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WEDNESDAY
27 February 2019

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STEVE'S RANT

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Members say...



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Well Done Not So Well Done



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School NEWS



Branxton, Greta & North Rothbury Police Community Safety Precinct meeting; a good attendance & a thorough presentation by the Hunter Valley Police District

A GOOD representation from the local community attended a Police forum at Greta Workers Club last week. The forum was organised by the Hunter Valley Police District & had 4 senior police in attendance to present a thorough picture of current policing in the local area. The evening ran well overtime & engendered a number of concerns held by the local residents. These concerns were well answered and, in some cases,

no resolution was apparent. "The meeting provided a great opportunity for open discussion between police, local residents and business owners. "The main issues identified by those in attendance related to contacting their local police and having phones diverted to Muswellbrook after hours, driving behaviour around Greta, Branxton, Leonfield, Huntlee & some victims had not received an update regarding the outcome of spe-

cific police investigations. "There was also some positive feedback regarding overall police response with limited resources, increase in general patrols of the area have been noticed and have a better of understanding of how to report incidents using Police Assistance Line," said Detective Superintendent & District Commander Chad Gillies. "Following on from this meeting, a further 'forum' will be planned for May (date to be



AUCTION EAST BRANXTON



Saturday 9th March, 2019
10am on site
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OPEN HOUSE SAT 2 MAR
10am ~ 10:30am

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 undercover entertainment area, large double lock-up garage, in quite area. New carpet & blinds.

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determined) where an update will be provided regarding actions taken to address some of the issues raised." The police presentation was given by Inspector Joanne Schultz, Officer in Charge, Singleton Police. A precise of her address follows. Overview of Police Briefing CSPC objectives
o Working together to reduce the incidence of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
o Provide an update of local police activities
Hunter Valley Police District (HVPD) overview
o HVPD established in

January 2018 after re-engineering of the former Hunter Valley LAC and the Cessnock Sector of the Central Hunter LAC
o HVPD covers approx. 18000 square km with a population of approx. 108 000
o There are 3 policing sectors - Cessnock, Singleton and Muswellbrook/Scone incorporating 14 police stations including 1 and 2 person stations
o HVPD is committed to the prevention, disruption and response of crime. There is a focus on local people policing, where our police are part of the communities they serve.
o The Commander is

Superintendent Chad Gillies. Singleton Sector
o Singleton Police Sector covers approx. 5000 square km and a population of approx. 30000 within Singleton and Cessnock LGAs.
o Head station is located at Singleton with smaller stations located at Branxton, Bulga and Jerrys Plains.
o Current staff allocation for the Sector is 26 General Duties, 5 Detectives and 1 Administrative Officer. Hunter Valley Highway Patrol and a Police Prosecutor is also based in Singleton.
o Branxton Police Station currently has 2 General Duties positions.
o Officer in Charge is Inspector Joanne Schultz.

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0418230305
christinebray@hotmail.com

ACTIVE KIDS

Future directions for HVPD and Branxton Sector
o Build staffing and capability within the Singleton Sector to serve the Branxton Community

CONT. Page 3

Police disappointed with crowd behaviour at Hunter Valley music concert

Police are disappointed following a number of incidents involving intoxicated people at a music concert last Saturday evening.

The event was held at Hope Estate on Broke Road, Pokolbin, from 2pm (Saturday 23 February 2019), and continued until 10pm.

A police operation was conducted involving officers from Hunter Valley Police District, assisted by Northern Region, Dog Unit, and licencing officers.

During the operation, six people were charged with a range of offences including common assault, assault police, resist arrest, and fail to quit.

Of note, about 9pm, a 25-year-old man was asked to leave the event by security due to intoxication.

Police nearby were asked to assist after the man allegedly refused to follow their direction. While officers were escorting the man from the area, he allegedly blew snot at a male senior constable. The Kensington man was

arrested and taken to Cessnock Police Station where he was charged with assault officer in execution of duty and excluded person fail to leave premises when required.

He was granted conditional bail to appear at Cessnock Local Court on Wednesday 20 March 2019.

In addition, there were 44 drug detections for MDMA, cocaine and cannabis. The drugs will undergo forensic examination with charges expected to follow, however, 17 cannabis cau-

tions were issued.

Police and security ejected 79 people from the event and 34 people were taken to a separate area within the event due to intoxication.

Three people were issued Criminal Infringement Notices for trespass. Hunter Valley Police District Commander, Superintendent Chad Gillies, said while most of the crowd behaved responsibly, it was disappointing to have a high number of people ejected or excluded from



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

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 or post.

REGULATION OF TRAFFIC "LOVEDALE LONG LUNCH"

LOVEDALE, WILDERNESS & TALGA ROADS, LOVEDALE
SATURDAY 18 MAY 2019 – 7:00AM TO 6:00PM
SUNDAY 19 MAY 2019 – 7:00AM TO 6:00PM

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.**

the event due to intoxication. "Our officers were kept busy last night with several drug and alcohol-related incidents," Supt Gillies said.

"Police are not there to spoil people's fun, but the behaviour of people affected by alcohol was unacceptable and a music event is not an excuse to break the law. "In one incident, security

officers refused entry to a bus with 20 patrons on arrival due to intoxication levels," Supt Gillies said. "The News" endeavoured to contact Michael Hope of Hope Estate but he is currently overseas.

DO YOU REMEMBER? 20 years ago

The News Issue No. 35 Thurs 28th. Jan. 1999 Page 14

\$10,000 entry fee for new publican!

Dean & Cherrie Lambkin took over the lease of the Commercial hotel on Monday the 18th. January '99. On the 20th. January '99 a regular patron of the hotel tried her luck on a two cent poker machine, whilst having a break from work. To her amazement and Dean & Cherrie's horror, the machine she was playing, at odds of a half a million to one, gave her a jackpot of \$10,000.



Not the best introduction to a new venture but Dean is quite philosophical about the matter and says he is sure that that good win for the lucky player will give his hotel a good luck theme.

"Graham & Vicki, in the time they were here, paid a lucky punter \$1200 as their biggest payout. It appears they got out just in time!", Dean said. Dean went on to say that \$10,000 is the most you can win on a poker machine in NSW unless the machine is a 'linked machine'.

Dean has taken over the hotel after three years Managing the 'Lonestar Steakhouse & Saloon' in Newcastle. "I would like to see the Hotel have a family atmosphere as the 'Lonestar' did. Vicki & Graham have put a lot of hard work into the hotel and I will endeavour to continue their good work. At this stage we have not decided as to what structural changes or improvements we will make but the first thing we will most probably do is give it a good paintout" Dean said. Dean has also retained the same Chef as Vicki & Graham had and as Dean says ... "the food in the Restaurant is still outstanding".

Dean is not an entirely new face to the area as he grew up just down the road in Singleton where his surname is quite common having quite a lot of relatives in the area.

While I was at the hotel introducing myself it was "Toss the Boss' hour. What happens is that any patron who buys any beverage can elect to toss a coin against the publican to determine who pays. Of the six customers, in the space of ten minutes who elected to try their luck against Dean, five were lucky. Your luck will surely change!

Dean and Cherrie have been married for three years and have, as yet, no children. Cherrie is currently employed by Thrifty Rent A Car at Charlestown and will assist in the hotel when required.

Dean had his first Liquor at the age of twenty six which is a far cry from his initial career as an electrician. Dean did his apprenticeship at BHP but enjoys the challenge that the liquor industry gives him. "It can be very long hours but very rewarding", Dean said.

We wish Dean and Cherrie all the best in their new venture and hope, for their sake, \$10,000 poker machine jackpots are a rarity.

■ Above: Dean Lambkin, publican at the Commercial Hotel Branxton, showing his good nature towards the offending poker machine!



