
7 November 2018

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Well Done Not So Well Done

Local is indeed the new black

By Mary Scully
Anyone who attended the inaugural Central Hunter Business and Community Expo at Miller Park in Branxton on Saturday October 27 could not fail to be impressed. The weather was perfect, the site well appointed and the crowd, in excess of 5,000 people,

enjoyed a day to rival most regional shows. The atmosphere was upbeat, the music easy on the ear, the aroma from the food and coffee stalls was enticing and the offerings scrumptious. It was awesome to see small businesses and community groups proudly displaying their creativity. There were

seven major sponsors and 110 stallholders plus numerous food vans. So something for everyone, from the smallest child to the oldest senior. The free kids zone was a favourite offering lots of freebies and the Men's Shed not only helped with many of the props, but also had their handicrafts proudly

on display. The Expo was endowed with pet friendly status for the day so canines of all shapes, sizes and pedigrees mingled with the crowd in a fairly controlled fashion.

So how did it all happen?
Last April a somewhat disheartened local business owner Alana Driver conceived the notion of our very own business Expo to showcase what the area has to offer, Alana is the busy mother of two lively boys and works as a registered nurse in Mental Health. One could be forgiven for thinking she'd had a touch of the sun. But Alana and her husband Marc, who own and operate Renew Energy and Electrical from their Branxton property, proved resilient and tenacious and thus The Central Hunter Business and Community Expo was born. Alana recognised the talent and skills of people in our midst who, like her, find the larger expos prohibitively expensive and unwelcoming. She also realised that such a forum could advance the aims and goals of our many community services and volunteer groups. Alana sought the help of Brett Wild of the Central Hunter Business Chamber and he and the other members were generous with

their time, support and the resources needed to get the idea into fruition. Social media worked and community members rallied to offer support. They were there when Alana put out a plea out for help with the nitty gritty stuff. Brett Wild took on MC duties for the day. This was no mean feat as he was sporting a newly replaced knee and in some pain. However, he did a remarkable job and kept the crowd well informed. Trophies were awarded to Tilley's Play and Development Centre for the best community display and to Louise Nielson Conveyancing for the best business display. The winners were chosen by the attendees. Congratulations to you both! The feedback on the day was overwhelmingly positive and suggestions will be taken on board for the next Expo in 2020. Our community is changing. Just look at the main street of Branxton and see how busy the food outlets are. Greta has the BIG takeaway outlets and is also a hive of activity. Huntlee is bringing lots of young professionals and self motivated people into the community. This event



proves that the newly arrived young and not so young people have much to offer our town, and along with the community members who have always kept things ticking over it is becoming increasingly more dynamic. Alana wishes to thank everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. The community groups and individuals who supplied tables, chairs, hay bales and even milk crates and a special thanks to APLUS contracting and Welding for supplying generators and marquees. The Rural Fire Service made parking easy. You did a great job and your efforts are much appreciated. Without the stallholders, too numerous to mention the event would not have happened, so know your

efforts are appreciated as, of course, are the major sponsors who were:

- Central Hunter Business Chamber
- Tuckers Lane Custom Furniture
- Taylor Real Estate
- R & W Branxton
- A PLUS Contracting and Welding
- Tilley's Play and Development Centre
- Renew Energy and Electrical

So, well done Alana and all who helped make it great. The community looks forward to the next Expo in 2020. It will be a hard act to follow, but with your unbounded enthusiasm it will happen.

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2018 Pricing schedule as of 1st February (daily price from)

Small dogs	\$20.00
Small dog deluxe	\$27.00
Medium dog	\$23.00
Large dogs	\$27.00
Extra Large	\$30.00



CATS

2018 Pricing schedule as of 1st February (daily price)

\$16.00

Purr cat, purr day



Cessnock wins national economic development award



Cessnock City Council's Economic Development team have been recognised at a national level at the National Economic Development Awards 2018 held in Rockhampton last week. Council's Cessnock City Youth First Employment Project and National Toolkit took out the nation's top prize for *Economic Development Strategic Thinking*. Council's unique business platform *Advance Cessnock City* was also recognised as one of the nation's top three programs in the category of *Economic Development Initiatives over 15,000 residents*. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated the team on their hard work and for their dedication to excellence.

"Congratulations to our Economic Development team. It's wonderful to see their hard work recognised nationally. They continue to think innovatively and achieve outstanding results."

"The Youth First Employment Project supported local young people to become job ready and saw the development of a toolkit. The toolkit has now been distributed to every Council across Australia to help unemployed youths nationally. Local government can be a leader within their community and an advocate for a major national issue."

Youth unemployment in the Hunter Valley was at a crisis point at over 21 percent in 2015. The team responded by developing the Youth First Project and tested the model locally before developing the national toolkit. Youth unemployment in the region currently stands at 13.4 percent.

The *Advance Cessnock City* project has also been a huge success, offering an online platform and business engagement tool that is a one-stop-shop for local business and prospective businesses. It has enabled the team to be more responsive, better engaged with business and provided a platform to attract critical investment.

Council's Acting Economic Development Manager, Rhiannon Stevens is proud of the work and results her team have delivered.

"It's an honour to be recognised for our achievements, and I believe these accomplishments are due to how we work strategically to support our business community. We are proud of where we live and hope to facilitate outcomes to support our businesses to grow."

The awards were held last Thursday as part of the National Economic Development Conference.

Scout, Skate or Ride? It's competition time.

Cessnock City Council's thrilled to announce the annual Scooter, Bike and Skate competition next month and is calling young people to sign up. The event hosted by CYCOS kicks off at 10am at the Cessnock Skate Park on Saturday 24 November and wrap up at 4pm. It's free event and caters to all levels including beginners, intermediate and advanced. Those lucky enough to take out a prize will be impressed with some great prizes up for grabs. For those who aren't keen to hit the skate park you'll have just as much fun on the sidelines watching the action or taking part in one of the other activities on offer. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is a great community event for the young people and their families living in or visiting Cessnock.

"This is a great way for young people to connect with those who share similar interests and passions. This event always attracts lots of interest and lots of dare devils showing off their skills."

Entry forms will be available on the day, can be picked up from the Cessnock Youth Centre located a 49D Aberdare Road, Cessnock. The form can also be downloaded from Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/youth/events. Young people who are under 18 years old will need their parent or guardian to sign the form. Everyone who competes will also need to wear a helmet.

For more information please contact CYCOS on 4991 5372 or visit the Cessnock Youth Centre Facebook page.

The Scooter, Bike and Skate Competition is proudly supported by Cessnock City Council, CYCOS, Cessnock Community and Youth Development Project, Kurri Kurri Community Services and the Cessnock Youth Entertainment Committee. A huge thank you also goes to the event sponsors including Thread and Ink, Bombora and Bike Trax.



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council



PUBLIC NOTICE PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PER SECTION 418 (3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

In accordance with Section 418 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Cessnock City Council advises that the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on **7 November 2018** will include the presentation of the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports for the financial year ending 30 June 2018.

A summary of the Financial Statements is provided below:	2018	2017
Income Statement		
Total Income from Continuing Operations	121,386	94,802
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	82,023	75,998
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	39,363	18,804
Net Operating Result for the year	39,363	18,804
Net Operating Result before Grants & Contributions	(5,374)	86
Statement of Financial Position		
Total Current Assets	43,147	42,053
Total Current Liabilities	(17,701)	(18,114)
Total Non Current Assets	773,519	739,901
Total Non Current Liabilities	(22,622)	(19,493)
Total Equity	776,343	744,347
Other Financial Information		
Operating Performance Ratio (%)	-3.1%	4.0%
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio (%)	52.2%	63.7%
Unrestricted Current Ratio (times)	2.66x	2.45x
Debt Service Cover Ratio (times)	4.78x	8.11x
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio (%)	1.7%	2.0%
Cash Expense Cover Ratio (months)	6.35	6.3
Infrastructure Renewals Ratio (%)	88.2%	158.5%

In accordance with Section 420 of the Local Government Act, 1993, any person may make a submission in writing to Council with respect to the Council's Audited Financial Statements or the Auditor's Reports.

Copies of the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports may be inspected at Council's Administration Building or viewed on Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Submissions close one week after the above Public Meeting has been held.

PLANNING PROPOSAL - 18/2017/3/1 CITY WIDE HERITAGE AMENDMENT

On 8 November 2017 the Department of Planning and Environment issued a Gateway determination enabling Council to place the Planning Proposal 18/2017/3 - City Wide Heritage Amendment on exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. This is consistent with Council's resolution to proceed with this Proposal at its Ordinary Meeting held 19 July 2017.

The objective of the Planning Proposal is to implement the findings of the Cessnock City Heritage Study and ensure items and areas of heritage significance are appropriately protected in the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011. This includes updating the Heritage maps and Schedule 5, Environmental heritage, of the LEP. The Planning Proposal also aims to correct minor errors and ensure that the sites that are listed as containing a heritage item are correct. The Planning Proposal will achieve the following objectives:

- recognise additional Local Heritage items;
- recognise additional Heritage Conservation Areas;
- correct property descriptions and addresses of several heritage items in Schedule 5 of the LEP;
- remove heritage items where the item is not located on the property; and
- alter heritage mapping to reflect subdivisions that have occurred.

The Planning Proposal is on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 24 October 2018 to 21 November 2018 and can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Services Section);
- Council's Public Libraries; and
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Planning Proposal. Any views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a final decision is made on whether or not the draft Plan should be made.

In order to be considered by Council, submissions must be received by 5.00pm on 21 November 2018 and should quote '18/2017/3 - City Wide Heritage Amendment'. Submissions should be addressed to The General Manager and can be submitted via:

- Email to council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au; or
- Post to PO Box 152, CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Submissions are NOT kept confidential. Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with privacy laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Strategic Land Use Planning section on 4993 4155.

After almost 50 years trading Branxton Hardware 'no more'



After nearly 50 years of trading Branxton Hardware has closed their doors for the last time. It is believed that the current owner of the property has decided to re-develop the site & is currently awaiting approval of his development application from Cessnock City Council.

■ Photo above: Branxton Hardware manager 'Big Pete' closing the doors for the last time on the 30 October 2018



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STEVE'S RANT

Three things to consider

I would like to cover three subjects for this issue. First is the correspondence I have had with the NSW Government. The reply from the Minister for Planning and Environment written by the delightfully named Assistant Executive Director Energy Strategy, one Madam Madeleine Mispel is produced courtesy of the *Ed.* at the end of the rant. Also, a copy of my subsequent response to Madam Mispel. I await further correspondence with great anticipation and hope that an issue of GOVERNMENT BONDS will shortly be announced. I do not joke about my offer go take up \$10,000 of the issue as soon as it is announced (if you want something to happen you first start a rumour). Furpheys have a habit of turning out to be correct. The second point is about Malcolm, our recently departed but unlamented ex-Prime Minister. May he remain outside of politics for he was not a politician's bootlace. When the leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party Bill (what's his name) repeatedly asked why the Liberal Party had booted Malcolm out, knowing full

well why, it was to pander to the ignorance of the press gallery and so keep the inner city wankers of Sydney and Melbourne stirred up about nothing. Here was a man who thought he was the stuff of a Prime Minister and who twice caused upset in the Liberal Party in order to gain the leadership of the Liberal Party. The fact that he was able to do so is a measure of the backbone of the Liberal Party collective; they have none. Since Malcolm basically stood down from the Prime Ministership by not nominating himself as a prospect in the party leadership spill he has demonstrated just how treasonous he was to Liberal Party values and the future well being of Australia. He was prepared to sell out Australia's sovereignty to the useless United Nations and the senseless Paris Accord. He sucked Julie Bishop into this conspiracy as well and thereby stuffed any chance she may have had as a prospective leader. He must also have had some malign influence over Scott Morrison; what on earth possessed Scomo to ask Malcolm to represent him at some international gang bang in Indonesia. What does Malcolm do; we



must not upset Islam by moving our Israeli embassy to the capital of Israel. What utter conceit. He does not represent Australia in any way. He is just a disaster for this country. Australia has welcomed and benefitted immensely from the 'Jewish Diaspora' who have made their homes in Australia. How dare he disparage our Jewish citizens in this way and by implication stain the rest of our parliamentary representatives with the same ink. Israel is the only democratic country in the middle east. Look at the examples of repression around the region which, with the exception of North Korea, is the most dangerous place on the planet. All because of rampant ideological extremism. By his actions over the past two years, Malcolm has totally disqualified himself as a representative of the Australian people. Now for the third and juiciest part ~ The

Australian Wilderness Society has announced it will campaign in the next federal election on climate change. So these people think that the climate can be legislated into a more favourable state. What utter rot, what total conceit these people show. It is unfortunately symptomatic of a commonly held belief that the Government can and should fix everything. Here is a news flash for you; governments do not exist to fix everything. Their function is to provide the rule of law for the conduct of business and the peaceful conduct of the community. You, the individual are responsible for fixing things and if you are unable to do this yourselves then family, neighbours and the local community are the first port of call. There are many things over which we have no control viz., weather, earthquakes, ice ages and what we refer to as national disasters. All

we can do is try to survive the crisis and pick up the pieces after. A timely reminder; don't forget the fire season is now with us & we all must have plans to mitigate the risk and be prepared to get out early.

Cheers, Steve

Thank you for your letter of 21 August 2018 to the Premier, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, regarding the construction of coal-fired power stations. As the issue you have raised relates to the Energy and Utilities portfolio, the Premier has referred your letter to the Hon Don Harwin MLC, Minister for Energy and Utilities. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I note your suggestion to build three coal-fired power stations in NSW. The NSW Government has moved out of ownership of electricity generators, retail energy businesses and much of the poles and wires businesses, leading to private sector led investment and increased competition. The NSW Government has a technology-neutral policy to support investment in new energy supply options. This policy seeks to ensure investment is both efficient and achieves positive outcomes for system security and affordability. NSW has a strong pipeline of new generation projects in the planning system for our future energy security. NSW has 1,350 megawatts of large-scale non-renewable energy projects either approved or progressing through the New South Wales planning system, worth around \$1.2 billion. Further, 15,500 MW of large-scale renewable energy projects are either approved or seeking approval. In

addition, a feasibility study to expand the Snowy Hydro Scheme by 2,000 MW is being considered. You may also be pleased to find that the NSW Government has, through the \$100 million NSW Coal Innovation Fund, invested in research, development and demonstration of projects in low emissions coal technologies. However, in the national energy market, it is up to the private sector to choose the projects selected for investment and development. More information on the NSW Coal Innovation Fund is available at resource-sandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au. Thank you for sharing your views with the NSW Government. Yours sincerely Madeleine Mispel

Dear Madeleine, Thank you for replying to my letter on behalf of the Minister for Planning and Environment. It appears from what you have written that both the Premier and Minister have no interest in embarking on power station development. That is a great pity and, in my opinion, a wilful refusal to take up a great opportunity for the people of NSW. Whatever the Premier and the Minister think, or believe about the nonsense of man induced climate change, it should have no bearing on the absolute necessity of providing affordable and continuous electricity for this State. To say that it is no longer the policy of the State Government to be involved in power generation or distribution does not obviate the states responsibility to ensure that electricity is available where ever and whenever it is needed in NSW.

To say there are so many millions of dollars currently committed to solar and wind generation is neither here nor there. Solar arrays only work for 8 to 10 hours a day and wind generation cannot be relied upon. You of all people should understand this. If you don't then let me suggest you seek expert advice on energy provision and distribution from a qualified electrical engineer. Do not consult so called academics from the universities for they all have agendas driven by the false belief of man-made climate change. You say the Government is technologically neutral in the production and distribution of electricity. So, to me that means you are prepared to accept the most reliable and cheapest sources of electricity. Remember just this week the price of gas is set to skyrocket due to overseas demand and moratoriums on opening new gas reserves. Gas powered generation is a poor option for the foreseeable future., or until there is a change in Government Policy on extraction. This leaves us with the short term power solution of coal fired power or in the longer term of nuclear power. Madeleine, I ask you to do this for me. Go into the Ministers office unannounced and after giving him a kick in the ankle (not too hard) tell him he must start planning for coal fired power stations now. The time for talking about it has gone. The NSW Government must change its policy now, and get on with it. I hereby apply for \$10,000 of debentures in the soon to be announced Sate Government Bond issue for the financing of new Coal fired Power Stations. For your action, Steve



Be proud and take ownership Yesterday, Sunday 4th November, my husband and I went into the bush at Drovers Camp Restaurant to listen to a lone singer on

an empty stage sing of this country, with a bursting heart. 60 metres away in the shade sat a small group of about 30 people listening

intently. People who are interested in the birth of The True Blue Party, gathering to celebrate the leader John Murray pushing a wheel barrow of coal from Liddell to Branxton, to draw attention to the need to save Liddell Power Station.

close by as he sang. One man singing in the bush is more impressive than a full chorus, and quite moving. Peaceful traditional country songs and Australian bush ballads, then a recital of another older man of 'The Man from Snowy River'. Most 'Country and Western' music sounds corny to me, but in the silence of the bush without another sound it was resonating, rich, and ethereal. The greatest threat to this country other than war, is the loss of base load power from our natural resources. Our soldiers did not fight to let Paris determine what happens in this beautiful country. To your readers I would say this is YOUR country, and it is your turn to make a stand. Be proud and take

The current plunderers in Canberra want it closed to satisfy the 'Greens', hoping they will prop up a possible minority government, thus saving their seats. Heather, Johns wife, was on the sausage sizzle, and the bar was open. Johns' son David, was the singer, his Irish partner had sung in the morning; she was

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Pokolbin.... 4015 0000		4990 9609
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ownership. Think before you vote and think about what I have written as you fall asleep.

M. Lind, Mitchell Street, North Rothbury NSW 2335

Cessnock Council advocates for small business through mining inquiry



■ Committee Chair, Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Cessnock City Council has made a presentation this week to the Australian Government advocating for the needs of small businesses impacted by mining.

On Monday 5 November Cessnock City Council was invited to present to the *House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources* inquiry hearing at Singleton Diggers Club. The invitation followed a detailed submission by Cessnock City Council to the inquiry into how the mining sector can better support businesses in regional economies.

