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WEDNESDAY  
13 February 2019

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## School NEWS



### Cessnock Deputy Mayor Melanie Dagg endorsed Country Labor candidate for Upper Hunter



NSW Labor's shadow treasurer Ryan Park, Country Labor candidate for Upper Hunter Melanie Dagg and Kate Washington, shadow minister for Hunter visited Singleton to launch Melanie's campaign for the state election

Country Labor has announced Melanie Dagg, who resides in Branxton, as

their Upper Hunter candidate heading into the 2019 State Election.

The Party endorsed the Cessnock Councillor & Deputy Mayor after being

'caught short' for a new candidate after Muswellbrook Mayor, Martin Rush, pulled out of the election race. Martin Rush pulled out over an anonymous complaint alleging he was involved in an altercation with a female flatmate. He has denied the allegation with Labor's candidate review committee dismissing the complaint. Police have also investigated the incident and will take no action. The Nationals Michael Johnsen holds the seat by a slim margin of 2.2 per cent after beating off an extremely strong challenge by Martin Rush at the last state election in 2015. The Upper Hunter seat is the Hunter's most marginal seat. Upper Hunter is one of four seats the Nationals fear they could lose to Labor or the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, along with Lismore, Tweed and Barwon. Melanie said she will be fighting to put the local schools and hospitals ahead of the Nationals' \$2.2 billion splurge on Sydney stadiums. The election is on the 23rd March 2019.

### Branxton IGA supports Kirkton Public School with \$2183.20 'Community Chest' donation



The IGA Community Chest presentation last week. Photo (L-R) Kirkton Public School Principal Claire Johnson, School Leader Felina Mayo, Sue Mitchell (representing Branxton IGA), School Captain Alyssa Smith & School Captain Taylor Sulter

A trip into Branxton (after school hours), a lovely cold ice-cream, a gift of a handball each & a cheque for \$2183.20; not a bad days work for Kirkton Public School Principal Claire Johnson & her three school leaders. Kirkton Public School was selected by Branxton IGA to receive the current

proceeds of their Community Chest fundraising initiative & as Principal Claire said ... a much welcomed surprise which will be well spent at their wonderful country school. "This came a wonderful surprise to me and our pupils. It is a great gesture & we sincerely thank

Branxton IGA for our cheque from their Community Chest. As yet we haven't decided on how it will be spent," said Claire. Money for IGA Community Chest is raised through a variety of ways and it is something they do all year. When you purchase a product with the IGA Community Chest logo printed on the label a percentage is credited to that store's IGA Community Chest account (some exclusions apply). Throughout the year, extra fundraising activities are conducted by stores and regions. IGA Community Chest and associated programs have raised over \$86 million for local community groups, not-for-profit organisations, charities and other worthy causes. This money has assisted over 7,000 worthwhile causes.

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## Congratulations to Australia Day Award Recipients

### CESSNOCK

Cessnock joined towns and regions across Australia to congratulate our Australia Day Award recipients and welcome our newest Australian citizens. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it was a wonderful day celebrating our community and community spirit. "It was a privilege to honour and acknowledge the 12 recipients of Australia Day Awards. Each of them are fantastic role models showing us all what it means to be truly community minded and

contribute."

"I would like to acknowledge the Citizen of the Year Geoff Walker, Senior Citizen of the Year Mr John and Mrs Robbie Forsyth, and Young Citizen of the Year Cooper Field."

"Our Citizen of the Year, Geoff Walker has made a significant and outstanding contribution to our community. Geoff looks for every opportunity to further advance our community and as a member of multiple community groups and organisations has done just that."

Geoff is a life member of the Nulkaba Public P&C Association, in the past an active member of the Northumberland Network, and is currently a member of the Cessnock Chamber of Commerce and is known for his work presenting on

2CHR on upcoming events in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

Geoff has also sacrificed a huge amount of time contributing to NAIDOC Week, the Seniors Festival, the Postie Bike Grand Prix, the Stomp Festival, Community Consultative Committee for the Cessnock Correctional Centre, the Cessnock Liquor Accord and is a board member of the Cessnock Leagues club.

**Australia Day Award recipients include:**  
*Citizen of the Year*, Geoff Walker  
*Senior Citizen on the Year*, Mr John & Mrs Robbie Forsyth  
*Young Citizen on the Year*, Cooper Field  
*Community Event of the Year*, Kearsley Dawn Service  
*Sport Award*, Dorothy Heath  
*Heritage Award*, Carl Hoipo  
*Maree Callaghan Award – Young Female Achiever*,

Olivia Palfreyman  
*Community Award*, Dale Goldie  
*Community Award*, Kylie Gray  
*Community Award*, Lorraine Giddins  
*Community Award*, Danielle Hoggan  
The celebrations also included welcoming 42 new citizens from across the globe. This year marks the 70 year anniversary since the first Australian Citizenship ceremony was held back in 1949.

### SINGLETON

Singleton celebrated Australia Day with an official ceremony including the Australia Day address by decorated army colonel Iain Cruickshank, a citizenship ceremony to welcome 36 new Australians and the announcement of Singleton's leading citizens. 2017 Wambo Coal Singleton

Hall of fame inductee Peggy Moore was named 2019 Citizen of the Year, for her tireless efforts towards improving women's sport in Singleton and her work at the Singleton Historical Society and Museum, while the Young Achiever of the Year Award was presented to Byron Fletcher for his dedication to arts and culture, representing Singleton in several Broadway Musicals including Mary Poppins, Nice Work If you Can Get It and My Fair Lady. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was a wonderful occasion to celebrate why Singleton was a wonderful place to live as well as being Australian. "Australia is the best country in the world because of our people, and Peggy and Byron are amazing examples of people in our community who go above and beyond to make life better for others,"

she said. "We are fortunate to have had a list of very distinguished nominees for our Australia Day Awards, and I congratulate each and every one of you on all that you have achieved. "Today has also been a great day to reflect on how fortunate we are to be Australians, and to welcome 36 new Australians to our community as part of the Citizenship Ceremony. "But what really makes Australia Day special in Singleton is the sense of community that we see at free family activities. It was fantastic to see so many people enjoying themselves at Twilight last night and today at the ceremony, and that is what it is all about — celebrating life and each other on our national day."

### MAITLAND

Local journalist & drought

crisis advocate Belinda-Jane Davis was announced as Maitland's 2018 Citizen of the Year. In 2018 Ms Davis, who lives on a farm near Hinton, wrote important stories of people on the land in a unique way that contributed towards building a strong, supportive community around the farming community. Her work at the Maitland Mercury with the Earth Markets galvanised the community in supporting their local farmers & thereby helping to ensure that Maitland is food secure. In 2018 she was awarded a Walkley Award for Excellence in Journalism for her drought campaign 'The Big Dry' which is a tribute to her tenacity & her view that it is her obligation as a journalist to bring the drought to the forefront of local residents minds. CONT NEXT PAGE



#### PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT BRANXTON TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC DOMAIN PLAN & DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

At its meeting of **12 December 2018**, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition the Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan and Development Control Plan for a period of 50 days.

The Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan and Development Control Plan will be on exhibition from **Wednesday, 30 January 2019 to Wednesday, 20 March 2019** and is available to view at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building;
- Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries;
- Branxton IGA;
- Richardson and Wrench Real Estate; and
- [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

**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.

Written submissions quoting 57/2017/1: Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan and Public Domain Plan should be received by no later than **5.00pm on Wednesday, 13 March 2019**. Submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and can be submitted via post or email [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au).

Council is holding a public information session on the Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan and Development Control Plan. Please come along to the Branxton Golf Club on Thursday 28 February at any time between 3pm and 7:30pm to view the plans and talk to Council Staff.

#### Event details:

Branxton Golf Course  
Cessnock Road, Branxton  
Thursday 28 February 2019  
3pm – 7:30pm

If you have any enquiries please contact Council's Senior Strategic Planner, Rob Corken on telephone 4993 4241.

#### USE OF COUNCIL'S RECREATION FACILITIES 2019 WINTER SEASON

Applications for the use of Council's recreation facilities by personal trainers, educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups during the Winter Sporting Season (**6 April 2019 to 15 September 2019**) are now open.

Applications should be submitted to Council by 22 February 2019. Application forms are available via Council's website or from Council's Administration Building, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised sporting activities can take place. Enquiries should be made to Council's Recreation and Community Liaison Officer, Mrs Kate Hicks on 4993 4234.

#### PUBLIC EXHIBITION CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL CEMETERIES MASTERPLAN

At its meeting of 6 February 2019, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition the Draft Cessnock City Council Cemeteries Masterplan.

**The Public exhibition period will be from Monday 11 February to Wednesday 13 March 2019.** The document can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);
- Branxton Post Office;
- Cessnock Public Library;
- Kurri Kurri Public Library;
- Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **4.00 pm Wednesday 13 March** via email [recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

#### REGULATION OF TRAFFIC "LOVEDALE LONG LUNCH"

Council advises that it has received an application from the Lovedale Long Lunch Pty Ltd to conduct the Lovedale Long Lunch on Lovedale, Wilderness and Talga Roads, Lovedale, scheduled for 18 & 19 May 2019. Council intends to seek consent from Roads and Maritime Services, pursuant to Division 2 of Part 8, of the Roads Act 1993, for the regulation of traffic, by means of temporary regulation of traffic as follows:

**Saturday 18 May 2019 – 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

**Sunday 19 May 2019 – 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

Council appreciates that the regulation of traffic may affect road users within the immediate and surrounding areas.

Written submissions relating to the Regulation of Traffic should be forwarded to the General Manager, Cessnock City Council, PO Box 152 Cessnock 2325, endorsed "Regulation of Traffic – Lovedale Long Lunch". The closing date for submissions is **4.00pm on Wednesday 13 March 2019**.

#### CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL TREE GIVEAWAY SUNDAY 19 MAY 2019 – 7:00AM TO 6:00PM

Have you built a new home during the 2018/2019 financial year? Did you know you can get up to six free plants for your property from Cessnock City Council?

Application forms are available from Council's Customer Service Officers, Vincent Street, Cessnock or via Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au). Completed application forms must be received no later than 5pm, **Friday 22 February 2019**.

Any enquires regarding the application for supply of trees and shrubs should be directed to Council's Vegetation & Civic Spaces Co-ordinator, Mr Lyall Green, on 4993 4300.



FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
**Congratulations to Australia Day Award Recipients**  
**MAITLAND**

.... Maitland Mayor Cr Loretta Baker said that her work with the rural community is something to be applauded. "I know it has meant a great deal to a lot of people," said Mayor Baker.

The Young Citizen of the Year is passionate 15 year old Kelci Brain who has been a member of the St John's Ambulance Maitland Cadet Division for over 4 years. Kelci has proficiently climbed the ranks as a cadet, completed over 800 volunteer hours and plans to study to become a paramedic on completion of his schooling.

Mayor Baker said that we are fortunate to have so many talented & community minded young people like Kelci in our city. "Hearing of her efforts & commitment makes me incredibly proud."

**The "Book Nook" now open**



"The Book Nook" at the Anglican Boutique Op Shop, on Cessnock Road Branxton opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and is the end result of planning the details, "to get it right", over the last two years.

The previous Op Shop Co-Ordinator, Helen Scott, saw the potential that a library or book area might have for the community. Cathy Darcey, a local girl who came to the Op Shop as a customer, offered to assist with sorting and arranging the books, and over time has become the "book lady."

Then, with the arrival of their new Priest, Reverend Nicole, at the end of last year, the vision for the book area was encouraged and their dreaming grew into the communal space it has become.

Cathy's dedication, creativity and love of books and literacy is evident when you spend some time in *The Book Nook*.

*The Book Nook* provides a welcoming space for children and adults to relax, read and be creative. It is also a meeting place where conversation, friendship and fellowship are encouraged.

All that *The Book Nook* offers to our community, would not be possible without the generous donations of people within our community of good quality books, or without the generous donation of time, gifts and talents that the volunteers who work in the Op Shop provide & give.

The *Nook* has close to a 1000 titles with children's books, crime thrillers & DVD's being the most popular sellers. "They are always in great demand so if you have any that are gathering dust please drop them into the Op Shop," said Cathy.

Prices are very reasonable & start with children's books at 5 for \$1, big & hard-covers at \$2 & your normal standard paperback at \$1. Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 9am ~ 3pm & Saturday 9am until midday.

All are welcome & while you are there why not browse the store for a well deserved bargain.

Photo above: The Reverend Nicole Baldwin, Parish Priest of Branxton, Greta & Lochinvar in the recently opened 'Book Nook'

**Road policing boost for local region**

Road policing in the Hunter Region has been boosted with the allocation with eight further highway patrol officers to be based at Muswellbrook.

The eight new officers are joining the existing team of 14 highway patrol operatives already working within the Hunter Valley District.

Northern Region Traffic Tactician Chief Inspector Amanda Calder said these officers were dedicated to working with the Hunter community to reduce serious crashes and deaths in this area.

"We are three weeks into 2019 and 18 people have lost their lives in crashes on NSW roads. Sixteen of those have occurred in regional NSW with eight of them in Northern Region.

"Drivers travelling through the Hunter should not become complacent about road safety," she said.

In 2018 16 per cent of the road deaths in Northern Region occurred in the Muswellbrook and Hunter Valley communities.

Chief Inspector Calder said the placement of the officers at Muswellbrook was an important step for road policing in the region.

"From Muswellbrook, the highway patrol officers cover an area that takes in not only the main roads but also local roads within the townships.

"Extending the back roads coverage within the Hunter Valley Police District dovetails with additional personnel being placed at other locations within Northern and Western regions

Hunter Valley Police District Commander Superintendent Chad Gillies said he welcomed the additional positions to be stationed at Muswellbrook.

"Local police have a great working relationship with Traffic and Highway Patrol Command and this will strengthen our local focus on road safety in the Upper Hunter," Superintendent Gillies said.

These additional officers provide the local community with the reassurance that the NSW Police are committed to reducing road trauma across Regional NSW.

Local people die on local Regional roads. Slow down, take care and you can be re-assured that these officers and all police in the Hunter Valley will continue to work hard to reduce road trauma in your community.

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"LIKE TO HELP OTHERS" then come along and find out how you can help.

Nibbles provided bar available. Cessnock Rotary invites you to join us at an information session

Wednesday 20th February 2019 - 6:30pm at Branxton Golf Club.

Text or phone to book a seat at the discussion table; bring along your questions.

Contact Vicki on **0418 250 887** or Email: [wsteep@bigpond.com](mailto:wsteep@bigpond.com)

**For catering purposes please RSVP by 15th Feb 2019.**

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# STEVE'S RANT

Being a philatelist, I was nonplussed last year to learn that the Australia Post has ceased producing Australia Day Stamps. It has happened again this year. So, what has changed to put a stop to something that was virtually an annual event since 1978? (Back then the standard postage rate was 18 cents). This was not a decision by our elected representatives for there was no announcement as such. It was in fact, one has to assume, the collective decision of a bunch of non-elected public servants whose personal opinion about the sanctity of Australia Day as a national day of significance was such as to stop further production of Australia Day commemorative stamps. You may applaud this act of self-expression by a bunch of apparatchiki and they may well be in their rights to have done it except 70% of all Australians believe that Australia Day is of great distinction and is worth celebrating. So, let's give them the authority to do what they did but is in the interest of the majority of Australians in particular; stamp collecting Australians. Taking this step upon themselves because a minority of (lets face it) left-wing socialist intellectuals and their

fellow travellers take offence to what they call "Invasion Day". The correctness or not of the celebrating 26<sup>th</sup> January 1788 is not my concern here. What I do concern myself with is that increasingly non-elected public servants and non-government organisations take it upon themselves to dictate what we the people should do and think. We are better than that and we must make it our business to question these "feel-good" ideas, less consequences arise which impinge on our freedoms and stupid politicians think there are electoral advantages to be had by supporting these "feel-good" ideas. The classical example is the thoroughly discredited HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. What a dog's breakfast. Consider also the global warming nonsense which all the new wannabe independent politicians are pushing as their political policy. There are other bad effects when we the people are not consulted over administrative changes. This is the nub of the education failure in Australian State Schools. Centralised control by education department bureaucrats have wrought changes to teaching techniques, syllabus, and

- testing activities as fads and so-called new approaches too education arise. This is the consequence.
- # Abandonment of formal direct instruction in favour of undirected self-chosen activities in the classroom.
  - # Failure to test the student's knowledge or skills until year 11/12
  - # The extension of non-core subject's which have no aim but to indoctrinate our children to accept leftist socialist principles without question
  - # Failure to reinforce to what little knowledge is imparted by revision
  - # Using occupational health and safety issues to limit what the children can do during breaks in lessons
  - # Failure to teach discipline in any form
  - # Reducing face to face teaching time for, so called, *student free day* to cover the administrative preparations which should have occurred during the holidays.

State schools are little more than child minding centres. Parents need to pay far more concern to what their children are taught and the standards that are achieved. To do this you need to ask for and study the children's written work and test results. Be surprised and disappointed if you find there are no test and no written work, and demand it on a regular basis so that your child's progress can be judged. Encourage you children to discuss with you what they do each day and show enthusiasm when your child receives good results. As parents, we have a big



role to play in the education of our children and generally the effort put in is reflected in the outcome. So much for that, but what about this bloke called Clive Palmer? What a self-promoting braggart he is. Don't be fooled, stay with the main parties. If you want to find which party most reflects your views... take the quiz. <https://australia.isidewith.com/political-quiz?from=wDGMJZtKb&fbclid=IwAR1IPISKBI-SbOv7GzAp-FteNF91kGM0aIx3BgmUtkzZ-2C51Athx8GQ-OKQ> Cheers Steve.



with **Mike Lowing**  
It's our first edition for the new year & we at The News apologize for it being a week later than normal.

Our largesse in that regard did have one good end result; if we had produced our first edition a week earlier we would have missed Cessnock Councillor & deputy mayor Mel Daggs' endorsement as the ALP candidate for the Upper Hunter seat in the coming state election. She has replaced Martin Rush, who pulled out over an anonymous complaint alleging he was involved in an altercation with a female flatmate. Martin Rush, Muswellbrook's mayor, denied the allegation & Labor's candidate review committee dismissed the complaint. Police investigated the incident and will take no further action. Michael Johnsen holds the seat by a margin of 2.2 per cent after surviving a strong challenge by Mr Rush in 2015. As reported in the Newcastle Herald Upper Hunter is one of four seats the Nationals fear they could lose to Labor or the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party,

along with Lismore, Tweed and Barwon. Melanie grew up in Cessnock, attending West Cessnock Public School, Mount View High School and later St Marys in Maitland. During her working life she has worked in the hospitality and legal industries. She now lives in Branxton with her husband Josh and their two gorgeous girls Amelia and Eliza. Melanie has always harboured a passion for music, trying her hand at a number of instruments including piano, violin, guitar and cello and is also a classically trained singer. She is a keen tennis player, although regrettably does not have as much time for games these days. Melanie has been heavily involved with a number of community and sporting groups, most notably the Greta-Branxton Cricket Club for whom she served as their Secretary/Treasurer for six years. The state election is on the 23 March. Our hard working local

police officer Bob Biles has organised a Branxton/Greta/North Rothbury Community Safety Precinct Public Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th February at Greta Workers Club from 5:30pm. The Local Area Commander will be in attendance as will other senior officers. Topics that they would like to address are police & community crime prevention strategies, an update on police activities in the local area & to hear from the residents if they have any particular local issues or concerns they feel needs addressing. It is a great initiative by Bob & the local command so put it in your diary and support their initiative. Again, the NSW Police need congratulating for their effective presence on the roads over Christmas/New Year & the Australia Day long weekend. We travelled to Brisbane over Christmas & again on the long weekend & the highway patrol were all over the roads & it proved to me that their presence (and maybe double demerit points!) made a huge difference to driver behaviour & the consequential low accident rate ~ well done. Cheers, Mike



**A matter of degrees**  
In Steve's Rant against Climate Change in the Wednesday 19th December edition, he made the following statement:

"The temperature is not rising except on some days in summer". Well the Bureau of Meteorology have just released their summary of

Australia's 2018 weather. It says that the 2018 average maximum temperature was 1.55 deg. above the 1961-90 average. The second highest on record. The average temperature was 1.14 deg. above the 1961-90 average, the third highest on record. The average minimum temperature was 0.73 deg. above the 1961-90 average, the eleventh highest.