DATES TO REMEMBER
Thurs 14 March Branxton VIEW Club meeting at Greta Workers Club. 10.30am All welcome. Enquiries Bethany 0419 429 364
Wed 2nd April Branxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade. Latest Autumn/Winter affordable clothes. \$15 includes lunch Contact Bethany 0419 429 364

A bright future for Branxton

Residents are invited to have their say on the future of Branxton. The Branxton Town Centre Draft Public Domain Plan and Draft Development Control Plan are now on public exhibition. In August 2017 a community workshop was held and the community provided initial input into the development of the Public Domain Plan and the Development Control Plan which proposes significant improvements to the Branxton Town Centre including new pavements, street tree planting, a new public square and upgrades to the Branxton Oval car park. The community were consulted again in October 2018, to provide feedback on the draft plans ahead of them going to Council. There was great interest from the community with around 40 residents attending the session.

Council staff considered the feedback and made changes to both plans to better reflect the community's vision. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it was wonderful to see so many residents keen to be involved in the future of their wonderful town. "The response from the community was fantastic. The input of the residents has been extremely valuable and it's great to be able to put these plans on exhibition." Council has already secured over \$400,000 of state government funding to start work in Branxton including pavement improvements and a new public square. These works will start following consideration of community suggestions and the Council's adoption of the Plans



later this year. Council will be holding a public information session at the Branxton Golf Course on Thursday, 28 February from 3pm to 7.30pm. Residents are encouraged to attend. The exhibition is running until Wednesday, 20 March 2019 and is available for view at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building;
- Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries;
- Branxton Post Office;
- Branxton IGA;
- Richardson and Wrench Real Estate; and
- www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

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

FROM FRONT PAGE

Branxton, Greta & North Rothbury Police Community Safety Precinct meeting

o Run local operations focussing on local issues such as domestic violence, antisocial behaviour, road safety, alcohol and drug related crime

- o Focus on actions to clear up offences and put pressure on criminals
- o Promote reporting of crime and other issues to local police
- o Continue to assist the community in areas such as mental health, vulnerable communities, high risk victims of crime.

Branxton Sector includes Branxton, Greta, Belford, Dalwood, East Branxton, Elderslie, Harpers Hill, Lambs Valley, Leconfield, Lower Belford, Luskintyre, North Rothbury, Oswald & Stanhope

Overview of incidents reported within the Branxton Sector January – December 2018

Calls for Service for the Branxton Sector **127 urgent** (recorded on NSWPF incident dispatch system) **1462 non-urgent**

- Break and enter dwellings (houses, units etc) **27**
- Break and enter non-dwellings (business, sheds, schools etc) **9**
- Steal from dwellings (yards, open sheds, building sites etc) **25**
- Malicious damage (graffiti, private & public property damage) **41**
- Fraud (scams, illegal use of cards, bank skimming etc) **32**
- Stolen motor vehicles **17**
- Stealing from motor vehicles (locked & unlocked vehicles) **29**
- Serious injury or fatal crashes **9**
- Driving with prescribed concentration alcohol (PCA) **16**
- Driving disqualified, suspended, unlicensed **9**
- Assault **11**
- Assault (domestic violence related) **38**
- Breach of apprehended violence order (AVO) **16**
- Person in possession of illegal drug **35**
- Person supplying illegal drugs **5**
- Incidents involving intoxicated or alcohol is a factor **121**

Incidents where police have reason to conduct a search of a person or their vehicle, or issue a move on direction **144**

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CCESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

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

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.

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.

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au 62-75 Vincent St, Cessnock 02 4993 4100

Inspector Joanne Schultz did ask the community to report all incidents as it will then be included in their statistics & used for future planning of police operations. "No-urgent matters can be reported to the Police Assistance Line (P:131 444) which has much better resources; the phone will always be answered," she said. It was also noted that our local area has no chronic criminal problems & that our area is a much safer community than the majority of commands in the state. It was also noted that the allocation of funding is a political decision & that the NSW Police Force have to work within those confines. The question of Branxton Police Station being manned on a daily basis was not on the agenda at this stage but with the growth of Huntlee this could be a viable option in the medium to long-term.

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STEVE'S RANT

We have a couple of matters to clean up before I launch into my rant for this week. First the letter on the apparent temperature rises of recent years. Last weekend the Weekend Australian had a front-page story on the subject of homogenising temperature records. Homogenising is a euphemism used to confuse people just the same as describing civilian casualties in War as collateral damage. What it really means is the Department of Meteorology fiddle with the temperature records to show a rising trend in the average temperature. Their excuse being that they have to account for new and more accurate methods of measurement and also take account of local factors which might give a particular station abnormal readings. That is totally arbitrary and up to the 'met' officers working on these records; makes the results very subjective and very much open to challenge. Ask yourself what the real history of temperatures is over the long term. What do the tree rings of very old logs recovered from swamps and bogs (which can be carbon dated) tell us about season and temperatures in the past. Bore samples of coral reefs show bleaching occurring historically and ice core samples give evidence of aerial pollution and carbon dioxide levels for hundreds of thousands of years.

As far as I know little has been done to collate historical weather and temperature records which exist by inference in the written history of the last 4 thousand years, and the natural evidence provided by the study bore samples and sedimentary samples over the much great geological time frame, millions of years. Mention is made that current levels of CO2 in the atmosphere are at record high levels but against what historical records is this claim made. I await some form of report which puts these things in perspective but I do not hold my breath. The second matter I am at odds with is the "The Editors Choice" article in the last paper. In the first paragraph an assumption is made that energy is either clean or dirty meaning energy from coal fired power stations is bad and the ridiculous analogy between dinosaurs and politicians. Ooops, that's probably on the money. Nicky Ison has stated 'mankind' is causing climate change by burning fossil fuels. We have been burning fossil fuels for 200 years only. Mankind has been changing the climate for over 100,000 years by his use of fire to clear land and eating the fauna. See Tim Flannery's "The Future Eaters" The loss of forest has accelerated with improvements in our ability to chop down trees

and our ever-increasing population. Hence the desertification of North Africa, Australia and other parts of the world. Think camels and deserts. The link between CO2 levels and temperature or climate change is tenuous at best despite the fervour of the great number of advocates who do not know how climate or the weather works or what infinite number of things affect it. Her reference to different types of clean energy and the means of storing it are glossed over as if these things were already established as workable. Batteries don't work on the scale required, pumped hydro is limited by the number of suitable sites and of course she ignores the fact that solar only works during the day and wind power between 5 and 30 knots. The mention of poles and wires and the so-called renewable energy is the elephant in the room. The capital cost would be more than the cost of building nuclear plants which plug into existing infrastructure. The article assumes that renewable power is 'doable' and everybody agrees and the sooner the better. Life is not that cosy.

Next month we have the NSW state election. For the people of Cessnock there is not much choice but we can be certain the Hon Clayton Barr will be re-elected and he will do the right thing by us. Not like that dopey twit in the current government who wants 50% renewables by next week and denies that the State Government have a responsibility to guarantee power supply. At least Clayton can ensure that when Liddell is shut down and we must load shed to save the system it will be Sydney that sheds power and not the



regions. We all need to say to Clayton that it is NOT ON for regional NSW to be pushed around by the, 'we know what's good for you' push in Sydney. Cheers Steve.



with Mike Lowing

Over the last weekend I had an the unfortunate experience of having my Instagram account hijacked by hackers. Even though the account was rarely used it was a convenient platform for

family photos & keeping up with my nieces & nephews. It appears that I am not Robinson Crusoe. Looking at media reports it appears that the Russian hackers have been doing it in, en masse, since last September & the experts don't know what they will eventually do with the 1000's of hijacked, now dormant, accounts. I my case they posted some very inappropriate videos which was a little embarrassing. I think part of it is a scam as when I googled the problem I found a free call phone number which I called. A not so well spoken person, from who knows where, took the call & then informed me that they could fix the problem for \$149.95. He explained that they are contractors for Instagram &

just pay the money & all will be fixed. After explaining that I would not avail myself of their service I rang the UK number which was answered by the same, not so well spoken, person. It appears that Instagram first acknowledged the issue in last September, issuing guidance to people who had difficulty accessing their accounts. Advice included strengthening passwords to improve security and revoking access to any "suspicious third-party apps". No specific definition was given for what these apps might look like. The Independent reported that since then, Instagram users have continued to report mysterious account

takeovers. However, the advice does not appear to have stemmed the flow of attacks. It went on to say that security experts have speculated that the hacked accounts could be being gathered to eventually spread spam and other online ads to the followers of the accounts. The lack of apparent action from Instagram means frustrated users may give up trying to take back control of their account and either quit Instagram or open a brand new account. Even if some victims regain control of their accounts, many of those affected have likely quit the platform or won't go through the trouble, adding soldiers to the spambot army. Cheers, Mike