At the public hearing, Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent voiced to the Committee Chair, Hon Barnaby Joyce MP how mining challenges for communities endure long after the mining boom and how local businesses could be better supported. Council announced that this was an opportunity for governments to evaluate how mining could achieve longer term, more enduring outcomes for the regions. "We have an opportunity to harness the potential of our regional communities, and most importantly we have the opportunity to redress regional imbalances and disparities as a result of

mining legacies," said Cr Pynsent. As part of its submission, Council highlighted the cumulative impacts which build over time to leave a legacy of complex economic, social and environmental costs. Council urged the Australian Government to recognise the cumulative impacts of mining and ensure distributive justice in how mining royalties are made by the states to fund critical infrastructure for future generations.

Cr Pynsent criticised unacceptable payment terms, identifying mining companies were still taking up to 90 days to process payments to small businesses. Council also recommended an education and training fund to support small businesses to become mining-sector-supplier competent and capable, so they can vie for local work and tenders. Furthermore, there should be an accepted percentage of local business suppliers to the mining sector.

"I am proud of the submission Cessnock City Council has made to this inquiry and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to speak at the Public Hearing," said Cr Pynsent.

"We will continue to address the challenges faced by our community as a result of mining legacy impacts and push the Australian Government for greater opportunities to capture economic diversification and resilience," added Cr Pynsent.

The Committee was accepting submissions until COB last Monday 5 November 2018. A Government response to all submissions and the hearing will be made on aph.gov.au.

Small businesses celebrated in Cessnock!

Cessnock City Council's Economic Development team was pleased with the success of their recent *Advance Cessnock City Let's Talk Business* seminar.

Held on 24 October as part of NSW Small Business Month, the business event featured small business expert Mark Carter and a panel of seven local business high achievers. The event attracted over 75 business attendees, who took advantage of the free learning and networking opportunity.

Small Business Month is a series of events held in October across metropolitan and regional NSW. It is sponsored by the NSW Department of Industry and is designed to provide local councils with funding to devise local events tailored for small businesses in their area.

The emphasis is on events with practical information and ideas and also to foster networking opportunities for small business people.

"We have a thriving small business network in Cessnock City and our Economic Development team works hard to attract these opportunities to ensure our businesses are well supported," said Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent. During the two hour seminar, Mark Carter outlined practical strategies that could be immediately incorporated into small businesses to expand productivity and sales efficiency.

The panel of small business leaders were invited to share insights into how their individual business developed. They were asked about their successes

and temporary setbacks and how they overcame them.

Acting Economic Development Manager, Rhiannon Stevens said it was very generous and brave of our small business leaders to share their stories.

"Hearing the individual accounts from a diverse panel was a great learning experience and really highlighted small business excellence in Cessnock City."

"We will continue to provide up to date resources and relevant opportunities for the business community through the *Advance Cessnock City* suite. Keep an eye on your emails for future events," added Rhiannon.

Small businesses can sign



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

up to receive email alerts via advancecessnock-city.com.au. For more in-

formation, please contact Rhiannon Stevens on 4993 4185.

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The Digital Bootcamp will be held:

Tuesday 20 November 2018, from 9am to 6.30pm,

Venue: Cessnock Leagues Club - 1 Darwin St, Cessnock.

This NSW government initiative, which is running throughout NSW under the Business Connect Program, is delivered to you by NetStripes, widely acclaimed experts in small business digital engagement.

Lunch, morning, afternoon tea provided. Only 40 spaces available!!

Book online: <http://advancecessnock.com.au/event-old/digital-bootcamp-in-cessnock-2/>



Husband Creche

Is he getting under your feet
Is he moaning about shopping
Would your morning be stress free without him

Ladies we have the answer

The Branxton Greta Menshed has a husband crèche every Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Drop him off at our husband crèche.
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Just pay \$2.00 for his morning coffee
'Branxton Greta Menshed' 49 Branxton Street
Greta in the grounds of the old
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If you require assistance
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PRELIMINARY NOTICE CLEARING SALE

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472 Dalwood Rd, Branxton
Saturday November 24th @ 10:30 am
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Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Congratulations to Council's Economic Development team who have been recognised at the National Economic Development Awards held in Queensland. The team took out the top award for Economic Development Strategic Thinking. This was for Council's Cessnock City Youth First Employment Project and National Toolkit. A program that supported local young people to become job ready and saw the development of a toolkit. The toolkit has now been rolled out nationally to every council in Australia. The team did an exceptional job in making this project a success that addresses such an important issue not only in our local government area but across Australia. This shows that local government can be a leader within their community and an advocate for a major national issue. Council was also nominated for an award at the National Customer Service Awards. This was for our project that saw an overhaul to the process for customers ordering their planning and rates certificates. A number of teams worked together to streamline the process and moved it online. This now enables our customers to get their certificates back the same day they order. This is an example of Council always working to achieve the best outcome for the customer. There is a commitment to improving efficiency and customer service. Well done to all who worked on this project.

Last week the NSW Local Government Annual Conference was held in Albury. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn, share and discuss issues relevant to communities across Australia. A real highlight was a presentation from Craig Reucassal who is the host of the ABC'S War on Waste program. The presentation focused on the waste crisis and the opportunities that can be generated by addressing this crisis. Following the presentation the NSW local government sector campaign was launched that aims to solve the worsening recycling and waste crisis. The campaign 'Save Our Recycling - lets reuse in NSW' calls on the State Government to re-invest the

entire \$727 million it collects from the waste levy each year into waste management in recycling. Every year the waste levy costs Cessnock City Council around \$8 million. It is critical that NSW develops its on-shore processing capacity for recycled materials, rather than shipping waste to other countries such as China. At the next Council meeting a Mayoral Minute will be included on the agenda supporting this much needed campaign. This campaign is in line with a motion our Council put up in relation to the recycling crisis and the waste levy. It is fantastic to see councils banning together from across the state to push for better strategies to deal with waste and ultimately reduce landfill. Council's thrilled to announce the annual Scooter, Bike and Skate competition next month and is calling young people to sign up. The event hosted by CYCOS kicks off at 10am at the Cessnock Skate Park on Saturday 24 November and wraps up at 4pm. It's a free event and caters to all levels including beginners, intermediate and advanced. Those lucky enough to take out a prize will be impressed with some great prizes up for grabs. Entry forms will be available on the day, can be picked up from the Cessnock Youth Centre located a 49D Aberdare Road, Cessnock. The form can also be downloaded from Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/youth/events.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It's smooth travelling for Singleton Council's \$8.5 million Roads Upgrade program as it progresses to the next stage of the application process under the State Government's Resources for Regions program.

But while we're disappointed the Singleton Town Centre Upgrade is out of contention, our hopes remain high that we can add more road improvements to our capital works program soon. Our application is for a mere half of the total cost of the program that covers four major transport routes vital to workers driving to and from Singleton's 17 coal mines every day - projects identified because they are vitally important in maintain-

ing Council's road infrastructure to a level required to support our annual \$4.2 billion gross regional product. But most importantly, that means 9,070 workers living outside the Singleton local government area will have a safe and reliable commute to work in the mines and other mining-related employment using Glendonbrook Road, Elderslie Road, Cessnock Road and Moses Crossing. I would appeal to the Deputy Premier and the man who oversees the Resources for Regions program, John Barilaro, to consider the impacts of these projects not if they go ahead, but if they don't.

There can be no value put on the peace of mind for workers' families that will come from knowing the roads their loved ones are driving on are the best possible standard. Because more important than the route to work is the drive home again. But there is a very definite dollar value attached to the outputs from those workers who, simply by arriving at work safely and getting on with the job, deliver enormous benefits to every single person in NSW.

If the State Government's premise for the Resources for Regions program is indeed to deliver local infrastructure to support mining communities, then I respectfully submit the Singleton Roads Upgrade Program is impossible to refuse - quite simply because it delivers real outcomes for people who are literally at the coalface.

While we wait for the outcome (and perhaps an announcement ahead of the State March election), we're encouraging you to put forward the people you know who volunteer their time and hard work to supporting the community. Nominations are now open for the 2018 Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year, recognising the people who have made the most outstanding contribution to the Singleton Local Government Area in, but not limited to, 2018. The Awards will be announced at a formal ceremony on Australia Day. You can submit your nomination form online at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiadayawards

Cheers, Sue



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward

Back the Local
As October comes to an end

we see stores starting to stock Christmas items and the inevitable shopping list starts to form in everyone's heads. This for this person, that for that. With all the gift and spending decisions to be made many people think about what they are buying rather than where they are buying it from.

Where possible, buying Australian is a no brainer. But have you thought about making at least some of your Christmas purchases locally? When you spend your dollars locally you aren't just supporting a local business, most of the time you are supporting a local family. Small, family owned businesses are the lifeblood of our country.

The families and the people they employ work incredibly hard to bring a product or service to you.

In many cases they also sponsor local sports teams, charities and schools. The flow on effect of you choosing to spend your money in town rather than going to Newcastle or Sydney has a massive ripple effect that many don't even realize. That ripple becomes a wave when you buy from a family business rather than a larger multinational chain store.

I grew up in a family business and have often worked in them through different stages of my career. My experience in working in a family business was definitely positive, as an employee you are treated not just as a replaceable number but someone who is worth investing time and training in. You are integral to that business.

We often see the benefit of this training in our local area. Service in many small businesses in our local area is second to none. They get to know you, they want you to return. We should remember and reward the store who greets us when you walk in and has a short chat rather than the cookie cutter greeting direct from the training manual. Many local stores will go out of their way to service your want or need and we should reward this effort by returning with our business next time.

So, next time you're walking down the street looking into a shop front, make an effort and go in. You'll be rewarded with good service and quality products and you're doing your little bit for our community too. Put simply- Back the local with your buck this Christmas.

Until Next time, Ben



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

With the festive season just around the corner, I urge

people to be wary of pay day lender loans as a solution to cover Christmas related expenses.

These financial products are targeted at Australians doing it tough but carry outrageously high interest rates that ultimately contribute to financial stress.

In the Hunter electorate a number of charitable community organisations have reported significant numbers of people under financial stress due to pay day lender loans.

Families living week to week, already struggling with high power prices and stagnated wages are being targeted by the quick fix loan companies and are falling into a deeper financial trap forced into pay day loans with interest rates as high as 884 per cent.

The ease of taking out a pay day lender loan and a failure to take into account a person's ability to pay back the loan means financially vulnerable people are suffering.

Recent data has shown that there are now 800,000 Australian households who have fallen victim to the pay day lending rip off.

This number has more than doubled in the past decade including 150,000 new households signing up for pay day loans in the last 18 months alone.

The government has known about this growing crisis for more than two years, but are so out of touch they refuse to do anything about it.

With the Government unwilling to tackle this crisis, earlier this year Labor introduced a Bill to enact the 24 recommendations from the 2015 review into payday loans and rent-to-buy schemes to stop the loan sharks preying on vulnerable Australians.

The Government should allow Labor's Bill to be debated and voted on. We need it to protect vulnerable Australian consumers.

I encourage locals experiencing financial stress to reconsider taking out a high interest pay day lender loan and to seek out alternative options.

We are fortunate to have a number of organisations in the Hunter electorate that offer financial counselling, hardship support and options for low interest loans.

You can contact my office for more information on these services.

Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR FOR THOSE LUCKY ENOUGH TO CARE ABOUT HOUSE PRICES - SHOULD WE CARE?
The sky is falling - house prices (in Sydney) have fallen

by 6%! This is essentially my summary of the media over-emphasis on the property market during the past few weeks.

If you are one of the very fortunate people in our society today, that actually has managed to buy, or at least have a mortgage on, a house, then you are part of an ever shrinking 60% of the population. That's right, just 60%. By comparison, in the early 1980's the home ownership percentage was above 80%.

Surely we can all realise that going from 80%+ home ownership down to 60%, and falling, is a massive failure of our society. Surely, we as Australians all want a fair go for everyone and for the wealth and opportunity to be shared.

The most basic way to think about the cost of housing is to think: how many annual average salaries are required to buy an average house? As recently as the early 1990's, the average home cost about 4 times an annual wage. So if the average wage at the time was \$30,000p.a. then the average home was 4 x \$30,000 = \$120,000.

Today, the average home is more than 8 times the average wage.

Currently, the average wage is at \$55,000 per year, and averages being averages, half of our society are on less than this.

This growing cost is not limited to Sydney or Melbourne or Brisbane. Try this little experiment for me; working on the old 4 times salary for average homes, have a look in a real estate window and try to find a home in our area for \$220,000. Good luck! And then look at the current 8 times salary for average homes at your local real estate and check the

availability of houses around the \$440,000 and you will find this to be closer to the reality.

People not being able to afford a home has a massive impact on our entire society. Many will want to use the value of their home in retirement. Families that don't own their own home get shuffled around from home to home and then the kids get shifted from school to school severely impacting relationships. The pressure on social housing is growing out of control and Governments don't have enough money to respond, with many working families unable to afford to rent in the expensive rental market.

And don't get me started on homelessness, holiday rentals and Airbnb! Some experts say that the property market needs to fall by at least 30%-40% to bring it back to being "affordable". This will scare the bones out of most people, but here is a truth - if you are not selling your home tomorrow or in the next 10 years, how much will it affect you? And would you be willing to wear an "on paper" loss in the short term, so that the great Australian dream of owning your own home becomes a reality for more Australian

families?

My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au OR call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

My website is www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers, Clayton

My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au OR call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOOST FOR UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE WORKERS

Workers in the Upper Hunter electorate can now get better emotional health and wellbeing support at work, thanks to the NSW Government's *Mentally Healthy Workplaces* strategy. The first stages of the package have now been launched, including a new workplace intervention program, a website with free support and resources and additional funding to help drought-affected farmers. About one in six workers will experience significant mental illness in any four week period and our Upper Hunter electorate is no different. It often means time off work, which can have a big impact on families, businesses and the entire community. This is why we are taking this important action. The new initiatives include:

- A website, which has free support and resources for managers and workers about workplace emotional health and wellbeing;

- Access to free, tailored SafeWork NSW training for at least 3,600 managers around NSW to improve awareness and support of emotional health and wellbeing;

- A program of Mentally Healthy Workplaces Ambassadors, including Landcom, led by John Brogden, to raise awareness of the importance of workplace emotional health and wellbeing; and A funding boost of \$100,000 for the Virtual Psychologist service, which will give an additional 1,100 farmers access to critical psychological counselling support in real time. This is the first stage of the \$55 million *Mentally Healthy Workplaces* strategy. This is the single biggest investment in workplace emotional health and wellbeing in the country's history. <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/mental-health> or call SafeWork NSW on 13 10 50. Cheers, Michael



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News

P: 4938 1773

Outspoken author to visit Library

In an exciting author talk event at Cessnock Library, Father Rod Bower will speak about his autobiography, *Outspoken: The Life and Work of the Man Behind Those Signs* from 10.30am

to 12noon on Thursday 15 November. It was back in 2013 that he decided to use the sign outside St Mary's Anglican Church for something other than announcing service times.



GAY. GET OVER IT. LOVE GOD".

The sign went viral on social media and Father Bower realised he had a platform. He planned to focus on three issues — marriage equality, asylum seekers and climate change. But over the years he has had his say on many topics, including domestic violence, racism and certain politicians. Father Rod now has a social media following of close to 65,000 people and uses this platform to raise questions about Australia's corporate soul, to assert that we are all brothers and sisters – asylum seekers, Muslims, those identifying as LGBTI and Indigenous Australians.



In this new book, Father Rod

He'd been called to deliver last rites, and the dying man's family kept his male partner out of the room.

"They were anxious I would be judgmental of this man, and it really pulled me up that they could experience marginalisation because of me and because of what I represent," said Father Bower.

He returned to his church and put up a sign saying, "DEAR CHRISTIANS, SOME PPL ARE

Pharmacist Advice

HeadliceTreatment

Head lice are only found on the human head or hair. Head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding, carpet or anywhere else in the environment. Treating anything other than the human head does not eradicate head lice.

There are two main treatment options to remove head lice:

- * Mechanical removal
- * Chemical removal

Mechanical removal or 'comb and conditioner' method

What you need for this method:

* Normal comb to detangle hair prior to using metal lice comb

* Fine toothed metal lice comb (available from your local chemist or online)

* Conditioner - buy a cheap brand as you will be needing a lot of it, and preferably one that is white to make spotting the lice easier

* White paper towel

Mechanical removal involves applying conditioner to dry hair.

Cover all of the hair with conditioner, detangle hair with normal comb and separate into sections.

Then, using a fine long toothed metal lice comb, comb through the hair in sections. The conditioner does not kill lice but stuns them for about 20 minutes enabling easier removal.

The long toothed metal comb will remove nits and the stunned head lice. Wipe the comb on a white tissue and check for any lice or nits. Keep combing until no more appear on the tissue.

This method should be done every second or third day until no nits and lice remain, usually about 7 to 10 days.

This method is the preferred way to detect and treat head lice because it is effective, does not contribute to insecticide resistance in head lice and also presents a low risk of skin irritation.

This method also helps manage head lice before they become established on the head. Simply keep a good head lice comb in the shower and every time your family washes their hair use the fine comb through the hair. This will ensure lice are "caught" before they lay too many eggs. If your children are old enough to wash their own hair encourage them to use the comb themselves. Or keep a comb handy to where you wash your children's hair and use it every shampoo.

Chemical removal

What you need for this method:

- * Normal comb to

detangle hair prior to using metal lice comb

- Chemical treatment containing synthetic or natural insecticides that kill head lice (talk to your local pharmacist to identify the treatments containing insecticides)

- Fine toothed metal lice comb (available from your local chemist or online)
- White paper towel

If you choose to use a chemical treatment, remember to follow the instructions carefully. You will also need to comb through the hair to ensure the treatment is working. If you find dead lice it means the product has worked. If you find live lice, the treatment has not worked. Don't be tempted to re-apply or over-apply the same chemical if it doesn't appear to be working. Instead switch to another treatment that uses a different chemical compound or use the 'comb and conditioner method' as described under the mechanical removal. It is very important that you repeat the chemical treatment in seven days to kill any newly hatched eggs as most chemical treatments will not kill the eggs (nits).

Once your child is free of lice and nits, remember to regularly check with a fine toothed head lice comb and conditioner as described above. Early detection and treatment will prevent re-infestation of other family members and classmates.

How serious is the head lice problem?

Head lice are one of the most commonly reported health complaints from parents and teachers. The NSW Health Nitbuster program has found that when sampled, more than 23 per cent of primary school aged children in New South Wales had head lice.