Nine of the ten warmest years have occurred since 2005. What will it take for Steve to accept the scientific evidence of Climate Change, or at least of rising temperatures?  
**Allan Thomas Lochinvar NSW**  
**I wonder**  
I wonder how people who were cheated, stolen from and had their lives destroyed by financial institutions are feeling now. Many Australians had hoped the royal commission

would address these abuses, and the inadequacy and collusion of regulatory authorities, by recommending harsh penalties and ensuring that institutions would be policed more strictly. However, hamstrung by a government that fought tooth and nail against it, and then having a time limit put on it, the royal commission was prevented

from hearing all the submissions. The proof that it was a paper tiger has been the stockmarket's response. All those who suffered would have looked at the soaring share prices and wondered why they wasted their time in hoping for a fair and just change to a venal system. Meanwhile, the financial institutions are laughing,

the government will mouth empty promises and the next person will be cheated.  
**Jim Barnden, Richmond**

**So what has changed?**  
The horses trained by Darren Weir were not permitted to race under his name last week, presumably because their training regime may have been tainted by the use of jiggers. Why are they now allowed to race under another trainer's name when, presumably, the effects of the jiggers on the horses' mindset will still be there, when the jockey waves or wields the whip down the home straight?  
**Name & Address supplied but not published at writers request**

## Emergency Phone Numbers

**Dial 000**  
FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE  
It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need—fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. **ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED**

**For non-life threatening calls.....**  
Police Assistance Line (PAL).... 131 444

Police	Electricity
Branxton..... 4938 1244	Australia..... 131 388
Lochinvar..... 4930 7209	<b>Hospitals</b>
<b>Ambulance</b> ..... 131 233	Maitland..... 4939 2000
<b>NSW Fire Brigade</b>	Cessnock..... 4991 0555
Branxton..... 4938 3396	Singleton..... 6572 2799
<b>Rural Fire Brigades</b>	<b>SES</b> .....132 500
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Broke..... 6579 1491	1800 333 000
Greta..... 4015 0000	Poisons Info ..... 131 126
Bishops Bdg	Hunter Water
4015 0000	1300 657 000
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Ausgrid ..... 131 388
Rothbury..... 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	Lifeline .....131 114
Rothbury..... 4991 1733	Mental Health Line
Bishops Bdg	1800 011 511
4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	4990 9609
Rothbury..... 4015 0000	Centrelink Self Service
Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	136 240
Rothbury..... 4991 1733	Medicare ..... 132 011
Scotts	Native Animal Rescue
Flat..... 6575 1200	0418 628 483
Central	
(Cessnock).... 4015 0000	

Submit a letter to the editor

**The Editor, The BGV News, 12 Clift Street, Branxton NSW 2335**

or emailed to [thenews@hotmail.net.au](mailto:thenews@hotmail.net.au)

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# Investing in the Pacific Highway as part of the \$75 billion 10 year infrastructure plan



Harwood Bridge crossing the Clarence River



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# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

What an exciting Australia Day in 2019. This year Cessnock City Council extended celebrations over three days offering a number of free Aussie activities. The weekend kicked off with a screening of 'The Castle' which was certainly enjoyed by the crowd culminating in a round of applause at the end of the movie, truly an Australian classic. On Australia Day it was a great pleasure to induct 42 new citizens as part of our celebrations. This year saw the largest number of citizens welcomed before an enthusiastic audience. A highlight of the ceremony was the dance by our Australia Day Ambassadors the Special Olympics Dance Performance Group. Mel Eustace from the Dance Performance Group gave a rousing speech, focusing on inclusion and the Australia Day theme 'Everyone, Every Story'. Mel also taught the audience how to sing the motto "Don't DISS my ABILITY" a lasting message we know our local residents will take away from the day. Congratulations to everyone who received an Australia Day Award. Cooper Field took home the award for Young Citizen of the Year, for his outstanding contribution volunteering over 400 hours for St Johns Ambulance. Our Senior Citizen of the Year was awarded to Laguna couple Mr John and Mrs Robbie Forsyth for their generous contribution to the community as they donated their own property to use as a sportsground at Laguna. Geoff Walker was announced as Citizen of the Year for his outstanding contribution to the community through various organisations and committees. Congratulations, we are proud to have such exceptional residents in our Local Government Area (LGA) and contributing so selflessly to our community. A big thank you to the East Cessnock Bowling Club for having us. The Australia Day celebrations finished off with the cricket match between Supporters and Bellbird, which was the final of the Cessnock Cricket Association T20 competition. It was certainly an exciting game with Supporters winning in the final over. Full credit to all the players and umpires for enduring such sweltering weather conditions. The hot weather continued the

following day, making our Sunday Family Fun Days held at the three swimming pools in the LGA very popular. At the Cessnock Pool we held the final celebration for Australia Day with a BBQ breakfast. Thanks to the Cessnock Rotary Club for assisting with the BBQ. The CPAC season launch on this Saturday we are looking forward to another diverse program of theatre performances that are dramatic, funny, thoughtful, challenging, entertaining and affordable. We encourage all community members to come along and experience the culture and entertainment of offer.

Council have launched a new video on social media aimed at getting residents in the Cessnock LGA to think about keeping their backyard secure. The video starts out using a bit of humour but ends with a twist. The message is simple 'Make sure your yard is secure, shut your gate and keep your mate safe'. The video is the newest addition to the Council's responsible pet ownership campaign, 'with love comes responsibility' that was launched last year. The campaign focuses on educating residents to enable them to be better pet owners. To view the video visit <https://youtu.be/xgDBjrpPrk>.

It was with great sadness the passing of Noel Rose last week. Noel was a tireless supporter of our community and a winner 2003 of the Senior Citizen of the Year. Our sympathies are with his family. The Cessnock Show is just around the corner, with it kicking off on Friday 22 February. This is a fantastic event that has something for everyone to enjoy.

Cheers, Bob



Clr Melanie Dagg - Deputy Mayor & Cessnock City Councillor representing Ward 'C'

2018 was another busy year for Cessnock Council, as shown in the summary of works listed below:

**Drainage**  
\$200,000 worth of drainage works invested in Anvil Street, Greta  
Greta Flood Study - completed and placed on exhibition  
Whitburn Estate, Greta - Stage 2 flood mitigation works - upgrade of culverts beneath New England Highway - Total Project cost

approximately \$1.8M jointly funded (50:50) with RMS - completed in 2018

## Roads

### State Road

Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury between Reid St and Rothbury St - safety improvements that included road widening and pipe culvert extension

### Regional Road Resurfacing Program

Elderslie Rd, Branxton - cnr of old New England Highway to Boundary with Singleton  
**Local Road Resurfacing Program**  
Lindsay Street, East Branxton  
McMullins Road, East Branxton - between Dalwood Rd and George Street  
Hunter Street, Greta - between Evans St and High Street  
Evans Street, Greta - between Hunter St and Wyndham Street

### Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure

Dalwood Rd, East Branxton - successful CPTIG grant \$50k installed new Bus Shelters at the upgraded school bus interchange and along New England Highway (thanks to Brett Wild of the Business Chamber for his continued lobbying of government for this grant)  
North Rothbury, Wine Country Drive - Upgraded bus stop and shelter

### Bridges

Rothbury, Wilderness Road - refurbishment of Gillies Bridge \$300k

### Community/ Open Space Facilities & Community Sponsorship

Branxton to Greta Cycleway - Successful EOI submission for a Resources for Regions Grant to construct the cycleway. Currently waiting on the outcome of Council's Final Business Case submission for a \$2.7M cycleway which will also support the proposed Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway project  
Branxton Oval - Construction of a new shelter and picnic setting at the Branxton RV site

Branxton Pool - Offered Free Sunday Fundays at local pools resulting in 8,735 visits across Council's three pools, which supported an overall total of 36,018 recorded visits to Branxton Pool during the period October - March (2017-18)

Branxton Public Square - Successful NSW Govt. Stronger Country Communities Grant \$280k awarded. Works scheduled for 2019-20 Financial Year Branxton, Maitland Street - Successful NSW Govt.

Stronger Country Communities Grant \$120k awarded to upgrade footpath and tree plantings on the northern side of Maitland St, Branxton. Works scheduled for 2019-20 Financial Year  
Citywide Shade Sail Program - install shade structures over Centenary Park (Abermain), Whitburn Estate Park (Greta) and Maybury Peace Park (Weston) - all shade sails will be completed by April 2019.

### Community Facilities \$ for \$ Program

Greta Multipurpose Centre - \$2,450

Greta Tidy Towns - \$6,400  
**Recreation Minor Projects \$ for \$ Program**

Greta Branxton Football Club - \$3,160

### Tidy Towns \$ for \$ Program

Branxton Tidy Town - \$5,660

Greta Tidy Town - \$3,257

Rothbury, cnr Lovedale

Road/Camp Rd - Construction of a new Visitor Information Bay

### Weston Area

Maybury Peace Park pond bank stabilisation - stage 1  
Chinaman's Hollow pedestrian bridge timber replacement

### Recurrent Maintenance

On-going maintenance of our Local Roads, Bridges, Parks and Ovals ; including Cycleway maintenance at Maitland Street East Branxton between Miller Park and Anvil Creek Bridge (southern side)

### Community Engagement/ Strategic Planning

- Adopted the Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan

- Adopted the Miller Park (Branxton) Masterplan

- Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan & Implementation Plan on Public Exhibition

### Community Events and Services

- Council's youth service CYCOS - regularly visits the Greta Arts & Sports Hall as part of the youth "Drop In Program".

- 2018/19 Community and Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar program - Council allocated \$3,000 to support the Branxton Greta Business Chamber with its project "Business and Community Forum".

- "Greta Skate Jam" on 15 December. CYCOS has assisted with event planning in collaboration with other local services.

In addition, there were a number of events where fees were waived to assist local groups with their event success. And as always, Council staff are always out and about mowing our sporting fields, maintaining community, recreational and facilities and so many other things that tend to go unnoticed, but which we couldn't do without. Thanks for your continued support of the work we do at Council, we are proud to partner with the community to make our region the best it can be. I'm looking forward to seeing our plans for 2019 come to fruition!

Cheers, Mel



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Putting our community first is paramount for Singleton

Council. It is the cornerstone of everything we do, which is why Council will set into motion the 2019 Singleton Advocacy Agenda at our meeting this month, which will play an important role in setting Council's direction ahead of the upcoming state election in March. The agenda is a first for Singleton, and lays the foundation for Council and the community to commence action today that will create long-lasting change into the future.

To deliver on its full potential, Singleton requires significant investment - both public and private. Singleton Council calls on the NSW Government, and candidates for the seat of the Upper Hunter, to partner with us to help drive the major initiatives that will shape the future of our area for decades to come. That's why Council has identified 20 priorities for our region, and our job is to ensure no one from any side of politics forgets what's on it. The Singleton local government area is part of NSW's largest regional centre, and home to some of its most important industries - mining and agriculture, not to mention an iconic tourism industry. And we have a long way to go until we see a return in keeping with the approximately \$340 million in mining royalties from our region that are delivered to Macquarie Street each year.

Community-based advocacy is a powerful way for people to mobilise action around matters that are important to them. When the community, businesses and all levels of government work together collaboratively, great outcomes are possible. Looking ahead to the next 20 - 30 years, Singleton will continue to grow and transform. Council will seek out opportunities to ensure the best services and amenities for our residents, businesses and visitors. Public transport, state-of-the-art medical services, the Singleton by-pass, education facilities and sustainable post-mining land use are just a few examples of the changing projects that Council will advocate for.

One of the ways to strengthen an area is to ensure it has a strong, united voice on matters that are important to our residents, our communities and our businesses. This agenda paves the way for greater collaboration between Singleton Council and other tiers of government to transform our town into an innovative, dynamic and sustainable hub of the future. The priorities for the Singleton local government area have been developed with the help of our community through input into the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). But Council alone cannot deliver all the outcomes and objectives of our CSP. Shared decision making and effective working partnerships with government agencies, non-government organisations, business and, of course, our local community is critical to our collective success as a region.

Every one of us has a role to play in realising our shared future. Our role as a Council is to influence decision makers to support policy change and investment in our

communities. To enable this, we need to be clear about what our advocacy priorities are and have a planned, coordinated and targeted approach to advocacy that brings about positive change. Singleton is a community founded on agriculture, driven by coal and sustained by the Hunter River. On so many levels, our ongoing sustainability and success should be critically important to any government. We are not only listening to our community, we're ensuring the message gets through to the people in the State and Federal Governments who have the authority to implement change.

Cheers, Sue



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward

### Two Treasures

In the past three weeks I've been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to more extensively explore two of Maitland's often forgotten treasures.

The first was three weeks ago when the entire council plus some of the council officers were given an extensive tour of the Walka Waterworks site. This hidden late Victorian gem with its ornate brickwork and beautiful surrounds is just stone's throw from the city centre.

Construction started on Walka in 1882 and took five years to complete. The Walka Water Supply Scheme was the first in Australia to have a water treatment system, that is, from the original river water source to the Walka lake reservoir to filtered kitchen tap water. At the time, no other town in the country came close to the sophistication of the scheme.

Water was pumped from the Hunter River to a reservoir along a brick tunnel approximately 1.8 m in diameter and 9 metres below ground. At full operation, it had three pumping engines (each and with a flywheel weighing 36 tonnes). Water would be pumped from the river at Oakhampton up to the Walka reservoir (still visible as the Walka lake today), then pumped onwards to another reservoir 9.7 km away at Buttai, where it was gravitationally distributed.

The waterworks served as the sole water supply of the Lower Hunter towns from 1887 until 1929 when it was superseded by the Tarro Pumping Station. By 1900 Newcastle was consuming double the water it had consumed in 1892.

The implementation of the waterworks scheme for drinking and washing made possible the provision of sewerage systems to towns throughout the lower Hunter. This improved the health of the community by reducing the likelihood of disease and improving the cleanliness of the water supply.

Today Walka's beautiful surrounds are open to the public free of charge from 7:00 to 5:00. The boiler room in the building and the adjacent lawns are available for function hire, there are a range walk ways, BBQs, a kids playground and plenty of parking. Why not take a picnic basket and go and have a look around. You won't be disappointed. The second site visit was an extensive tour of Maitland Gaol. Started in 1848 Maitland Gaol closed in January 1998 giving the Gaol a history that spanned 150 years. Throughout that time many buildings were modified or removed and the last of the new buildings was completed in 1993.

Inside the massive sandstone façade, the walls and cells tell the stories of inmates. The graffiti and illustrations are records of time, of life and in some instances death. With 150 years of history the site saw discipline including whippings of convicts right up to the lighter treatment of the white collar criminals in the later years. As you walk around the gaol there is a strong notion of history, you can see the pain and struggle to survive, the frustration and determination is all evident within the walls.

Built of sandstone from Morpeth and Farley, it is considered to be the most intact country gaols in New South Wales with many of the original structures including cell blocks, toilets and artworks still in the original condition. Today the Gaol is available for function hire, holds a number of different tours, hosts the very popular *Bitter and Twisted* festival and is home to an amazing café and a number of community groups.

Council is also currently seeking feedback on future uses of the site. To contribute your thoughts head to the Maitland have your say section of Council's website. But why not unlock the gates and have a look around this interesting part of Maitland's history this weekend. More information on both these treasures can be found on Council's website at [www.maitland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au)

Thanks for reading the first column of the New Year. Until next time, Ben

Ben

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Ben



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**News**

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# Pharmacist Advice

## MEASLES

### Measles is a serious viral illness

Measles was once considered a common childhood illness, but it is a very serious disease.

Immunisation is effective in preventing the disease but hundreds of thousands of people worldwide are infected every year. People with measles can become very unwell and many require hospitalisation. In 2017, the World Health Organization estimates that 110,000 people around the world died due to measles.

### Signs and symptoms of measles

People who are exposed to measles will usually become sick after about 10 days, but it can take as little as seven and as many as 18 days for symptoms to appear.

The main symptoms of measles include:

- fever
- cough
- runny nose
- conjunctivitis (sore, red, eyes)
- generally feeling unwell/tiredness
- followed 3-4 days later by a non-itchy, spotty rash that starts on the face and neck and spreads to other parts of the body.

Up to one third of people with measles will have serious complications including:

- Otitis media (middle ear infection)
- diarrhoea (more common in infants)
- pneumonia
- encephalitis (swelling of the brain) (1 in 1000)

One in 100,000 people who get measles will develop chronic, progressive brain inflammation several years after infection. This severe complication is called sub-acute sclerosing panencephalitis and is fatal.

### Measles is highly contagious, and spreads through the air

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases that affects humans. It is spread through the air when an infectious person breathes, coughs or sneezes. People who have measles can spread the infection to others from one day before the onset of symptoms, until four days after the rash appears.

### How contagious is measles?

If a person who doesn't know they have measles is sitting in a large waiting room, coughing and sneezing, and there are 10 other people who are all susceptible to measles in the room, nine of them will develop the infection. Measles virus can

stay in the air for short periods of time (around 15 minutes), so even if some of these people entered the room after the person with measles left, they could still become infected.

**Measles is preventable**  
Measles is a vaccine preventable disease. Two doses of measles containing vaccine provides lifelong protection in 99 of 100 vaccinated people.

In Australia, the National Immunisation Program offers two doses to all children:

- at 12 months as MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella)
- at 18 months as MMRC vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella, varicella).

There were a number of changes to Australian Immunisation programs between the late 1960's and early 1970's when one dose of the measles vaccine was first offered, and the 1990's when the important second dose was introduced. This means that many adults may have unknowingly missed one, or both doses of measles vaccine and could be susceptible to infection if exposed to measles.

Most people born before 1966 are likely to have had measles as a child, and are generally considered to be immune. NSW provides free MMR vaccine to people born during or after 1966, who haven't had measles or two doses of measles vaccine. It is safe to receive more than two doses, so if you aren't sure you had two doses in the past, you should see your doctor for a free dose. In NSW, people 16 years and older can now also access MMR from authorised pharmacists, but this will incur a cost.

Vaccinating yourself and your family also helps to protect people who are at risk, such as children under 12 months of age and people with compromised immune systems – like those undergoing cancer therapy. This is known as herd immunity.

### Measles is still a risk for Australians

Thanks to vaccination, measles is rare in Australia, but it still occurs. Most cases of measles seen in NSW are in people who are returning or visiting from a country where measles is common or an outbreak is occurring or have been in contact with someone who was.

Measles is a common illness in many popular holiday destinations, such as the Philippines, India, Indonesia (including Bali) and Thailand. Measles is also common in parts of the Middle East and most of Africa, and large outbreaks have been occurring across Europe, South America and the United States of America in the past few years.

### What happens when there is a measles case in NSW?



When someone is identified as having measles in NSW, public health staff work very quickly to

identify the places they have been and other people who may have been exposed.

Where they can, public health staff will contact people who may have been exposed to find out whether they are immune to measles and offer preventive therapy or advice.

If they are unable to identify people who have been exposed (such as when the person with measles has visited a large shopping centre or airport while infectious), an alert will be issued to let people know that they may have been exposed to measles.