Cows dropping dead in Singleton? ... Special trains to take people from the heat? ... A man with an axe driven mad by extreme temperatures? In reply to Allan Thomas

(letters to the Editor News Wed 12th Feb.) Allan see the link that follows and read down to the newspaper excerpts of the day. Also notice credits given to BOM staff at the

But how many did you 'collar'?
In retrospect, last evening's brief* told us the number of reported crimes/incidents in our areas, but did not tell us how many of the crimes were actually prosecuted. Either successfully or not. It's comforting to know we live in a relatively low reported crime area, but it would also be nice to know the police are having success tackling the crimes they are asking us to report. Further, the prosecution figures would better indicate whether the numbers and deployment of the police over such a large geographic area is adequate, because to me, after attending last evening's brief and listening to the attendees stories, the police numbers for the region do not appear to be adequate. I accept the police must work with the assets provided by their political masters, but if the information I suggest is made publicly available, concerned tax payers have the evidence on which to approach their local member, whom I believe should have been at last evening's brief.* Public meeting Hunter Valley Police District Safety Precinct meeting Name and address withheld at writers request

finish. <http://joanne-nova.com.au/2019/1/forgotten-history-50-degrees-everywhere-right-across-australia-in-the-1800s/> My nana was born in 1860; it's not so long ago. According to my granddaughter (An Environmental Scientist) 'Weather' and 'Climate' are not the same thing. Wikipedia states "there is often

confusion between 'Weather' and 'Climate'. Weather is the condition of the atmosphere at a particular place over a short period of time whereas Climate refers to the weather pattern, using statistical data of a place over a long enough period to yield meaningful averages. Geologists know about climate from time immemorial and meteorologists know about weather." New research suggests that your favourite dinosaurs may have stunk up the Jurassic in a big way (Credit: Karl Tate, LiveScience Contributor). We might want to rename



the Brachiosaurus with the moniker Gassiosaurus, new research indicates. The gassy emissions from these giant dinosaurs may have been enough to warm the earth, the researchers say. Sauropods are large plant-eating dinosaurs typified by such titans as Apatosaurus (once known as Brontosaurus) and Brachiosaurus. When they lived, during the Mesozoic era — from about 250 million years ago until

the dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago — the climate was warm and wet. Nothing on earth today compares with these giants. The researchers found that the greenhouse gas methane produced by all sauropods across the globe would have been about 520 million tons per year, a number on par with the total amount of methane currently produced by both natural and man-made sources

(Thanks for that Karl). Here is something else to agonise about: Cement is the source of about 8% of the world's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, according to think tank Chatham House. If the cement industry were a country, it would be the third largest emitter in the world - behind China and the US. It contributes more CO2 than aviation fuel (2.5%) and is not far behind the global agriculture business (12%). The Royal Institute of International Affairs, commonly known as Chatham House, is a not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation based in London whose mission is to analyse and promote the understanding of major international issues and current affairs. Whether you have been brainwashed by the highly-strung paparazzi whose selective science drives the 'Greens' and their fellow 'Lefties' into a tizz of Climate Crusading Campaigns or whether you are a climate change denier makes no matter. To assume we can influence the climate of this planet or any other, is supreme arrogance, the ultimate conceit.

Mrs STEVE RANTS, North Rothbury NSW 2335

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 Branxton.... 4938 1244 Lochinvar... 4930 7209 Ambulance 131 233 NSW Fire Brigade Branxton.... 4938 3396 Rural Fire Brigades Belford..... 6574 7149 Broke..... 6579 1491 Greta..... 4015 0000 Bishops Bdg 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4015 0000 Pokolbin.... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4991 1733 Bishops Bdg 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4015 0000 Pokolbin.... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4991 1733 Scotts..... 6575 1200 Central (Cessnock)... 4015 0000	Electricity Energy Australia..... 131 388 Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000 Cessnock... 4991 0555 Singleton... 6572 2799 SES132 500 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 Poisons Info 131 126 Hunter Water 1300 657 000 Ausgrid 131 388 Gas Emergencies . 131 909 Lifeline131 114 Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 Centrelink Self Service 136 240 Medicare 132 011 Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
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Submit a letter to the editor

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

or

emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au

Newcastle Writers' Festival is coming to Cessnock!

Cessnock City Council is thrilled to welcome the 2019 Newcastle Writers Festival back to Cessnock for the second time. Once again the Festival is teaming up with Cessnock City Library and Cessnock Performing Arts Centre (CPAC) to host a prestigious author event and popular children's author program in local schools.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said last year's event was excellent and it's wonderful to see it coming back to Cessnock. "The festival has been running since 2013 and continues to grow. Last year the program boasted 140 writers, over 80 events and was enjoyed by around over 11 000 visitors, including 3 000 school children. We are excited to be a part of this fantastic celebration of writers and welcome visitors to our local government area."

On Thursday 4 April local school students will be lucky enough to meet and hear from acclaimed Australian children's authors Matt Stanton, Katrina Nannestad and Oliver Phommavanh. The authors will visit nine locations, attended by a total of 18 schools as part of the Festival's Schools Program. The visiting writers will perform their work, talk about their craft and take questions offering students a unique and creative learning experience.

On Saturday 6 April at 7.30pm, *Secrets and Lies: An Evening with Michael Robotham* will be held at CPAC. In 2018, Michael was headed to Cessnock as part of the Festival but instead found himself having life-saving heart surgery. We are proud to announce this much-anticipated talk has been rescheduled for this year's festival.

There is no doubt it will be a memorable evening with the novelist in his early years working as an investigative journalist across America, Australia and Britain. He investigated notorious cases such as the serial killer couple, Fred and Rosemary West and worked with clinical and forensic psychologists assisting police investigate psychological driven crimes. In 1993, Michael quit journalism to become a ghostwriter for non-fiction titles involving prominent figures in the military, arts, sport, and science. Michael's 2004 debut thriller, *The Suspect*, sold more than one million copies around the world. In 2015, he won the UK's prestigious Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger Award with his standalone thriller *Life or Death* and in 2018 won the Australian Book Industry Award for General Fiction Book of the Year with *The Secret She Keeps*. He has now written 13 novels that have sold millions of copies worldwide. Tickets to *Secrets and Lies: An Evening with Michael Robotham* are \$25 and available by contacting CPAC on 4993 4266. This event will be hosted by award-winning author Barry Maitland. Michael Robotham will also be signing books after the event.



■ Author Michael Robotham who will be at the at CPAC on 6 April. Tickets are now available.

Cessnock Council remains steadfast on access road to the Cessnock Correctional Centre

Cessnock City Council remain firm in their view that the access to the Cessnock Correctional Centre be taken off the local road network.

At the most recent Council meeting the position of Council was again made clear, the Lindsay Street and Mavis Street access is not viable and should be closed.

Councillors backed the decision from the most recent Cessnock Correctional Centre Community Consultative Committee meeting. Community members agreed the current access road is not acceptable and the preferred location for access is via a direct route from the Centre, through land owned by Correctional Services and NSW Health Department to Wine Country Drive.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said Council will continue to advocate for a common sense approach. "Our residents should not be footing the bill for the ongoing road maintenance costs of a NSW Government facility. For such a large development the community deserves better."