Infestations appear to be on the increase, due to factors such as:

- resistance to the common chemicals used in head lice products
- inappropriate use of the treatments
- changing social and school practices.

While head lice are not known to carry disease, they are a nuisance for parents and children. The social stigma associated with head lice infestation can affect children's comfort and ability to learn in the classroom.

Unsuccessful treatments can frustrate parents and lead them to seek more desperate

measures that may be harmful and ineffective.

The Nitbusters Program addresses treatment issues and teaches participants how to handle the problem in a community setting.

Biology

Head lice are small wingless insects that live on human head or hair. They are common, particularly in children. They are very well adapted to grasp human hair shaft. They cannot fly, jump or swim and are spread by head to head contact.

Head lice feed on human blood, several times a day. A head lice infestation is not the result of dirty hair or poor hygiene and it can affect all types of hair irrespective of its condition or length. Head lice effects only humans and cannot be passed on to animals.

Female head louse lays eggs close to the scalp on the hair shaft. Eggs hatch after 5-7days leaving empty egg shells (nits) glued to the hair shaft. These eggshells are more noticeable as hair grows and carry them away from the scalp.

Nymphs that emerge from egg shells take 7-8 days to grow to adult sized lice. They may take another 7 days to start breeding and hence it is important to remove them to stop them spreading.

Do head lice cause illness or disease?

Head lice do not transmit disease causing micro-organisms. However, they can cause irritation, resulting in itchiness. Sometimes, itchiness and subsequent scratching of the scalp can increase the risk of secondary infection.

Using insecticides and other substances to control head lice can actually have more serious health effects than the lice themselves.

Swapping between different treatments or using several different treatments at the same time can cause serious skin irritation, itchiness and other complications.

Registered chemicals that kill lice are usually safe, but excessive use of other substances, such as home remedies and other insecticides, can cause irritation

How do you catch head lice?

Head lice cannot jump or fly from person to person. They are usually spread by head to head contact. Primary school-aged children, particularly girls are at greatest risk of exposure to head lice.

Studies show that lice are rarely transferred through clothing, hats, furniture or bedding. Lice or eggs may be attached to strands of hair left on pillows, bedding or furniture, but this is uncommon.

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also reveals details of his childhood growing up in the Hunter region with his adopted family and his formative years that included coping with the sudden loss of his father, leaving school at sixteen to become a butcher in Newcastle and the search for his birth mother.

This is a free event, but bookings are essential. Don't miss out and reserve your spot today by calling the team at Cessnock Library on 4993 4399.

Copies of *Outspoken* will also be available for purchase on the day for \$35 each.

• Photo above: Father Bower.

Scoot, Skate or Ride? It's competition time

Cessnock City Council's thrilled to announce the annual Scooter, Bike and Skate competition next month and is calling young people to sign up.

The event hosted by CYCOS kicks off at 10am at the Cessnock Skate Park on Saturday 24 November and wrap up at 4pm.

Go to for all info www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/youth/events



Chicken mole



Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 12 RSPCA Approved Chicken Thigh Fillets
- 2 brown onions, chopped
- 2 long fresh red chillies, sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 3 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 400g can crushed tomatoes
- 1 cup 1 cup Campbell's Real Stock Chicken, plus extra to serve (optional), plus extra to serve (optional)
- 50g dark chocolate (preferably 85% cocoa), finely chopped (see Notes)
- 2 tablespoons Brown Sugar
- 1/2 cup coriander sprigs
- Steamed rice, to serve
- Lime wedges, to serve

Method

- Step 1 Preheat oven to 200C (180C fan-forced)
- Step 2 Heat the oil in a large flameproof roasting pan over high heat. Season the chicken and cook, in 2 batches, for 5-8

mins or until well browned all over. Transfer to a plate. Discard fat from pan, reserving 1 tbsp. Heat reserved fat in the pan over high heat. Cook onion, chilli, garlic and sesame seeds for 10-15 mins or until onion is soft and blackens slightly. Add paprika, cumin and ground coriander. Cook for 1 min or until fragrant. Remove from heat. Add tomatoes and stock. Blend or process sauce until smooth. Season.

- Step 3 Return the chicken to the pan and pour over the sauce. Bake for 25-30 mins or until chicken is just cooked through. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the chicken to a dish and cover to keep warm. Stir the chocolate and sugar into the sauce until melted. Season. Add a little extra chicken stock or water if the sauce is too thick.
- Step 4 Top the chicken with the sauce and coriander sprigs. Serve with rice and lime wedges.

Out & About

with Mike Lowing

The Central Hunter Business & Community expo
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■ Alison Smith, from Kersley, at left & daughter who won first prize in the raffle



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Welcome to Wollombi Road Provideore.

This week we are talking fresh asparagus; in store we have green, white and purple asparagus... All three types of asparagus are available in spring, but their differences go far beyond just the colour of the stalks. White and green asparagus differences include the texture, the flavour, the proper preparation, and perhaps the biggest difference of all, the growing method. Purple asparagus comes from certain varieties of asparagus originating in Italy. Simply put, white asparagus is grown underground. Farmers piled a thick mound of dirt over the white asparagus or cover it with black plastic to ensure that not a single ray of sunlight hits the spears, a process known as etiolation. Therefore, the white asparagus is not exposed to sunlight. Green asparagus is a bit grassy in flavour, while white asparagus is mild and slightly bitter due to being more

fibrous. Purple asparagus is nuttier and sweeter. While the stalks are purple on the outside, the interior of the asparagus is green. Asparagus contains potassium, calcium, vitamins B and C, folic acid, and beta-carotene. It also has the most fibre of the colours. Purple asparagus contains anthocyanins, which are antioxidants. To serve asparagus is—roasted, baked, sautéed, shaved in salads or simply simmer and add butter, good local olive oil, herbs or hollandaise sauce. If you're feeling colourful serve all three. The first of our local stone fruit has arrived in store, nectarines and peaches along with mangos fresh from the NT. The stone fruits bring a difference in flavour to the store with their enticing aromas you can feel the festive season approaching. It's summer salads and BBQ season. Stone fruit at a nice diversity to summer salads and they can be grilled on the BBQ when they are nice and ripe.

Nectarines
Genetically speaking, nectarines and peaches are not very different, except nectarines have a smooth skin while peaches have fuzz. Like peaches, a nectarine's flesh may be white or yellow. These cousins can be used interchangeably in recipes, but nectarines offer the advantage of having no skin to peel. Mangos, nectarines and peaches are all high in vitamin C and A high calcium and low in calories... Try this recipe for something new:- 2 bunches asparagus, trimmed, halved diagonally, 600g peeled green prawn meat or tomatoes for vegetarian option, 2 x 400g tins cannellini beans, rinsed, drained, 1 large ripe mango, peeled, thinly sliced, 150g baby Asian salad leaves, 2 tablespoons sweet chilli sauce & 2 tablespoons lime juice, plus lime wedges to serve



Instructions
Step 1 Blanch asparagus in a saucepan of boiling water for 2-3 minutes, until tender-crisp. Plunge into a bowl of cold water. Drain.
Step 2 Spray a large frying pan with oil and place over high heat. Cook prawns, in batches, for 2-3 minutes, until cooked through.
Step 3 Gently combine asparagus, prawns, beans, mango and salad. Divide salad between serving plates. Combine sweet chilli and juice in a small bowl; drizzle over salad. Serve with lime wedges.
Variations ~ Save time by replacing the prawns with shredded barbecued chicken (minus the skin). Add cherry tomatoes and coriander.
Make it gluten free: Make sure your sweet chilli sauce is a gluten-free brand.

What are social engineering scams?

Social engineering is deceiving or manipulating people into carrying out a particular act, for example transferring money, sharing confidential information or following a malicious link. Proving it is a serious and evolving issue, funds transfer fraud was responsible for the loss of over \$12.5 billion worldwide between October 2013 and May 2018. Real estate has been identified as a growing target for funds transfer fraud, with an increase in cybercrime of 1100 per cent between 2015 and 2017

In May 2017, the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales (REINSW) reported a cyberattack that saw \$750,000 stolen from an agency trust account. In July 2018, the industry body received a phone call from an agent who transferred funds to fraudulent bank detail. The information was sent to the agent from the same email address the vendor used throughout the campaign, but the email was not from the vendor. Other scams include phishing of customers by impersonating an organisation and manipulating documents. CFC reports a client was contacted by what they thought was their bank and told there was suspicious activity on their account. The client was asked to change their account details over the phone, enabling the scammers to access the accounts and steal \$89,000. In another case, scammers hacked a client's computer system and changed the bank details on the invoices sent to customers. When customers paid their accounts, the money was sent to the scammers's bank account.

vulnerability:
Implement call back procedures | Validate financial information with a simple phone call for every new payee account or account details change.
●Establish multi-factor authentication on email accounts | If you use web-based email accounts, ensure you set up additional verification steps for external connections. This is usually a verification code sent via SMS.
●Educate your team | Raising awareness among your team is one of the simplest ways to detect and avoid scams and cyberattacks.

accreditation for mould testing and remediation industries.
Cashing in on fear
Prior to making its submission, REINSW received expert advice suggesting there is limited evidence that biotoxin-related illnesses are directly the result of water-damaged buildings. The research indicated most mould is not dangerous and generally appears as a consequence of aspect, weather, lifestyle and water leaks. While REINSW does not possess the expertise to comment on CIRS, it recognises the need to consider acceptable methods of testing for toxic mould. "It has been brought to our attention that there is a general unwarranted fear surrounding the identification and presence of mould with little medical or scientific evidence to support the fear," says REINSW CEO, Tim McKibbin.

Push for improved methods of testing mould

The House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport has released their report on the inquiry into biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia. REINSW made a submission to this inquiry in July 2018, outlining its response to claims mould can cause Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS) and the need for

Types of scams
Once confined only to the real world, the technological revolution has enabled social engineering scams to go digital. These scams take many forms. One of the more common business scams is CEO fraud. This is when a scammer impersonates a CEO and instructs the finance department to make an urgent payment. This is usually achieved under the guise of paying an overdue bill to a supplier. Some scammers even monitor the CEO's social media account and send the fraudulent email when they know the CEO is out of the office. This means the recipient cannot access the CEO easily and the transaction is more likely to be processed.

Social engineering scams – every business is at risk

Australian businesses increasingly depend on computer networks and data to perform day-to-day functions, but as this dependency grows, the frequency and severity of network security incidents also rises. Research from Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) and CFC Underwriting (CFC), two global leaders in insurance, shows a prominent cause of substantial loss is through electronic funds transfer fraud, often conducted via social engineering scams.

practitioners. Payment directions are communicated by entry into a Financial Settlement Schedule. Each party to the transaction completes their tasks prior to the nominated settlement time and for settlement to take place as planned, the Settlement Schedule must balance, the source funds must be available, and all documents must be signed. The workspace is locked automatically in advance of settlement if everything is ready. This triggers title verification and movement of the source funds into a holding account. Settlement occurs as scheduled and title documents are lodged and registered, and the settlement funds disbursed in accordance with the Financial Settlement Schedule. The settlement process is automatic and completed in about 15 to 30 minutes which sees cleared funds transferred and title registered. Note settlement can be cancelled at any time prior to the locking of the workspace and if the workspace is not in the 'ready' status at the time of scheduled settlement then a new settlement time will automatically be scheduled 1.5 hours later. There are important security features built in to PEXA as well as electronic conveyancing rules that practitioners must follow.

ignored, such as the Government's proposed changes to:
Alterations to property
●Break fees
●Domestic violence
●Rent increases, and more. The bill will now be sent to the Governor of NSW for his assent. A date for the reforms to be implemented is yet to be disclosed.

Residential Tenancies Act reforms passed

Reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act have passed without amendment, according to the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales. These major changes affect the real estate industry, landlords & tenants. REINSW President Leanne Pilkington said the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Review) Bill 2018 has passed and REINSW is now commencing the first phase of educating the property management community. "It is important for our profession to understand all of the changes that the new Bill includes. We will be conducting intensive Training Sessions in 17 locations across the state beginning in Sydney next Thursday 25 October and running to 29 November 2018. "The second phase will follow the release of the Regulation, which are the guidelines that dictate how the act should be applied. "REINSW with the support of the REINSW Property Management Chapter Committee and a dedicated Subcommittee which formed in June 2015, worked tirelessly to specifically identify those areas in the current legislation requiring reform." Ms Pilkington said while many of our lobbying efforts have been adopted in whole or part by the Government, a lot have been

What is electronic conveyancing

When buying or selling property traditionally the settlement of the property has taken place by way of 'paper settlement' whereby the parties involved in the transaction attend a set settlement time and exchange paper documents and cheques and then certain documents have to be physically lodged with NSW Land Registry Service. In New South Wales and other states across Australia, there is a shift away from paper settlement to an electronic conveyancing. The term 'electronic conveyancing' refers to a conveyancing transaction where practitioners have elected to settle electronically through the electronic platform provided by Property Exchange Australia Limited (PEXA). The representatives of the parties and their financiers participate in an electronic workspace. eConveyancing will replace many of the paper and manual processes traditionally involved in property transactions with secure online processes. It will be mandatory from 1 July 2019



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THIS is the fifth in a series of articles about local service personal who served our nation in World War I, the Great War. We will continue the series until the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day this 11th November 2018. The Memorial Cycleway is not only a vital link between the two main towns of Branxton and Greta a distance of 4.5kms, but is also a living memorial to the sacrifice of those local veterans that enlisted to serve overseas. The cycleway will be from Rotunda to Rotunda, and will have a number of 'reflection points' to all conflicts and peace keeping missions to which Australian service men and women have served.

ft. 7 in. (1.7 m) tall, having a fair complexion, hazel eye and brown hair. He is further described as having a scar on his right knee. Albert Nolan was a single man and his attestation Paper indicates he had previous military service as an Infantryman with the 5th

service records. By stating he was 21 years of age when he enlisted in the AIF on the 7th June 1918 it implied he was born during 1897. When he completed the Mobilisation Enrolment Form he quoted a birth date of 16th February 1897, however on his Proceedings for Discharge Form, Part B completed on the 6th November 1945 his date of birth is quoted as 16th March 1900. Noted below is a further date of birth quoted as 16th March 1904. Albert Nolan attended a number of training camps during 1940 and 1941 and on the 1st October 1941 Albert enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF). Whilst with the CMF he served with the 110 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment at St Ives and also the 17th Battalion. However on the 28th June 1942 Sergeant Nolan discharged from the CMF and the following day enlisted in the AIF.

Nolan, Albert Edward
 Army Number: NX111633
 Place of Birth: Gunnedah, NSW
 Age: 38 years
 Date of Birth: 16th March 1904
 Occupation: Cook
 Place of Enlistment: French's Forest

There is no physical information reported on the Attestation Form other than to show he was physically fit. He was married and his permanent address was 2 Ross Street, Inverell. Sergeant Nolan remained in the Sydney area as his service record shows he attended the 21st Field Ambulance at Belmore House, Wiley Park, suffering from Chronic Tonsillitis. Sergeant Nolan was transferred to the No. 113 Base Hospital at Concord on the 20th October 1942 where his tonsils were removed. After treatment at Concord, Sergeant Nolan was transferred to the 103rd Convalescent Depot at Ingleburn on the 31st October 1942. He remained there until the 17th November 1942 when he marched out to join the General Duties Depot or GDD.

From the GDD Sergeant Nolan joined the 17th Australian Infantry Battalion but appears to have remained at Ingleburn Camp because on the 6th September 1943 he was attached to the Second Australian Army Ship Loading Detail, where he stayed until the 19th December 1943. During July 1944, Sergeant Nolan had been transferred to the general reinforcement of the 23rd Australian Infantry Training Battalion and on the 16th December 1944 he was transferred to the 16th Australian Infantry Training Battalion.

On the 20th April 1945 he was admitted to No. 113 Base Hospital at Concord suffering from Dyspepsia where he remained until the 7th June 1945 when he re-joined the General Duty



Depot. He remained with the GDD until the 2nd August 1945 when he returned to the 16th Australian Infantry Training Battalion. Later that month, on the 26th August 1945 Sergeant Nolan marched out of the 16th Australian Infantry Training battalion to join No. 2 Australian Prisoner of War Reception Group. The Australian Prisoner of War Reception group was tasked with assisting with the repatriation of allied Prisoners of War incarcerated in South East Asia. Sergeant Nolan embarked in Sydney on the vessel "Duntroon" on the 27th August 1945 bound for Singapore. Sergeant Nolan disembarked in Singapore on the 13th September 1945 and remained there until the 18th October 1945 when he embarked on the vessel "Circassia" to return to Sydney. The Circassia docked in Sydney on the 6th November 1945 and Sergeant Nolan was then taken onto the strength of GDD in preparation for discharge, which occurred on the 7th December 1945. Albert Nolan's total service was 1,529 days. His active service in Australia was 1,265 days and his overseas service totalled 69 days. Albert Nolan received the Australian Service Medal during World War II to accompany the British War Medal awarded at the conclusion of the Great War.

● Photo above: Albert Edward Nolan

Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway

A cycleway, a walking trail, a memoriala connection between two towns. It ~~could~~ ^{will} happen....with your help.



BRANXTON GRETA MEMORIAL CYCLEWAY

Battalion of the 13th Infantry Regiment. His place of residence when he enlisted is shown to be High Street Greta.

Albert Nolan undertook his recruit training at Liverpool camp and on the 5th September 1918 he was appointed a Private in the NSW 22nd General Reinforcements. He remained at Liverpool and on the 27th September 1918 he absented himself for four days without permission. Private Nolan was subsequently charged with being AWL from 0630 27th September until 0630 1st October 1918. He was awarded four days' forfeiture of pay and fined an additional £1/-/-.

The NSW 22nd General Reinforcement embarked on SS Wyreema at Sydney on the 14th October 1918. The vessel formed part of Convoy 43 a four ship convoy which stopped at Fremantle and was then scheduled to travel to Salonika, Greece, and finally England. The Armistice took effect while the Wyreema was at sea and the ship was recalled. The Wyreema returned to Australia and Private Nolan disembarked in Victoria, just prior to Christmas 1918.

Albert Nolan was discharged from the AIF at 2nd Military District Headquarters on the 5th January 1919 and was awarded the British War Medal. The name Nolan A.E. is inscribed on the Greta ANZAC Memorial.