Information regarding current alerts and known potential exposure sites is available on NSW measles alerts.

### Act fast if you suspect measles

People who are exposed to measles and develop measles-like symptoms should seek medical attention.

Call ahead to the medical practice or emergency department and tell them about your symptoms, so they can limit your exposure to other people when you arrive.

## Members say

FROM Page 6  
JOEL FITZGIBBON MP  
Member for Hunter

course, none of us can back that claim, it's not something that can be measured and we all know there are many towns across the country that could justifiably make the same claim.

However, that there is no a better a community than our own is a more than credible claim. I see the evidence almost every day. Everywhere I turn in our local towns I find people giving their time freely to assist others and it's always a

pleasure to see them being recognised on Australia Day. There are too many of them to name here but as always, I'll be writing to each of them to say thank you and congratulations. Indeed I thank all our volunteers and those who go well beyond the call to duty to help others and strengthen our community.

We now we have the South Australia Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission report.

The report runs more than 700 pages so I don't recommend it as bed-time reading. I do however recommend its overview

which provides a good and simple summary of the history (including the many early mistakes made), the challenge, and the failings of both the Murray Darling Basin Plan and its management.

For me, the Commission's bottom line is that as a community, we need to decide whether we want an adequate plan properly managed, or something short of that which satisfies opponents of adequate action. Adequate action is enough action to return the basin and its rivers to good health based on the science. Less than adequate

action is a compromise which accommodates economic interests. But there will be very little economy to protect if we don't turn the problem around. Since the last compromise the climate has grown more challenging and on all the evidence, it will continue to do so. The Murray Darling Basin is Australia's main food bowl and the main water supply for many communities. So the stakes are high and we must get it right.

Member for Cessnock  
Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR THE POLITICAL SPIN OF ELECTIONS WILL BE ENOUGH TO PUT YOU INTO A SPIN

As someone who works and lives inside of the state political "bubble" I see all kinds of statements made by politicians that really don't reflect very accurately on reality. In simple terms, the truth is hard to find.

Because I am a little bit closer to the facts, I can see the spin, but it must be so hard for everyone out in voter land.

In more recent times I have seen and heard some howlers. Take for example the business case that supported the re-build of Parramatta Stadium – it turns out that it relied on 3 NRL teams playing all of their home games there.

Assuming Parramatta is one of those 3 teams, who are the other 2? Should we expect the other 2 to be playing there in 2019? If there aren't going to be another 2 teams playing there, does that make the business case a big fat lie? The naming of the Sydney ferry as "Ferry McFerryface" was an incredible mistruth. The Minister assured us all that the public had spoken and that the silly name had the most votes.

Some months later it was leaked that the silly name had in fact received very few votes, while a more sensible name, dedicated to a great Australian, Ian Kiernan had received thousands more votes than the Ferry McFerryface idea. The Minister had to acknowledge that he had originally misled the public. And one of the more misleading arguments ever put by a Premier about selling a public asset, the Land Titles office, is one that is close to my heart. My role as the Shadow Minister for Finance was to have a shadow responsibility for the Land Titles Office because it was in my portfolio. The Premier told us that it was "just the administration" of the Land Titles Office. The former Surveyor General came out of retirement to put the Premier in her place and declare that the Premier was fundamentally wrong to refer to it as just administration; that in fact it was the core and heart of our entire Land Title system that she was selling. In the coming months there will be 2 elections – State and Federal. I can only imagine how hard it is going to be for people to figure out the truth.

Where possible, I am more than happy to help. Clayton

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## Satay chicken rice paper rolls

high heat, reduce heat to low, then cook for 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Set aside for 10 minutes (the residual heat of the water will finish cooking chicken).

### Step 2

Meanwhile, to make sauce, heat oil in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add eschalot, garlic and chilli, and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until soft. Add spices and stir for 1 minute or until fragrant. Stir in stock, coconut milk and hoisin and fish sauces, then bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to low and cook for 10 minutes or until slightly reduced.

### Step 3

Process peanuts and palm sugar in a food processor until finely ground. Add to coconut milk mixture. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for a further 5 minutes or until sauce is thick. Stir in lime juice. Cool. Makes 1 1/4 cups.

### Step 4

Remove chicken from cooking liquid and cool. Finely shred chicken into a bowl. Add reserved coconut flesh.

### Step 5

Fill a large bowl with warm water. Dip a rice paper wrapper in water for 20 seconds or until just softened, then place on a sheet of baking paper. Fold left side in by 5cm, then place some lettuce lengthwise on wrapper, 3cm up from the bottom. Top with a little chicken mixture and sauce, then a basil and coriander leaf. Fold bottom of wrapper up over filling, then roll up tightly, folding in right side as you go, to form a roll with one open end. Repeat with remaining wrappers and filling ingredients. Tuck a few extra herbs into the top of each roll.

### Step 6

Serve rolls with lime wedges and remaining satay sauce.



### Ingredients

- \* 1 drinking coconut
- \* 700g chicken breasts
- \* 1 stalk lemongrass, chopped
- \* 20 x 22cm rice paper wrappers
- \* 1/2 small iceberg lettuce, thinly shredded
- \* 1 cup Thai basil leaves
- \* 1/2 cup coriander leaves
- \* Lime wedges, to serve

### Satay sauce

- \* 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- \* 1 eschalot, finely chopped
- \* 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- \* 1 red bird's-eye chilli, seeded, finely chopped
- \* 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- \* 1/2 teaspoon Masterfoods Ground Coriander
- \* 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- \* 250ml (1 cup) chicken stock
- \* 80ml (1/3 cup) coconut milk
- \* 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- \* 1 1/2 tablespoons fish sauce
- \* 140g (1 cup) roasted unsalted peanuts
- \* 1 tablespoon grated palm sugar
- \* 1 lime, juiced

### Method

#### Step 1

To cook chicken, place coconut on a work surface. Using the heel of a cleaver, make a 5cm hole in top. Pour coconut water into a small frying pan. Crack coconut open. Scoop out flesh, finely chop, then reserve. Add chicken and lemongrass to pan with enough tap water to just cover. Bring to a simmer over





Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## CRYSTAL BALL PREDICTIONS FOR 2019

In what is becoming possibly the most powerful and important column of the year, anywhere in Australia and possibly the world, the Raising The Barr – Crystal Ball predictions have seen the rise and fall of political careers. The Crystal Ball column predicted the fall of Barry O’Farrell, Tony Abbott, Mike Baird and Malcolm Turnbull in recent years. So for what will undoubtedly happen in 2019, read on.

So, let’s gaze into the Crystal Ball and see what is in store for 2019. I can see that there will be a new Australian Prime Minister and new Premier in NSW before the end of the year. The American President situation is a bit foggy, but I

can see steel bars and a prison cell of some description.

In the corporate world I can see many large companies acknowledging that they have been gilding the lily for a number of years, but they have now realised that they need to pay their fair share of tax and give back to the community. There will be an apology from the banks and they will cut all of their fees and charges as a way of saying sorry. In the sporting world I can see that 2019 will be a drug free zone with no athletes being found using either

I am also seeing that the climate conditions across the world will return to normal and that all of the climate deniers will be proven right while the thousands and thousands of scientists that have suggested that the climate is changing will have to admit that they got it wrong. So we should expect normal temperatures and rainfall and all of those people that live on the coast will have nothing to worry about in terms of super high tides, large surf and eroding beaches. And the wonderful people of

**PREDICTIONS FOR 2018**  
Last year the Crystal Ball predicted that Gladys Berejiklian would have to back-flip on her stadium stupidity to survive, but we will have to wait 5 more weeks to find out; as predicted Mr Turnbull did indeed leave the top job; Murdoch’s Fox Media in the United States decided that they didn’t need to invent a new reality TV gameshow called “So You Want To Be President?” because they already had one called “The Apprentice”; despite the Crystal Ball prediction that 2018 would be the hottest year on record, it wasn’t, it was only the 4<sup>th</sup> hottest (behind 2015, 2016 & 2017); unfortunately despite the Crystal Ball prediction there was no miracle breakthrough in solar battery technology and also Brad and Jen did not get back together; but the Crystal Ball was correct in predicting a number of footballers will be exposed for abuse of women, violence in night-clubs and drug possession/use; and finally, the Crystal Ball predicted a global shutdown of the internet but all that we got were regular internet disruption through the appalling new NBN, which for many customers is the same thing as the Crystal Ball predicted.



performance drugs or recreational drugs. And on this sporting theme, I am also predicting that no sportsmen will be involved in violence on our streets. Oh, and the Knights to win the premiership!

Kiribati won’t need to leave the islands that they have inhabited for thousands of years, because the oceans won’t rise to drown their land mass.

### REFLECTING ON THE CRYSTAL BALL

## Illegal dumping risks local families in need



In an effort to reduce illegal dumping on charity operations, Cessnock City Council has teamed up with local charities to tackle the issue and has launched an educational campaign. Our local charities face dumping on a daily basis. But it isn’t just dumping that is a problem to charities. The Cessnock community members are necessarily ‘giving’ but we aren’t good at ‘giving good’. The quantity is there but not the quality. A lot of the material, clothing and nick-nacks that are given to local charities are not of saleable quality. About 10% of what is given ends up for sale in the shop! Whilst charities work hard to find alternatives, such as sending items overseas, the reality is many items have

to be disposed of in landfill. The cost of disposal falls on local charities. This has a huge impact. The local Salvation Army in Cessnock regularly feeds 60 or more families who would otherwise go hungry. The funding for these services comes from the sales at the Vincent Street Op Shop. But this charity is at risk. Illegal dumping and inappropriate donations limit the amount of welfare work that the Salvation Army can fund and places a huge strain on the their workers and volunteers who perform such an important community role. Will we end up losing our local charities as a result? Local Captain of the Salvation Army, Darryn

Lloyd commented “If you wouldn’t give it to a friend, don’t give it to us. Clothing that isn’t soiled and good furniture are always great but anything that is broken or damaged, we don’t have the capacity to fix and we have to dispose of it to landfill”.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent commended the community members for donating but called on the community to improve the quality of the items given. “Local charities help our families in need and they don’t want to be dealing with rubbish. They want quality donations so they can do what they do best – help our community”. Mayor Pynsent also encouraged people not to just drop items outside of op shops. But to go in and ask whether it is wanted. The campaign will be visible in print, social media and feature on the side of one of our local garbage trucks. If you see anyone dumping on a charity, report it. It’s easy to do by simply calling 131 555 or jump online.

## SINGLETON SHIRE LANDCARE NETWORK INVITES YOU TO A WORKSHOP ON

### 'The Brilliance of Australian Flora and Birdlife'

31 March 2019 (9.30am - 1pm)  
Elderslie Hall, 758 Elderslie Rd

- 9.30 to 10.30 Brilliance of Australian flora by Mark Abell of Australian Plants Society
- 10.30 to 11.00 morning tea
- 11.00 to 12.00 Australian Birds presentation by Hunter Bird Observers Club
- 12.00 to 13.00 Australian bush tucker by Deidrie Jinks (director of the Sydney Rainforest)

Entry cost \$10 per person includes morning tea. Native plants will be available to purchase on the day.

Book your space at <https://sslflora.eventbrite.ie> or email [lowerhunterlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhunterlandcare@gmail.com) 0429444305



### NOTICE FOR EVERYONE WITH A CONNECTION TO THE GRETA CAMP



To celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Army Camp and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Migrant Camp, Greta Museum is asking for YOUR STORY, in the year 2019.

- Only one page is required, so it needs to be summarised. Please also provide a photograph (old or new). The title will be ‘My Story of Coming to Greta Camp, by ...’
- All the stories will be stored in the Greta Museum for future generations to learn about the past, in a specific file and filed under whichever name/s you prefer
- One story may be chosen randomly each fortnight to print in *The News*

Send, or bring in, to Neridah at Greta Museum, 96 High Street Greta NSW 2334. Open Wed. & Sat. 11am-3pm or email to [gretamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:gretamuseum@gmail.com) (queries: call 0427657150)



## GIVE US A BREAK

### DUMPING ISN'T GIVING

**STOP DUMPING** Take your garbage to the Waste Management Centre.


CHARITY OPERATORS ARE NOT GARBAGE SERVICES

**REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING 131 555**

A NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the Waste Levy








**WITH .....**

**Gemma BUNNER BA/LLB (Hons), Acc Spec (Personal Injury) & Kerri SHAW B.Comm/LLB (Hons)**

**SHAW & BUNNER**

LEGAL **P: (02) 4046 1805 | F: (02) 4017 0646**




## Free tree giveaway

The free tree give away is on again and residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area who have built a home in the 2018/19 financial year can get up to six free plants. Cessnock City Council is proud this initiative has been running successfully for about two decades, benefiting residents and the local government areas natural environment. A range of trees and shrubs are available, from ground covers like Gardenia radicans through to shrubs, including, Bottlebrush, Westringia and Nandina.

Application forms are available from Council's Customer Service Centre or via Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/initiatives](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/initiatives).

Completed application forms must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 22 February 2019.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encouraged all entitled residents to submit an application.

"This program is always very popular. It's certainly an important one for Council, the planting of more trees and shrubs is vital in our community, they look great but also have long lasting environmental impacts."

**EVENTS FOR THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ARMY CAMP & 70<sup>TH</sup> MIGRANT CAMP**

**2019 ANNIVERSARIES**

*Happy Anniversary*

This year there will be a number of events in Greta, Cessnock and Newcastle to celebrate the anniversaries of the camps. To keep up-to-date of what is happening go to:

<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/greta-camp-anniversaries-2019>

Alternatively, the calendar of events is available in Greta Museum, 96 High Street, Greta, open Wednesdays & Saturdays 11am – 3pm.

Upcoming Greta events will also be advertised on the outside of the Greta Museum door and Greta Bakery noticeboard. Some events will need to be booked ahead, so don't miss out!

## 6 key steps to buying a property

### 1. HOW WILL YOU FUND THE PURCHASE

If you are going to apply for finance then you can get things started by speaking to a lender or mortgage broker and consider applying for 'pre-approval'. Finance pre-approval is when a lender indicates that they may be willing to lend you a certain amount of money subject to certain conditions but is not an offer of a loan. Once you have found a property and had an offer accepted then you can formally make the loan application. The lending body will value the property to determine whether the property is adequate security for the amount of the loan and if it is then unconditional written loan approval will be issued.

It is also important to consider is how you are going to pay the deposit. The standard deposit is 10% of the purchase price, it is sometimes possible to negotiate payment of a 5% deposit or payment by way

of deposit bond if you do not have the cash but that is subject to agreement by the vendor.

**2. AFTER YOU HAVE FOUND THE RIGHT PROPERTY** ~ Once you have found a property you want to buy you it is important that you obtain legal advice before you sign the contract.

The conveyancing process involves the transfer of ownership to you and making sure that you get a good title to the property. Your solicitor will review the contract of sale and provide you with advice, they will also negotiate any amendments to the contract where necessary.

You should also consider arranging for a pest and building inspection to be conducted. If applying for finance then after your offer is accepted you will also need to apply for formal loan approval, as outlined above.

**3. EXCHANGE** ~ Once the steps above are complete your solicitor will organise the exchange of contracts which involves the purchaser signed contract being sent to the vendor's solicitor who will date the contracts and then

return the vendor signed contract to your solicitor.

There is provision in the Contract for a five day cooling-off period after exchange, if you change your mind and cancel the contract you will forfeit 0.25% of the purchase price to the vendor. Alternatively, the vendor may request that you waive the cooling off period, if you agree then the contract is binding from the date of exchange.

**4. PRE-SETTLEMENT** ~ The period from exchange of Contracts to settlement is usually four to six weeks. During this time enquiries and searches are made and documents are prepared by your solicitor to transfer the title of the property in to your name.

Your lender will prepare the mortgage document and you will need to arrange insurance for your property. Close to settlement, a settlement statement is prepared which details the final amount owing, including the adjustments for rates as at the date of settlement.

**5. SETTLEMENT** ~ Settlement is the completion of the transaction. A date is arranged by both parties and your lender for settlement. Settlement can occur as a 'paper settlement' or through the process of electronically through the electronic platform PEXA.

**6. POST SETTLEMENT** Congratulations, after settlement the property is yours to enjoy! You will be notified that settlement is complete and you can pick up the keys from the agent. *Cheers, Gemma*

the health and continued prosperity of the property services industry, the State's largest industry.

As the campaign moves into its second phase, REINSW is calling on its members, the wider industry and the general public to sign the petition to encourage the NSW Government to prioritise stamp duty reform. "Property impacts everyone," says REINSW CEO, Tim McKibbin. "Everyone needs a roof over their head. It's a basic necessity of life. For a Government to significantly impede its citizens' efforts to achieve this is simply appalling. "However, unfortunately, the NSW Government is addicted to stamp duty revenue. So, without active and continued pressure from industry and NSW homebuyers, nothing will change."

## Stamp duty stymies the real estate market

REINSW recently launched its Election 2019 campaign to lobby the NSW Government to make better decisions for the property services industry and NSW homebuyers.

The two key components of the campaign are: Establishing a Commission for Property Services and moving the property services industry out from NSW Fair Trading Property taxation reform, starting with stamp duty. These are critical changes that must occur to ensure

price of \$650,000 or less, and a sliding scale of stamp duty relief that diminishes proportionally between \$650,000 and \$850,000. "Firstly, the median house price in Sydney is \$985,000 and the median unit price is \$717,000. At these prices, already very few Sydney homebuyers are benefitting from the Government's initiatives. Unless the NSW Government is suggesting first homebuyers move further away from the State's CBD and employment opportunities or join the ever-increasing ranks of people moving interstate where homeownership is still a reality?"

McKibbin says the NSW Government's move to index stamp duty rates— an initiative announced in November 2018 and effective from 1 July 2019 – is all political hype and of no tangible benefit. "The NSW Treasurer has acknowledged that the stamp duty rates have not been amended since they were introduced in 1986, but still stands by the move to apply indexation to tax brackets that are over 30 years out of date.

"It's ridiculous that the NSW Government believes these smoke-and-mirror actions will fool NSW homebuyers. If they are not aware now, they will be when they pay their stamp duty." Impacting market cycles

McKibbin says poor decision-making by NSW Fair Trading and inaction from the NSW Government is impacting the turnover of NSW property. "Recent research identifies stamp duty as a key reason retirees don't downsize," he says. "There are thousands of couples living in large, four and five-bedroom houses on big blocks who are disincentivised to move because of the money they'll lose in stamp duty. These houses need to be recycled into the market for growing families and first homebuyers. "The lack of movement stymies housing development as apartments and villas, perfect for downsizing retirees, struggle to sell." McKibbin says stamp duty is also a key reason why families with parents in their late 30s and 40s are still renting. "Renting is a great

option for many NSW families, if that is their choice. However, if the reason they're renting is because they cannot afford to buy a home due to Government-imposed taxes and charges, something must be done," he says.

"It is a sad indictment on the NSW Government if hard-working NSW families can't afford to put a roof over their heads. "Interestingly, the NSW Government's own published data proves a continuing decline in property transactions and consequential stamp duty revenue. The irony? There is empirical evidence demonstrating that a reduction in the rate of tax will increase transactions and result in more revenue for the Government. It's a win-win, home ownership becomes more affordable and the NSW Government makes more money."

**REINSW taking a stand** McKibbin says the NSW Government has unfairly and unconscionably profited from stamp duty for too long. He believes that unless stamp duty reform is front and centre of the next NSW Government, the housing market will be adversely affected, as it was with the vendor duty. "The NSW Government should ask itself if it wants to lead housing affordability and growth or continue to actively hinder its constituents' ability to achieve the Australian dream of owning a home."