"This debate has been going on for far too long and our residents deserve to be listened to. We'll be writing to a number of NSW Government representatives including Premier Hon Gladys Berjiklian MP. We're asking both the NSW Government and opposition to join us in supporting the rate payers of the Cessnock Local Government Area to secure a long term solution." Cr Pynsent said.



REFLECTIONS

Jesus appears in glory

"Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray." (Luke 9.28) Right from the beginning of this passage we are alerted that something significant is about to happen. The mountaintop symbolizes the thin place between earth and heaven, between the material world and the spiritual world.

While Jesus was praying "the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white." (Luke 9.29) As if this wasn't enough for the three disciples to comprehend, suddenly Moses and Elijah appear in glory and were talking to Jesus. Their sudden presence and conversation with Jesus emphasise His role and identity as the Son of God and enables us to witness with the disciples this interaction of the heavenly world with the earthly world. Imagine what Peter, John and James might have been thinking!

There is a temptation to stay on the mountaintop where God's presence is so close, where we feel His embracing love, where we hear His affirmation. But these experiences and moments with God equip us to go down the mountain, into the world that God loves, to walk among the suffering, hungry crowds. We are to be Christ's body in the world today, who has none other than ours.

But before we come down from the mountaintop, with Peter, John and James, we are told by God to listen to what Jesus says. God tells us that Jesus speaks the truth and that He speaks with authority. Listening is so much more than hearing. It is about putting what we have heard into action. It is about being the instrument of peace and love.

Let us be on the lookout for the times that God speaks to us through Jesus. It may be a mountaintop experience, but more likely, it will be in our everyday life and interactions with others. God sometimes speaks in the cloud and sometimes in the sheer silence.

Every blessing
Reverend Nicole

Guy Armstrong Taylor

13/4/1932 ~ 9/1/2019



Beverley, John, Paul, Ann and extended family wish to express their heartfelt appreciation & thanks to all who sent their love, support, flowers, cards, phone calls & wonderful cooking at the sad time of our lives.

We would also like to thank all of those wonderful people who made a donation to the Westpac Helicopter; \$600 was raised. Thank you all

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The News Issue No. 35, Thurs 28th, January 1999 Page 32

Alan Hodges lands his biggest

Alan Hodges of Thomas Street, North Rothbury has been fishing for most of his life and has had some large & memorable catches in that time but it has taken until now to catch his biggest ever - and what a fish!!!



The catch, pictured opposite, is a 72lb. Jew fish he caught at Seven Mile Beach between Christmas & New Year.

Alan caught the monster on 35lb. Line using an ABU 7000 Rod & Reel. It took Alan 40 minutes to land & twice the fish ran the line out its full 300 metres.

Alan describes himself as an 'independent' recreational fisherman who has enjoyed the sport all his life.

Well done Alan. *

Left: Alan Hodges displaying his Jew fish catch - 32kg or 72 lbs

Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

community. The outdoor fitness stations form part of the Bridges Hill Park Playground and Access Improvement project. This new adventure playground will provide a creative and imaginative play space for people of all ages and abilities, ultimately encouraging all to engage with the natural environment. To keep up to date on this project visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/bridgeshillproject.

There is still time to apply for a Mayoral Scholarship and residents looking to further their education this year are encouraged to apply. The Scholarships support those in the community who are working hard to build a career and are enrolled to study. Residents studying at university or TAFE may be eligible for one of the nine scholarships on offer. The scholarships are \$2,500 and can be used at the recipient's discretion to support their studies. Textbooks, travel or tools can be very costly, this can take some of the pressure off and allow a student to focus on their study. Applications close Friday 1 March 2019. For more information and to apply online visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

With less than a month until the State election and with plenty of focus already on issues important to our community, I'm ready to roll out the welcome mat to a lot of visitors from both sides of politics over the next couple of weeks.

It's well documented that Council has been in regular contact with Macquarie Street about a long list of issues including but not limited to public transport, roads, policing and post-mining land use, and conversations have been ongoing. But as we all know, actions speak louder than words - and it is action we'll be looking for out of the State election campaign. With that in mind, I'm extending a public invitation to the Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her ministers, as well as Opposition Leader Michael Daley MP and his team to include Singleton on their campaign trail. Last week saw the Deputy Premier John Barilaro visit the region, where he

announced a commitment to fully fund the New England Highway Bypass at Muswellbrook. Its fantastic news, but we need to see the same pledge here for the Singleton Bypass. Our community has been calling on the state government for over a decade to build it, and there is a clear and pressing need for the government to cut the red tape and get on with delivering this - not only for the people of Singleton, but those of the broader Hunter Valley that commute through our town and on our roads each day.

It's just one issue on our list of 20 priority issues on our Advocacy Agenda we want to talk about, not to mention upgrades to our police station, health, education and of course, more public transport services (particularly rail), and a strategic approach to post-mining land use. We might be a small local government area, but our impact touches even the remotest corners of NSW. And both sides of politics should bear in mind that economic data shows the prosperity of Singleton, and the mining industry, has a direct impact on the prosperity of the Hunter region as a whole - including NSW's second largest city in Newcastle.

That's why I would expect plenty of trips to Singleton coming out of Macquarie Street in the lead up to March 23. Because if we, as a region, benefit from the mining industry, then Singleton should be integral to any decisions being made for the Hunter. And the Government's response to our community should reflect the same contribution we make to NSW.

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

There has been a lot of talk about Labor's plan to end the practice of giving a tax-rebate to people who don't pay tax. Here is my best attempt to explain the proposed change.

First of all a reminder, anyone who receives a pension or part-pension will not be affected. Jack works as a lawyer. He owns BHP shares and receives an annual dividend of \$7,000 from BHP. Jack's marginal tax rate is 37 per cent and once upon a time he would have paid \$2,590 in tax on his \$7,000. But Paul Keating decided to change that. He did so because BHP had already paid tax on the earnings (\$3,000) it used to

generate Jack's dividend. So thanks to Keating, when Jack does his tax return now he still pays tax on the \$7,000 dividend but only pays the difference between his 37 per cent tax rate and the corporate rate of 30 percent (he'll pay much less than \$1,000 instead of \$2,590). That means the Government doesn't collect the tax twice. Fair. Bill is a retired engineer. He and his wife Pam have non-home assets (including the total value of his industry superannuation) valued at \$900,000. That's enough to deny them a part pension from the Government. Bill and Pam pay no tax on their regular super payments because Bill is more than 60 years old.

Bill and Pam's assets include BHP shares. They receive an annual dividend from BHP of \$7,000 just like Jack. Bill pays no tax on the dividend because he is not in the tax system. Unlike Jack, under Paul Keating's laws Bill would not have received a tax rebate to reduce his BHP earnings tax liability by the amount BHP paid in tax because he pays no tax. In this example, the tax is only paid once. Fair. But many years ago John Howard decided that Bill should receive a tax rebate even though he doesn't pay tax. So Bill receives his \$7,000 dividend from BHP tax-free plus a \$3,000 (the amount of tax BHP paid) cheque from the taxpayer for no reason. It's a very strange arrangement not found anywhere else in the world. But 61 year old Peter and his wife Joan have \$3 million worth of BHP shares in a self-managed super fund. Each year the fund receives dividends from BHP of around \$128,000. Under Australian law at 61, neither Peter nor his super fund pays tax. Under Paul Keating's laws he received no rebate from the tax BHP paid to off-set his tax obligation because he pays no tax. But under John Howard's changes, he receives a cheque from the taxpayer totalling \$54,600 each year (the amount BHP paid in tax). Why? There is no rational reason other than votes.

When John Howard introduced this change it was costing the Commonwealth Budget around \$500 million each year. It's now costing \$5 billion each year and most of the benefit is going to relatively wealthy people who don't pay tax. Think about that for a moment: if all of BHP's shares were held by people like Peter and Bill, the Government would receive no tax revenue from BHP

because it would all go back to Bill, Peter and those like them. Not fair on the taxpayer.

Cheers, Joel



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward

A Quiet Achiever

In this weeks column I wanted to bring to your attention and pay tribute to a man who many of you won't be aware of but many more should.