Albert Nolan's military career did not end there. On the 25th November 1940 Albert Nolan completed the Mobilisation Enrolment Form which recorded the following details:

Nolan, Albert Edward
 Army No. N.42488
 Place of Birth: Gunnedah, NSW
 Age: 43
 Date of Birth: 16th February 1897
 Occupation: Cook
 Place of Enlistment: Sydney University
 Interestingly there are age discrepancies in Albert Nolan's

Nolan, Albert Ernest Edward

Regimental No: 66764
 Place of Birth: Branxton
 Place of Enlistment: Newcastle
 Date of Enlistment: 7 Jun 1918
 Occupation: Wheeler
 Unit: NSW 22nd General Reinforcements
 Albert Ernest Edward Nolan is described in his initial medical examination as being 21 years of age, standing 5

From previous page

Push for improved methods of testing mould

.... "The fact there is no accreditation requirements for people offering mould testing services is concerning," continues McKibbin. "This has undoubtedly paved the way for the creation of an industry of inexperienced mould inspectors who capitalise on fear."

Impacting tenancies

REINSW reported in the submission a significant number of tenants across NSW have attempted to terminate their fixed-term tenancy agreements based on claims of the presence of mould. McKibbin says the lack of information and resources on mould leaves property professionals in the dark.

"When presented with mould-related issues, agents are often left with no choice but to search the internet for assistance," McKibbin continues. "With no information they are unsure how to proceed once mould has been detected in a property and may engage so-called experts who have unsatisfactory levels of experience and expertise to assess the dangers."

"This lack of information ultimately leads to fear and anxiety, which is felt by the tenants, landlords and property professionals." McKibbin says inexperienced mould inspectors using unsubstantiated and unverified methods may provide reports that cause a tenant to terminate their tenancy based upon health concerns that may not be cause by mould.

"This untimely exit can cost landlords thousands of dollars in lost income, testing, remediation and renovations," he says. "Tenants, similarly, incur costs associated with finding and relocating to a new property."

"What we need is a credible report authored by a respected scientist in the field. From the findings we can then develop effective standards and accreditation. Until then, claims that the presence of mould will threaten human health will persist." REINSW recommendations considered in report Given the potential impact on tenants, landlords and property professionals, REINSW strongly recommended the Committee define acceptable standards, qualifications and training for mould testing and remediation industries.

"We proposed those who do not meet these requirements should not be able to provide advice in relation to mould, its identification, removal and management," says McKibbin.

"It's good to see this, and our other recommendations, have been included in the inquiry report, along with improved research into the potential health effects of mould and causes of CIRS syndrome. "We believe education and regulation must be extended to all key stakeholders in the industry – it is not only for property professionals to bear.

"Education plays a vital role in medical diagnosis of biotoxin-related illnesses, the outcome of NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal decisions and practices of businesses within the industry." The findings of the report, tabled in Parliament in mid-October 2018, will now be considered by Health Minister Greg Hunt.



Farewell Father George

AFTER 7 years as Branxton & Greta's Parish Priest Father George Mullappallil has returned to Kerala his home town in India. Prior to coming to Branxton & Greta he spent 3 years in East Maitland.

Fr George was given a wonderful farewell at the McAuley Centre in Branxton after the Vigil Mass on Saturday 27th October.

At the farewell Fr George was presented with some wonderful gifts of which he was very humbled & grateful. Father then thanked the parishioners for their ongoing support over his 7 year ministry & said he had thoroughly enjoyed his time here & had made some life-long friends.

After cutting a cake made by parishioner Noleen Bendeich it was then shared to all attendees.

Father George has Father Thomas Chirackal replacing him.

He & Father George went to the same seminary in Kerala with Father Thomas being just 12 months behind him & both are members of the Missionary Society of Saint Thomas.

A spokesperson for the parish said that Father Georges stay was exemplary in both his ministry & his administration & that he will be sadly missed by all.

Farewell & best wishes.

● Photo: Father George & Mercia Thomas at the farewell



East Branxton



Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit
Are you seeking your first home or maybe an investment. Well this is the opportunity to buy at a low price. A brick and tile two bedroom unit with a large open living area and large bedrooms. The property has its own private outdoor space and internal access to the garage. Updated Bathroom and Strata managed with low fees. It is currently tenanted at \$260 per week. Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway
ASKING \$275,000

East Branxton

Three bedroom Duplex with large backyard
Immaculate Duplex with 3 large bedrooms all with built-ins. Other features include large open plan living area opening onto under-cover entertainment area, large double lock-up garage, in quite area. New carpet & blinds.
ASKING \$350,000



NORTH ROTHBURY



Totally renovated cottage

Tasteful & smart describe this fully renovated large family home. Generous sized bedrooms, open plan living, gorgeous kitchen & beautiful bathroom, high ceilings & polished floorboards. Large verandah at rear to catch the great views to the Brokenback ranges. French doors & scattered leadlight windows add to its charm. All this on a 809 square metre fully fenced block.

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

ASKING \$495,000

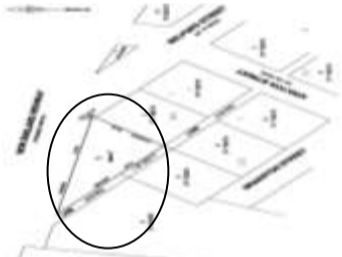
Branxton

Beautiful old home with many special features of a by gone era. Features include polished Floors, high ceilings, 2 large bedrooms with builtins, separate dining, modern kitchen with dishwasher, spacious lounge room with split air con, large entertainment area at rear & free standing double garage. All this on a low maintenance fully fenced block.

PRICE: All reasonable offers considered



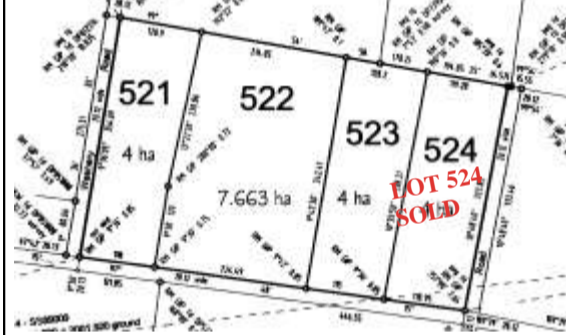
BELFORD



Vacant Land 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved Lot 1 DP 1205549 Well over half an acre of good level block.
ASKING \$160,000 ONO

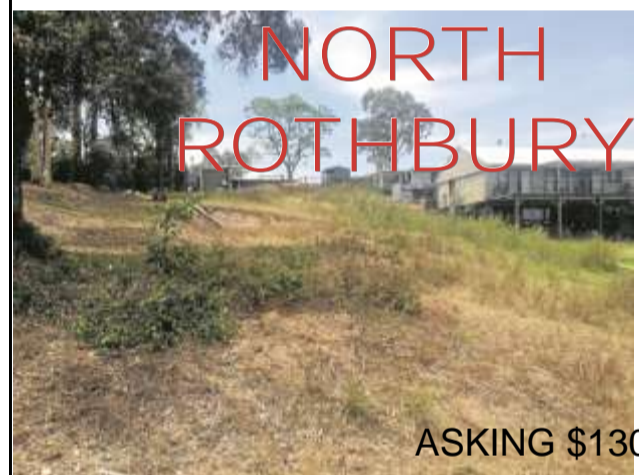
NORTH ROTHBURY



Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road, Vacant blocks

4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks. Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country
ASKING: \$420,000 each

NORTH ROTHBURY



Vacant Land 809m²

Vacant Building Block Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ONO

North Rothbury



What a package ~ Family home + granny flat + 1911m² fenced block

Family home + Granny Flat all set on almost half an acre

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

ASKING \$488,000

North Rothbury



As new ~ Totally renovated; kitchen, bathroom, new flooring & freshly painted

- * This brick & Tile family home on a very large fully fenced block (885sm) features
- * Spacious living area
- * New kitchen
- * Builtins in all bedrooms
- * New bathroom
- * Reverse cycle split air conditioning
- * Large single lock-up garage
- * Set on 885sm fully fenced block with magnificent views to the north

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

ASKING \$417,000



School News



Branxton Public School



•Wetlands

Congratulations to Grace who competed at the State Finals of the Premier's Spelling Bee today. She got through to the 4th round and was knocked out on the word 'brioche'. She proudly received her certificate from NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. The Tennis program has begun and student are

enjoying learning and improving skills in a fun and engaging lesson each week. Stage 3 had a fabulous time visiting Bathurst in Week 2. The students made important connections to what they are learning about at school, as well as developing independence and confidence in trying something new. Staff at the

venues visited complimented our students on their exemplary behaviour and high interest demonstrated throughout. Stage 1 had an awesome day at the Hunter Wetlands. Students were involved in scientific investigations and participated in a variety of activities. These included interactive and hands on investigations, observing

wetland creatures under the microscope, dipnetting to find these creatures and a nature walk to locate and identify the wetland's birdlife. Students came to the conclusion that the

Hunter Wetlands is very healthy and it's very important that we do our part to look after it- and all other environments! Transition programs are underway for many of our students. Pre-schoolers will be visiting for the first time on Friday 9th November from 11:45am. Mrs Maier and special guests have important information to give parents while the pre-schoolers enjoy time with their peers, teachers and Year 5 Buddies. Year 6 are also attending their own orientation visits to their high schools. Exciting times as our children take their next big steps in life! Year 5 are beginning the process of filling leadership positions for 2019. Staff, students and parents have been involved in refining this process to make it equitable and consistent. Good luck to our aspiring leaders. This term we have booked Project Rockit [https://](https://www.projectrockit.com.au/)



• Tennis

www.projectrockit.com.au/ to come and speak with our older students and parents. The parent session will be on Wednesday, November 21st 6pm - 7:30pm The Parent and Educator Forum is an opportunity for the broader school community to come together and learn from our team of expert presenters about the strengths and challenges of navigating the online world as a young person. Our wonderful P&C are holding a Spring Working Bee on Sunday 11th Nov to establish a new vegetable garden and refresh the existing one. Plans are underway for the Carols by Torchlight to be held on Thursday 6th December. Keep an eye on Facebook and newsletters for further details on each of these events.

Dates for the Calendar
 Friday 9th November – 1st Kinder Orientation visit
 Sunday 11th November – P&C's Spring working bee 8am-11am.
 Thursday 6th December – P&C's Carols by Torchlight
 Tuesday 11th December – Presentation Day at Community Hall
 Wednesday 12th December – Year 6 Dinner
 Thursday 13th December – Sport Assembly
 Wednesday 19th December

– last day for students.

At Branxton Public School students, staff and

community are Respectful, Responsible and achieve their Personal Best.



•Stage 3 at Mt Panorama

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... the real test of business success lies in giving the opportunity to others



In late November and early December Lovedale will see one of Australia's largest collection of antiques, collectables, vintage motor cars and horse drawn vehicles go under the hammer in a 'Major 6 Timed Auction Extrava-

ganza' with everything to sell to the highest bidder. Allan Curtis, the vendor, has spent a life time as a collector, museum curator, antique shop proprietor and businessman and has decided to call it a

day and his vast collection is to be dispersed. Allan has an excellent eye and this offering presents buyers with a unique opportunity to acquire quality wares. **Highlights of Sale** ~ Included in the large offering is furniture and genuine antiques acquired from many old Maitland and country estates. Also on offer are many rare and interesting military pieces including a Campaign Washstand used by Officers in the Boer War. Other memorabilia includes a collection of Police badges and medals. Amongst the items is a rare William Freeman's painting of Maitland's famous boxer, Les Darcy and also the well-known Minmi Hotel. The auction includes vintage and collectable motor vehicles, horse drawn vehicles and motor bikes. The first Auction commences on line 14 November 2018, bidding and photographs at www.normansauction.com



Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

GRETA, BRANXTON & SURROUNDS

Convicts in the Area

While there is definitely a lingering presence of the early convicts in the district, it isn't easy to pin it down. The sandstone cut slabs or blocks that curb the road in certain areas of the two towns were thought to be convict cut and built, the physical remnants of their back-breaking work. There is the 'convict' tunnel under Harper's Hill, known as a culvert or drain, where they were said to be locked up at night in the rooms either side in dank, dark conditions to keep them from running away after working all day as part of the iron gang. The culvert is whispered to have been originally built to transport convicts secretly from one side of the road to the other. Also, the steps of the Hunter Reserve are what some believed to have been originally quarried and cut by convicts although it was the local men in the Great Depression who earned their keep by laying them. Whatever the stories, the convicts were real people who lived and worked here as early enforced migrant labourers after they were shoved from their homelands as prisoners, many of whom became our ancestors. Similar but different to the many Second World War migrants, the 'Displaced Persons' who were housed in the Migrant Camp at Greta, who are the parents and grandparents of a number of the current local population. Like the migrants, many of the convicts had come from awful situations where they had no choice but to leave their homes, including those considered political. However, some of the convicts would have also been hardened criminals created by harsh lives from their earliest days. All the convicts passed on the 'convict stain' from which we, fortunately as a nation, have now finally recovered, and can more fully appreciate what they went through to survive and often eventually thrive in their new country. The area was developed not only by the early white settlers but by the people who worked for them, the convicts, who tried their best to survive in ways both good and bad. William Harper, honoured by the later naming of Harpers Hill, came to his grant he called 'Oswald' in 1831 which became the locality of Oswald after losing his sight in government service as a first assistant to the Surveyor-General. He had five children by that stage and needed an income. He built his home at the bottom of the hill and had convicts to work

his farm and help in the house. In 1833 Harper was robbed by bushrangers Henry Beard and John Richardson, which was noted by his acquaintance, George Wyndham, in his diary on the 22nd April 1833. Harper died in 1836 and it was some years later the road work began through Oswald and over Harpers Hill by the convict iron gangs.

Some of Harper's assigned convict servants included:

Catherine Brady who arrived on the *Andromeda*
Thomas Coyle from the *John Barry*
David Gardener from the *Marquis of Hastings*
Patrick Halfpenny from the *Boyne*
James Hartnett from the *Governor Ready*
Michael Healey from the *Boyne*
John James from the *Marquis of Hastings*
John McMullen from the *Asia*

James O'Hara from the *Henry Porcher*
Lucinda Sweeney from the *Elizabeth*
Lucy Sweeney from the *Elizabeth*
Charles Templar from the *Countess of Harcourt*
Charles Williams from the *Prince Regent*

The bushrangers, Henry Beard and John Richardson, who robbed William Harper also stole from Alexander McLeod on the 5th June 1833 and were later hanged for their crimes. This particular Alexander McLeod (there was actually two, with grants near each other) had a 1200 acre grant he called 'Rattagan', situated between Greta and Branxton, from 1824 (the other one owned the early 'Luskintyre'). By 1844, he had moved to the New England area and then become insolvent.

Some of 'Rattagan's' Alexander McLeod's convict servants included:

James Dougherty from the *Frederick*, assigned as a constable
George Edwards from the *Dunvegan Castle*
Daniel Hay from the *Dorothy*
Thomas Holcombe from the *Royal George*
John Hughes from the *Batavia*, became an overseer
Mark Pewter from the *Katherine Stewart Forbes*
William Rayment from the *Royal Admiral*
Thomas Welch from the *Albion*

Robert Quick Williams from the *Surrey* convict ship
The following were also possibly employed by Alexander McLeod, however due to the confusion over the shared names and closely situated properties, they may possibly have been employed



• Sandstone Kerb & guttering in Drinan St, Branxton

by the 'Luskintyre' Alexander McLeod – William Brian from the *Guildford*

James Campbell from the *Isabella*, employed as a shepherd

Patrick Dwyer from the *Guildford*, as a labourer and assigned servant

Phoebe Hughes, employed as a dairywoman

John Maroney from the *Earl St. Vincent* was employed as a stumper

Joseph Risby



• Sandstone guttering lifting in Branxton

John White from the *Asia*
One of the Alexander McLeods was reported to have had an extensive dairy, with 120 cows milked daily, but it would more likely have been the 'Luskintyre' property owner as he advertised it for sale on 1st January 1829 and was



• Part of the convict wall at Harpers Hill

charged with insolvency in January 1831. The property was later sold to George Yeo and is virtually the locality of Luskintyre as we know it today.

However, the settlers that took up land weren't all well-to-do, because after 1812, when Governor Macquarie first came to Newcastle, well-behaved convicts were allowed small grants near Maitland. They included a much written-about local, Molly Morgan, who retired and died at her residence at Anvil Creek, now part of Greta, after making a success of her Maitland property which the local Aboriginal people, probably the Wonnarua tribe, called 'Minderriba'. However, she was apparently too generous with her time and money to be able to continue there. She was buried in the Glebe Cemetery at East Maitland. She had come out on the *Neptune* in 1790 which was part of the notoriously ill-treated Second Fleet, most of whom were lucky to have survived the trip, and again, in the *Experiment* in 1804 after she had escaped back to England. Despite her many ups and downs and the possibility that she may have died at the hands of her younger husband, Thomas Hunt, Molly Morgan became a well-respected name and she stands out as an amazing person in a time when most

women stayed in the background.

Some of the convicts that worked for Molly in Maitland included:

Maria Burns from the *Caroline*

James Featherstone from the *Neptune*, a dairyman

Hugh Finnigan from the *Countess of Harcourt*, a stockman

Edward Halton from the *Guildford*, employed as a groom

Isaac Lancaster from the *Baring*, a labourer

Elizabeth Lesurf from the *Wanstead*

James Richardson from the *Fortune*

Thomas Stapleton from the *Three Bees* ship

Robert Wilson from the *Surry*

The New England Highway at Harpers Hill would have only been a track in the period in question, with bush and a steep slope down on one side, and rock that needed to be levelled out to make the road on the other,

first known as the Main or Great Northern Road (not the Great North Road). It initially ran from Maitland and Morpeth to Singleton, then Armidale. The wall of massive sandstone blocks at

the entrance of the large culvert mentioned, situated on the side of the hill, would have been extremely heavy to move without machinery, much less fit together like a brick wall which they did. The tunnel is too low for even a short modern person to navigate upright. However, most of the convicts were usually much smaller than we are today, which is understandable when you consider the terrible poverty they were often born into.