## Is your fire bushfire safe?

Australia's leading provider of smoke alarm compliance and maintenance services is urging NSW residents to be bushfire safe as we move from summer into the drier conditions of autumn.

Startling figures compiled by the Australian Productivity Commission estimates there will be at least 50,000 bushfires in 2019.

Additional research commissioned by NASA, in collaboration the CSIRO, predicts the most seriously affected areas will be tropical and subtropical areas in Queensland and Northern NSW.

In NSW, the official bushfire season was brought forward by two months following an extremely dry winter, with no substantial rain falling in many

parts of the State.

### You don't have to live in bushfire-prone areas to be affected


Smoke Alarm Solutions CEO, Cameron Davis, says you don't have to live in rural parts of NSW to be threatened by bushfire. "NSW residents should be familiar with the official bushfire warnings levels and have a bushfire survival plan in place," says Davis. "Your property – whether in or out of a bushfire zone – is vulnerable to smoke, embers and burning material.

"Residents and landlords should clear rubbish from around their properties and ensure gutters are free of leaves and debris. Mowed

lawns and well-maintained gardens also minimise the threat of fires.

Davis says operational smoke alarms should also be installed in every home, but that recent research suggests up to 25 per cent [1] of NSW properties do not have working smoke alarms.

"Working smoke alarms should be in every home," he says. "I'm stunned tens of thousands of NSW residents would rather gamble with their safety and the lives of family and friends."



Helen Lawing  
Licenced in Charge with 20 years Real Estate experience in the local area  
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# Funding to drive wine industry tourism



Mr MacDonald said the Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund grant will implement new signage including full scale information bays, and gateway entry signs at major

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC today announced \$2,260,314 in NSW Liberal National Government funding to Cessnock City Council for

the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourist Signage Project that will showcase the Hunter Valley's wine industry, attract higher tourist numbers and create local jobs.

ingress/egress points to guide visitors to, through and around the region and strengthen its position as a premier tourist destination in Australia. "The Hunter Valley wine

region is a drawcard for tourism, and this grant will continue projects initiated in part by previous Resources for Regions funding," Mr MacDonald said. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's a fantastic opportunity to build on the work Council has already carried out. "Last year Council installed a number of information bays, city gateway signs, and wayfinding directional signage as part of a \$2.5 million project that was funded through a dollar for dollar Federal Government Building Better Regions Fund grant," Mr Pynsent said.

"Tourists travelling our region and enjoying the services our tourism operators offer will have a better experience. The signs not only look great but feature extremely valuable information about local experiences. This grant enables Council to roll out more signage that will help those visiting our wonderful local government area." "The Hunter Wine and Tourism Association congratulates Cessnock Council on this initiative which will enhance the visitor experience and promote access to our local wine tourism businesses which contribute \$500m and 2800

jobs annually to the local regional economy and State of NSW," Lindy Hyam of the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association said. "Through better way finding signage and information the estimated 3 million visitors drawn from all over Australia and internationally will be able to increase their opportunity to savour the Hunter Valley's fine wines and world class food, access a wonderful selection of accommodation and take part in some exciting activities on offer." Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the project is one of 14 new projects to

receive a share of the \$50 million available for infrastructure projects that draw tourists from outside the region or encourage them to stay longer and spend more. "These are the signature projects that help to boost tourism visitation, with countless flow-on benefits such as creating jobs for locals, from dive instructors to chefs and vine-growers to event managers," Mr Barilaro said.

• Photo: Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Hon Scot MacDonald MLC with Cessnock City Council Mayor Bob Pynsent, Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association Chair Lindy Hyam with Board Members and Michael Foster of Destination Sydney surrounds North

## SECTION 101 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 January 2019.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2018/00000850/001	25-Jan-2019	14 Wentworth CL	Shed Extension
GRETA	008/2018/00000753/001	4-Jan-2019	24 Anvil ST	Use of an Existing Building for the Purposes of a Secondary Dwelling and Building Alterations
LOVEDALE	008/2018/00000732/001	11-Jan-2019	283 Wilderness RD	Tourist & Visitor Accommodation (Three (3) Glamping Tents)
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000899/001	2-Jan-2019	73 Kesterton RISE	Principal Dwelling, Detached Secondary Dwelling & Retaining Wall
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000743/001	14-Jan-2019	1823 Wine Country DR	Installation of Two (2) Temporary Advertising Structures
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000908/001	18-Jan-2019	51 Bendeich DR	Single Storey Dwelling & Detached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000952/001	21-Jan-2019	4 Ellerton AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000932/001	22-Jan-2019	105 Tooze CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Wall
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2018/00000319/001	23-Jan-2019	41 Olivia PL	Retaining Walls
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000033/001	24-Jan-2019	62 Kesterton RISE	Retaining Wall
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000909/001	25-Jan-2019	6 Saxby AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000935/001	25-Jan-2019	70 Kesterton RISE	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000949/001	30-Jan-2019	8 Ellerton AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage and Associated Retaining Walls
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000882/001	2-Jan-2019	48 Casuarina DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage and Associated Retaining Walls
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000885/001	16-Jan-2019	100 Casuarina DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000890/001	17-Jan-2019	74 Casuarina DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000844/001	22-Jan-2019	455 Wine Country DR	Alterations and Additions to an Existing Airport Involving the Construction of an Aircraft Hanger
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000959/001	23-Jan-2019	3 Fig Tree CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Wall
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000842/001	25-Jan-2019	455 Wine Country DR	Alterations and Additions to Existing Airport Involving the Construction of an Aircraft Hanger
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000960/001	29-Jan-2019	101 Casuarina DR	New Single Storey Dwelling
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000961/001	30-Jan-2019	2 Hillii Lane PRIV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Wall

## SECTION 101 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 December 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2018/00000674/001	20-Dec-2018	22 Empire ST	Construct Shopping Complex including Supermarket, Bottle Shop, Retail & Associated Carparking, Signage & Subdivision of Land
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000746/001	18-Dec-2018	2 Poplar Level TCE	Shed
GRETA	008/2018/00000754/001	3-Dec-2018	9 Laetitia CL	Garage
GRETA	008/2018/00000819/001	3-Dec-2018	129 Talleyrand CCT	Shed
GRETA	008/2018/00000840/001	11-Dec-2018	55 Popham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2018/00000835/001	13-Dec-2018	59 Anvil ST	Garage & Attached Carport
GRETA	008/2018/00000766/001	17-Dec-2018	12 Ouita CL	Dwelling, Attached Garage & Retaining Walls
GRETA	008/2018/00000795/001	17-Dec-2018	10 Ouita CL	Dwelling, Attached Garage & Retaining Walls
GRETA	008/2018/00000807/001	17-Dec-2018	25 Popham ST	Single Storey Dwelling & Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000833/001	3-Dec-2018	6 Wethered CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000856/001	7-Dec-2018	6 Haines LANE	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000865/001	10-Dec-2018	14 Saxby AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000873/001	13-Dec-2018	7 Olivia PL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000759/001	18-Dec-2018	4 Rampling AV	Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000878/001	18-Dec-2018	15 Tooze CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000735/001	19-Dec-2018	188 Palmers LANE	Demolish Existing Cellar Door, Part Change of Use of Winery Building to Cellar Door & Install Three (3) Signs

Copies of development consents are available at Council's Customer Service Centre for public inspection, free of charge, during the Council's ordinary office hours



## BRANXTON



### One of Branxton's finest homes Claim it as your Home!!

**Excellent family home in very popular street.**

This stunning 3 bedroom Federation home has all the features of a bygone era but all modern features of a contemporary family home.

The home features lead light windows, high ceilings, polished floorboards, Modern Kitchen & bathroom.

The home is set on a low maintenance lot with carport & verandah (away from summers western sun).

There are too many features to mention all ~ a must to inspect

**ASKING \$480,000**

## BRANXTON



### Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

3 good sized bedroom family home on large block just a 2 minute walk to the main street & across the road to Branxton Public School. Features include Two bathrooms, separate lounge-room, modern kitchen, dishwasher, split air-con system. All this on 970 square metre fully fenced block.

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

**ASKING \$420,000**

## 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**

## 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



Open to Offers

## EAST BRANXTON



### AUCTION

**Saturday 9th March, 2019**

**10am on site**

**2/74 Yates Street, East  
Branxton NSW 2335**

**If not sold prior to auction**

### 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.

## BELFORD

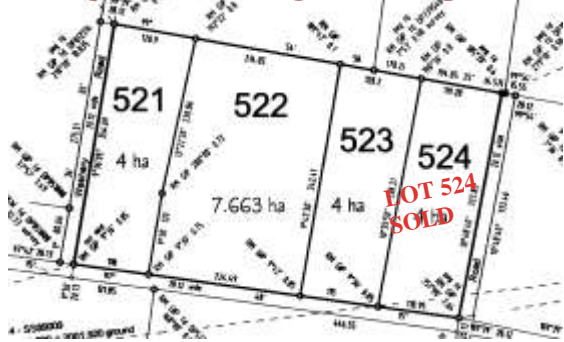


### Vacant Land 2559m<sup>2</sup>

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 809m<sup>2</sup>**

Vacant Building Block  
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ONO

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**

Properties are selling well in the local area. Call Helen for a FREE property appraisal



## New CEO for Hunter Joint Organisation



The Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils (Hunter JO) is pleased to announce the appointment of its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Joe James. Mr James was unanimously endorsed by the Board in a meeting held in December 2018 and will commence in the position on 21 January 2019.

Joe was selected after an extensive search of candidates was carried out extending interstate and internationally. Chair of the Hunter JO and Mayor of Cessnock Council, Cr Bob Pynsent said the calibre of candidates was extremely high

and Joe was a stand out.

“Joe impressed the Board with his proven advocacy skills, his commercial focus, collaborative leadership style, and his obvious project and asset management experience. Joe demonstrated he has the energy, experience and leadership capabilities which will suit the JO both now and into the future. With Joe’s leadership, the strategic direction provided by the Mayors, the commercial focus of the General Managers and the hard-working staff of the JO, the Hunter JO is in very good hands,” said Chair, Cr Pynsent. Joe has fifteen years experience in law and with State agencies. His most recent role was with the Port Authority of New South Wales as Executive General Manager Bays Development and as Executive General Manager, Commercial, Technical and Legal. Past roles include General Counsel for the Sydney Ports Corporation, Legal Counsel for Arana Therapeutics Limited and as a solicitor for Deacons and PricewaterhouseCoopers Legal.

Joe has a Bachelor of Science from the University of New South Wales, a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales and is undertaking the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. Reflecting on his appointment Mr James said it is an honour to have been selected to lead this very impressive organisation and to be part of the vibrant Hunter community.

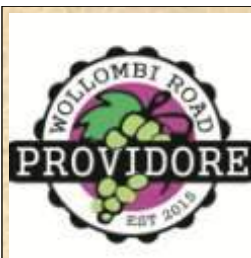
“I am thankful for the warm welcome I have received from members of the Board and I look forward to meeting all Councillors and staff of the Hunter councils and of course their communities. I am very excited about what the future will bring in working together in the interests of the region and to also work closely with State agencies to advance the interests of the Hunter region.” Chair, Cr Pynsent thanked the former Chief Executive Officer Roger Stephan for his leadership and dedication for more than a decade. “Roger has been with Hunter

Councils since 2008 and has been extremely successful in building on existing business and generating new business opportunities. Roger successfully led the formation of the Hunter JO as the interim Chief Executive

Officer. On behalf of the Board we thank Roger for his contribution to our region and acknowledge all of his work during his tenure. We wish Roger

all the best in his future endeavours.”

• Photo: The Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils (Hunter JO) new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Joe James



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# HUNTER VALLEY POLICE DISTRICT

## BRANXTON/GRETA COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT MEETING

### WHEN:

Wednesday 20<sup>TH</sup> February 2019 5.30PM – 6.30PM

### WHERE:

Greta Workers Club Auditorium, 2 West St Greta

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

Local Crime Summary, Police & Community Crime Prevention Strategies, Update on Police Activities in Branxton Police Sector, Local Issues & Concerns.

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# Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

## GRETA, BRANXTON & SURROUNDS

### The Snowy Mountain's Scheme - Where Many Migrants Were Sent from Greta to Work



When the migrants from post war Europe were sponsored by the Australian government to come here to start a new life they were often sent to places that weren't close to the Greta Camp and their families; these included the Queensland Sugar Cane Fields and the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The lucky ones got jobs at small

businesses locally and at Newcastle's BHP where they could come home every night or at least on the weekends, but the ones going further afield were lucky to get back to their wives and children once or twice a year because of the distance there and back.

The Snowy Mountain's Scheme, situated in the Kosciuszko

National Park of New South Wales, came about to solve two problems – a lack of water in a dry country and a way of making power. It was described by Prime Minister Ben Chifley as 'the greatest single project in our history', so the families of the people that worked there should be extremely proud of them. The Snowy River had never been controlled before, unlike the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers, and it was considered important to collect because up until then most of the south-eastern New South Wales snowfields' melt ran out to the sea while a drought could be happening not far away on the other side of the mountains. By controlling this water, they could increase the quantity of the large inland rivers which would develop hydro-electric power as well as increase agricultural output in the valleys. A committee was set up in 1946, soon after the end of World War II and a report was submitted in November 1948. However, because the Commonwealth government was limited in its power then without the states' agreements, it introduced legislation into parliament using its Defence power, which became the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Authority, and then work officially began in October 1949. It took ten more years for the relevant states and territories to introduce their own related legislation but an agreement was finally reached in January 1959 and the scheme was finally completed in 1974.

Post war Australia had the money

and capability to build the scheme but not the workers, as the population was only 8 million people then. The Chairman of the Authority was told to find workers for the Scheme and ended up finding them from 32, mostly European, countries many of whom had fought each other in the recent war. This included many skilled Germans who couldn't get work in their homeland, such as German diesel mechanics who could read the instructions on the electricity generators used for the Scheme taken from German U-boats, and also knew how to start them up. There was also many Dutch, Hungarians and Italians, most of whom needed to be big and strong for the type of work it entailed, although there were some jobs which didn't need physical strength. As many of the younger workers were also single, they had to call for single women to come to Australia as well, as the Australian parents weren't keen to lose their daughters to 'foreigners'. The men earned good money and were considered a good catch, especially as many could later buy a house.

However, the work was hard and often dangerous, especially in the days before Occupational Health & Safety. A 16-year-old Arthur Baumhammer worked on the scheme with his parents, and was taken on at that age because they were desperate for workers. One time he got trapped in wet cement, squashed against steel reinforcements, for 4 hours. He also became totally deaf in one ear from the air pressure from underground rock

blasting in the tunnels, as many others in the same job also had their hearing damaged. There is a monument in Cooma dedicated to those who lost their lives, 120 of them, including a number from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The names are listed on a plate with the monument and are in alphabetical order starting with Ackermann and ending with Wagner.

The list does not acknowledge the men that went home to Greta to see their wives and families and lost their lives in other ways. Alek Schula, journalist and author whose book contains many interviews with people who went through the migrant camp and is soon to be published, told me the story of four of them. Apparently the four men were returning to the Hydro Scheme camp, driving together in one car after visiting their loved ones in the Greta Camp, when they crashed into a bridge. Three of the four lost their lives and are buried in Greta Cemetery, while the fourth was damaged badly enough to never be able to work again. There is no monument to them because they died in a car accident but when you look at the big picture they really did lose their lives while working on the Scheme.

On a brighter note, Wolfgang Zahlauer, remembers many nations came together as one while working on this huge project. Germans, Austrians, Czechs, Poles, Yugoslavs, Irishmen and Australians were all there and it remained peaceful, except for in the pub after

alcohol was consumed when there could be noisy arguments although there were never any fistfights. They mostly worked 10-12-hour shifts for up to seven days in a row.

For more about the Snowy Mountains Scheme come into the Greta Museum – open each Saturday and Wednesday 11am- 3pm- to see the folder of information with references to what has been written and more stories.

To watch the TV series 'Snowy', which has a fictional story set in a historically correct setting, contact Neridah on 0427657150 or email [gretamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:gretamuseum@gmail.com), or call in, to book your place to see the first episode showing on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, from 2pm-3pm. No need to book later episodes. Free to watch, and no entry

fee. This 13-part series will be shown at Greta Museum, 96 High Street, Greta (in the former Greta Council Chambers), each Saturday from 2pm-3pm, starting from 9<sup>th</sup> March (should end 1<sup>st</sup> June)2019.

This event is one of the many events that have been organised to celebrate the anniversaries of the camp at Greta – the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Army camp and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Migrant Camp. To see the other 2019 calendar events, with constant updates, come into the Greta Museum or go to

<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/greta-camp-anniversaries-2019>

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Branxton Lions Club held their 2018 seniors dinners at Greta Workers Club and the Branxton Community Hall on the 27<sup>th</sup> November and the 4<sup>th</sup> of



•The Maitland Sing Australia group

December. The dinners were enjoyed by local seniors with entertainment, drinks, food, lucky door prizes and a great raffle. The seniors were entertained by the The Maitland sing Australia group. We are sure all the seniors had a very enjoyable evening by all the smiles on their faces. Branxton Lions Club would like to thank Greta workers Club and Branxton I G A for their support. The Branxton girl Guides helped serve the dinner. Branxton Lions Club would love to welcome new members to help serve the community with a great bunch of men and women .Branxton Lions Club has donated Lions Christmas cakes and Christmas Puddings to the local St Vincent De Paul and the Branxton St Johns Anglican Church for the needy in our community. On Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Branxton Club had another successful fundraising event with a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Singleton. Funds raised on this day go to community projects. Branxton Lions Club is always looking for new member's to assist us to do what we do best having FUN while raising money for the community. We hold our monthly meeting at Branxton Golf Club on the first Tuesday of the month at 4 pm. Please call Lion Allan on 0427381311 or Lion Ken on 65747027 for any enquiries. *Lion Ken Meany, Publicity officer*



• Lion Ladies & helpers preparing for the Christmas Seniors dinners



• Branxton Lions Club members at Bunnings BBO fundraiser

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## Book Reviews

### Best Australian books of 2018

– chosen by Guardian staff

Rick Morton's brutally honest memoir, Ian Tyrrell's history of the Cooks river and Tim Winton's *The Shepherd's Hut* were among the year's most memorable

**One Hundred Years of Dirt**, by Rick Morton

**Picked by:** Brigid Delaney, staff writer

My initial thoughts of this book – why is a journalist in his early 30s already penning a memoir? – were quickly dispelled. Rick Morton has written the most compelling memoir of the year.

Morton's story starts with the break-up of his family's massive cattle station, Pandie Pandie, then moves

on to tragedy in his own early years. His brother is almost burned to death, his father leaves the family and doesn't pay child support, his mother – now in poverty – must move away and raise her sons.

This is a love letter of sorts to his single mother, but it also looks at the effect of poverty on Australians, in everything from the food they eat to their capacity to dig themselves out of the problems that disproportionately affect them, such as drug addiction.

Morton survives and thrives, almost despite the hand he's dealt. He's candid with the problems that come later in adulthood: issues with intimacy, a brother that uses ice and trouble managing money. And he's eloquent and clear-eyed about how socially stratified Australia is. When he reports on poverty or schemes such as the NDIS for the Australian, he is right to wonder how many other people in the newsroom have experienced poverty, deprivation and hunger first hand.

Also he can write. This is no bloated, indulgent memoir. There's not a word wasted in *One Hundred Years of Dirt*. I read it in one go, and had to remember to breathe.