Scot MacDonald MLC was elected to the Legislative Council (the NSW Upper House) in March 2011, March 2019 will see him finish his term after he was unsuccessful in being pre-selected by party members to re-contest his Upper House seat.

After serving on many varied parliamentary committees Scot was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Hunter and Central Coast in April 2015. Since that time Scot has shown an incredible enthusiasm and commitment to the Hunter.

Based in Guyra up in the New England, his sacrifice (and that of his family's) should not go unnoticed. Scot often flies under the raider. He is a rather unassuming man who listens intently. He is not one to seek praise or recognition, so much so that he turned down the prefix he was entitled to - "The Honourable" when first elected, Mr MacDonald or Scot does him just fine. A measure of the man is the regard for which he is held across the political spectrum and in the wider community. Scot is a Liberal but has a well known reputation for working with all. He just wants what is best for the Hunter, Central Coast and the future of NSW. On more than one occasion even Labor mayors have quietly praised Scot for his dedication and work ethic.

It is not uncommon for Scot to be in Newcastle or Maitland in the morning, parliament in the afternoon and back up to the Hunter or Central Coast the very next morning. I honestly don't know how he does it. He is always on the move and I suspect that he often has to sacrifice time with his family and children because of his parliamentary responsibilities.

As a first term councillor Scot is always a phone call away. His advice and council were always appreciated. His advocacy for the Hunter and Maitland in particular should not go unrecognised. I have no doubt that the new Maitland hospital which is now under construction would not be what it is going to be without Scot's efforts. When that (now nearly half a billion dollar) hospital needed more funding Scot banged on doors and pestered

ministers and bureaucrats, cabinet and the Premier until he secured that extra funding needed. A future patient of the new Maitland hospital may not know who Scot MacDonald was but they will benefit from his legacy. A legacy for which we should all be great full. Regardless of the state election result, Scot MacDonald MLC will finish in his role in March. We don't yet know who the next Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter and Central Coast will be, that will be up to the next Premier. I do know that Scot leaves a legacy in this region which he should be very proud of. I will not forget his many contributions and sheer work ethic, he leaves huge shoes to fill. I wish Scot, his wife Aileen, his children and grandchildren all the best for what the future brings. Scot has more than earned some time together with his family to enjoy life and perhaps take a well earned break. I and many others in this region wish them well and sincerely thank him for his contribution.

Until next time, Ben



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR MY POSITION ON COAL

Last week there was some media attention suggesting that Hunter Members of Parliament, State and Federal, did not support the coal industry. It was an absurd news story that was factually incorrect.

I have, on many occasions, publicly declared my position of support for our coal industry. I have regularly heard our Federal MP, Joel Fitzgibbon, doing the same. Apart from anything else, the coal industry makes up 20% of our Hunter economy. That means that 1 in 5 families rely on coal as their income stream. You would have to be an insane person to want to shut down coal in the Hunter today or tomorrow or even in the next decade or two or three. Our entire Hunter economy would crash.

We use coal for two things - making steel (coking coal) and producing heat to make electricity (thermal coal). To the best of my knowledge I have not heard anyone suggesting we ban steel, so we can't ban coking coal. But that's not a Hunter problem.

Thermal coal is what we produce here in the Hunter. It is some of the best in the world which means that you need to burn less coal to produce the electricity. More than 80% of the coal produced here in the Hunter is shipped off to foreign lands for their use. Many of those countries are still

building new coal fired power stations, meaning they will want our coal for at least 30-40 years into the future. The use of coal will come to an end at some point in time and we should walk in that direction with our eyes wide open and a plan in action. That might be 30-40 years away, or it might be a bit longer. Many of the decisions about the longer term use of coal will be made by various countries, of their own free will. We here in the Hunter, or NSW, or Australia will not be able to make those decisions for foreign countries. We can only make a decision about whether to sell them our coal, or not. Given that our Hunter coal creates less pollution, because you don't need to burn as much of it, compared to other lower quality black and brown coals, it is likely that even climate aware Governments will still allow Hunter coal to be sold.

THERE'S A FAIR BIT OF SNAKE OIL ON OFFER IN THE ELECTRICITY DEBATE. Beware the person wanting to commit us to a new coal fired power station here in NSW/Australia. We are an advanced country with a wonderful electricity network. We also have wonderful naturally occurring energy resources in the form of sunshine and wind. And we have a very advanced technical scientific community that can steer us toward renewable energy.

If you were to build a new coal fired power station today, you would be locking in electricity prices at \$100+ per megawatt of power. By contrast, if you were to build a new solar or wind farm today, you would be locking in electricity prices at \$60 or less, per megawatt hour. And these renewable prices are getting cheaper every day.

People will have their own views on many elements of electricity generation and climate, but can we all just agree that \$60/h is a much better deal than \$100/h? * * * * *

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au OR call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

Cheers, Clayton

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News

P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Seafood poisoning

A variety of seafood can cause poisoning through ingestion of toxins. Symptoms and treatment vary depending on the type of toxin

What is seafood poisoning?

There are three main types of seafood poisoning:

- Ciguatera poisoning
- scombroid, also known as histamine poisoning
- Shellfish poisoning

Ciguatera poisoning is a form of food poisoning. It is caused by eating warm water ocean finfish that carry ciguatera poison (a toxin). This poison is produced by a very tiny organism called a dinoflagellate, which attaches itself to algae growing in warm ocean water reef areas. Small plant-eating fish eat these toxic algae and in turn are eaten by larger predatory fish which are eaten by humans. Fish that feed in warm ocean waters are potential carriers of ciguatera toxin. **Scombroid fish poisoning** results from eating fish with high levels of histamine. Histamine is produced by bacteria in fish. When fish are not quickly chilled after capture, or have not been stored at correct temperature prior to consumption, the bacteria can multiply and produce high amounts of histamine. It can occur in many species of fish, including skipjack, mackerel, tuna, sardines, anchovy, marlin, and bonito.

Shellfish can carry a variety of naturally occurring seafood toxins that cause poisoning in humans including: paralytic shellfish poisoning, amnesic shellfish poisoning, neurotoxic shellfish poisoning and diarrhoetic shellfish poisoning.

What are the symptoms? The symptoms of **ciguatera poisoning** start between 1 and 24 hours after eating a toxic fish and include:

- tingling and numbness in fingers, toes, around lips, tongue, mouth and throat
- burning sensation or pain on contact with cold water
- joint and muscle pains with muscular weakness
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and/or abdominal cramps
- headache, fatigue and fainting

- extreme itchiness, often worsened by drinking alcohol
- difficulty breathing in severe cases.

Scombroid fish poisoning

occurs very quickly after eating the fish, usually within 30 minutes, but may be up to several hours later. Common symptoms include:

- a peppery or metallic taste
- flushing of the upper body,
- itching
- headache and dizziness
- vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal cramps

In severe cases difficulty with breathing and low blood pressure may occur.

kingfish. Avoid eating the head, roe, liver or other viscera of warm water ocean fish. Ciguatera toxin is concentrated in these parts.

Histamine is not destroyed by cooking. The best way to keep histamine in fish at a minimum is to keep it on ice or under refrigeration (less than 5°C); refrigerate immediately after purchase; and if purchased frozen, thaw under refrigeration. Freshly caught fish should be chilled immediately. The NSW Food Authority manages the NSW Shellfish Program that regulates safe shellfish production.

How is it diagnosed?

There is no specific test for seafood poisoning. The diagnosis is usually made based on the symptoms and a history of recent seafood consumption.

How is it treated?

Treatment is directed towards managing the symptoms at presentation.

CIGUATERA IS THE MOST COMMON, NATURALLY OCCURRING FISH-RELATED SEAFOOD POISONING.



Paralytic shellfish poisoning

– a very serious, potentially fatal disease affecting the nervous system. Symptoms can occur within half an hour to two hours after consuming the affected shellfish and include numbness and tingling of the lips and extremities and gastrointestinal symptoms.