Now looking at the evidence, the road that runs over Harper's Hill was definitely first constructed in the 19th century, when the drain in question was built. The last transported convicts to NSW arrived in late 1840 and with a 7 or 14 year sentence it would mean they could be still working for the government until as late as 1854. Experts from the convict-built Great North Road say that the tunnel is in such good condition it was more likely to have been built in 1850 when the highway was upgraded, after the period when the Great North Road between 1825 and 1836. The hill we now call Harper's was once an impossibly steep slope and the track through was divided on either side of it. The iron gang that was used to penetrate the hill were a tough lot but they created the improved new route through the hill and the work was said

to have been finished in 1841, according to an article in the Maitland Mercury on the 24th May 1999. Toll bars were erected on the highway around Harpers Hill in 1853, no doubt to cover costs of the upgrade as it was not considered a good road in the wet when it turned to mud, as stated by a 'Correspondent' in the *Empire* newspaper (Sydney, NSW: 1850-1875) on the 27 October 1853.

Reports in the newspapers of the time were unable to support any claims of the convicts ever being locked up in the rooms beneath the road, because in the *Australian* newspaper report in August 1838 (Sydney, NSW: 1824-1848), road gang members were living in huts at Anvil Creek, which was called the Harpers Hill Stockade, but this does not entirely prove they were not moved at some stage. It must have been built to be more than a culvert as there is a room inside which can just be seen with a strong torch, now blocked off. The 1838 law article from the Supreme Criminal Court was about the rape of a woman, who lived in a hut nearby the men, which was inflicted by William Duffy, a soldier from H M 28th Regiment and in charge of the gang. Three of the gang were charged with aiding and abetting the soldier but were acquitted due to lack of proof, while William Duffy was found guilty and was transported to Norfolk Island for life.

Further to the confirmation of who really quarried the sandstone used in the streets of Branxton and Greta and the Hunter River Reserve, it seems the men working for their dole in the Great Depression may have used newly quarried sandstone for the Hunter River Reserve. The information about the roads being reconstructed around Branxton and Greta say they tended to be gravel and tar, however the construction of the Anvil Creek Road was reported as having stone curbs and gutters in the *Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder* (NSW: 1913-1954) in March 1936. Also of interest is the Hunt Club's report in the *Maitland Daily Mercury* (NSW: 1894-1939) in November 1935, where the unknown author talks of how the stones that built the historic St James's Church in Morpeth were 'hewn from the local quarries by convicts, but the work of erection was done by skilled free labour', between 1837 and 1840, thus proving convicts were certainly given the job of cutting or carving out stones used for building the infrastructure at the time, and in the area.

The whole story can never be fully known because we can't go back to check, but it is fun sometimes to speculate and, much like the fables of old, there is often an element of truth contained in the legends. For more stories and hard facts call into Greta Museum, 96



• Looking out of the convict tunnel (with my bag in frame)



• The wall that holds the convict tunnel

High Street Greta (in the former Greta Council Chambers) on a Wednesday or Friday between 11am and 3pm, or email gretamuseum@gmail.com, or call Neridah on 0427657150.

Cheers, Neridah

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WHAT'S ON

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2 STUFD2JUMP

Courtesy

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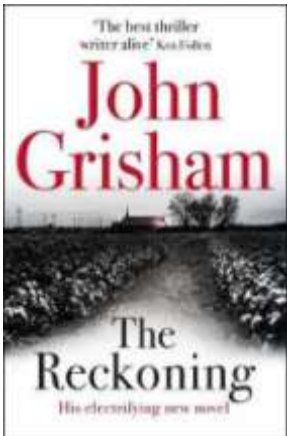
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ALL DAY EVERYDAY



John Grisham's new novel wades into Mississippi's racist past

By Neely Tucker
In his new novel, "The Reckoning," John Grisham returns to the mythical town of Clanton, Miss., the setting of his career-launching novel "A Time to Kill," published 30 years ago. He has revisited this racially divided community several times — in "The Last Juror," "Sycamore Row" and the short-story collection "Ford County." Each takes place in a different time period. "The Reckoning" is set in 1946, when World War II hero Pete Banning returns home a changed man, packing his wife off to an insane asylum and shooting the town's popular Methodist minister, refusing to explain either action. Against this backdrop, Grisham continues the rich literary tradition of Southern authors confronting a culture of white supremacy and its offspring: corruption, violence and a general cultural miasma. For American authors in general, and Southern ones in particular, Mississippi often functions as the

nation's heart of racial darkness. It's regarded as "the most Southern place on earth" not because of its manners, moonlight or magnolias, but because of its malignant heart. "Northerners, provincials that they are, regard the South as one large Mississippi," the historian V.O. Key Jr. once wrote. "Southerners, with their eye for distinction, place Mississippi in a class by itself."

The state's white ruling class created this reputation by shaping itself into a minority-rule, terrorist regime after the Civil War, the shadows of which it still has not escaped. (I say this as a seventh-generation white Mississippian, whose ancestors include at least one slave-owner, a handful of hill-country rednecks and a Confederate soldier who lost a leg at Gettysburg.) Writers such as Richard Wright, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty and Tennessee Williams founded the state's outside literary reputation, largely by writing about the quirks and horrors of Southern culture, most principally its racism. The state's dazzling constellation of current writers — Jesmyn Ward, Natasha Trethewey, Donna Tartt, Richard Ford, Ellen Gilchrist, Greg Iles, Angie Thomas, Michael Farris Smith and so on — deal with the race question in ways small or large, in one genre or another, for to ignore race in Mississippi is to write about Arizona and ignore the desert. The effect these writers have had on American letters is hard to overstate. Mississippians — born in one of the poorest, least educated states in America — have won nine Pulitzer

Prizes for literature or theatre, six National Book Awards, two Presidential Medals of Freedom and the Nobel Prize in literature, and have served as the poet laureate of the United States.

John Grisham was born in Arkansas but mostly grew up in north Mississippi, and was a lawyer and state legislator there. He lived a couple miles from Faulkner's house in Oxford before decamping, as did Faulkner, to spend most of his time around Charlottesville, Va. (Full disclosure: I wrote a short profile of Grisham in the early '90s that he was not fond of.)

Grisham's forte, of course, is the legal thriller, not thick-cut literary Southern Gothic, but he has often drawn on the state's racist framework for plot and character development. It was centre stage in "A Time to Kill," for example, and essential to "Sycamore Row." In "The Reckoning," racial tensions subtly define the narrative.

After Banning shoots the minister, gives himself up to arrest and refuses to explain himself, the town begins to suspect that there might not be enough mental cotton in his gin.

"This family needs a full-time lawyer," Joel, his college-age son says early on, and you just know a Grisham-esque attorney is coming to the rescue. That doesn't quite happen, although there are a couple of trials that bookend a segment of Pete's harrowing war experiences. As the why-he-dunnit unwinds, the plot wades into a tangle of white and black family relationships, coming to rest in moral waters as muddy as the river that gives the place its name.

This is complicated by the fact that Pete Banning is one of the "good" white people of the day. He provides a school for the black children of workers on his 640-acre cotton-farming spread and is kind to the help.

But the slavery and white supremacy that has shaped

Banning's world is not something that he contemplates, nor is the way his family built its wealth by exploiting black labor.

Liza, his city-born wife who is new to the neo-plantation, once rides out to the woods where the field hands live in abject squalor. She is appalled.

Later, when an attorney seeks to claim the Banning estate as civil damages for the slaying of the pastor, he finishes the inventory of land and housing with: "They have half a dozen outbuildings, fine structures all, plus the farm equipment, and livestock, and how many Negroes?" "Please, Burch, they don't own those people," the Banning attorney says.

"For all practical purposes they do," the lawyer snaps back. This is an accurate portrait of Mississippi in the 1940s, and it illuminates one of the difficulties in writing about the era today. The Banning family's casual arrogance in assuming that they are "good" whites to their poverty-stricken black employees can grate on the modern reader's nerves, as can the irony-free, subservient attitudes their most trusted servants display. The Bannings are the "the only white people" whom Nineva, the elderly house maid, trusts. Her gardener husband, Amos, "adored" Liza at first glance, thinking her "the most beautiful woman he'd ever seen." The couple have four children and "a yard full of grandchildren." Their teenage grandson, Jupe, is a "strapping, muscular boy who was fascinated by Liza but terribly shy around her." Small wonder. Good white men in Mississippi of that era had no hesitation killing black teens who were fresh with white women, and juries composed of other good

white men had no hesitation in acquitting them for it.

It may be, if Grisham is being cleverly subversive, that both the title and the denouement of "The Reckoning" address the

state's racial mores with a wicked, devastating twist. Maybe, in the end, there really is a rough-hewed justice at work, even in 1940s Mississippi.

Neely Tucker is the

director of Gum Branch Creative. His most recent novel is "Only the Hunted Run."

4/5

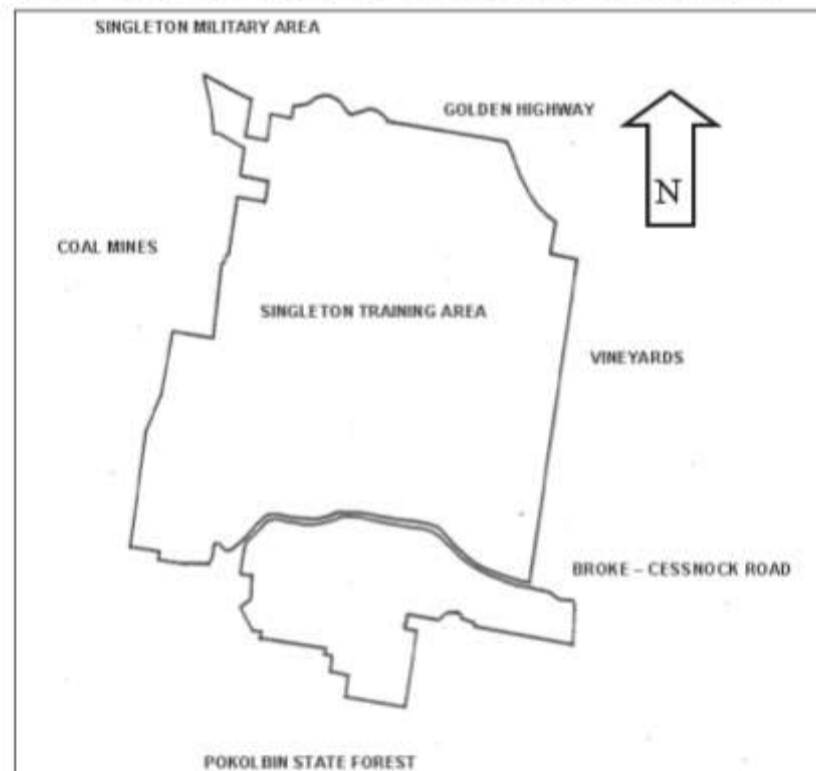
The New York Times Best Sellers Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (11 Nov 2018)

1. New this week - THE RECKONING by John Grisham
A decorated World War II veteran shoots and kills a pastor inside a Mississippi church.
2. 2 weeks on the list - EVERY BREATH by Nicholas Sparks
Difficult choices surface when Hope Anderson and Tru Walls meet in a North Carolina seaside town.
3. 15 weeks on the list - THE PRESIDENT IS MISSING by Bill Clinton and James Patterson
President Jonathan Duncan, a Gulf War veteran and widower, takes on adversaries at home and abroad.
4. New this week - NOT QUITE OVER YOU by Susan Mallery
The fourth book in the Happily Inc. series. Silver Tesdal must reveal a secret she has been keeping from Drew Lovato.
5. 3 weeks on the list - THE NEXT PERSON YOU MEET IN HEAVEN by Mitch Albom
The sequel to "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" follows Annie on her heavenly journey.
6. 3 weeks on the list - HOLY GHOST by John Sandford
Virgil Flowers investigates shootings in a Minnesota town following an attempt to revive its ailing economy.
7. 4 weeks on the list - A SPARK OF LIGHT by Jodi Picoult
The lives of patients, doctors and activists intersect when a gunman holds them all hostage in a woman's health centre in Mississippi.
8. 7 weeks on the list - WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.
9. 2 weeks on the list
UNSHELTERED by Barbara Kingsolver
Intertwined stories of two families who live in different centuries on the same street corner in Vineland, N.J.
10. 3 weeks on the list - AMBUSH by James Patterson and James O. Born
Michael Bennett discovers that an assassin is targeting him and his family.



Australian Government
Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is a Defence Army Live Firing Range.

Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area.

Firing practices using live ammunition are conducted continuously on this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used.

Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

The Range Control Officer
Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
Range Control Centre
Range Road
Singleton Training Area
Singleton NSW 2331

ABOUT..

John Ray Grisham Jr. born February 8, 1955 is an American novelist, attorney, politician and activist, best known for his popular legal thrillers. His books have been translated into 42 languages and published worldwide.

Grisham graduated from Mississippi State University before attending the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981. He practiced criminal law for about a decade and served in the House of Representatives in Mississippi from January 1984 to September 1990.

His first novel, *A Time to Kill*, was published in June 1989, four years after he began writing it. As of 2012, his books have sold over 275 million copies worldwide.

A Galaxy British Book Awards winner, Grisham is one of only three authors to sell 2 million copies on a first printing, the other two being Tom Clancy and J. K. Rowling.

Grisham's first bestseller, *The Firm*, sold more than seven million copies. The book was adapted into a 1993 feature film of the same name, starring Tom Cruise, and a 2012 TV series which "continues the story of attorney Mitchell McDeere and his family 10 years after the events of the film and novel."

Eight of his other novels have also been adapted into films: *The Chamber*, *The Client*, *A Painted House*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Runaway Jury*, *Skipping Christmas*, and *A Time to Kill*.





2018 drought response

Need help with your RAA drought forms?

Farmers having trouble accessing online RAA forms for the drought transport subsidies can get access to the online forms at the Local Land Services Offices listed below. Local Land Services staff can help farmers access the form and submit it online. Staff will not be able to fill

in the form for you or provide the information required to fill out the form.

Farmers will need to bring with them:

- their ABN or ACN,
- address and contact details (including email),

- type and number of stock being transported and cost of freight,
- bank account details,
- recent rates notice (council and LLS),
- owner carrier details (registration papers)

Hunter	Address	Hours	Contact
Paterson	- 816 Tocal Road,	8.30am - 4.30 pm, Monday-Friday	02 4930 1030
Scone	- Scone TAFE 2 Flemington Drive, Scone NSW 2337	8.30am - 4.30 pm, Monday-Friday	02 6540 2400
Wingham	- 15 Isabella Street,	8.30am - 4.30 pm, Monday-Friday	02 6553 4233
Taree	- 98 Victoria Street, Taree	9am - 12 pm, Monday - Friday	02 6551 8994
Merriwa	- 181 Beltington Street, Merriwa NSW 2329	9 am - 4.00 pm Monday - Tuesday	02 6548 2175
Singleton	- 98 John St, Singleton	10am - 3 pm, Tuesday - Thursday	02 6572 2944
Maitland Saleyards	- 52 Kyle	8.30am-4.30pm, Monday - Friday	02 4932 8866

TSR lease extensions for drought affected farmers

With the drought continuing to have significant impacts on local farmers, Hunter Local Land Services is offering a 12 month lease extension to all Longterm Grazing Permit holders currently leasing Travelling Stock Reserves in our region.

Longterm Grazing Permits for 80 Travelling Stock Reserves in the Hunter were due to go out for tender before the end of 2018. However with drought conditions continuing to bite Hunter Local Land Services is suspending the tender process and offering a 12 month extension to current permit holders to 31 December 2019.

General Manager Brett Miners said it's one way the organisation can take some pressure off producers feeling the effects of this drought.

"We don't want to add to the stress and workload currently being felt by local farmers by asking them to go through the tender process this year, and we hope this extension will give time for conditions to ease," said Mr Miners.

"There is virtually no agistment available in our region currently, and feed and water supplies remain critically low in many areas, so it would be very difficult for these farmers to find alternate locations for their stock in the current climate if they were forced to move off the TSRs.

It is up to each permit holder to decide if they wish to accept the extension, and Hunter Local Land Services is reminding all permit holders payment plans are available at any time, if they require financial assistance.

"Hunter Local Land Services understands the importance TSRs during drought, and with the sites involved having been under grazing permits for many years this approach is considered the best option for our region," said Mr Miners.

"We are thankful to these permit holders for the way they are carefully managing feed and water supplies on the reserves, to meet community expectations about how this public asset is cared for.

When tenders for the leases are called towards the end of 2019, Hunter Local Land Services intends to increase the length of the Long-term Grazing Permits to five years.

This will give the permit holders greater security and allow them to make long term management decisions, not just for their livestock, but also for how they will contribute to the care and maintenance of the TSRs.

Roadside Grazing Permits and Travelling Stock Permits are also available through Hunter Local Land Services, by contacting 1300 795 299. Please remember Council and Roads and Maritime Services approval must also be sought, before stock can be put on local roads.

Racing review

Tears flow in Victoria Derby triumph for Extra Brut

Article Author
Ben Dorries

A week after fearing they had lost Kings Will Dream, some of the same owners were in tears again but this time they were tears of joy as Extra Brut won the Group I Victoria Derby.

Seven days earlier at Moonee Valley, trainer Darren Weir, jockey John Allen and syndicator Brad Spicer were devastated when Kings Will Dream broke down in the Cox Plate.

The one-time Caulfield Cup favourite has now pulled through the worst but there was no doubting Extra Brut's Victoria Derby win was the emotional pick-me-up some of the same owners needed.

Only a few years ago former Irishman John Allen couldn't get rides at Wycheproof but on Saturday Extra Brut (\$10) gave him his first Victorian Group I to add to two earlier Derby wins in South Australia.

Extra Brut staged a dramatic form reversal after he was beaten pointlessly at Caulfield a fortnight ago but Allen never lost faith and told Weir the colt would improve lengths back to Flemington and on a good track.

The proof was in the pudding as tears flowed freely among the huge ownership group in the mounting yard after Extra Brut won the 2500m Group I feature.

Aquis bought into Extra Brut during the week but the Kings Will Dream team were still a huge part of Extra Brut's one length win over valiant Stars Of Carrum (\$18) with another couple of lengths back to Chapada (\$16) in third.

"I was actually going out to lead the horse in and all I could think about was Kings Will Dream," syndicator Brad Spicer said.

"We were very worried about that horse last Saturday night, we thought we might have lost him.