**Rusted Off**, by Gabrielle Chan

**Picked by:** Katharine Murphy, political editor

Before I crown Gabrielle Chan's *Rusted Off* my political book of 2018, I need to declare the obvious. Chan is my colleague and friend. But my relationship with the author doesn't influence my judgment. It's

the Australian political book of the year because it sets about reporting the remarkable political times we live in in the way the story needs to be reported: from the ground up, with empathy and intellect.

Rusted Off charts the growing gap between the circus in Canberra and the lived experience of regional Australians by telling the story of a town, the town in which the author has built a life. Wisely, Chan understands that contemporary political reporting spends too much time fixated with palace intrigues, and not enough time interrogating the on-ground impacts of policies, or the lack of them, and how the latter creates a gap in representation that is leading people to vote in increasing numbers for candidates from outside the major parties. It's the story of the moment, and Chan tells it with great clarity.

Advertisement Rusted Off is a must-read over the summer for any political tragic to help limber up for the coming federal election.

**Waiting for Elijah**, by Kate Wild

**Picked by:** Stephanie Convery, deputy culture editor

Every journalist has a bag of unexamined insecurities about their own work, but every now and then you come across a fellow writer whose wholehearted embrace of the ups and downs of the gig is so heartening, and their work so tenacious and compassionate in the process, that you feel simultaneously in awe of their achievements and relieved that you're not alone in your stumbling.

It's a rare feat, but Kate Wild's *Waiting for Elijah* is both an excellent work of investigative journalism – digging deep into the effects and implications of the fatal police shooting of 24-year-old Elijah Holcombe in 2009 – and a compelling narrative about the personal hurdles that come along with trying to tell such a story.

Wild spent over six years trying to answer fundamental questions about the shooting. Why weren't the pleas of Elijah's family heard when they tried to appeal to the police for help after he went missing? Why did the police feel they had no choice but to shoot a mentally ill young man? Why did accounts of the incident vary so wildly? What did the incident expose about the way law enforcement demonises the mentally ill?

In the process, she also confronted her own

demons, made mistakes in the process, but struggled on nonetheless, with refreshing honesty and compassion.

**River Dreams: the people and landscape of the Cooks River**, by Ian Tyrrell

**Picked by:** Mike Ticher, news editor

Like all the best local history, Ian Tyrrell's wonderful book on Sydney's Cooks river appeals to an audience far beyond those who are locals. The river, which meanders through the inner west suburbs of Sydney before emptying into Botany Bay, is of no obvious significance other than in its symbolic reminder of Cook's visit – in fact, you can't get too far towards its source before it turns into a concrete stormwater drain.

But Tyrrell skilfully uses its history to weave a much bigger story about the changing demands of white settlement on the landscape – “a place in which a series of unrealistic Euro-Australian dreams were invested”. Those dreams included pastoral retreats for the gentry, dams to supply Sydney with water, working-class recreation, industrial development that left the river atrociously polluted and, more recently, environmental activism.

The most brutal wrenching of the river's pre-European course – the expansion of Sydney airport – entirely buried its former mouth beneath concrete.

Advertisement For those who regularly walk the river, it still offers a kind of beauty (from a certain angle, if you half-close your eyes). But Tyrrell's book, full of fascinating detail, provokes troubling thoughts about our interactions with nature, even those that have the best of intentions. After reading what we have done to this “river of perpetual disappointment”, the wonder is that it has survived at all.

**Eggshell Skull**, by Bri Lee

**Picked by:** Steph Harmon, culture editor

For the past year it seemed I couldn't open my eyes without being confronted by gendered injustice. Every book I read, show I watched and play I sat in seemed, somehow, to be about #MeToo. Eventually I gave up trying to avoid it, and started seeking it out.

Bri Lee's *Eggshell Skull* is one of the most important books of this moment in Australia. In it, she relates her traumatic journey as a victim of sexual violence, navigating Australia's deeply faulted justice system while also being employed by it. From 9-5 she works as a judge's associate, witnessing trial after trial on a circuit dominated by sex crimes that rarely end well for the victims – particularly if the victims are women, and particularly if those women aren't white. And after the

day is done she spends her downtime deeply triggered, jumping over hurdle after horrifying hurdle in an attempt to find justice for herself.

I can't imagine how it would feel to be confronted by others' trauma and injustice each day, and then carry your own home each night. “I couldn't walk around Brisbane without seeing places where crimes had been committed,” she writes. When she went to watch the turtles hatch at Mon Repos, it was the same: “I was witnessing a miracle of new life, and all I could think about was how many children were being brutalised at that very moment.”

For a lot of women I know dealing with trauma, that's how this year has felt like: the reckoning is of course long overdue but being confronted by it over and over has come at a cost too.

**The Shepherd's Hut**, by Tim Winton

**Picked by:** Alexandra Spring, editorial partnerships editor

Tim Winton's *The Shepherd's Hut* was one of this year's most memorable books – although not just for literary reasons. Winton's story of the teenage Jaxie Clackton fleeing the horrors of his past in a stolen car, running towards what he believes is his only shot at love, is as powerful, raw and visceral as we've come to expect from one of Australia's favourite authors. Along the way Winton's antihero meets a defrocked Irish priest and the pair form an awkward blokey bond, offering both a tantalising but ill-fated glimpse of peace and redemption. Yet what set it apart for me was the way Winton took the opportunity to jumpstart a discussion about toxic masculinity in Australia. His author appearances became a speaking tour where Winton railed against the deep-seated misogyny in our culture and the damage it causes to everyone, not least to boys like Jaxie Clackton. I went along to his Sydney event and it was stirring stuff. There was this boofy Australian surfer bloke demanding that boys be weaned off machismo and misogyny. Sure, he was selling books in the foyer afterwards but he used his platform to say uncomfortable things that need to be said.

Winton is known for his activism – he regularly supports environmental issues with words, actions and cold hard cash – but this isn't an easy fit for him. He's been accused of sexism in his books, of reducing women to stereotypes or “literary devices enabling the stories of his slightly bewildered, emotionally repressed Aussie blokes to unfold”. Winton rejects the criticisms. Still it was a powerful move from someone who reaches

more than the obvious audiences. And, in a year filled with a parade of appalling male behaviour, Winton's stance gave me hope that maybe one day things might change.

**Boy Swallows Universe**, by Trent Dalton

**Picked by:** Helen Davidson, reporter

Boy Swallows Universe launched with an extraordinary amount of hype, and I approached it with scepticism. I was wrong – this is one of the best Australian novels I've ever read. It is extraordinary and beautiful storytelling by journalist Trent Dalton, about the unusually intense childhood of a young boy in a dodgy bit of Brisbane, with a fair bit of magic and adventure thrown in for good measure. Drug dealers, addicts, crooks and crims, reporters, bikies and young gangsters in the making – the characters in Dalton's book are human and complex and clearly loved deeply by the author. The writing is fast-paced and heartfelt, and every sentence is

surprising. Through the eyes of 13-year-old Eli, the reader sees how full of love he and his family are for each other, driven to protect at all costs while often not being kind to themselves. It's a mix of suburban nightmare, magical realism, film noir and coming of age. It's a love letter to Dalton's mum and a treatise on the importance of family and truth and holding your own in a world that doesn't think much of you or your mates. This book will stay with me for a long time.

**The Arsonist**, by Chloe Hooper

**Picked by:** Brigid Delaney, staff writer


*'Who would become an arsonist?': Chloe Hooper on Black Saturday and the nuances of blame*

Why would someone become an arsonist? This is the question that sticks under Chloe Hooper's skin as she forensically tells the story of Brendan Sokaluk: a CFA volunteer accused of starting one of Black Saturday's most deadly fires.

The fire, in Victoria's Latrobe Valley, devastated a community that was in decline. The rates of crime were the highest in the state, and increasingly unemployment and poverty were on the horizon, as Victoria moved away from coal as an energy source.

Just like with her previous virtuoso work of nonfiction, *The Tall Man*, Hooper comes to a story once it has been seemingly exhausted and forgotten by the mainstream media. The skill and urgency of her writing make the terrible day come alive again while, using transcripts, Hooper is able to recreate the complexities of the trial.

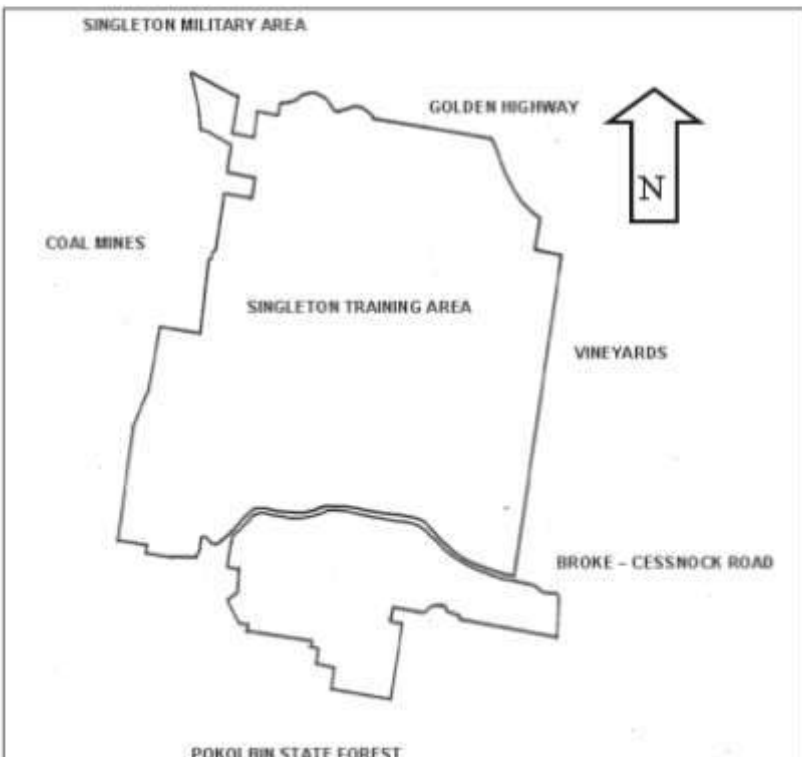
Is Sokaluk, who has an intellectual disability, being demonised by the devastated community wanting a scapegoat? Or is he a lot shrewder than he is making out to be? Hooper's account is even handed – we have compassion for Sokaluk's long suffering family, and see up close the grief of those whose lives have been destroyed by the fires.



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## WARNING NOTICE

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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.

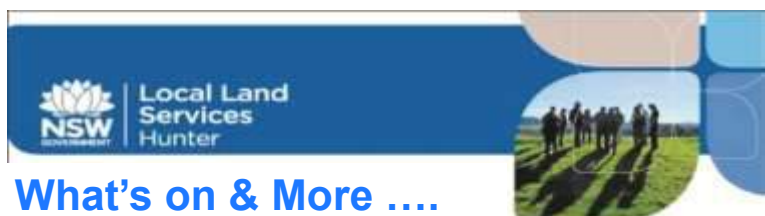
Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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





## What's on & More ....

### HUNTER FARMERS LOOKOUT FOR LOCUSTS

Hunter Local Land Services is reminding landholders to look closely at any grasshoppers on their properties, following confirmation of Australian plague locust populations on six properties in the Upper Hunter.

There are numerous types of locusts and grasshoppers common at this time of year, many of which regularly occur in our region, but farmers are advised to be aware of plague locust populations. Hunter Local Land Services Biosecurity Team Leader Luke Booth said if farmers suspect they have Australian plague locusts on farm, they should report it to Local Land Services immediately.

"These locusts are uncommon in our region, and there has not been a known outbreak in more than a decade, and with farmers trying to sustain pastures for livestock during the drought, we want to keep it that way," Luke said.

The identified locusts are considered to be in poor condition due to the ongoing hot dry conditions and lack of available feed, which is hoped will lead to a high mortality rate.

However, landholders are being urged to watch for any swarms, to ensure control measures can be implemented quickly before second generation hatchings can begin.

"We are encouraging any landholders who suspect they may have the locusts on their property to join with us in identifying this pest to enable proactive control programs," said Luke.

"We are working with the Department of Primary Industries and affected landholders to develop effective control programs for the identified populations around the Upper Hunter."

Adults of the Australian plague locust can be readily distinguished from other species by the large dark spot on the tip of the hindwings and distinctive scarlet hindleg shanks. Adult body colour is variable and can be grey, brown or green. Adult males measure 25-30 mm long while females are 30-42 mm long. A good guide to learn about the different locust and grasshopper types can be found at: [http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/about/about\\_locusts](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/about/about_locusts)

If you suspect Australian Plague Locusts or have any other pest sightings or impacts to report, please contact your nearest Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer on 1300 795 299.

### 100th problem wild dog controlled in the Upper Hunter

Professional Wild Dog Controllers engaged in a unique community led program in the Upper Hunter have removed the 100th problem wild dog from the district.

The Professional Wild Dog Controller Program helps protect sheep and cattle

covering more than 140,000 hectares in the Upper Hunter. The district's sheep meat and wool industry alone is valued at nearly \$15million.

The program is a partnership between the Hunter Valley Combined Wild Dog Association (containing 11 member organisations), Hunter Local Land Services and a number of major investors including Australian Wool Innovation, Glencore, Bengalla, and Yancoal with support from National Parks, Forestry Corporation, Upper Hunter County Council and FeralScan. Invasive Species Team Leader for Hunter Local Land Services, Luke Booth said the program has successfully targeted problem dogs, in what has been a very challenging year, given the ongoing drought.

"We've worked with nearly 50 producers on trapping programs to help protect 37,800 sheep and 13,900 cattle in the Upper Hunter that were under attack from wild dogs," said team leader Luke Booth.

"On top of that there have been 14 strategic programs, each up to a month long, targeting known wild dog hotspots often in remote locations across the district."

"Reaching the milestone of removing 100 problem dogs is a real success story for the region, particularly given the issues facing local farmers with the drought - but we won't be stopping there."

Hunter Valley Combined Wild Dog Association spokesman Peter Campbell said the program has become a vital partnership in the Upper Hunter.

"Controlling 100 dogs over the last year is a great result and testament to the level of collaboration between landholders, Local Land Services and the stakeholders," said Mr Campbell. "It's also recognition of the high level of skills of the professional controllers, for them to deliver such a good result.

"The Association made a conscious effort to employ trappers with a high skillset, and this has paid off with the number of dogs already controlled."

The Professional Wild Dog Controller Program has been running since September 2017, and was developed after a successful trial using professional trappers. The initial four-year program is worth \$1million.

It's just one part of Hunter Local Land Services strategic approach to controlling wild dogs.

"We want to continue working with the community to control pest animals, including wild dogs which is why we have continually increased operational funds each year for pest control," said Luke.

"This has enabled us to undertake additional ground and aerial baiting programs, two aerial shooting programs and more strategic programs with landholders across the region, based on best management plans devised with local communities and wild dog associations."

mare, who has a date with the public at a special sausage sizzle at Randwick last Saturday morning - one week out from her return to racing in the Group 2 Apollo Stakes. The record-breaking trainer was in Melbourne on Friday morning to supervise some important gallops but, as always, the topic keeps returning to Winx and when it does, the smile always returns to his face.



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 5th February 2019

There was a 30% increase in numbers, principally in the young cattle category, along with an increase in the cow penning. Weaner calves also were in a majority, with competitive interest from restockers. Many plainer conditioned cattle were available and these followed cheaper trends brought on by the continuing dry weather. All the regular processors were on hand, as well as the usual feeder and background orders. Well bred and good conditioned weaner calves sold to dearer trends, with good competition from restockers. Light yearling steers to feed saw cheaper trends on the lesser quality drafts, to see a decrease of 9c/kg. However, there were dearer trends achieved for better bred feeders and restocker cattle. Heifers had the same results, with the better drafts of feeders seeing an increase of 14c/kg. Conversely, the plainer types of the heifers saw prices ease by 10c/kg. Medium weight heifers to feed saw an increase of 20c/kg. There were too few grown steers and heifers to quote. Cows saw a cheaper trend from 14c to 19c, due to quality, with the best cows making to 191c/kg.

### Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 6th February 2019

Singleton numbers increased, with a mixed quality penning in all categories. A reduction in weight was present in the processor veal section and there was an increase in the cow penning. All processors were present, as well as competition from feeders and local restockers operating on the plainer types. Calves to processors saw a reduction in trends of 15c/kg, with weight and quality being the contributing factor. Quality related changes saw cheaper trends for weaners. Yearling steers to feed experienced cheaper trends of 4c for the better types, with plainer conditioned medium weights seeing downward trends of up to 20c/kg. Heifers experienced a similar decrease, with the exception of some lighter weights, which were slightly dearer. Medium weight heifers to processing saw dearer trends of 8c/kg. Plain light C4 heifers made from 136c to 154c/kg. Grown heifers saw dearer trends, making to 230c/kg. Cows saw value ease in all grades. Medium weight cows experienced decreased trends from 17c to 20c, while the better D3 and D4 cows saw a reduction of 7c/kg. An increased bull penning saw the best heavy bulls sell to 258c/kg, while light weight yearling bulls made from 100c to 212c/kg.

### Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 4th February 2019

Numbers almost doubled with a fortnight between sales. Vealers and yearlings were well supplied along with yet another large sell off of cows. The quality and condition of the offering was very mixed. There were some good lines of well-bred young cattle, albeit showing the effects of low feed levels. There was a limited supply of well finished young cattle, some very good cows. The full field of buyers were in attendance along with extra processor competition from the North, forced South by the Northern floods. Market trends through the young cattle showed some variation. Restocker demand for vealer steers increased, resulting in dearer trends. There was also breed and quality related price changes. The heifer portion sold firm to slightly cheaper. There were odd sales of higher quality vealers that attracted some premiums. Medium and heavyweight yearling steers to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends, with again breed and quality factors in price change. There was little but quality related price change in the yearling heifers to restock and feed. In all categories the secondary quality cattle struggled to maintain recent price levels. There were too few well finished heavy grown steers to quote. Well finished grown heifers mostly remained firm. There were dearer trends through the cow market with the well finished heavyweight cows improving by as much as 22c/kg in the fortnight. A good percentage of the plainer condition returned to the paddock. Heavy bulls also experienced strong gains

### Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 5th February 2019

A sharp increase in numbers that saw the largest offering of cows for many years, close enough to 2,000 penned. There were very few other grown cattle, with vealers and yearlings making up the rest. The quality of the offering was mixed, with large numbers of well bred young cattle lacking condition and a mix of both young and cast for age cows. This being a reflection of the worsening seasonal conditions. There was a full field of buyers in attendance, plenty of cow orders, while restockers and feed lotters also had good representation. Market trends varied through the young cattle, with the good quality sought after breed steer vealers sold to a dearer trend to restockers. The best of them showing a significant price improvement. Heifer vealers to both the trade and restockers saw a firm to cheaper market trend. There was a single pen of heifers suitable to feed that were dearer. Secondary and plain quality vealers had trouble maintaining recent pricing levels. The little bit of extra feedlot competition saw the medium and heavy weight yearling steers sell on a firm to slightly dearer market trend. Well bred yearling heifers showing conditions of the season sold to a slightly dearer market trend. There was an odd dearer sale in the medium and heavy yearling heifers to restock and feed, the trend however was primarily unchanged. Once again, the secondary and plain quality heifers lacked competition at times. There were no heavy grown steers to speak of. Despite the large numbers, cows attracted strong demand from both processors and restockers. Large numbers of the plain condition cows returned to the paddock. Market trends were generally firm through the plainer condition cows, as numbers and quality impacted price change. Well finished and high yielding cows sold on a firm to dearer market trend, some improving by as much as 10c/kg under increased competition from Northern processors.

"Winx hasn't changed one bit, which is scary to think," Waller beamed.

"We are constantly looking for the body clock to suggest that she's not as effective as she has been. She's not showing any signs whatsoever.