Amnesic shellfish poisoning – another serious illness that can potentially cause death or coma. It affects the nervous system and the gut and symptoms usually appear within a day of eating the affected shellfish.

Neurotoxic shellfish poisoning – has symptoms similar to ciguatera poisoning (see above) but less severe, usually only lasting a few days.

Diarrhoetic shellfish poisoning – symptoms including diarrhoea and vomiting, usually appear approximately half an hour after consuming affected fish but lasts only a few days.

Who is at risk?

Anyone who eats contaminated fish or shellfish may be affected.

How is it prevented? Toxins are not removed by cooking or freezing. Avoid eating large warm water ocean fish such as coral trout, Spanish mackerel, reef emperor, wrasse, reef cod, surgeon fish, trevally and

Sights set high for future of Cessnock Airport

Cessnock City Council is encouraging residents to provide feedback on the Draft Cessnock Airport Strategic Plan which is now on public exhibition until the 20 February 2019.

The newly developed five year plan identifies a vision for Cessnock Airport to be a viable, user friendly and vibrant aviation hub in the Hunter region.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent

said this is an important public asset and we must plan for its future to unlock its potential.

“The central location of the airport makes it a fantastic asset and the plan identifies ways for further development as an aerodrome business hub.”

“This plan enables us to be ready to embrace opportunities that arise, particularly when it comes to seeking funding. The



airport can help grow tourism and entertainment and develop the local

freight industry.”

A number of short term and long term actions are specified in the plan. This includes everything from extending the runway, increased power availability, improved water and sewerage, improved development controls and upgrading facilities on the western side of the airport grounds.

The five year business plan included in the document also outlines priorities for the airport to ensure its long term growth and viability. The plan can be accessed online at

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/draftairportstrategicplan

or in hard copy at Council’s Administration Building and at the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries.

Responses should be directed to The General Manager, Cessnock City Council either via email at cessnock@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or mailed to PO Box 152 Cessnock 2325.

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Creamy chicken, bacon and cauliflower bake

- 2 green shallots, trimmed, sliced
- 500g chicken thigh fillets, fat trimmed
- 55g (1/2 cup) 3-cheese mix

METHOD

Step 1

Preheat oven to 200C/180C fan forced. Lightly grease a 2L (8-cup) capacity ovenproof baking dish.

Step 2

Heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan over medium until the butter is foaming. Add the cauliflower and bacon. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 8-10 minutes or until light golden.

Step 3

Add the spinach to the pan. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until

wilted. Remove from heat and add the cream, thyme and half the shallot. Stir to combine. Transfer to the prepared dish.

Step 4

Wipe the pan clean and spray with oil. Add the chicken to the pan and cook for 2 minutes each side or until golden. Place on top of the cauliflower mixture.

Step 5

Sprinkle cheese around the chicken. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden. Stand for 5 minutes before serving topped with the remaining shallot.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 10g butter
- 1 small (900g) cauliflower, trimmed, cut into small florets
- 2 rashers (120g) bacon, chopped
- 1 bunch English spinach, trimmed, chopped
- 125ml (1/2 cup) pouring cream
- 2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves (optional)

Cessnock Council’s pet responsibility campaign takes a new turn

Cessnock City Council have launched a new video on social media aimed at getting residents in the Cessnock Local Government Area 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.

Council’s Ranger Team Leader Kurt Livens said it’s hoped the video will get residents talking and thinking about their own backyards.

“Unfortunately all too often when a dog escapes consequences follow.

CONT Next Page

Funding given for contaminated land officer

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC has announced that Hunter Joint Organisation have been awarded a \$420,000 grant through the State Government's \$4 million Council Regional Capacity Building Program. "This grant will enable Hunter Joint Organisation to employ a skilled contaminated land professional for up to three years," Mr MacDonald said. "Throughout that time, they will develop a contaminated land management policy framework, a register of contaminated sites and provide training on contaminated land management issues to the Hunter Joint Organisation." The Hunter Joint Organisation incorpo-

rates Cessnock City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Maitland City Council, MidCoast Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Newcastle City Council, Port Stephens Council, Singleton Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council. "Their expertise will assist councils when they are dealing with land contaminations issues arising from historical underground fuel tank leaks or land which was formerly used for industrial activities, for example." Chair of the Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) and Mayor of Cessnock Council, Cr Bob Pynsent welcomed today's funding announcement.

"This grant announcement is a continuation of the excellent record of the NSW Government working collaboratively with the Hunter JO to achieve for our region." "Funding will support the employment of a Regional Contaminated Land Specialist who will provide technical specialist support to councils over a three year period. This marks an important step in facilitating the effective handover of the Underground Petroleum Storage Systems from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to councils." To maximise the success of the program in the Hunter, member councils of the Hunter JO will contribute an additional \$120,000.



Chair of the Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) and Mayor of Cessnock Council, at left, Cr Bob Pynsent & Scot MacDonal MLC

"We look forward to significant future collaboration with the EPA and the NSW Government to ensure this regulatory transition is successful." This funding is part of a NSW Government commitment of \$23.5 million over the next

four years to improve the management of contaminated land in New South Wales. Under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act), the EPA regulates contaminated land where the contamination is significant enough to

warrant regulation. Contaminated land that is not regulated by the EPA is managed by local councils through land-use planning processes. The EPA will continue as the appropriate regulatory authority for UPSS

matters up to 31 August 2019, after which councils will take over this role. The EPA will continue to work with councils to ensure integrated management and regulatory oversight of fuel handling and storage systems.

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 0429444305



NOTICE FOR EVERYONE WITH A CONNECTION TO THE GRETA CAMP



To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Army Camp and the 70th 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 (queries: call 0427657150)

FROM Previous page Cessnock Council's pet responsibility campaign takes a new turn

Your mate might get hit by a car or force a driver to swerve off the road and end up injured in an accident. There's been other incidents where dogs have attacked residents or their neighbour's pets."

"This can be avoided if measures are taken to ensure your backyard is secure and that you're ensuring the gate is properly latched. We know there are some breeds who are more likely to escape due to their nature, but the owner has the responsibility to ensure steps are taken to limit the animal's option for escape."

Residents are being urged to ensure they have adequate fencing, gates remain locked or shut and there are no holes or gaps where they can escape. If you fail to comply with this requirement, you may be liable for a maximum penalty of \$880. For more information on looking after your pet visit

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals/lookingafteryourpet



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DETAILS

Page 22 of this edition

The High Court and Technology

Technology is ever evolving and the Australian legal system must continue to adapt. Whilst much thought needs to be given to the areas giving rise to legal regulation in the future, we thought we would reflect on a case from 27 years ago to highlight how technology advances have always posed questions for our Courts.

In 1992 the High Court determined the case of *Autodesk Inc v Dyason*. This case presented the Court with difficult technical questions involving computer piracy. The producers of AutoCAD computer programs for architectural and other design drafting provided a lock with their software. The software – which cost \$5200 – was provided on

easily copiable disks. The lock plugged into a computer port. Without it the software would not run, thus preventing piracy. Only one computer could run the program at a time. The lock set up electronic challenges every few seconds from the computer to the lock. If the response was not correct, the program closed. Dyason made a device which performed the function of the lock and put it on the market for \$500. Autodesk sued for breach of copyright. Dyason asserted that it had not copied AutoCAD nor was its device the same as the AutoCAD lock; it performed the same function in a different way. The trial judge found for AutoCAD, but on appeal all three

Federal Court judges found for Dyason. Justice Dawson, with whom the other Justices agreed, resolved the question with some ingenuity. He said the AutoCAD program included the electronic transfers between the computer and the lock. When the lock received the challenges from the computer they hit a look-up table and generated a response which was sent back to the computer. Only if it was the correct response would the software keep operating. Dyason had very cleverly found a different way to generate the correct response. The response was in the form of electronic pulses – the absence or presence of electrical current – sent from the lock to the computer which could be represented as a series of zeroes and ones.