"The ups and downs of racing are extraordinary.

"It was a huge ride by Johnny, nothing had been winning from back all day.

"To get there so quickly and hang on you just go through the emotions."

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 30th October 2018

The higher prices recorded at the previous markets, along with the forecast of hot dry conditions, caused numbers to double for a mixed quality penning. There were numbers of prime conditioned younger cattle, although the majority carried little fat cover and were suitable for the restockers and feeder orders. There were good numbers of the popular breeds throughout the younger categories and these sold to strong competition, although the plainer mixed breeds attracted softer competition and trended cheaper. Cows were well supplied, however the better covered drafts were limited in supply. The well supplied split calves trended 20c cheaper, although the better end sold close to 315c/kg. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock trended firm for the better bred popular breeds and these reached 332c, averaging from 298c to 317c/kg. The same weight heifer portion recorded solid gains for the popular breeds, with the 1 fat score end topping at 326c/kg. The majority sold close to 264c/kg. The light weight yearling steers to restockers made from 238c to 316c, with the heifer portion easing 20c to average from 239c to 265c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers trended 12c cheaper, with the higher yielding pens reaching 315c/kg. Grown steers to the lot feeders improved 5c and sold from 281c to 300c/kg. Cows sold 2c to 4c cheaper, with the plainer 1 fat score receiving from 150c to 212c/kg depending on weight. The 2 fat score cows made from 219c to 235c, as the heavy weight better covered drafts reached 241c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 31st October 2018

Signments reduced marginally and on average the quality and breed in the penning also decreased. The high yielding prime conditioned cattle decreased, with the majority of the younger drafts suitable for the restocker orders. Cows were scarce in the pens, with only 13 in the offering. Although the usual buyers were operating, the forecast hot dry conditions caused a weaker competition throughout all categories. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock eased from the previous market's gains, decreasing 40c to make from 250c to 316c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to restockers trended 15c cheaper and sold from 212c to 278c/kg. The lighter end of the yearling steers eased 14c, as the heavier drafts decreased 10c, with prices topping at 308c/kg. Yearling heifers trended cheaper, although breed and quality did affect prices in places. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold 10c cheaper, with the higher yielding drafts making close to 318c/kg. Cows trended 20c/kg cheaper, although the limited supply did contribute in places. The plainer drafts sold from 148c to 200c/kg depending on weight and condition score. The better covered heavy weights topped at 235c, with heavy weight bulls reaching 250c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 29th October 2018

Numbers almost doubled as producers looked to take advantage of the improved markets. Yearlings and cows were well represented alongside a few vealers, grown steers and heifers. The quality of the offering was mixed with some well bred lines of young cattle suitable to restock and feed. The condition also varied, with all fat scores represented. There were few well finished cattle presented off grass, with most of the well finished cattle having had access to either crop or a grain ration. The usual buyers attended. Restockers were again active on young cattle, although without the hype shown last week. This resulted in cheaper trends through the light weight young cattle, not attracting feedlot competition. The steers saw a cheaper trend of 20c to 30c/kg and more in places where breed and quality were factors. Medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers saw a market only slightly cheaper. The cheaper trend for restocker cattle continued into the yearling heifers, with light weights up to 25c cheaper. Again, those heifers attracting feedlot competition experienced little but quality related price change. The limited supply of well finished heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend. Well finished grown heifers sold to a cheaper trend of 4c to 23c/kg, lacking the quality of the previous sale. In the cow market there was a reduction in quality at the top end of the heavy weights, resulting in a cheaper trend of up to 10c/kg. The plainer condition cows saw little change in the market trend, while some of the plainest cows were slightly dearer.

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 30th October 2018

Numbers continued the upward trend following a few rain reduced offerings. The penning featured good lines of quality yearlings and cows alongside quite a few at the other end of the spectrum. Most muscle and condition scores were represented, highlighting the vast difference in seasonal conditions and management practices. The full complement of export processors attended, however there was limited trade competition. Feed lotters were active, however restocker activity was somewhat subdued following the strong presence of the previous sale. Market trends were mostly cheaper through the young cattle. Both breed and quality contributed to some significant price change in places, both positive and negative. Light weight yearling steers to restock and feed saw cheaper trends of 15c to 60c/kg in the face of some hot, dry weather forecasts going forward. Medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends of 20c to 30c/kg. In somewhat of a highlight, the heavy feeder steers sold to dearer trends, with prices improving for various breeds. There were varying trends for light weight yearling heifers to restock and feed. The medium and heavy weight yearling heifers to feed saw a trend that was only slightly cheaper. Reduced trade competition saw 3 scores to butchers up to 5c/kg cheaper. There were too few well finished heavy grown steers to speak of. Light weight grown steers and heifers in plain condition were plentiful and attracted both restocker and feedlot competition. Breed was the factor in any price change. The cow market saw medium weight 2 and 3 score cows show little but quality related price change. Well finished heavy weight cows saw a cheaper market trend of 20c to 25c/kg, with some quality related price change on the top end of the market.

Allen came to Australia because he was struggling to get a ride in Ireland and he enjoyed his biggest moment in racing with Extra Brut's win.

"He rounded them up in a matter of strides," Allen said.

"I thought I got to the front way too soon but all credit to him, he toughed it out.

"I couldn't get a ride back home, plain and simple.

"I wanted to travel a bit and I ended up at Darren Weir's. It just kicked off from there."

Favourite Thinkin' Big (\$2.90) did a bit of work early when there was a strong pace up front but jockey Tim Clark wasn't offering too many excuses.

"Plenty of pressure on early. I thought he got into a nice spot but he didn't travel as comfortably today, maybe he's come to the end of his prep," Clark said.

Robbie Laing, trainer of runner-up Stars Of Carrum, said his galloper was brave in defeat.

"Got a long way back, the winner just took him in from the 300m and it might have just intimidated him a bit," Laing said.



Ed. Over many years I have been intrigued by the possibility that some time in our future computers will be, to put it simply, smarter than the average bear (the singularity) and a inevitable result of Moore's Law at work.

Science-fiction writer Vernor Vinge first used the term *the Singularity* in this context in the 1980s, when he used it in reference to the British mathematician I.J. Good's concept of an "intelligence explosion" brought about by the advent of superintelligent machines. The term is borrowed from physics; in that context a singularity is a point where the known physical laws cease to apply.

Moore's Law is the observation made by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore that the number of transistors on a chip doubles every year while the costs are halved. In 1965, Gordon Moore noticed that the number of transistors per square inch on integrated circuits had doubled every year since their invention. Moore's law predicts that this trend will continue into the foreseeable future.

Although the recent pace has slowed for Moore's Law, the doubling of installed transistors on silicon chips occurs closer to every 18 months instead of annually. The 18-month mark is the current definition of Moore's law. Fifty years after Moore's law, contemporary society sees dozens of benefits from his vision. Mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablet computers, would not work without tiny processors. Smaller and faster computers improve transportation, health care, education and energy production. Just about every facet of a high-tech society benefits from the concept of Moore's law put into practice.

Thanks to nanotechnology, some transistors are smaller than a virus. These microscopic structures contain carbon and silicon molecules aligned in perfect fashion to help move electricity along the circuit faster. Eventually, the temperature of the transistors makes it impossible to create smaller circuits, because cooling the transistors takes more energy than what passes through the transistors. Experts show that computers should reach physical limits of Moore's law in the 2020s. When that happens, computer scientists can examine

entirely new ways of creating computers. Rather than physical processes, applications and software can improve the speed and efficiency of computers moving forward. Cloud computing, wireless communication, the *Internet of Things* and quantum physics may all play a role in innovating computer technology.

Many designers, engineers, and computer scientists agreed in early 2016 that Moore's law might run its course within 10 years. Progress achieving the doubling of the number of circuits has slowed, and integrated circuits cannot get much smaller as transistors approach the size of an atom. At some point, software or hardware breakthroughs may keep the dream of Moore's law alive.

Following is some interesting information on both hypothesis.

Singularity (the)

The Singularity is the hypothetical future creation of superintelligent machines.

Superintelligence is defined as a technologically-created cognitive capacity far beyond that possible for humans. Should the Singularity occur, technology will advance beyond our ability to foresee or control its outcomes and the world will be transformed beyond recognition by the application of superintelligence to humans and/or human problems, including poverty, disease and mortality.

Revolutions in genetics, nanotechnology and robotics (GNR) in the first half of the 21st century are expected to lay the foundation for the Singularity. According to Singularity theory, superintelligence will be developed by self-directed computers and will increase exponentially rather than incrementally. Lev Grossman explains the prospective exponential gains in capacity enabled by superintelligent machines in an article in *Time*:

"Their rate of development would also continue to increase, because they would take over their own development from their slower-thinking human creators. Imagine a computer scientist that was itself a super-intelligent computer. It would work incredibly quickly. It could draw on huge amounts of

data effortlessly. It wouldn't even take breaks..."

SURFING THE SINGULARITY

BY JACK HANSON



The technological singularity is the hypothesized creation of smarter-than-human entities who rapidly accelerate technological progress beyond the capability of human beings to participate.

Vernor Vinge popularized the term "singularity" in this context, observing that, just as our model of physics breaks down when it tries to model the singularity at the centre of a black hole, our model of the world breaks down when it tries to model a future that contains entities smarter than human.

Both intriguing and frightening, my approach to the Singularity is to treat it like a dessert tray, the further it is away, the less I am infatuated by it.

Through the exponential growth of computer processing power, biotechnology or some other means, futurists have predicted that The Singularity could arrive as early as 2050.

Here are a few reasons why The Singularity might arrive later than expected.

SOFTWARE IS HARD I agree that by mid-century, hardware or bioware could exist that is capable of housing a superintelligent entity. What we will not have by that time, is the software to utilize it.

Put simply, until my computer is smarter than a trash can, (a real-life receptacle never asks--*Do you really want to throw that away?*), I'm not worried about programmers developing a superintelligence.

BRAIN SWARMING It has been suggested that before AI experts understand the brain well enough to make up their minds, communities of "dumb" computers could be linked together to program themselves into a superintelligence.

To this scenario, I submit my last family reunion as

one example where adding more brains in the room did not increase the overall intelligence of the group. **GOOD WARNING, DAVE?**

Futurists and science fiction

writers are often optimistic when putting a date on future technology.

Example: Stanley Kubrick's & Arthur C. Clarke's *2001, A Space Odyssey* (1968).

BETTER ME, THEN YOU What I cannot push past my comfort date, is the enhanced human brain. It is conceivable that genetics,

drugs and/or brain-machine interfaces, could help create a superintelligent brain by the year 2050. Would you mind terribly, if I go first?

BY THE WAY

The path to the pinnacle of humanity is a slippery slope.

Is society ready for the precursive power presented by the building blocks of the Singularity--computers, nanotechnology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and information? Everywhere I look I see vanity, greed, hunger and waste (I'm writing this from a coffee house at the airport). Undesirable human traits could fuel global catastrophes, in the technologically advanced civilization we are becoming.

Long before the arrival of the Singularity, we will need to change our ways. A benign, compassionate and sharing civilization has the best chance to survive the flood of information and technology that is headed our way.

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Bohemian Rhapsody'



Rami Malek puts on a great show as Freddie Mercury, but the film is unfortunately basic by Katie Walsh

At the centre of the long-gestating Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" is the kind of performance that's less acting than it is the channeling of a spirit from another realm. Rami Malek takes to the role of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury with a studious intensity, making manifest the dueling relationship between the twin poles of Mercury's personality: his confidence and his insecurity. It's the centrifuge around which the rather uneven film whirls, and Malek keeps it going with his sheer will and talent, aided by a parade of legendary Queen hit singles.

Director Bryan Singer's name appears on a single title card during the opening credits, thanks to the Director's Guild, even though he took leave from the film mid-shoot to attend to personal matters (family issues and looming #MeToo accusations). Dexter Fletcher took over, and at times, "Bohemian Rhapsody" feels like a film unmoored, searching for direction.

A mesmerizing, beat-for-beat re-creation of Queen's legendary set at Live Aid in 1985 bookends the film, with breathtakingly tricky camerawork, and an execution of Mercury's performance by Malek that captures every last gesture. Completed at the beginning of the shoot, one gets a sense of what Singer had in mind — a bright, shiny, almost cartoonishly perfect

version of Queen and Freddie, performing in perfect harmony. The biopic reaches out for the very last row, and in doing so, it becomes unfortunately basic, flattening out the fascinating character while sanding down and rearranging elements of the story to serve the band. It's produced by Graham King, who fought for years to bring the story to the screen, pushing through Singer's absence, as well as by Queen guitarist and drummer Brian May and Roger Taylor, who provided the music and stories about the band to writers Anthony McCarten and Peter Morgan (as well as the cast). So "Bohemian Rhapsody" is less about Freddie Mercury (who died in 1991), and much more about Queen. The actors who play Freddie's bandmates — Gwilym Lee as May, Ben Hardy as Taylor, and Joe Mazzello as bassist John Deacon — are perfectly cast, and the best parts of the film are with the band: writing and recording music, playing live shows, even the arguments.

However, "Bohemian Rhapsody" doesn't know how to grapple with the parts of Freddie's life that so greatly informed who he was and the music he made. Ultimately, there's no denying the greatest rock god of all time was a queer kid from Zanzibar with an overbite, and that's pretty remarkable. As

much as "Bohemian Rhapsody" wrestles with itself over Mercury's identity, it's his identity that made him. His arrogance and self-aggrandizement and notions of grandeur are entirely earned, but also clearly his coping mechanisms to deal with his insecurities, marginalization and the outright racism that's tossed his way.

His queerness is positioned not as a radical act of personal freedom and happiness, but as his downfall. He's shepherded into a world of drugs by evil gay manager Paul Prenter (Allen Leech), who isolates Freddie away from the happy heteronormativity espoused by his straight, white bandmates and former fiancée Mary Austin (Lucy Boynton), who as Freddie's lifelong friend is his beacon of morality.

The film always goes back to the band, because it argues Freddie wasn't so much of a musical genius without them, that it was their collaboration that led to the endless hits that parade throughout the film. Thanks to the catalog of classics and deep cuts, it's impossible not to enjoy the surface pleasures of "Bohemian Rhapsody." It's just hard to shake the feeling there's a far more interesting film about Mercury that's yet to be made. **"Bohemian Rhapsody"** — 2.5 stars

Base power

By Richard Denniss (Richard Denniss is the chief economist at the Australia Institute)

The energy crisis is all about politics rather than supply

Australia relies more heavily on coal for its electricity than almost any other country in the world, yet we have some of the most expensive electricity in the world. Tony Abbott blamed the carbon tax for the rapid increase in the price of electricity, but its removal did nothing to stop the wholesale price of electricity from nearly doubling.

Australia is producing record amounts of gas, and soon we will become the world's largest gas exporter. Yet the gas industry has told us that we have a "shortage" of gas. It assures us that the only solution is to allow even more fracking of coal seam gas on even more farmland. It's the environmentalists who get the blame for high energy prices.

And despite the fact that the Turnbull government claims to be both short of cash and committed to tackling climate change, the Coalition plans to subsidise Adani's enormous new export coalmine. Why are environmentalists opposed to it? You guessed it: because they are trying to ruin the economy.

It is often said that the Australian energy market is "broken", but the market is working just as it was designed to. It's not the market that is broken but the politics of energy.

It was politicians who sold the state-owned electricity generators. It was politicians who approved fracking all over Queensland. And it was politicians who approved the enormous gas export facilities that have driven the local price of gas higher than that paid in the countries we are selling it to. Those decisions have cost Australian consumers and taxpayers billions of dollars. When we blame "the market" we let the real culprits off the hook.

In recent years Australians have been told about the "spikes in demand" that place pressure on our electricity grid, but these events should more accurately be called "spikes in profits". Any number of simple changes could be made to the thousands of pages of rules that govern our "free market", but the big electricity companies have fought such changes tooth and nail. Then again, you can no more blame the companies for fighting to retain their profit spikes than you could blame the chocolate industry for fighting to retain Easter. Politicians, not companies, are responsible for market rules, and for as long as politicians can blame "the market" or, even better, "the environmentalists", they can get away with both covering up their past mistakes and doing nothing to address them. Complexity is the cloak behind which the truth is hidden from Australian consumers.

Can't understand why you get paid a pittance for the energy from your solar panels when the wholesale price of electricity hits \$14,000 per megawatt hour? Or why a country that has doubled its gas exports may soon have to start importing gas? Or why Saudi Arabia thinks investing in large-scale solar electricity is a good idea but we don't? Then you should leave it to the experts. Most of whom happen to work for the energy industry. Luckily the façade is beginning to crumble. And the biggest crack came from a most unexpected source. A tweet. What better way to highlight the absurd complexity of our electricity system than a medium that limits messages to 140 characters? After Tesla promised to build the world's largest battery arrays in South Australia, the Australian tech billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes tweeted, "If I can make the \$ happen (& politics), can you guarantee the 100MW in 100 days?"

Elon Musk, the man who transformed online payments via PayPal, the car industry via Tesla and the space industry via SpaceX, tweeted back, "Tesla will get the system installed and working 100 days from contract signature or it is free. That serious enough for you?"

All of a sudden Australians saw that change was possible, that alternatives did exist. Perhaps most importantly they also saw that one of the main things holding us back was, as Cannon-Brookes put it, "(& politics)". Needless to say Malcolm Turnbull panicked.

Despite having once helped launch a plan to make Australia 100% renewable, Turnbull had lost interest in renewable energy. After settling into the big chair he apparently came to realise that coal was good for humanity, that renewable energy was unreliable and that the ALP's support for a 50% renewable energy target was proof that they were "ideological". We are told that such views help to appease the right of his party.

But when two of the richest, coolest, tech-savviest men in the world started tweeting about Australia's renewable energy market, our prime minister just couldn't stand not being in on it with the "innovators". Within days he assured us that he too had spoken to Musk and that he too was proposing his own "bold" storage solution in the form of Snowy Hydro 2.0.

And there's the rub. The science, the economics and the politics of renewable energy are all evolving far more rapidly than those playing politics can keep up with. For decades, calls for reform to the National

Electricity Market's rules have been met with a knowing wink and a promise of a good long inquiry. Now the rapid collapse in the cost of renewable energy and battery storage is allowing individuals, state premiers and billionaires to get on with things themselves while the "free marketeers" in the Coalition try to use the energy market rules to slow them down.