"Her attitude is great. She's moving well and her work has been great." Waller said the exercise of taking her to Randwick held plenty of benefit for the seven-year-old winner of almost \$23 million in stakes.

"She's going to Randwick tomorrow to just have a stretch of her legs and a float trip and to get the butterflies out of her stomach before her first-up

run in the Apollo," he added.

Waller also has racing's budding star in his stable in the form of Caulfield Guineas winner The Autumn Sun, who the trainer confirmed would miss next month's \$5 million All-Star Mile at

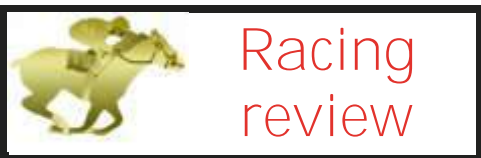
Flemington despite being second of 130 horses in the public voting with 10 days of voting remaining. "It's unlikely," Waller said of The Autumn Sun and The All-Star Mile. "It's a shame because he certainly



Winx will be out to claim another Queen Elizabeth this campaign

deserves to be there and should be there. "But with not having the Group 1 status yet, for a colt, you have to be careful with how it affects their value. "The obvious target is

keeping horses in their own age group. He goes to the Randwick Guineas through the Hobartville and we'll see from there." Andrew Eddy & Grace Ramage



### Waller bows to ageless Winx

Andrew Eddy & Grace Ramage

Winx has often caused Chris Waller to marvel at her ability and the

seemingly ageless champion continues to astonish her trainer in what is surely her final racing journey this autumn. Waller knows nothing can last forever so he is lapping up each moment he has left with the world champion





TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

## Avoiding hackers: How to stay safe when using public Wi-Fi overseas

Having internet access has become a necessity when travelling. Whether you need to keep your family and friends updated on your adventures or find your way back to your hotel after getting lost in a foreign city, access to the internet just makes everything a bit easier. While there are a number of options for accessing the internet in a foreign country such as purchasing an international SIM card for your phone or turning on your data roaming, the cheapest and easiest way is to connect to public Wi-Fi connections.

Some Wi-Fi networks are open for the public to use and don't require a password. You might notice that almost every hotel, shopping centre and café these days will have free Wi-Fi for their guests or customers to connect to. It's convenient, cheap and simple to use. Unfortunately, the massive downside to these open connections is the threat of being hacked.

Due to the lack of security, hackers can easily see what you're browsing online including sensitive information like accounts or banking details.

To make sure you keep your personal data safe, it's important to be wary with open network connections and follow a few precautionary steps. Firstly, make sure the Wi-Fi you're connecting to is trustworthy by asking around. Ask at the front desk of your hotel or at the counter of the café to double check you're connecting to the right network and not a fake one created by hackers. Before you connect to any networks, turn off your Bluetooth and file sharing options on your phone or computer. This means other ill-intentioned users on that same network won't be able to access any of your private information. When you're not using the internet, turn your Wi-Fi off as well to save battery and to avoid any unwanted

automatic connections. New networks might ask for an email address or name when signing in for the first time. It's important to give as little information as possible. If you can, try using an alternative email address so there is no connection to your main inbox. Also avoid entering in any specific addresses or phone numbers. Every time you head to a website make sure the URL begins with https:// rather than http://. The 's' ensures the website is secured so any information you send or view on that website will be protected and encrypted.

One of the most important parts of using public Wi-Fi is ensuring you protect yourself. That means avoid logging into online banking accounts, email inboxes or anywhere with sensitive information. A basic rule to go by is to simply avoid anything you wouldn't want a stranger looking at. The best thing to do is to look for semi-open networks, which are generally password protected but still freely available to the public. Most hotels will generally have these connections to protect their guests information. Rather than being afraid of using the internet in a foreign country, simply be cautious and it might just save your holiday!

## What is a cyber attack?

Recent examples show disturbing trends. From virtual bank heists to semi-open attacks from nation-states, the last couple of years has been rough on IT security. Here are some of the major recent cyber attacks and what we can learn from them.

**Cyber attack definition**  
Simply put, a cyber attack is an attack launched from one or more computers against another computer, multiple computers or networks. Cyber attacks can be broken down into two broad types: attacks where the goal is to disable the target computer or knock it offline, or attacks where the goal is to get access to the target computer's data and perhaps gain admin privileges on it.

**Types of cyber attack**  
But to achieve those goals, a number of different technical methods are deployed by cybercriminals.

There are always new methods proliferating, and some of these categories overlap, but these are the terms that you're most likely to hear discussed. **Malware** — short for *malicious software*, malware can refer to any kind of software, no matter how it's structured or operated, that "is a designed to cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer network," as Microsoft puts it. *Worms*, *viruses*, and *trojans* are all varieties of malware, distinguished from one another by the means by which they reproduce and spread. These attacks may render the computer or network inoperable, or grant the attacker root access so they can control the system remotely.

**Phishing** — a technique by which cybercriminals craft emails to fool a target into taking some harmful action. The recipient might be tricked into downloading malware that's disguised as an important document, for instance, or urged to click on a link that takes them to a fake website where they'll be asked for sensitive information like bank usernames and passwords. Many phishing emails are relatively crude and emailed to thousands of potential victims, but some are specifically crafted for valuable target individuals to try to get them to part with useful information.

**Denial of Service attacks** — a brute force method to try stop some online service from working properly. For instance, attackers might send so much traffic to a website or so many requests to a database that it overwhelms those systems ability to function, making them unavailable to anybody. A *distributed denial of service* (DDoS) attack uses an army of computers, usually compromised by malware and under the control of cybercriminals, to funnel the traffic towards the targets.

**Man in the middle attacks** — a method by which attackers manage to interpose themselves secretly between the user and a web service they're trying to access. For instance, an attacker might set up a Wi-Fi network with a login screen designed to mimic a hotel network; once a user logs in, the attacker can harvest any information that user sends, including banking passwords.

**Cryptojacking** — a specialized attack that involves getting someone

else's computer to do the work of generating cryptocurrency for you (a process called *mining* in cryptolingo). The attackers will either install malware on the victim's computer to perform the necessary calculations, or sometimes run the code in JavaScript that executes in the victim's browser.

**SQL injection** — a means by which an attacker can exploit a vulnerability to take control of a victim's database. Many databases are designed to obey commands written in the *Structured Query Language* (SQL), and many websites that take information from users send that data to SQL databases.

In a SQL injection attack, a hacker will, for instance, write some SQL commands into a web form that's asking for name and address information; if the web site and database aren't programmed correctly, the database might try to execute those commands.

**Zero-day exploits** — vulnerabilities in software that have yet to be fixed. The name arises because once a patch is released, each day represents fewer and fewer computers open to attack as users download their security updates. Techniques for exploiting such vulnerabilities are often bought and sold on the dark web — and are sometimes discovered by government agencies that controversially may use them for their own hacking purposes, rather than releasing information about them for the common benefit.

**Recent cyber attacks**  
Deciding which cyber attacks were the worst is, arguably, somewhat subjective. Those that made our list did so because they got the most notice for various reasons — because they were widespread, perhaps, or because they were signals of a larger, scary trend. Without further ado, here are the biggest cyber attacks in recent history:

**WannaCry**  
WannaCry was a ransomware attack that spread rapidly in May of 2017. Like all ransomware, it took over infected computers and encrypted the contents of their hard drives, then demanded a payment in Bitcoin in order to decrypt them. The malware took particular root in computers at facilities run by the United Kingdom's NHS. Malware isn't anything new, though. What made WannaCry significant and scary was the means it used to propagate: it exploited a vulnerability in Microsoft Windows using code that had been secretly developed by the United States National Security Agency. **CONT PAGE 20**

# MOVIE REVIEW

## The Mule



### Synopsis

Eastwood stars as Earl Stone, a man in his 80s who is broke, alone, and facing foreclosure of his business when he is offered a job that simply requires him to drive. Easy enough, but, unbeknownst to Earl, he's just signed on as a drug courier for a Mexican cartel. He does well—so well, in fact, that his cargo increases exponentially, and Earl is assigned a handler. But he isn't the only one keeping tabs on Earl; the mysterious new drug mule has also hit the radar of hard-charging DEA agent Colin Bates. And even as his money problems become a thing of the past, Earl's past mistakes start to weigh heavily on him, and it's uncertain if he'll have time to right those wrongs before law enforcement, or the cartel's enforcers, catch up to him. "The Mule" marks Oscar-winner Eastwood's first time on both sides of the camera since he starred in 2009's critically acclaimed "Gran Torino."

Director	Clint Eastwood
Main Cast	Bradley Cooper, Dianne Wiest, Clifton Collins Jr., Taissa Farmiga, Laurence Fishburne, Clint Eastwood, Michael Peña and Alison Eastwood
Genre	Crime, Drama
Running Time	116 MIN
Release Date	24 Jan 2019

### Clint Eastwood Plays a Different Sort of Cowboy in *The Mule*

In his new film, the 88-year-old director plays a lonely man working as a drug courier. But the movie has fascinating parallels to the star's own life.

In recent years, Clint Eastwood has largely concerned himself with the business of heroism. His past three directorial efforts, *American Sniper*, *Sully*, and *The 15:17 to Paris*, were quiet, plaintive portraits of real-life icons, ordinary folks elevated to celebrity by acts of derring-do. But when Eastwood himself is both behind and in front of the camera, things change. *The Mule* is Eastwood's first starring role in six years and his first in a movie that he directed since 2008's *Gran Torino*. The two films have a lot in common: Both centre on grunting old cowboys, men well out of step with younger generations who are unafraid to complain about it. More importantly, these movies are about the limits of such men, who might have some remaining charm but who have long ago been left behind by everyone in their life. Eastwood's character in *Gran Torino* was nakedly racist, sexist, and homophobic, spouting abuse and misery at anyone who crossed his path. The ostensible hero of *The Mule* is a slightly softer figure, but he's still a man who's guilty of neglecting his family and who's sometimes too quick to fire off an insensitive joke. Oh, and he also gets drawn in to a surprising postretirement life of crime when a drug cartel taps him to serve as a courier.

*The Mule* is based on the true story of Leo Sharp, which was chronicled in *The New York Times* by Sam Dolnick; the film was written by Nick Schenk, who also scripted *Gran Torino*. Here, Sharp has been renamed Earl Stone,

but his story is essentially the same. He's a war veteran and a horticulturist (one particularly famous for his flowers' vibrant colours) who becomes a drug runner in his late 80s at the behest of a Mexican drug cartel. His advanced age, years of experience driving around the country, and a spotless criminal record lead him to become one of the cartel's most prized assets.

It's a different kind of cowboy for Eastwood to play, but Earl is at least a throwback to another era. "Your generation can't open a box of fruit without calling the internet," he grumbles semi-incoherently to a younger man at one point; when asked by the cartel if he knows how to text, he replies only with a cocked eyebrow. But plenty of Earl's interests transcend his age. He's fond of attention, a job well done, and the company of women (if you've been looking for a film in which an 88-year-old Eastwood simulates having threesomes onscreen, then *The Mule* is the ticket for you).

Earl isn't quite the devilish charmer Robert Redford was in *The Old Man & the Gun*, but he retains a certain twinkle in his eye. He's polite enough to ask after his employers' families and to form bonds with some of the hardened criminals he works with. When it comes to his own family, though, Earl is a failure—he's despised by his ex-wife, Mary (Dianne Wiest), and by his daughter Iris (Alison Eastwood, the director's own daughter). He quickly disappoints his granddaughter Ginny (Taissa Farmiga) when she gives him a chance to re-enter her life.

Time and again, Earl picks his career and the freedom of the open road over familial commitment, which leaves him with few options when his home is foreclosed on. *The Mule* is set in Peoria, Illinois,

which Eastwood depicts as increasingly desolate, much like *Gran Torino*'s Detroit. One secondary plot line sees Earl using his earnings to reopen a shuttered Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, basking in the praise he gets as a result. Meanwhile, he can barely remember to attend the birthday parties his children invite him to. It's not hard to draw a line connecting Earl's neglect of his family and the oft-married Eastwood's own wandering ways through the years; the director has all but drawn that line for the audience by casting his daughter. That resonance helps *The Mule* feel like a particularly fascinating swan song (though there's certainly no guarantee that this is Eastwood's last movie, given his workhorse status as a director). In one of the film's many bizarrely compelling exchanges of dialogue, Earl gets a cup of coffee with the man who's chasing him, the Drug Enforcement Administration agent Colin Bates (Bradley Cooper), and tells him to remember his and his wife's anniversary. It's somewhat retrograde, it's extremely trite, and yet, still, from Eastwood's mouth it sounds practically like a confession. While Eastwood has made plenty of intense thrillers in his day, *The Mule* is fairly laid-back. Even with a languid Cooper (and a similarly relaxed Michael Peña as his partner) on Earl's tail, the whole thing plays like a road movie, trotting along to its sad but inevitable conclusion as Earl tries to make up for decades of neglect with wads of cash. The dusty cities and towns he's driving through are casualties of the same tragic abandonment that his own family suffered. As a result, this movie is as much a eulogy for a country that Eastwood sees as slowly crumbling as it is for the life Earl chose to lead. \*David Sims is a staff writer at *The Atlantic*, where he covers culture



# We have a rare chance to make our electricity system fair again, but we need to act fast

Nicky Ison



Waiting for coal power plants to naturally retire and be replaced with cleaner alternatives will take too long

While some politicians pretend there is still a choice between dirty and clean energy, the reality is like the dinosaurs they are being left behind. Our choice is actually about *how* we will transition to clean energy.

We have already failed to stop climate change, we now need to manage the effects and prevent it from getting worse. The path we take to renewables could be slow, bumpy, costly and unjust. Or it could be a rare chance to make our electricity system fair again, but only if we act fast.

## The inevitable transition

The good news is the transition to clean energy is now inevitable. It is happening and will continue and ultimately we will move to a system powered by renewable energy and storage.

This long-term trajectory is now locked-in because the economics of energy are such that it is now cheaper to build solar and wind, backed-up by batteries or pumped-hydro than to build a new coal, gas or nuclear power station. That means that when Australia's 19 operating coal power stations close they will be replaced with clean energy solutions. Because Australia has some of the best renewable resources in the world, forward looking business people such as Sanjeev Gupta are seeing the long-term economic opportunity of clean energy in Australia and are working to speed it up. And businesses aren't the only ones – more than two million Australian households and businesses have installed rooftop solar and this trend is set to continue.

The bad news is, that while Australia will move to clean, renewable energy in the long run, there is no guarantee that it will happen fast enough or in a way that doesn't entrench existing inequality.

## A fast transition

Analysis by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that if the world is to have a hope of keeping warming below 1.5 degrees, countries like Australia must move beyond coal by 2030. That means that just waiting for coal power plants to naturally retire and be replaced with cleaner alternatives will take too long. Burning coal for longer means more floods, more droughts, more record-breaking heatwaves, more coral bleaching, more heat-related deaths and the list goes on.

The great news – a faster transition to clean energy is entirely possible. Australia is in the midst of a renewables boom, we are building 6GWs of renewables and storage this year. If we can keep this rate going, we can move beyond coal generation for electricity by 2032 according to analysis by ANU.

Unfortunately, what their analysis doesn't state is that to keep building renewables at the current rate for the next decade, will require the removal of a number of significant barriers. Specifically, speeding up the timeframes for upgrading our transmission infrastructure (big poles and wires) and putting in place more ambitious policy support than either the ALP or Coalition currently has on the table.

The current plans by the federal energy minister Angus Taylor to use taxpayer funds to support a new coal power station is just one example of Australia choosing the slow and costly path to clean energy. These efforts are tantamount to

Taylor standing in front of the Townsville dam last week, trying to keep the floodgates closed. With a year's worth of rain falling in nine days, the flooding of Townsville was unfortunately inevitable, the water was going to come over the spillway whether we liked it or not. Keeping the floodgates closed any longer would have just made the flooding worse and damaged the dam in the process.

Taylor's plans to support a new coal power station, delays the inevitable transition to clean energy.

However, it damages the climate, investor confidence, Australia's international reputation, will cost taxpayers billions of dollars in the process.

While Labor is no doubt better than the Coalition on climate, even the ALP's plans do little to put us on the right path.

Indeed, everyone from the market operator, to the ALP are developing plans that are slower than the science says is necessary and what current industry growth shows is possible.

Current industry and ALP plans only get only half of the job done by 2030. This is not good enough and it comes at a cost. Analysis of the ALP's 50% renewables target by 2030 shows that the rate of renewables deployment would drop by 65% from current rates. That means a 75% reduction in renewable jobs between 2020 and 2030.

## A fair transition

As we move to replace coal power stations with renewables and storage, there is no guarantee that we will look after the people most affected. The owners of Hazelwood gave their workers a mere five months warning that they would be out of a job. Meanwhile AGL which owns Liddell coal power station gave its workers a five-year warning, only to be subject to a scare campaign by the Federal Government, discouraging actions to drive a fairer transition. While more than six million Australians enjoy the opportunity to lower their carbon pollution and electricity bills through rooftop solar, the most vulnerable low-income renters are not able to enjoy the same benefits.

Then there are the people most affected by climate change, be they Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory battling fracking or households in Western Sydney suffering from intense urban heat islands.

There are practical and popular policy solutions to all these injustices – from the ALP's proposed Just Transition Agency, to a new Solar for All rebate idea, to banning fracking and planting trees and upgrading building standards. We know what to do, we merely need our political leaders to get on with it. A fairer pathway is also faster. A fair energy transition involves everyone in the task be they the 30% of households locked out of solar or Australia's coal communities and helps to remove opposition in the process.

In the transition to renewables, people as well as the environment matter.

For those of us who care deeply for this planet we call Earth and all that live on it, our job is clear: to ensure Australia and all other countries around the world choose the faster and fairer path to a clean energy future.

Nicky Ison is the founding director of the Community Power Agency and research associate at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney.

THE NEWS | No.492 | WEDNESDAY 12 Feb 2019 9 19

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@hotkey.net.au](mailto:thenews@hotkey.net.au)  
All contributions welcome

**and** **NOT SO**

**The weekend** of the 2/3 Feb Pokolbin had crowds leaving from two events. Our guests pre-booked a taxi each way (many weeks ago). They left the event before it ended to stand in a taxi queue; no taxis. There were big queues for any transport buses to Cessnock but not north. They left the event at 10pm & arrived in Branxton (10 mins away) at 12pm; 2 hours later -- the same time as it takes to drive to Sydney. All goodwill from a good concert, good wine & food have gone. It's time the event organisers fixed the exit from these venues. These are mature events not a one off. Why not call in traffic experts that have moved crowds efficiently from other events; maybe use more car parks & shuttle buses. It's time the taxi company's stopped taking bookings & money where the delivery of service is problematic. Customers do remember poor experiences & do not return.

**To Cessnock City Council** for not providing a hard copy of the Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan here in Branxton ~ you could see it at the Council Admin office CESSNOCK, Cessnock Library CESSNOCK, Kurri Kurri Library KURRI KURRI or on Cessnock City Councils website (REMINDER ~ 30% of residents in Cessnock Council LGA have no access to a computer).

**To Cessnock City Council** who provided hard copies of the Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan as soon as the anomaly was brought to their attention; within 2 hours!. You can now read it at Branxton IGA or Richardson & Wrench.