Justice Dawson said Dyason had not copied the main design software including the challenges to the lock. (Presumably others would do that by copying the disks that the software came on.) However, Dyason had copied the pulses sent from the lock which could be represented as a series of zeroes and ones, and so it had breached AutoCAD's copyright.

The Court confirmed, incidentally, that copyright could subsist in electronic pulses.



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA



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:

1. Establishing a Commissioner for Property Services and moving the property services industry out from NSW Fair Trading
2. Property taxation reform, starting with stamp duty

These are critical changes that must occur to ensure 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."

A habit hard to kick
In the 2017-18 financial year, the NSW Government pocketed \$8.4 billion from stamp duty revenue. In a recent interview with 7.30 NSW Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, said the NSW Government has taken steps to address stamp duty by indexing the rates of tax and removing the impost of stamp for first homebuyers on properties up to \$850,000. "These initiatives are ludicrous," says McKibbin. "The NSW Government provides stamp duty relief on properties with a sale 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."

Interest-only reset the biggest domestic risk

by ABC business reporter Michael Janda

The last time Sydney property prices fell this much, mortgage rates were around 17 per cent, unemployment was 6 per cent (on its way to 11) and Australia was heading into the recession we had to have.

Perhaps the biggest risk, though, is the hundreds of thousands of interest-only mortgages due to reset to principal and interest repayments over the next few years. At the peak of the recent property boom, interest-only loans accounted for around 40 per cent of new mortgages being issued, and even more in markets like Sydney. These loans became so

prevalent that bank regulator APRA introduced a cap, so that no more than 30 per cent of any bank's new lending could be interest-only. Most of these loans reset to principal and interest after five years, meaning the big roll-over started this year and will run until 2022. The increase in repayments on the switch to principal and interest can be 35 per cent or more – a much bigger shock than those 17 per cent interest rates were back in 1989. Banks have already raised rates on interest-only loans to encourage borrowers to switch to principal and interest ahead of the interest-only period expiring, and tens of thousands have. However, the risk remains that those who haven't are those who can't afford the switch to principal and interest.

If that is the case then there could be a wave of forced sales to add to the regular sales and investors who have already bailed out. While sentiment around whether now is a good time to buy has improved in Sydney, there probably isn't yet the pent up demand with finance available to soak up even more sales without further price falls.

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EVENTS FOR THE 80TH ARMY CAMP & 70TH 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!



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BRANXTON



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INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

ASKING \$420,000

East Branxton

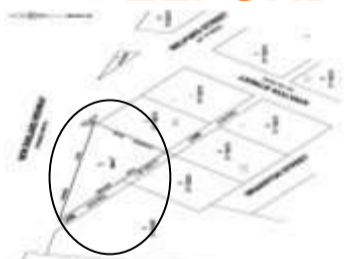


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THE MAKING OF A MOVIE IN AND AROUND OLD GRETA TOWN - THE EUREKA STOCKADE

PHOTOGRAPHY AND STORY BY MERV SCARLETT.

This was back in the year of 1946 and old Greta town was a very busy little town, the army camp was full of soldiers and this was a great asset to the economy, and to top it off along came an English London film company with all their props and actors to shoot the movie the Eureka Stockade. This was a film about the early gold rush days in Ballarat Australia. In August 1854 Victorian Governor Sir Charles Hotham toured the goldfields and found them prosperous, so decided to increase the government revenue by catching miners who were not paying their gold mining license fees. He increased the police inspections to twice a week, which infuriated the miners. So, on 29 November 1854 the miners burnt their licenses and hoisted a flag of their own-the Eureka flag-saying they would govern themselves. (The Eureka Flag with the stars of the Southern Cross). The Gold Commissioner ordered a spot check of licences the next day and tried to round up those who had burnt their licences; the miners refused to go. He reads the Riot Act, the miners decided to fight it out.

They build a Stockade - the Eureka Stockade .

To make this film the Film Company was in need of many extras and many of the town people were given jobs as extras including my mother and myself and this made every one very excited. To think we were going to be in the movies was very exciting. It brought the thrill of movie making to Greta and the pay at the end of the day was nice also. The stars of the film were; Chips Rafferty - Gordon Jackson - Jane Barrett - Jack Lambert.

"The Stars of the film were Chips Rafferty, Gordon Jackson, Jane Barrett & Jack Lambert"

The actors and the camera men stayed at the Greta hotel. The mid day meal for the extras was a hot meal provided at the film site from a mobile kitchen. The leading actors and camera men would have their evening meal at Harpers Restaurant - that was where the vacant lot is next to the chemist shop today. Many of the young people of the town would gather around Harpers Restaurant hoping to get a look at the film stars and maybe get an autograph. This they did and one of the young ladies that was working in the shop, received one and she treasures that autograph to this day (it was from Gordon Jackson one of the stars of the film) . The filming of the gold rush scenes was shot on the old river road that runs down to big rock. Another gold rush scene was shot at the bot-



Chips Rafferty giving a speech, in front of the 'Eureka rebels'. The movie is now an Australian Classic, filmed mostly in Greta.

tom of Walkers Hill in the Valley. This was a long shot of the gold rush and in the far distance of the gold rush scenes they had soldiers from the Greta army camp and closer to the camera were the extras in costume. The paddocks behind the Greta Park running up to the river hill was another film site. This is where some of the miners rioting was filmed and Chips Rafferty made his speech

on the back of a cart to the gold miners. They had to take this shot twice as an airplane was seen passing in the distance and in 1854 there was no airplanes buzzing around. They had a few re-takes. Another one was of myself as I was one of the extras riding on the back of a cart in the gold rush, being part of a family going to the gold fields. I had a wrist watch on and the camera picked it up - no wrist watch in those days so another re-take. I had to take it off and put it in my pocket. I also had my faithful old box brownie camera with me and took many photos of the action going on around me. I would come home after the days filming and develop and print the photos. I sold many sets to the towns people and the photos with this story are some of them. I still have the negatives. Anyone who had a horse and was willing to ride in the gold

rush scenes would receive payment of something like ten pounds and if they would fall off the horse at a gallop (at their own risk) in front of the camera they could receive (if still alive!) up to twenty pounds and that was a lot of money in those days (more than a weeks wage). They would have to sign a paper to release responsibility of the film company but that did not stop them.

At the end of the days filming you would see many young men limping around bruised and maybe a broken bone or two but they all got over it and a pocket full of money made every thing better. Many people from Greta and other towns would apply for work at the tent they had set up

for the interviews and if accepted would be sent off to the costume tent and dressed in a costume of the gold rush period. After this we would be given our instructions of what we were to do. There were many young Greta girls and boys that were given an extras part and earned some money. Some would be on foot, some on horse back, some on carts and some would ride on the Cobb & Co. Coach. This is where my Mother, Mrs. Violet Scarlett, dressed as a rich Dutch lady & had her part along with other Greta ladies. The people riding on the Cobb & Co. Coach were dressed as ladies and gentlemen of high standing. The Coach had been brought from the Sydney Museum and was an authentic Cobb & Co. Coach. It was a very rough, bumpy and scary ride for the ladies.



Above: Chips Rafferty using a camera. Chips Rafferty was one of the 'Stars'.



Above: The Cobb & Co. coach used in the filming. It can from a Museum in Sydney.