A further problem for the Coalition is that it has constructed a whole political strategy around the idea that it is conservatives who want to build things and the left who want to block things. In the unforgettable words of our deputy prime minister, Barnaby Joyce, we need to get "yellow things pushing dirt around so we can get this nation moving".

But when the yellow things are set to move earth for wind turbines, solar panels or large-scale batteries, the right gets confused. Suddenly they worry about the birds that might be struck by wind turbines, though of course not the birds whose habitats are destroyed by coalmines. Wind turbines are "utterly offensive" and "a blight on the landscape", yet few remark on the visual appeal of Adani's proposal to dig coal pits that, combined, will make a scar 40 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide.

Just as the industrial revolution confounded, and ultimately destroyed, the power base of the English landed gentry and created new economic and political coalitions, so too the renewable energy revolution is destroying the power base of the coal, oil and gas industries and forging new and unusual alliances and lines of argument.

Take the Nationals. Long the self-proclaimed voice of farmers, the party has decided to back the coal and gas industry instead of its traditional base in disputes over land use.

The Liberal Party, long the champions of free markets and small government, has decided to support billion-dollar subsidies for the coal industry as it scrambles to build the last new coalmines and coal-fired power stations in the world.

And One Nation, rarely suspected of having deep green tendencies, has emerged as one of the loudest voices standing up to the gas industry where it seeks to poison the earth and pollute the water. But only of course when it's farmers, and not environmentalists, ringing the alarm bells.

The ALP supports both action on climate change and the Adani mine, but unlike the Liberal Party opposes any subsidies for the project.

New community organisations such as Lock the Gate and People for the Plains have built powerful coalitions of farmers, tourism operators, local environmentalists and people who simply don't want a coalmine as their neighbour.

And while the Greens' support for renewable energy has been consistent for decades, the plummeting cost of renewables has fundamentally transformed the arguments and allies now available to them. The unanimous Senate support for Sarah Hanson-Young's proposal to improve National Electricity Market efficiency shows that the Greens can now deploy economic as well as environmental arguments to support their case.

The Greens demanding economic efficiency, the Liberals supporting subsidies for coal and One Nation worried about water and air pollution. What next?

In February this year, a former US Republican congressman, Bob Inglis, spoke at the National Press Club in Canberra on why he believed tackling climate change was not just good economics but what Jesus would want us to do. He described the "spiritual awakening" that he had while on the Great Barrier Reef with climate scientist Scott Heron, and continued, "Snorkelling with Scott, I could tell that we shared a world view because I could see that he was worshipping God as he showed me the wonders of the Reef. Afterwards, we had time to talk and he told me about conservation changes he was making in his life in order to love God and love people ... I wanted to be like him, loving God and loving people. So I went home and introduced the *Raise Wages, Cut Carbon Act* of 2009." While Inglis' comments were widely reported during his two-week trip, remarkably the political commentariat remained largely mute. Many commentators are so accustomed to choosing between neat boxes labelled left and right that they are genuinely lost for words when someone they deem credible says something important that doesn't fit into their comfortable categories. But the problems facing the Coalition in energy policy go much deeper than philosophical and historical contradictions, or whether conservatism also applies to the environment. The brutal electoral reality confronting Turnbull is that voters like renewable energy and hate the old electricity companies. A recent poll by the Australia Institute showed that, after a six-month campaign by the prime minister to blame renewable energy for everything from causing South Australia's blackouts to forcing jobs offshore, 73% of the public believed that the Renewable Energy Target should be increased. Even among One Nation voters, only 17% opposed such an expansion of "green energy".



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You can e-mail, fax or simply drop your ©WD or ©NSWD into our office: 12 Clift Street, Branxton or Fax: 4938 3301 or E-mail: thenews@hotmail.net.au
All contributions welcome

and

NOT SO

To the societies and public who consider climate change is created by man; there's you and your mates. Adolf Hitler, "...Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it" and Vladimir Lenin "A lie told often enough becomes the truth." Stop trying to guilt people for political reasons. I'm on to you!

To the lady in Greta who has a very large, angry & short tempered dog which looks like it has a breeding cross with a large Shetland pony. One day the electrical tape at the gate will fail & somebody, maybe a small child, will be badly injured. Your restraining call from the back of the house may not work.

To Father George who as just finished his 'tour of duty' as parish Parish Priest for Branxton & Greta. You will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

To North Rothbury Tidy Towns for providing a great evening last Saturday night at your Twilight Markets. The best & most reasonable priced steak & rissole sandwiches I have ever tasted. Well done

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The "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service.

Dates for your diary >

FRI 9 NOV - Branxton Public School 1st Kinder Orientation visit
SUN 11 NOV - Branxton Public School P&C's Spring working bee 8am-11am.
SUN 11 NOV - Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice And 95th Anniversary Of Branxton RSL Sub Branch: 10.45am at Branxton Rotunda John Rose Avenue, Branxton. All Welcome
TUES 13 NOV - Branxton Greta CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigid's School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton

While it is "accepted wisdom" in Australia that One Nation is to the right of the Coalition, a separate poll in the Queensland electorate of Dawson indicated that One Nation voters are in fact more supportive of a "left" issue such as renewable energy than Coalition voters. How can that be? Put simply, a lot of voters (especially "right wing" survivalists) can't wait to get off the electricity grid, can see that the world is turning away from coal, and would rather subsidise the rapid installation of the energy of the future than prop up the polluting steam engines of the past. For the past 20 years, energy policy has been used as a political plaything as the fossil-fuel industry seeks to drag out the incredible profits it makes causing climate change. Trying to categorise the energy politics of the 21st century into the binary left-right political labels of the 18th century is like trying to categorise fish according to the number of legs they have. It could keep you busy for years and do nothing to advance your understanding of anything.

Dates for your diary >

SUN 18 NOV - The Branxton Uniting Church will be 100years old on the 18th November 2018 and a celebratory service will be held on that day in the church & then some refreshments. 10am to 2pm
SAT 24 NOV - Scoot, Skate & Ride Competition @ Cessnock Skate Park: 10am - 4pm-
SAT 24 NOV - Jazz in the Vineyards: Hope Estate. Gates open at 3pm
SUN 25 NOV - Plektra mandolin & guitar ensemble, Sacred Spaces Singleton.
THUR 6 DEC - Branxton Public School P&C's Carols by Torchlight
SAT 8 DEC - Shania Twain @ Hope Estate
TUES 11 DEC - Branxton Greta CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigid's School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
TUE 11 DEC - Branxton Public School Presentation Day at Community Hall
WED 12 DEC - Branxton Public School Year 6 Dinner
THUR 13 DEC - Branxton Public School Sport Assembly
WED 19 DEC - Branxton Public School last day for students.

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“One more for the road? How about – no more for the road” – Operation Drink Drive 2

Motorists considering a night out have been urged to have a Plan B, and don't think that one more for the road won't put you over the limit. Police want drivers to remember that it's "no more for the road."

As part of the Enhanced Enforcement Program, police will target alcohol-impaired motorists during 'Operation Drink Drive 2' – which started at 0001hrs Friday 2 November and ended at 2359hrs on Sunday 4 November. Traffic and Highway Patrol Command Acting Assistant Commissioner Julie Middlemiss said almost two generations of people have grown up with the dangers of drink driving.

"The dangers are well documented but police are astounded so many people still think it is okay to have one more for the road. This is evidenced by the 6331 motorists who were detected with a low range blood alcohol content reading during the 2017-2018 financial year.

One more drink for the road can make the difference between arriving at home or arriving at a police station. "The effect of alcohol on a driver's ability to drive safely is well documented but every day we are still detecting drivers who put themselves and others at risk by drinking and driving. Each year, \$14 million from the NSW Government's

Community Road Safety Fund is invested in the Enhanced Enforcement Program to deliver targeted operations such as Operation Drink Drive 2.

Bernard Carlon, Executive Director of the NSW Centre for Road Safety said while great reductions have been achieved in reducing drink driving rates through Random Breath Testing (RBTs) and education campaigns - drink driving remains a major cause of trauma on NSW roads, especially in the country.

"Even if you've just had one drink your driving can be affected by alcohol," Mr Carlon said.

"If you're driving on a high-speed country road – the difference between life and death is just a small impairment in your reaction time or decision making. "In 2017, 55 people lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes in NSW, with 69 per cent of these fatalities in the country.

This is simply unacceptable when we think of the families and communities that are affected by this tragic loss. "Our message is simple, if you're planning to have a drink – Have a Plan B."

Key statistics
During the 2017/2018 financial year -

- 645 women and 2227 men were charged with high range drink driving
 - 1354 women and 4977 men charged with mid-range drink driving offences.
 - 1392 women and 5816 men were charged with low range drink driving offences.
- During Operation Drink Drive 2 last year (2017), 427 people were charged with drink driving and 151,548 random breath tests were conducted. Statistics for this years Operation are yet to be finalised.

NSW Police wrap-up NSW Firearms Amnesty

More than 8300 guns – including 413 shotguns and 1373 rifles – have been surrendered to police and dealers as part of the state-wide Firearms Amnesty. Metropolitan Field Operations Deputy Commissioner Jeff Loy will be joined by Minister for

Police Troy Grant to wrap-up the state-wide amnesty which follows the success of a national campaign in 2017, aimed at reducing unregistered and unwanted firearms in the community.

The NSW Firearms Amnesty which ran from 1 July to 30 September saw more than 74,000 rounds of ammunition, 56 prohibited weapons and 338 firearm parts and accessories surrendered, with the public encouraged to legally dispose of unregistered firearms or firearm-related items without penalty.

Deputy Commissioner Loy said the community clearly demonstrated it does not want firearms falling into the wrong hands and putting lives at risk. "There has been a really strong response across the state and it is encouraging to see community members recognising the danger posed by these weapons and doing the right thing by handing them in or having them registered," Deputy Commissioner Loy said.

"Too many firearms are not stored correctly which makes them an easy target for thieves, particularly in regional and rural properties," Deputy Commissioner Loy said. Across the state the top five districts where firearms were surrendered to police included Murray River Police District with 128 firearms, Oxley Police District with 93 firearms, The Hume Police District with 88 firearms, Mid North Coast Police District with 79 firearms and Lake Illawarra Police District with 70 firearms.

Minister Grant said the amnesty said was an opportunity to reduce the number of unregistered guns on the street without being penalised.

"We are absolutely focused on doing everything we can to keep people safe, and this amnesty has allowed police to significantly reduce the number of unregistered firearms in the community," Mr Grant said.

"Police have successfully captured thousands of firearms – either for destruction or registration – including a replica colt AR-15 machine gun, .36 colt 1851 navy six chamber percussion revolver and eight .303 Lee Enfield

bolt action repeater rifles. "It is of course concerning that these potentially dangerous weapons were once on our streets; however – at the same time, I commend the community for helping us remove them and to ultimately make our neighbourhoods safer," Minister Grant said. Anyone who has not registered or disposed of a firearm or firearm-related parts during the amnesty could now face a hefty penalty.

During the amnesty more than 250 dealers participated and are expected to hand over firearms submitted to them by mid-November.

Aggravated indecent assault at aged care facility; 102-year-old man charged – Waverley

A man will face court next month over an alleged aggravated indecent assault at an aged care facility in Sydney's east.

Police will allege a male resident at the facility on Carrington Road, Waverley, indecently assaulted another resident, a 94-year-old woman, about 12.30pm yesterday (Tuesday 23 October 2018). Officers from Eastern Suburbs Police Area Command were notified and attended the facility.

Following inquiries, a 102-year-old man was arrested and taken to Waverley Police Station and charged with

aggravated indecent assault.

The man was granted conditional bail to appear at Waverley Local Court on Tuesday 20 November 2018.

Fatal crash near Maitland

A man has died and a woman has been injured after a two-vehicle crash on the state's north yesterday.

About 1.40pm (Thursday 1 November 2018), it is believed two cars collided in the west-bound lane of Raymond Terrace Road, Millers Forest.

The driver and sole occupant of a 1997 model Mazda 121, a 53-year-old man, died at the scene.

The driver and sole occupant of a Kia Sportage, a 61-year-old woman, had to be extricated from her vehicle. She was airlifted to John Hunter Hospital with minor injuries.

Police from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District attended and established a crime scene.

Inquiries are underway into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

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Working Bee

Thank you so much to everyone who assisted us over the weekend and in the lead up to the weekend in our working bee. We got so much achieved and it was wonderful to watch children's faces as they came in and saw the change on Monday and as they watched the playground transform on Saturday. Our school will be looking fabulous for our market day and colour run Sunday November 4th, 10am-2pm.

An easy way to lose weight without the gym

IF YOU hate the idea of hopping on the treadmill, there are still ways you can shed kilos. Just follow these simple tips. THERE is no doubt that regular exercise is important for heart health and keeps your metabolism pumping, but there are also many of us for whom exercise is way down the list of life priorities. So if your preference would be to drop a few kilos with as little physical effort as possible, here is the key to weight loss when you have no interest or plans to add exercise into the equation.



1. FOCUS ON MACROS

We often hear about calorie control when it comes to weight loss but less frequently are macros mentioned. The term macros refers to the relative proportions of carbs, fats and proteins that combine to give our overall calorie intake. A diet that is calorie controlled but remains relatively high in carbohydrate relative to the amount of exercise being done will often fail to result in weight loss on the scales. On the other hand, diets with fewer carbohydrates, (just 30-45 per cent of total calories) will support sustainable fat loss. To determine the overall proportion of carbohydrates in your diet, download a calorie monitoring app, such as MyFitnessPal, which will be able to give you that breakdown.

2. GET STRICT WITH EATING TIMES

The later you consume your calories in the day, the less likely you will be to burn body fat. For this reason, shifting your intake forward so you have breakfast and lunch early and your final meal by 6 or 7pm will give you a good 12-14 hours overnight without food which will naturally support weight loss. Or you can take it a step further and limit your eating times to just eight hours of the day, or eating only between 12-8pm each day. This will see the benefits of fasting kick, which has also been shown to support a 1-2kg weight loss per month.

3. DRINK MORE WATER

Many of us are dehydrated on a daily basis, and a lack of fluid is associated with a reduction in cellular efficiency, constipation, fatigue and low energy levels. When we do not drink enough water we also tend to eat more, and we do not respond to stress as efficiently as we do when we are hydrated. The other downside of not drinking enough fluid is that we also tend to be over-relying on coffee, tea and sweet beverages which often also contain extra calories. The moral of the story? Drink at least 2 litres of water each day to support weight control.

4. SLEEP MORE

There are two main reasons that sleeping more supports weight loss. Firstly, the more we sleep the less time there is to eat, especially when we go to bed early and avoid the late night munchies and snacks altogether. The other key reason is that getting adequate sleep also supports optimal hormonal control. When we do not get enough sleep, the stress hormones in our body can be elevated which, in turn, acts to prevent fat being metabolised. The average person will need a minimum of six hours' sleep each night to avoid this, but more likely seven to nine hours as an optimal amount of shut-eye to aim for each night.

5. FOCUS ON INCIDENTAL

While you will not necessarily need to smash it at the gym to drop a few kilos, if you choose to sit down for most of your day it will be very difficult to actually lose weight. On the other hand if you simply make a concerted effort to move more and get at least 10000 steps in each day, with the right macro balance and eating times, weight loss will be supported. This means that you need to get out at lunchtime, walk as part of your commute or invest in a standing desk in order to avoid a day in which you spend 14-16 hours sitting down.

Susie Burrell is a nutritionist

Increased sentences for starting bushfires

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC has today welcomed the NSW Liberal National Government's proposal to introduce tougher sentences for arsonists as the state continues to be gripped by drought.

Mr MacDonald said under the new law, anyone caught deliberately starting a bush fire will face a maximum sentence of 21 years imprisonment – up from 14 years.

"We are putting firebugs on notice, if you do the wrong thing, you will face the consequences," Mr MacDonald said.

"I am extremely pleased with today's announcement. After the Cessnock bushfires in November 2016 I requested the then Attorney General and Premier review the penalties. The Hunter suffers from too many deliberately lit fires."

The increased sentence will apply to the offence, set out in section 203E of the *Crimes Act*, of intentionally causing a fire and being reckless about it spreading on public land or someone else's property.

The cost of disaster relief and recovery following NSW bushfires has risen from \$11.4 million in 2015-2016 to \$23 million in 2016-17.

The Attorney General will also ask the Sentencing Council of NSW to:

- consider if the five-year standard non-parole period for the bushfire offence should be increased; and
- review the maximum penalties for a range of other arson offences, including destroying or damaging properties.

Attorney General Mark Speakman said there is no excuse for putting people's homes, farms, stock and lives at risk,

particularly when the drought and hot, dry weather during spring and summer are already a deadly combination.

"Under these conditions, bush fires spread quickly and are hard to stop, so it's important there are harsher penalties in place to deter potential firebugs," Mr Speakman said.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Troy Grant encouraged residents to be vigilant during the bush fire season.

"The community often act as our eyes and ears, so if you see any suspicious behaviour and believe someone has started a fire on purpose, it's absolutely vital that you report it to authorities immediately," Mr Grant said.

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Drought support for preschools in Hunter



Three preschool services in the Hunter have received funding from the NSW Government as part of a \$3 million package to provide financial support for community preschools in NSW operating in drought affected regions.

The services receiving funding are:

- Greta Community Pre-School, Cessnock - \$4,800
- Branxton Pre-School, Cessnock - \$11,100
- Hunter Mobile Preschool - \$17,000

Premier Gladys Berejiklian

said these 2018 Drought Relief Payments will ensure early childhood education services can continue to operate during the adverse economic conditions brought on by the drought.

“Services can use this funding to assist families and children in a range of ways, including transport arrangements to maintain preschool participation, crisis planning or fee subsidies to further support families,” Ms Berejiklian said.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC visited

the Hunter Mobile Preschool at Gresford this morning.

“These payments will ensure services like the not for profit Hunter Mobile Preschool I saw today can continue to operate and provide as much support to families as possible.”

“We know how crucial it is to continue to help families and businesses in areas like the Hunter that have felt the impacts of the drought,” Mr MacDonald said.

Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter highlighted that this funding reflects the NSW State Government’s ongoing and consultative approach to the drought, and is about bringing practical relief to

local communities in the seat of Upper Hunter and beyond.