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

### Dates for your diary >

**FRI 15 Feb** – Branxton Public School Whole School Assembly 9:20am  
**FRI 15 Feb** – Branxton Public School Parent PBL Information Session 2:30pm in the library  
**WED 20 Feb** – Rotary is made up of people just like you who want to make a change and help do good things in your community. People just like you who are busy, don't have much time, lots of things to do, but care. "LIKE TO HELP OTHERS" then come along and find out how you can help. Nibbles provided bar available. Cessnock Rotary invites you to join us at an information session - 6.30pm at Branxton Golf Club. Text or phone to book a seat at the discussion table, bring along your questions. Contact Vicki on 0418 250 887 or Email: [wsteep@bigpond.com](mailto:wsteep@bigpond.com) For catering purposes please RSVP by 15th Feb 2019.  
**WED 20 Feb** – Hunter Valley Police District Branxton/Greta/North Rothbury Community Safety Precinct Meeting at Greta Workers Club auditorium at 5:30pm. Come and meet your local police & join the conversation - everybody welcome  
**SAT 23 Feb** – Red Hot Chili Peppers at Hope Estate  
**THU 28 Feb** – Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meet at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm. Topic - Playing a DVD presentation about men's continence and erectile function after Prostate Cancer Surgery. Meetings open to the general public. Cost- FREE. Contact Barry 0457073852- Rose 49904554.  
**THU 28 Feb** – Cessnock Council is holding a Public Information Session on the Draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan at Branxton Golf Club 3pm-7:30pm to view the plans & talk to council staff  
**FRI 8 Mar** – the Hunter Valley Boutique Collective Inc. ("HVBCI") will be hosting a luncheon to celebrate International Women's Day. The event is being held at Tam-burlaine Winery and attendees will hear from inspiring women speakers as they gather together over a three course lunch. Tickets are \$149.50 each and are available online – for further details please go to [www.hvbci.com](http://www.hvbci.com). For further information contact Katherine Geczy, HVBCI Presi-

### Dates for your diary >

dent, on 0424 890 099.  
**FRI 8 Mar** – Branxton Public School Whole School PBL Assembly & PBL Celebration Day  
**SAT 9 Mar** – The Royal Federal Hotel 'World's Greatest Shave'  
**TUE 12 Mar** – B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.  
**SAT 16 Mar** – Kiely Minoque at Bimbadgen Estate  
**TUE 19 Mar** – Branxton Public School Visiting author Tim Harris  
**SAT 31 Mar** – Singleton Shire Landcare running workshop at Elderslie Hall 9:30am – 1pm on The Brilliance of Australian Flora & Birdlife. \$10 /head. P: 0429 444 305 to book.  
**TUE 9 Apl** – B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.  
**1 April - 31 May** – Exhibitions on the history of the Greta Army Camp and the history of the Greta Migrant Camp. Cessnock Library. Two exhibitions in the Cessnock Library foyer on the history of the Greta Army Camp and the history of the Greta Migrant Camp. Accessible whenever the Library is open.  
**THUR 25 Apl** – ANZAC DAY  
**SUN 12 May** – Mothers Day  
**TUE 14 May** – B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.  
**FRI 7 Jun** – 'Back to Greta' 'Back to Greta' is an all-day event. Includes: morning tea with the Mayor at the Library, a trip to the camp site and a visit to Greta Museum. For information about the event contact Kimberly O'Sullivan. To RSVP for the event call the Library directly: (02) 4993 4399.  
**MON 10 June** – Queens Birthday Public Holiday  
**SUN 1 Sept** – Fathers day



FROM PAGE 18

**What is a cyber attack?**

WannaCry

..... Called *EternalBlue*, the exploit had been stolen and leaked by a hacking group called the Shadow Brokers. Microsoft had already patched the vulnerability a few weeks before, but many systems hadn't upgraded. Microsoft was furious that the U.S. government had built a weapon to exploit the vulnerability rather than share information about the hole with the infosec community.

**NotPetya**

Petya was just another piece of ransomware when it started circulating via phishing spam in 2016; its main claim to fame was that it encrypted the master boot record of infected machines, making it devilishly difficult for users to get access to their files. Then, abruptly in June of 2017, a *much* more virulent version of the malware started spreading. It was different enough from the original that it was dubbed *NotPetya*; it originally propagated via compromised Ukrainian accounting software and spread via the same *EternalBlue* exploit that *WannaCry* used. *NotPetya* is widely believed to be a cyberattack from Russia against Ukraine, though Russia denies it, opening up a possible era of states using weaponized malware.

**Ethereum**

While this one might not have been as high-profile as some of the others on this list, it deserves a spot here due to the sheer amount of money involved. Ether is a Bitcoin-style cryptocurrency, and \$7.4 million in Ether was stolen from the Ethereum app platform in a manner of minutes in July. Then, just weeks later came a \$32 million heist. The whole incident raised questions about the security of blockchain-based currencies.

**Equifax**

The massive credit rating agency announced in July of 2017 that "criminals exploited a U.S. website application vulnerability to gain access to certain files," getting personal information for nearly 150 million people. The subsequent fallout enraged people further, especially when the site Equifax set up where people could see if their information had been compromised seemed primarily designed to sell Equifax services. Ed Szofer, CEO of SenecaGlobal, says the Equifax breach is particularly bad "because they had already been told about the fix — it needed to be implemented in a tool called Apache Struts that they use — well before the breach even happened. And yet they failed to do so fully in a timely manner. To prevent such breaches from happening requires a shift in culture and resources; this was not a technical issue, as the technical fix was already known. Equifax certainly had the resources, but it clearly did not have the right culture to ensure the right processes were in place and followed."

**Yahoo (revised)**

This massive hack of Yahoo's email system gets an honourable mention because it actually happened way back in 2013 — but the severity of it, with all 3 billion Yahoo email addresses affected, only became clear in October 2017. Stolen information included passwords and backup email addresses, encrypted using outdated, easy-to-crack techniques, which is the sort of information attackers can use to breach other accounts. In addition to the effect on the account owners, the breach could spawn a revisiting of the deal by which Verizon bought Yahoo, even though that deal had already closed. The truly scary thing about this breach is that the culture of secrecy that kept it under wraps means that there's more like it out there. "No one is excited to share a breach, for obvious PR reasons," says Mitch Lieberman, director of research at G2 Crowd. "But the truth eventually comes out. What else do we not know?"

**GitHub**

On February 28, 2018, the version control hosting service GitHub was hit with a massive denial of service attack, with 1.35 TB per second of traffic hitting the popular site. Although GitHub was only knocked offline intermittently and managed to beat the attack back entirely after less than 20 minutes, the sheer scale of the assault was worrying; it outpaced the huge attack on Dyn in late 2016, which peaked at 1.2 TB per second. More troubling still was the infrastructure that drove the attack. While the Dyn attack was the product of the Mirai botnet, which required malware to infest thousands of IoT devices, the GitHub attack exploited servers running the Memcached memory caching system, which can return very large chunks of data in response to simple requests. Memcached is meant to be used only on protected servers running on internal networks, and generally has little by way of security to prevent malicious attackers from spoofing IP addresses and sending huge amounts of data at unsuspecting victims. Unfortunately, thousands of Memcached servers are sitting on the open internet, and there has been a huge upsurge in their use in DDoS attacks. Saying that the servers are "hijacked" is barely fair, as they'll cheerfully send packets wherever they're told without asking questions.

Just days after the GitHub attack, another Memecached-based DDoS assault slammed into an unnamed U.S. service provider with 1.7 TB per second of data.

**Cyber attack statistics**

If you want to understand just what's going on in the murky world of cybercrime, it's best to dive into the numbers, which only seem to be going up. The number of unique "cyberincidents" in the second quarter of 2018, as defined by Positive Technologies, was 47 percent higher than the number from just a year previous. And those attacks are becoming increasingly precise: 54 percent are targeted, rather than part of mass campaigns.

Willie Sutton famously said that he robbed banks "because that's where the money is," so perhaps it's not a surprise that Positive reported a big spike in attacks on cryptocurrency platforms, given the increasingly lucrative nature of that technology. Overall, cybercrime will net its perpetrators around \$1.5 trillion in 2018. Individual cybercriminals can expect to make about 10 to 15 percent more than their offline equivalents, and it's estimated that that around 10 percent of all laundered criminal money comes from cybercrime proceeds.

If you're worried about your phone's safety, you should be—mobile attacks are on the rise. In the third quarter of 2018, Kaspersky Labs the number of malicious mobile installation packages was up by nearly a third when compared to just the previous few months. But there's an easy way to avoid those attacks, as Norton says that 99.9 percent of those packages come from unofficial "third party" app stores.

The problem is that an impression is all they really have to offer. Most of the data they display isn't live, and it certainly isn't comprehensive. But they can be useful in starting conversations about security, getting students interested in cyber security, and serving as sales tools for cyber security tool companies. (Many security experts dismissively refer to them as "pew pew" maps.)

**“Inaugural International Women’s Day Luncheon to be hosted in the Hunter Valley”**

On 8 March 2019, the Hunter Valley Boutique Collective Inc. (“HVBCI”) will be hosting a luncheon to celebrate International Women’s Day. The event is being held at Tamburlaine Winery and attendees will hear from inspiring women speakers as they gather together over a three course lunch. International Women’s Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women with the first IWD gathering occurring in 1911. The luncheon is an opportunity for the local Hunter community to come together on this significant day.

HVBCI are thrilled to offer two inspirational female speakers including Iglal (“Iggy”) Kodi, a Sudanese refugee. Iggy left Sudan at age 13 to embark upon a three year journey to Australia for a better life. She arrived at Maitland Grossman High when she was in Year 10 and could not speak English. She went on to study and is now a qualified secondary school teacher in the Hunter region and is a true example of how dedication can allow a person to overcome adversities in life.

The second speaker is Michelle Jones, an Amazon Best Selling Author, business and life strategist, speaker and educator. Michelle is a born and bred Novocastrian and has an unwavering focus for helping people. She is the creator and founder of the global “Live Your Best Life” (aka LYBL) business and life empowering programs and will share her tips on how people can live the life they truly deserve.

The HVBCI have also partnered with four local charities and fundraising proceeds from the event will be distributed amongst the Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteer, Branxton Playgroup, Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre at Kurri and the Cessnock District Rescue Squad.

180 attendees are expected to attend the event which is set to be an annual event each year. Tickets are \$149.50 each and are available online – for further details please go to [www.hvbci.com](http://www.hvbci.com).

For further information contact Katherine Geczy, HVBCI President, on 0424 890 099.

**About “HVBCI”**

*The Hunter Valley Boutique Collective Inc (HVBCI) was formed in 2018 by 5 Hunter region female business owners. It was formed to allow a collaborative platform for local women in business to provide support and grow their professional development without having to travel outside of our local area. HVBCI meet on a monthly basis and our major event each year is International Women’s Day held in March*



Katherine Geczy, President HVBCI – Registered Nurse and Owner, Excellence Laser Clinic

**“Our meetings aim to inspire our members and let them walk away with constructive and valuable information from their peers.”**

**International demand for Australia’s fine wine continues to grow**

The world can barely get enough of Australian wine with 94 million cases of Aussie wine sold around the world last year. That is an increase of 5 per cent in volume, but consumers are paying more for it with the value of exports up 10 per cent to \$2.8 billion. Red wine, in particular, has continued its red-hot growth now making up 76 per cent of Australia’s wine exports.

Wine Australia’s chief executive officer, Andreas Clark, said there was

increased understanding and awareness around the premium Australian wine product that was going to all major markets around the world.

“We’re seeing that in the \$10 FOB (free on board) per litre and above category, which is achieving record volume and value, that segment has now overtaken what has historically been the highest segment, which was around \$2.50 to \$5 per litre,” Mr Clark said, “So it’s a really strong premium

story that is getting traction in our major markets and it’s where we need to play in the longer term.

“An interesting figure, which always brings it into a bit of perspective, is that 22 million glasses of Australian wine is consumed by our global customers every day.”

China has been the engine for much of the growth in Australian wine’s value in recent years. “We’re in a really strong position in China, in terms of the continuing trade’s appreciation for what Australian wine has to offer across all our price points, so we have a really solid platform of what we’re taking to market there,” Mr Clark said.

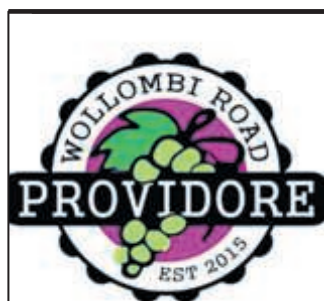
There has been growth in most major markets including the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, and

Singapore, but the United States continued to decline slightly.

Australia’s largest wine market by volume is the United Kingdom, which is why exporters were keen to see trade continue without interruption when the UK leaves the EU.

The Government has been able to ensure the existing trade arrangements with the European Union will continue for the UK as well. “So it gives our exporters a lot of comfort and certainty that their product can still be exported to the UK and they won’t face any issues in terms of labelling and any other requirements,” Mr Clark said.

*By Cassandra Hough and Jessica Schremmer ABC Rural*



**A big congratulations to Wollombi Road Providore who took out the Service Excellence Award in the greengrocer category at the 2018 Sydney**

**Markets Fresh Awards. We are the first store outside of Sydney to have ever won this category**

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**Branxton Public School**

Welcome back to a fresh new year at Branxton Public School. Our Kinder Kookaburras, Kinder Magpies and Kinder Emus are quickly learning our school routines and expectations. They are having a

great to have fresh new faces and ideas on staff.

The annual Swimming Carnival was a great success in Week 2. Thank you to the parents who came along to cheer on the students and to the students for being Respectful, Responsible and doing their Personal Best on the day.



Buddy Time



Saving Lil

lovely time getting to know their Year 6 Buddies and look forward to meeting with them each week. We hope that our new families will get involved in the school and contribute to all the great things we do. Joining the P&C is a great way to get to know the school and make new friends. The next P&C will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. Come share your ideas and support your children! The P&C are looking forward to holding a Trivia Night at the Branxton Golf Club on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Should be a fun night for all. We welcome Miss Brittany Ridge and Mr Jack Kelly to our teaching staff this year while Ms Kierrin Elsley will be teaching 1-2 Platypus full time. It's

We all enjoyed the Brainstorm Production of Saving Lil and Archie in Week 2. It had important messages about being cyber safe, having a balanced life and maintaining positive relationships. We have had some improvements to our school over the holidays including a lovely stainless steel finish to our BBQ area and fresh new walls and painting in four of our older

classrooms. There are also some changes to where students enter and exit our school. Students are learning these new routines through our PBL system. We will be conducting a Parent PBL Information Session on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 2:30pm in the Library. Please come along to learn more about the PBL systems at Branxton Public School.

**Dates for the Calendar**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February - P&C Meeting 6pm in the Library  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Whole School Assembly 9:20am  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Parent PBL Information Session 2:30pm in the library

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Whole School PBL Assembly & PBL Celebration Day  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Visiting author Tim Harris

**At Branxton Public School students, staff and community are Respectful, Responsible and achieve their Personal Best.**



**Kirkton Public School**

Welcome back!

**Congratulations**

to our 2019 Kirkton students. You have made a great start back to the new year, with wonderful focus on your learning and positive and thoughtful interactions with your peers in the classroom and playground.

All look fabulous in their uniform— Thank you parents.

A big welcome to our new students Cas h, Dennon, Frances, Cali, Trinitee, Paige, Savanna, Kendra and Joseph and also to their families. We are glad to Have you as part of our lovely Kirkton community.

[Come in to INSPECT](#) what's new in your local museum!



(Wood rimmed child-safe magnifying glass that really works)  
 Greta Historical Museum  
 96 High Street Greta  
 Open 11am-3pm  
 Wednesdays & Saturdays



**Greta Museum**

Honours the sacrifices of our local Service People -  
 Come in to see our displays and photographs, about them and many other subjects.  
 Open Wed. & Sat. 11- 3pm  
 96 High Street Greta



**SECURE YOUR POOL**

Does your fence do the job? Is the barrier secure and the latch at least 1.5m high?

**BE POOL SAFE**

[cessnock.nsw.gov.au/poolsafety](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/poolsafety)





### FISHING CLUB INDIVIDUAL PRIZES LEADERBOARD

FISH	FISHERMAN	WEIGHT (KG)	WEIGH IN DATE
Snapper	Dave Delforce	2.13	12-Aug
Tailor	Blake Barnes	1.065	12-Aug
Whiting	Tom Fields	0.37	2-Dec
Flathead	Brad Dorn	2.22	4-Mar
Nannygai	Dan Adam	0.33	4-Mar
Bream	Glen Beckett	0.815	2-Dec
Tarwhine	Troy Fields	0.45	27-May
Leather Jacket	Tyson Nevin	0.745	4-Apr
Morwong	Mick Edwards	0.85	2-Dec
Mulloway	Scott Beckett	19.95	4-Apr
Salmon	Joel Platt	1.72	27-May
Flounder	Kerriann Dries	0.32	11-Jun
Trag	Steve Nevin	1.64	8-Jul
Drummer	Mark Dever	1.125	11-Jun
Pearl Perch	Steve Nevin	0.57	8-Jul
Trevally	Rob Beckett	0.3	12-Aug
Yellowbelly	Troy Fields	1.5	16-Sep
Australian Bass	Rob Beckett	1	21-Oct
Freshwater Catfish	Scott Beckett	1.35	2-Dec
Catch and Release	Mark Dever (catfish)	53cm	16-Sep
Silver Perch	Rob Beckett	0.66	2-Dec
Groper	Mick Edwards	0.7	2-Dec

### Final Fishing Club Calendar 2019



- 22/23/24 February Open
- 15/16/17 March Open (meeting prior at 2:30pm)
- 19/20/21 April Hawks Nest
- 17/18/19 May Open
- 7/8/9/10 June (long weekend weigh in Monday) Sandbar
- 19/20/21 July Harrington
- 16/17/18 August Open
- 20/21/22 September Lake St Clair
- 11/12/13 October Open
- 8/9/10 November Seal Rocks
- 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> November/1<sup>st</sup> December Open
- 15<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Party

Please note that this year when the outing is not "OPEN" you must fish at that location. The idea of this is to keep the Club together.  
 There may also be a weigh in a 9am on the away trips at the venue if people choose to take this option if they are staying an extra night or won't make the 3pm Greta weigh in.  
 Cost per person \$30 or family \$50  
 Any Questions call Nevo 0457547478



### Tatts Fishing Club Winds Up In Style For 2018

The Tatts Hotel Greta Social Fishing Club celebrated its 2018 season Sunday 16th December with a Christmas party and presentation at the pub. A big thanks for 2018 once again to the friendly staff at the Tatts Hotel plus BCF for their generosity throughout the year. Congratulations to all members on a cracker of a year. Congratulations to all individual prizewinners and to the three overall winners: Scott Beckett, Rebecca Dougherty (Women's) and Tom Fields (Junior). Results for the award winners and the overall point's tallies will be published in the next edition of The News.

Please note Registrations for 2019 can be taken from now at the bar of the Tatts for a cost of \$30 Single or \$50 family. Please leave a contact number. Any questions about anything to do with the club contact Steve Nevin 0457547478 or Email: [Steve.nevin@hvo.com.au](mailto:Steve.nevin@hvo.com.au)

### Tatts Hotel Fishing Club 2019 Kick Off!

The 2019 fishing season is up and away after the Tatts Hotel Social Fishing Club held their AGM last Sunday. The Committee is pretty much the same apart from the new addition of fishing stalwart Larry "El relaxo" Timmins as Vice President.  
 President: David "Hodgy Hodges" Vice President: Big Larry Secretary: Steve "Bodge" Nevin Treasurer: Ian "Big Bird" Foulstone. New and old members are encouraged for \$30 adult and \$50 family, just see the staff at the Tatts to sign you up. Any questions or enquiries please feel free to email [Steve.nevin@hvo.com.au](mailto:Steve.nevin@hvo.com.au) or call Nevo on 0457547478.