“The Nationals in Government are committed to ensuring that pre-schools and learning spaces in rural and regional NSW benefit from the drought relief policies put in place during these ongoing dry conditions, especially in our local communities,” Mr Johnsen said.

“The mobile service is proving popular with busy families. We are taking enrolments, so please call us on 02 4934 6725 to make sure your child doesn’t miss out,” Jacquie Howard of Hunter Mobile Preschool said.

Minister for Early Childhood Education Sarah Mitchell said it is crucial the NSW Government continues to support families to ensure children always have access to top quality early childhood education, no matter where they live or what their circumstances are.

“Our goal is to help alleviate some of the pressure on families by supporting early childhood services where attendance may have dropped due to socioeconomic pressures, and also to boost service operators coping with additional challenges,” Ms Mitchell said.

● Photo at left: Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC



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Free workshop for local landholders



Regent Honeyeaters

Cessnock City Council is partnering with Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS) and Hunter Region Landcare Network (HRLN) to deliver a series of landholder workshops across the Cessnock local government area in early 2019

The principal focus will be finding out how HLLS and HRLN can support agricultural enterprises in the area undertaking land care activities such as fencing off native vegetation, re-vegetation and erosion control. To assist in developing the workshops and ensuring they are relevant to the issues facing local landholders, Cessnock City Council is calling on landholders to take part in a survey. The online survey will determine what environmental issues are challenging local landholders and also what land care related activities they are currently undertaking to manage and enhance the land under their care.

The information gathered in the surveys will help Council staff, HLLS and HRLN to tailor and deliver workshops which are relevant and informative. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging all local landholders to take part in this important survey and to come along to the workshops in 2019.

“This is about working with landholders to improve their agricultural productivity while enhancing the capacity of the land to support the many threatened species in the area including woodland birds such as the Regent Honeyeater and the Swift Parrot.”

“The protection of our local environment doesn’t have to come at the expense of productivity and has to be a collaborative effort, with each resident and landholder playing their part,” added Cr Pynsent.

Landholders are encouraged to complete the online survey by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CessnockWorkshops> by Friday 16 November 2018.

The exact dates and locations for the workshops next year will be announced shortly.



November

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8.30pm

FRIDAY NIGHTS

2ND	V-DUBS
9TH	MISBEHAVE
16TH	XYZ
23RD	BAD PARIS
30TH	JEFF HORN vs ANTHONY MUNDINE

SATURDAY NIGHTS

3RD	PHONIC TRIO
10TH	LITHIUM
17TH	THE AFTER PARTY
24TH	MOJO BANDITS

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 25th Oct 2018

Final Round for Veterans Championships
Winners for 2018 are:-
First Division:-
Scratch Winner—J. Sheedy 120
R/Up L. Hunt 126
Nett Winner – R. Yandle 95
R/Up K. Anderson 97 on C/B
Stableford Winner – E Munzenberger 57 R/Up R Crooks 56 on C/B
Second Division:-
Scratch Winner – B Turner 134
R/Up P Tracey 140
Nett Winner – S Condon 92
R/Up R Brooks 93
Stableford Winner – R Hain 56
R/Up J Flynn 53
Ladies Division:-
Scratch Winner – T Martin 157
R/Up R McCarthy 159
Nett Winner – J Harris 110
R/Up M Hunt 115
NTP -- Ladies – J Harris
Gents – D Sheppard
Daily Stableford Comp;
Winner – D Sheppard 32 Pts
2nd – R Chalmers 28 Pts
3rd -- T Seamer 27 Pts

A Field of 39 players enjoyed very pleasant conditions for the last round of championships and a hearty congratulations to the respective winners.

Veterans results 01Nov 2018

Stableford Competition

Div 1 winner-- R Crooks 31 pts
R/u – K Anderson 29 pts 3rd – M Ryan 26 pts on C/B
Div 2 winner and Score of the day – G Scobie 33pts R/u – B Turner 31 pts 3rd – R Showman 29pts
Ladies Div winner – J Harris 28 pts on C/B R/u – M Hunt 28 pts 2rd – J Scobie 25 pts
NTPs Ladies – M Hunt
Gents – B Turner

Branxton Ladies Golf

24th October 2018 - Stableford

Winner: Jen Salna on 37 points
Runner-up: Trish McMillan on 32 points
3rd: Kerrie O'Connell on 31 points c/b
4th: Robyn Hoffman on 31 points
Nearest to the pin: Trish McMillan

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 21st October Leslie Cuttriss from Muswellbrook found the course to his liking with a fine 43 point round to claim the Weekly Challenge from Luke Johnson who survived a countback from Barham GC visitor Tim Anderson after both posted 38 point rounds. Ball winners were: Gareth Hoddinott 36, Drew Dewar 35, Brad Hoolahan 35, Arthur Cuttriss 34 and Brad McInnes 33 c/b

Tuesday 23rd October LLOYD Barrett smashed the Tuesday Stableford field with an outstanding round of 45 points with Muswellbrook's Saul Bourke a distant 2nd with 39 on countback to Robert McBeth from Kurri Kurri GC. Ball winners were: Brad Hoolahan 37, Greg Ireland 36, Matt Lorenz 36, David Peel 36, Teedubs Waite 35, Rob Bradford 35, Sandy Davies v35, Jason Cowburn 34 and Graeme Flynn 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Matt Lorenz (3rd) David Peel (4th) Llord Barrett (8th) and Garry Marsden (17th)

Wednesday 24th October Jenny Chambers has survived a 4 way countback to win the Ladies Stableford event with 34 points, Sharon Blackett took 2nd place with Mary Fortey taking the final Podium spot relegating Leesa Robinson to the ball comp, other

ball winners were: Jill Slatter 33, Kerrie-Anne Skinner 33, Jill Ramsden 32, Christine Tancred 30 and Robyn Dunlop 30. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jenny Chambers (3rd & 17th) and Kay Dunn (4th). Next week the Ladies will play Par.

Thursday 25th October Peter Munro produced his very best in some time to record 44 points to clearly win the Vets Stableford event from John Pascoe 39 and Wayne Burgess 38 taking 3rd place. Ball winners were: Ray Hodson 37, Greg Ireland 36, Wayne Drayton 36, Gary Marsden 36, Ray Boyd 36, Bruce Chambers 35, Paul Smith 35 and Graeme Flynn 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Drayton (3rd) Wayne Barber (4th) and Ray Hodson (17th). This week's raffle has been won by John Harrison. Next weeks event will be American Stableford.

Saturday 27th October Matt Lorenz had the top round in the Medley Stableford with an excellent 43 points for the win from Tracy Morison 41 and Wayne Barber 3rd with 38 points on countback. Ball winners were: Stuart Todd v38, David Peel 37, Nathan Sweeney 37, Wayne Drayton 36, Bruce Chambers 35, Mathew Delforce 35, Kerrie-Anne Skinner 35, Garry Marsden 34 and Russ Lightfoot 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber (3rd) David Peel (4th) and Dean Morison (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford.

Sunday 28th October Lynwood CC member Michael Di Bari has won the Weekly Challenge with 40 points from Daniel Garb from Maccabi NSW on 39 and Mark Makin 3rd with 38 on countback. *Tuesday 30th October* Jason Cowburn's 40 point return from his 0 handicap (67 scratch) was just enough to win the Tuesday Stableford from Lindsay Self 39 with Steve Piggott 3rd with an even Par round of 36 points. Ball winners were: Rex Talbot 35, Thomas Waite 35, Michael Watson 35, Graeme Flynn 35, John Stewart 35, David Peel 35 and Geoff Sweetman 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Lachlan Peacock (3rd) Col Bradley (10th) & David Peel (17th)

Wednesday 31st October Brenda Mannix has won the Ladies Par event on countback from Sue Peel after both handed in excellent +4 rounds, Karen Baillie took 3rd place with +2. No other details have been released. Next week the Ladies will play Individual Stableford.

Thursday 1st November Vintage Michael Watson turned the clock back to shoot 73 scratch and claim the Vets American Stableford with 63 points from Ray Boyd 62 and John Stewart 3rd with 59. Ball winners were: Steve Piggott 58, Ken Wright 57, Peter Payne 57, John Carmody 57, Rex Talbot 57, David Peel 56, Graeme Flynn 55, Bruce Chambers 54 and Greg Ireland 53 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Payne (3rd) Rex Talbot (4th) and Ray Boyd (17th). The Misty Glen Wines 'Outstanding Performace by a Vet in October' has been won by Peter Munro. The raffle has been won by David Peel. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford

Saturday 3rd November Scott Jones handled the heat and wind best to claim the Medley Stableford with 41 points from Lachlan Peacock 39 and Wayne Barber in 3rd with 38 points. Ball winners were: Bruce Chambers 36, Wayne Drayton 33, Jason Cowburn 33, Michael McNab 31, Steve Piggott 31 and Paul Bullock 31 c/b. Nearest-the-pins went to Bruce Chambers (3rd) Wayne Barber (4th) Dean Morison (8th & 10th) and Scott Jones (17th). Next week will be the Monthly Stroke rounds played in conjunction with the playoff for the Mug Of Mugs and the Girls Goblet, the board extends best wishes to those qualifiers who compete.

**Members and Visitors are delighted with the condition of the course, much of which is the result of Trapper and his crew's huge effort during the drought to keep the fairways and greens alive, with the recent rainfall the full benefit is being enjoyed by all.*

Branxton Golf Club

Saturday 27th Oct Stableford

A grade ~ Winner David Hollis 39 pts c/b
Runner Up ~ Michael Tracey 39 pts
3rd Lee Heuston 38 pts
B grade
Winner Errol Munzenberger 42 pts
Runner Up Murray Johanson 40 pts
3rd Mick Barrett 39 pts
C grade
Winner Barry Turner 45 pts
Runner Up Geoff Jones 41 pts
3rd Peter Mathews 38 pts
Ball comp 34 pts
NTP

C Johanson 275cm D Matt 248cm P Baker 196cm F Wilson 159cm
Saturday proved to be an excellent day weatherwise with the course looking resplendent after the recent rain and valiant efforts by the green staff and local volunteers.

The first hole showed its colours with around 75% of the players missing the fairway when teeing off—although this can take the doubt out of each player's second shots—laying up being the only option. Dave Hollis won the day with an excellent 39 pts, only on a countback from Mick Tracey, one of the most consistent players off a single figure handicap at this club for many years. Lee Heuston played very well finishing third with 38 pts. Errol Munzenberger showed his true form to win B Grade with an outstanding 42 pts, just ahead of Club Captain Murray Johanson with 40 pts, with Mick Barrett third with an excellent 39 pts, to take the lead in the club championship. Barry Turner had a day out to remember, winning C Grade with an unbelievable 45 pts—an 82 off the stick. Such a round is of no surprise as Barry has a fine all round game, much better than his handicap suggests. Geoff Jones finished second with a fine 41 pts to take the lead in C Grade, with Peter Matthews coming third with his 38 pts to stay in contention for the C Grade title.

After the completion of the third round of the Club Championships, there are some intriguing contests in most grades. Cameron Johanson has taken a commanding 14 shot lead into the last round after his wonderful 71, with last year's champion Joshua Tracey second after his 75, with Isaiah Wolferstan third. Mick Barrett has a 6 shot lead in B Grade on 255, with Club Captain Murray Johanson playing well in second place on 261 with Troy McCaw and Doug Muncaster another shot behind. Geoff Jones continues his fine year, leading C Grade on 272, 3 shots in front of Peter Matthews on 275, with John Martin and Barry Turner next in line a few shots back.

Sat 3rd November 2018

stroke - monthly medal

Bedal winner – Michael Tracey 65 nett
A grade first Gary Wilton 67 nett
A grade second Peter Wilton 68 nett c/b
A grade third Tom Foster 68 nett
B grade first Mick Martin 66 nett
B grade second Trent Mcgee 68 nett c/b
B grade third Gary Walsh 68 nett
C grade first John Martin 73 nett
C grade second Tom Lundy 74 nett
C grade third Mick Lutovac 75 nett
Ball comp ~ 75 nett
NTP ~ J Tracey 326cm
G Wilton 262cm P Wilton 314cm

D Mathers 171cm
Eagles nest – Joshua Tracey 16th
The hot windy conditions didn't stop the "cream rising to the top" judging by the excellent play by Mick Tracey to win the Monthly Medal on Saturday with an outstanding 65 nett from his single figure handicap. Mick's near par round is a testament to his ability, something he has maintained for many years around the tricky Branxton layout. The A Grade winner was the perennial Gary Wilton with an excellent 67 nett, outdoing all players much younger than this local legend. Peter Wilton was runner up with an

excellent 68 nett just ahead of Tom Foster with the same score. Mick Martin bounced back to form to win B Grade with his 66 nett with Trent McGee and Gary Walsh filling the minor placings with their sub handicap scores. John Martin won C Grade with his 73 nett, with Tom Lundy and Mick Lutovac finishing second and third respectively. The shot of the day belonged to Darren Mathers on the 9th/18th, finishing less than 2 metres from the pin. 2017 Club

Champion showed his above average ability to win the eagle's nest on the 16th.

As a follow up to last week's club championships, the full results are now shown on the club's website. Club Captain had an excellent series, winning the Mug of Mugs, the Veteran's Championship and the B Grade nett. This is an outstanding effort after his organisational efforts over the championships and watching his son take out the title.

Elaina's Barefoot Triumph

By Isabella Crebert



For most seventeen-year old's, life is centred completing school or embarking in their first job. However, Branxton's Elaina McClung is managing balancing both Year 11 and taking on world title's in barefoot water skiing.

Igniting her passion for skiing at the age of two, Elaina was bound to succeed and currently holds the title for Junior girls Australian champion and the Under 18 Girls Athlete of the Year.

McClung competes regularly in barefoot water-skiing events within Australia, including the Australasia Oceania Championship.

McClung's success within Australia landed her a position in the 2018 World's competition, allowing Elaina to fly to Canada to ski on the Dream Lake. McClung spent the majority of August travelling, training and competing in Canada. Her performance in Canada earned her three personal bests, bronze in the slalom event, 4th in tricks, 6th jumps, and the position of overall 5th.

Elaina is an enthusiastic and aspiring athlete that consistently aims to improve her ability. Her afternoons and weekends are packed for honing her barefoot skiing talents, increasing her fitness at the gym and venturing between Sydney and Brisbane.

Elaina highlights her natural sporting ability within school by competing in cross country, running in first place for 2018.

Elaina aims to become an influencer for both sporting and to promote healthy eating on social media. Elaina will be competing in the 2020 World's Championship in Liverpool, Sydney.

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News SPORT

Greg "Shorty" Andrews' inspirational 100 caps a memorable day for local cricket club



An emotional Greg Andrews leaves the field with his two sons after his inspirational match winning century.

Saturday 28th October 2018 is a date that will be forever etched in the record books of the Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club, but more importantly it will be a date that will be forever etched in the memories of one of our community's great sporting families – The Andrews family.

16-year-old Patrick, 15-year-old Reuben, both making their top grade debuts, along with their 46-year-old father Greg "Shorty" Andrews became the first father and sons trio to play first grade for the Club. This feat is memorable on its own, but it was just an entrée to what was to become some incredible heroics against Supporters Club at Cessnock's Baddeley Park that warm spring afternoon. Supporters batted first and made a competitive 8-183 from their forty overs, with Patrick coming on to bowl second change. He had the ball on a string, bowling a beautiful line and length to finish with 2-24 off 7.

Reuben also showed no signs of nerves on the big

occasion, fielding enthusiastically and taking a neat catch at mid-wicket.

In pursuit of 184, Greta/Branxton looked dead and buried at 8-75 in the 19th over. Greg came to the crease at the fall of the third wicket, and fresh off an unbeaten 92 the previous week, the veteran showed his true class. He blasted nine boundaries and six maximums in a masterful and selfless batting display to steer his side home by one wicket against all odds in an absolute thriller.

With wickets falling all around him, a determined Andrews remained composed and confident, showing great faith in his tail-end batting partners as the "Lazarus-like" comeback was becoming more and more a reality. He brought up his century in the 34th over, then watchfully caressed the third ball of the 35th over through the covers for two to seal victory for the Blues.

He remained unbeaten once again on 102 off just 74 balls.

The best authors in the world could not have written a better script if they tried. Greg got to spend some time at the crease with both sons, with his wife Kellie and daughter Clare also at the venue to witness the proud

occasion. His inspirational knock was well supported by Indian import Tanveer Singh (21), a scratchy 18 from opener Mark Bercini, and a gutsy 9no from number eleven Alex Walkling. Players from both teams respectfully formed a guard of honor as an emotional Andrews and his two sons walked from the field. Team mates also fought back tears at witnessing what was one of sport's great moments. It was just one of a many centuries Greg has scored in his illustrious first grade career, but in years to come and when he is deep in retirement and looks back, it will be the one that stands high above the rest, and the one that he cherishes the most.

Tributes flowed in on social media later that evening for the well-renowned Hunter Valley cricketer and his family.

Lower Grade Results 28/10/18

Second Grade
Greta/Branxton 9/147 (Peter MacKenzie 42, Jason Haines 39, Luke Whitaker 12) defeated Supporters 9/102 (Connor Thomson 4-39 off 10, Jason Varley 3-20 off 3.4, Anthony Brunson 2-14 off 9.3)

Third Grade
Greta/Branxton White 4/124



(Jamie McNamara 44, Cory Stephenson 28no, Daniel Minchin 22, Will Young 16, Ben Miezi 11no, Ben Lahey 2-21 off 4) defeated Greta/Branxton Blue 8/123 (Andrew Wright 38, Matt Lahey 20, Ryan O'Donnell 18, Dave Seabrook 14no, Mal Hedger 13, Jamie McNamara 3-43 off 10, Will Young 2-13 off 4, Cory Stephenson 2-10 off 7).

Fourth Grade
Chelmsford Hotel 10/97 (Correy Stone 4-17 off 9, Sam Hines 2-28 off 9, Daniel McCann 2-26 off 8.4, Jeremy Brown 1-23 off 8) defeated Greta/Branxton 10/83 (Doug Engel 15, Sam Dagg 15, James Allerton

• Photo above: Andrews trio Greg (centre), Reuben (left) and Patrick (right) became the first father and sons trio to play first grade for the Greta/Branxton Club.



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