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## SATURDAY 9TH MARCH



# OUTLAW AVENUE



8.30PM TO 11.30PM

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION



# SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 3-1-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner M Ryan 35 pts (SOD) R/u J Sheedy 33 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> D Kinch 32 pts  
Div 2 Winner I Harris 32 pts R/u B Ward 30 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> R Brooks 30 pts  
Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division  
NTPs Ladies M Hunt Gents M Martin  
Members draw - Not won  
Another pleasant Summer's day, cloudless and a gentle breeze blowing making conditions enjoyable for our round of golf, with all players back in the Clubhouse before the temperature peaked, around mid-day. We have had a number of new members join our group and we welcome them to the fold. We trust their time with us is enjoyable. Congratulations to Mike Ryan on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". (To in a row Mike, What's next - a 'Hat Trick'????). A well done to all other winners and place-getters.

### Results 10-1-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner S Ross 33pts R/u M Ryan 32 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> M Ford 28 pts  
Div 2 Winner I Harris 35 pts (SOD) R/u R Showman 29 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> S Dunker 28 pts  
Ladies Winner J Scobie 25 pts R/u T Martin 23 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> R Friis 23 pts  
NTPs Ladies T Martin Gents M Ford  
Member draw - Not won  
A gentle breeze and an overcast sky were the ingredients for a comfortable day for a round of golf, enjoyed by a good number of members. Some excellent golf was played and unfortunately, Mike Ryan missed his 'hat-trick' by one. Congratulations to Ivan Harris on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

### Results 17-1-19 2 BBB

1<sup>st</sup> I Harris & J Harris 38 pts (c/b)  
2<sup>nd</sup> R Chalmers & P Anderson 38  
3<sup>rd</sup> R Showman & M Ryan 36 pts (c/b)  
4<sup>th</sup> R Hain & S Ross 36 pts (c/b)  
5<sup>th</sup> R Brooks & K Anderson 36 pts  
NTPs Ladies J Harris Gents R Chalmer-  
Members draw - Won (P Tracey)  
It would seem that the predicted temperature, around the 40 degrees C mark, stimulated our members to arrive early, play their round and be back in the clubhouse before noon, when playing conditions would have been most uncomfortable, particularly as the cool NE breeze had abated by then. Congratulations to Ivan and Jan Harris on winning the event, which in the end turned out to be a tightly contested round. A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

### Results 24-1-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 33 pts (SOD) R/u S Ross 32 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> G Musialik 31 pts  
Div 2 Winner P Tracey 32 pts (c/b) R/u I Harris 32 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Brooks 30  
Ladies Winner R Friis 24 pts R/u J Scobie 22 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> R McCarthy 22 pts  
NTPs Ladies T Martin Gents P Tracey  
Members draw - Won (J Harris)  
The weather almost a mirror image of last week, although the humidity

was higher. Congratulations to Gary Gazzard on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day and a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

### Results 31-1-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner M Ryan 32 pts R/u L Hunt 31 pts K Anderson 30 pts  
Div 2 Winner J Flynn 34 pts (SOD) R/u I Harris 32 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Showman 30 pts  
Ladies Winner R McCarthy 32 pts R/u M Hunt 30 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> J Scobie 28 pts  
NTPs Ladies R McCarthy Gents R Brooks  
Member's draw - Not won  
A very warm Summer's day with moderate humidity and an overcast sky, greeted our keen band of players when they arrived to play today's round. Congratulations to Jeff Flynn on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to other winners and placegetters and a thank you to all players for their attendance to make Thursday, a great day.

### Results 7-2-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner J Sheedy 33 pts (SOD) R/u D Sheppard 29 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> K Anderson 29 pts (c/b)  
Div 2 Winner G Gazzard 30 pts (c/b) R/u R Brooks 30 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> R Showman 30 pts  
Ladies Winner T Martin 27 pts R/u M Hunt 26 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R McCarthy 18 pts  
NTPs Ladies T Martin Gents L Bootes  
Members draw - Not won  
Congratulations to Jim Sheedy on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", and a well done to other winners and placegetters.

#### LN Bootes, Hon Sec

**HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB Sunday 20th January** The Weekly Challenge has produced solid scoring once again with Justin Woodbine claiming the win with 43 points from Tim Poteris on 42. Ball winners were: Wayne Thompson 40, Justin Ely 38, Michael Simpson v38, Craig Smith 37 and Colin Arnold 37 c/b  
**Tuesday 22nd January** Tallebudgera GC visitor Greg Smith really enjoyed his first round at HVGC with a 43 point result and a win on countback in the Tuesday Stableford from Thomas Waite with Paul Smith 3rd with 41 points. Ball winners were: Garry Clarke 39, Gary Arnold 35, Ian Newell 35, Garry Marsden 35, Steve Abel 34, Rick Turnchini 34, Chris Taggart 34, Bab Prentice 34 and Michael Castley 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Garry Clarke (3rd & 4th) Paul Smith (10th) and Wayne Barber (17th)

**Wednesday 23rd January** Most of Ladies stayed home again with the heat, the few who played entered the Weekly Challenge. **Thursday 24th January** Dave Fury has produced an excellent round of 48 individual points to win this weeks Vets Medley Stableford from Peter Payne 43 and Ray Boyd 3rd with 42 points on countback. Ball winners were: Steve Rawlings 42, John Carmody 39, Darrell Preston 39, Garry Clarke 38, Michael Watson 37, Paul Smith 36, Geoff Sweetman 35, Doug Wand 34, Wayne Barber 34, Ian Cuttriss 34 and Dave Blackburn 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Smith (3rd) Peter Payne (4th & 17th) Steve Piggott (8th) and Steve Rawlings (10th) . The raffle was won by John Stewart.

**Saturday 26th January** The 2 Person Ambrose has been won by Dean Morison and Tallebudgera visitor Greg Smith from Andrew Zok and Michael Carter with Steve Applebee and Mark Eddy 3rd. Ball winners were: Wade Attewell and Anthony Bower, Kevin Smith and David Peel, Nathan Sweeney and Michael MacNab. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ken Springbett (3rd) Shannon Attewell (4th) Julie Van Den Berg (8th) David Peel (10th) and Wade Attewell (17th). The Individual Stableford has been won by Conor Hassett from Bonnie Doon GC on

countback from Tim Poteris after both returned 42 points. **Sunday 27th January** Pymble GC member Brenton Key has won the Weekly Challenge with 39 points from Melita Watson with 36 on countback. Ball winners were: Rob Flanagan 36, Drew Dewar 34, Jonathon Bish v34, Matt Edwards v34, Brad Pringle 33, Tom Tamsett 32 and Arhur Cuttriss 32 c/b  
**Tuesday 29th January** Michael Watson produced one of his best to claim the Tuesday Stableford on countback from Toronto GC visitor Scott Doyle after both had 41 points, 3rd went to Peter Payne with 39. Ball winners were: Wayne Cowan 38, Joe Laughlin 38, Todd Battle 38, Peter Wilson 38, Wayne Barber 38, Rick Turnchini 37, Steve Piggott 37 and David Peel 37 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Payne (3rd) Rick Turnchini (4th) Wayne Barber (8th) and Steve Piggott (10th) **Wednesday 30th January** Only a small field of Ladies turned out this week and have been entered into the Weekly Challenge. **Thursday 31st January** Wayne Drayton took out the Vets American Stableford with a solid 62 points from Graeme Flynn 59 on countback to Michael Watson 3rd. Ball winners were: John Carmody 58, Paul Bullock 58, Geoff Sweetman 57, Ray Boyd 55, Darrell Preston 54, Rex Talbot 54, Doug Wand 54, Dave Blackburn 53 and Paul Ireland 53 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Drayton (3rd) Graeme Flynn (4th) Geoff Sweetman (10th) and John Carmody (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford. This week's raffle winner was John Harrison. The January winner of the Misty Glen Wines Outstanding Performance was David Blackburn

**Saturday 2nd February** The monthly Stroke round resulted in a clear win for Jeremie Morton with 64 net from Mike Carter 68 with Ken Springbett taking 3rd with 69 on countback. Ball winners were: Nick Looby 69, Craig Smitn 69, Sue Peel 70, David Peel 70, Nick Nancarrow 70, Wayne Drayton 70, John Brown 70, Russ Lightfoot 71, Justin Woodbine 71, Shannon Attewell 71, Kevin Smith 72, Ken Hrris 72, Phil Douglas v73, Jay Bolton v73, Nathan Nancarrow 73 and John Stewart 73 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Angello Wood (3rd & 4th) Mike Carter (8th) Julie Van Den Berg (10th) and Wayne Barber (17th).

**Sunday 3rd February** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Phillippe Byron from Tim Poteris on a 3way countback after both had solid 40 point returns. Ball winners were: Michael Pearce v40, Grahame Mankelow 39, Lloyd Barrett 37, Mick Barrett 36, Graeme Valentine 36 and Geoff Valentine 35

**Tuesday 5th February** Thomas Waite had a fine 41 points to claim the Tuesday Stableford from a field of solid results, inform John Stewart runner up with 40 on countback to Rex Talbot in 3rd also on countback. Ball winners were: Craig Smith 40, Wayne Barber 38, Michael Watson 38, Scott Goldman v38, Gary Arnold 37, David Peel 37, Richard Hoare v36, Dean Morison 36, Doris Hoare v35 and Steve Piggott 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart (3rd & 4th) Paul Smith (8th) Gary Arnold (10th) and David Peel (17th) **Wednesday 6th February** A small field of Ladies turned out for the Summer Stableford round with Melita Watson winning the dy from Christine Tancred. Next week's golf will see the Summer Stableford continue. **Thursday 7th February** The Vets Medley Stableford resulted in a countback win for John Carmody over Wayne Barber after both returned an excellent 41 points, Garry Marsden took 3rd also on countback with 39 points. Ball winners were: Gerry Irwin 39, Steve Piggott 38, John Stewart 38, Arthur Cuttriss 37, Ray Boyd 37, Wayne Berry 37, John

Pascoe 37, Dale Macklinshaw v37, Steve Rawlings 36, Michael Watson 36 and Ian Newell 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ian Newell (3rd) Paul Ireland (4th) John Carmody (8th) Graeme Flynn (10th) and Ray Boyd (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley 4BBB  
**Par. Saturday 9th February** Koo-hindah Waters GC visitor Lee Papps claimed A Grade with 40 points from Wayne Barber on 39, B Grade and 'round of the day' to Nathan Sweeney with 41 points from John Carmody 40 and C Grade to Jeff Morton with 39 points from Mike Carter 38. Ball winners were: David Irwin 39, Todd Mitchell 38, Matt Delforce 38, Ken Harris 38, Shannon Attewell 38, Wayne Drayton 37, Bruce Chambers 37, Matt Sheppard v37, Peter Franks 37 and Anthony Bower 37. Nearest the Pins went to Garry Marsden (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) Jeff Morton (10th) and David Peel (17th). Next weeks event will be a Blue Tee Medley Stableford

### BRANXTON GOLF CLUB Saturday, 26th January 2019 SATURDAY COMP - Stableford Field: 45

Grades A Chris Zawirski 42 pts  
Grades A Michael Simpson 38 pts c/b  
Grades A Rodney Wilton 38 pts  
Grades B Joseph Bereza 40 pts c/b  
Grades B Peter Mathews 40 pts  
Grades B Reece Caldwell 39 pts  
Grades C Benjamin Bridge 41pts c/b  
Grades C Pip Lancaster 41 pts  
Grades C Michael Carling 39 pts  
NTP  
S Eccles 79cm M Simpson 3mm  
D Turner 134cm L Heuston 178cm  
Balls 14 balls distributed down to score: 33pts  
Chris Zawirski continued his scintillating form to win the A Grade Stableford with another fine display of 42 pts. This follows last week's wonderful round of 71 off the stick—Chris has certainly hit a purple patch! Runner up was Michael Simpson with an excellent 38 pts from his single figure handicap—this included the absolute shot of the day on the 4<sup>th</sup> with his tee shot hanging on the lip only 3 mms away—incidentally unlucky not to have a hole in one. Rod Wilton continued his good form to finish third with the same score. Joe Bereza won B Grade with a very pleasing 40 pts, defeating Peter Mathews, now in B Grade, with the same score, with Reece Caldwell just behind them with 39 pts. The excellent scores continued in C Grade with Benjamin Bridge winning with 41 pts, only on a count back from Pip Lancaster with the same score. Mick Carling's 39 pts gave him third place on a day which was hot—and hot with scoring. 33 pts was needed to win a ball.

### Saturday, 2 February 2019 MONTHLY MEDAL - FEB - STROKE Field: 52

**Monthly Medal Winner - Steven Primmer 64**  
Grades A Daniel Turner 66  
Grades A Chris Zawirski 67  
Grades A Stuart Lord 68  
Grades B Phil Baker 66  
Grades B David Kinch 67  
Grades B Roger Yandle 69  
Grades C Mark Davey 70  
Grades C David Bull 71  
Grades C Darren Mathers 72  
NTP 2/11 A 2nd Robert Biles  
NTP 4 B 4th Joseph Bereza  
NTP 9/18 B 9th Terry Partridge  
NTP 13 A 13th Robert Biles  
Steve Primmer earned the right to be the Monthly Medallist with an outstanding round of 64 nett on a day where the DSR was a 68—a tough call on a monthly medal day. Dan Turner continues to impress, winning A Grade with a very impressive 66 nett, a round where he was very satisfied with his ball striking. Chris Zawirski continues to ride his wave of good form, finishing runner up with a 67 nett, with Stuart Lord third with his pleasing 68 nett score. Phil Baker's return to B Grade didn't last

long as he won that division with an excellent 66 nett, just ahead of David Kinch's 67 nett and Roger Yandle with his 69 nett. Mark Davey won C Grade with his 70 nett, just ahead of David Bull and Darren Mathers. The sharp shooter of the day belongs to Bob Biles who won two nearest the pins on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the very challenging 13<sup>th</sup>. The Pennants season began on Sunday with some excellent results across the grades. Our very strong A Grade team began the season in style, defeating last year's finalist Singleton 5-0 at Kurri. Multiple defending champions B Grade had a very tight struggle with the last two year's finalist Maitland, drawing 1.5 all at Branxton, with all games going down to the last hole. C Grade unfortunately lost 3-0 to the strong Dungog outfit at Cessnock, with the Seniors team having a successful long trip to Murrurundi, winning 3-0.

### Saturday, 9 February 2019 SAT COMP - SUMMER CUP RD4 - STABLEFORD

Field: 50  
Grades A Mark Moylan 39  
Grades A David Hollis 39  
Grades A Joshua Tracey 37  
Grades B Paul Bush 44  
Grades B Tony Seamer 38  
Grades B Robert Miller 38  
Grades C Benjamin Bridge 37  
Grades C Ted Zawirski 34  
Grades C Richard Alley 33  
NTP 2/11 A 2nd David Hollis 36cm  
NTP 4 A 4th Daniel Turner 13cm  
NTP 9/18 A 9th Daniel Turner 49cm  
NTP 13 A 13th Mark Moylan 374cm  
Balls 15 Distributed down to score: 32  
Mark Moylan returned to form to win the A Grade stableford competition on Saturday with a fine 39 pts, winning on a countback from this year's B Grade Pennants Captain Dave Hollis with the same score. The 2017 Club Champion, Joshua Tracey finished third with a par round 37 pts. The round of the day was recorded by Paul Bush in B Grade who had a day to remember recording 44 pts to easily win the

stableford competition. Tony Seamer and Robert Miller filled the minor placings with the creditable rounds of 38 pts. Benjamin Bridge's 37 pts was good enough to win C Grade with Ted Zawirski and Richard Alley finishing second and third. The shot of the day belonged to Dan Turner's nearest the pin on the 4<sup>th</sup> finishing only 13 cms away—a wonderful shot especially after Mick Simpson's effort on the same hole last week which finished 3 mms from a hole in one. Dan also won a NTPin on the 9<sup>th</sup>, this one only 49 cms away. 32 pts was needed to win a ball on a day where the DSR was a 69. On Sunday Branxton had some mixed results in the Pennants with A Grade continuing their winning ways defeating Cessnock 3 -2 at Maitland, B Grade defeated Hunter Valley 2-1 at Kurri, with C Grade losing 2.5 to 0.5 to Cessnock at Singleton and the Seniors losing a close battle against Aberdeen 2-1 at Denman.

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## REFLECTIONS

### Jesus teaches, heals, blesses and warns

Luke 6.17-26 is the beginning of what is sometimes referred to as the *Sermon on the Plain* because Jesus "came down with them and stood on a level place." (Luke 6.17) Gathered there were the apostles and many disciples; large crowds from the region of Judea, Jerusalem, Tyre and Sidon; and a group of people who were afflicted by unclean spirits. Jesus healed those who were sick among the crowd, he cured those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and he taught the disciples. All those who gathered received the ministry of Jesus, whether through word or deed.

We continue to receive the ministry of Jesus some two thousand years later, as we read the Bible and as we live our lives with our family, friends, neighbours and strangers. Every person is made in the image of God. Ours are the eyes and ears, hands and feet, mind and heart of Jesus in the world today. We too can pass on the things we have learned from Jesus to those with whom we live, work, play and pray. So, what is it that we pass on? Do we pass on the blessings that we receive? ... or do we pass on the woes? Jesus warns us that the way we make sense of the world and salvation needs to be turned upside down. Salvation is characterised by the reversal of what we understand to be the fortunes of this life. Those who have little now will be blessed with much. And those who have much will find they have little. There are few people who can find blessings in hardship. This is at odds with the expectations of the world and with the worldly definition of success. However, if we reflect on the teachings of Jesus in this passage, we will find that Jesus points us to a new perspective and a new way of thinking about the world in which we live. We are in the world, but not of the world ... we are children of God, blessed and healed through our faith in Jesus.

Every blessing, Reverend Nicole



# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The NEWS SPORT

## GBOTA GRETA BRANCH 2018 AWARDS

**Greyhound Racing... Local Report**  
With Sam

James Porter dominated the presentation day again this year taking 8 of the 13 awards that were up for grabs. The main award "GREYHOUND OF THE YEAR" was won by DOUBLE STITCHED. The black dog by DYNA DOUBLE ONE out of ZIPPING ANNA is trained by James and owned by the K9 Racers syndicate. DOUBLE STITCHED has had 72 starts for 18 wins and 23 placings racking up \$46,300 for his connections. James also won the "MALE TRAINER OF THE YEAR" with 84 winners and 177 placings. His other six awards were "METRO DOG OF THE YEAR" NINGHAN EXPRESS, "TAB DOG OF THE YEAR" DOUBLE

STITCHED, "1st QUARTER" BOWLS AND HOLES, "2nd QUARTER" DOUBLE STITCHED, "3rd QUARTER" NINGHAN EXPRESS and "4th QUARTER" DOUBLE MACK. "BROODBITCH OF THE YEAR" was won by KEIRA'S CHARM for her owner, trainer and breeder Bradley Sabotic. Her offspring excelled in 2018 with 52 winners and 44 placings for over quarter of a million dollars in prizemoney. She has kicked off 2019 with 5 winners, 2 placings and two dogs qualifying for big race finals. Bradley also took out the "MADYL LODGE STRIKE RATE TRAINER OF THE YEAR". The hotly contested "FEMALE TRAINER OF THE YEAR" was won by Branxton trainer Lindsay Davis with 22 winners and 41 placings. Scott Kedwell had the honour of "OWNER OF

THE YEAR" whilst his trainer GARRY

KEDWELL took out the "NON TAB COUNTRY

DOG OF THE YEAR" with TINY TARO. With a lot more members joining the branch 2019 should be very competitive.

Wishing all OWNERS, TRAINERS and BREEDERS a successful 2019. Sam

■ Photo below (L-R): Gary Minter, Bradley Sabotic, Lindsay Davis, Garry Kedwell, Scott Kedwell & James Porter.



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