The mock town and tent city was built at Black Creek about half way between Elderslie and Glendonbrook. This mock town was very large with miners tents as far as the eye could see and a town center with a hotel that they burnt down in the riot

scenes. They also had many other shops that were props at the gold rush town. There were a few film shots taken on the outer parts of Cessnock. The coach had to go over to Cessnock for a couple of days with the film company until

filming was complete . This was a very exciting time for Old Greta Town. **THIS WAS THE TIME GRETA BECAME A LITTLE HOLLYWOOD & this film today is listed as an Australian Drama Classic.**

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Branxton VIEW club began our 31st year, 2019, with our Annual General Meeting with a good attendance of members. How lovely to see Margaret join us once more and to catch up with all our friends. Such is the nature of our VIEW club-fun and friendship and many conversations after the busy holiday season. Shirley Green kindly gathered nomination forms and helped with the semi formal aspect of appointments. At first we did not have a nomination for President but after all other positions had been filled and photo taken, Helen Rix offered her services for that position. Well done-the Latin word for February is "Februa"

which means to purify and so we begin with a full committee. President- Helen Rix –Vic President- Margaret Wilson-Secretary-Bethany Oldfield-Assistant- Secretary-Evelyn Thrift-Treasurer-Yvonne Bell-Assistant Treasurer-Sandie Smith/Cathy Lindsay-Delegate-Judy Groves-Publicity Officer-Judy Spillard. Thank you to Sandie for the newsletter, to Denise for program help and to Joan Nightingale and Shirley Waters who look after the Trading Table. A great effort! Our next fundraiser for the Smith Family Learning For Life Program is our ever popular donna-lou Fashion Parade. This will be held at the

Bethany for any enquiries. We hope to see you there and bring a friend. Best wishes to Denise Hungerford from us all-we miss you and trust it won't be too long before you are in tip-top shape again . Enjoy the last days of this very hot summer-cooler days ahead.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 14th March at Greta Workers Club and everyone is most welcome to attend. Just let Bethany know if you would like to join us for lunch. *Peace and Love Judy Spillard*

■ Photo above: members enjoying their last meeting

Vale Peter Hodges



only suitable as a historic relic for display. He helped to (and taught how to) access grants, supported all extra learning and was a much-needed mentor about anything to do with council. He also became a friend, and one who will be acutely missed but also celebrated for having lived and given so much of himself. RIP Peter Hodges *By Neridah Kentwell (Greta Historical Museum curator)*

The township of Greta has recently lost Peter Hodges, someone who was, and still is, as irreplaceable as any extremely precious museum object. He was the secretary/treasurer of Greta Tidy Towns which manages Greta Museum for Cessnock Council, as well as the president/secretary of the Greta Buildings Committee that manages the former Council Chambers that houses the Greta Museum, the Greta Community Hall, and the former Greta Courthouse. Peter spent many hours as a volunteer, quietly keeping it all under control and running well. With a Dollar for Dollar grant from Council his last achievement was to have a magnificent brick entry built for the Greta Cemetery. There were also many other achievements over the great number of years that he gave to the local community. There will be more to come by the ongoing Greta Tidy Towns Committee, to commemorate his memory. Peter supported the re-opening of the Greta Museum. He determined, in every way, to set it up to be a success. He accessed a government grant to supply the necessary basics of laptop, printer, scanner etc. to work with, as the last computer used in the museum was really

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Greta Central Oval
New England Hwy Greta

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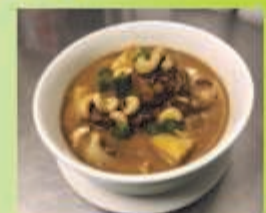


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The Land Before Avocado review: Richard Glover looks back to the 1960s

Review by Candida Bake SMH

Growing up as a child in the '60s might, in retrospect, seem to be an endless meadow of unrestricted freedom but, as filmmaker Stephan Elliott tells Glover, it was the era before the three S's – "Seatbelts, Sunscreen and Supervision ... if you drank enough cask wine it was almost as if you didn't have kids". Glover, who wrote about his childhood in his poignant memoir, *Flesh Wounds*, thought he had a fairly bizarre childhood. His mother left her 14-year-old son and her husband to run off with Glover's English teacher, whom she'd met at a parent-

divorce. The humiliation involved in obtaining one – if you were lucky enough for it to be granted – seems almost medieval these days. Reading through an archived manuscript of divorce papers, Glover remarks that it was "the saddest book in the world". It wasn't until 1975 that the legislation for no-fault divorce was passed by the soon-to-be-dismissed Whitlam Government. If I have a small gripe, it's that the book's dialogue is sometimes a little stilted. I think a bit of judicious editing to insert some contractions into the direct quotes would have helped the flow.

Glover puts forward a persuasive argument that life is actually better now, citing (among other things) better sewerage, phone connection, gun control, lower crime rates, less corruption, a longer life expectancy and the fact that Australians can now eat outdoors (even in Canberra); and of course, the undeniable fact that as a nation we have now embraced avocado. In fact, his only definite call on the Nostalgia Swing is for the music of his era, thereby showing his age, and perhaps, I suspect, his innermost secret belief: that life in the past, no matter the truth, deserves its rosy glow.

These days the Australia of the '60s and '70s is a strange and almost unrecognisable land; it does make me wonder what on earth the future will make of us. Perfect summer reading. And if you want to play a practical joke on someone, give it to a visiting relative as they're boarding their plane home.

teacher night. He re-quotes one of his lines from his memoir: "I was never their favourite. Which is hard when you're an only child." What emerged from that book, writes Glover, were some truly terrible tales of neglect, enough to make you think that perhaps life these days, despite the occasional shocking headline, is safer for children now. Glover attempts to balance a see-saw weighted with nostalgia at one end and statistics at the other. His book, as well as being humorous, is what you might call seriously funny. It was no laughing matter, for instance, to be a woman in the Australia of the '60s, particularly if you wanted a

nicely Glover's story of Australia in the '60s and '70s, and his exploration of whether the rosy tint baby boomers tend to cast over those distant days is warranted. Glover, a columnist for *Spectrum*, points out at the start that, depending on the year, the death penalty was still applied, homosexuality was illegal, rape in marriage was allowed, corporal punishment was applied in schools, cars lacked basic safety equipment and seat belts were not compulsory. Smoking, of course, was popular and permitted everywhere, and, Glover reminds us – the Safari suit was considered stylish.

I think Richard Glover's latest book should carry a warning: Do not read this book on a plane. Fellow passengers maybe disturbed by your erratic outbursts of laughter, and occasional gasps of horror. In the early stages of researching *The Land Before Avocado*, Glover told his son Dan that in the 1990s avocados didn't exist in Australia. "Dad," said Dan, "that's very, very unlikely." Of course, the avocado did exist, but its chequered history of importation, lack of interest, disease and derision – to its current status as the cornerstone of any self-respecting cafe's breakfast menu, mirrors

ABOUT
Richard Glover is an Australian talk radio presenter, journalist and author. He is best known as presenter of the drive program on 702 ABC Sydney. His book *Flesh Wounds* was voted one of the top five books of 2015 by viewers of ABC television's *The Book Club* and was Reader's Choice winner as Biography of the Year in the 2016 Australian Book Industry Awards. Glover was born in Australia on 13 July 1958, but spent some of his early life in Papua New Guinea. He graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts degree with first class honours. He lives with the playwright Debra Oswald and they have two sons. He has written 13 books, including the humour book *Desperate Husbands*, which was a bestseller in Australia and has been published in translation in Italy and Poland.




Glover presents the radio show *Drive* from Monday to Friday, 3pm to 6 pm on 702 ABC Sydney. He joined 702 ABC Sydney in January 1996, taking over the Drive segment from Mike Carlton. In 2004 he was awarded the Broadcaster of the Year Award for ABC local radio. Glover's writing for the stage includes *Lonestar Lemon*, which has toured nationally with Genevieve Lemon, and *A Christmas Story*, which premiered at the Sydney Opera House Drama Theatre in December 1998, with Richard Wherrett directing. Glover is also a newspaper journalist. His weekly humour column has appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald* since 1985. He has also worked as that paper's news editor, arts editor and European correspondent. In December 2011 Glover and Peter Fitzsimons achieved a record for the world's longest radio interview, supervised by Guinness World Records. Glover is an ABC political journalist. Glover is an atheist, and says he "never managed a speck of interest in religion" but believes Christianity and religion should be tolerated by non-believers. In 2015 he wrote that "Marketplace economics is now the God of our time, and its priests are Microsoft, Apple and Google". Glover supports same-sex marriage in Australia, which he says will be "entirely positive".

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (3 March 2019)

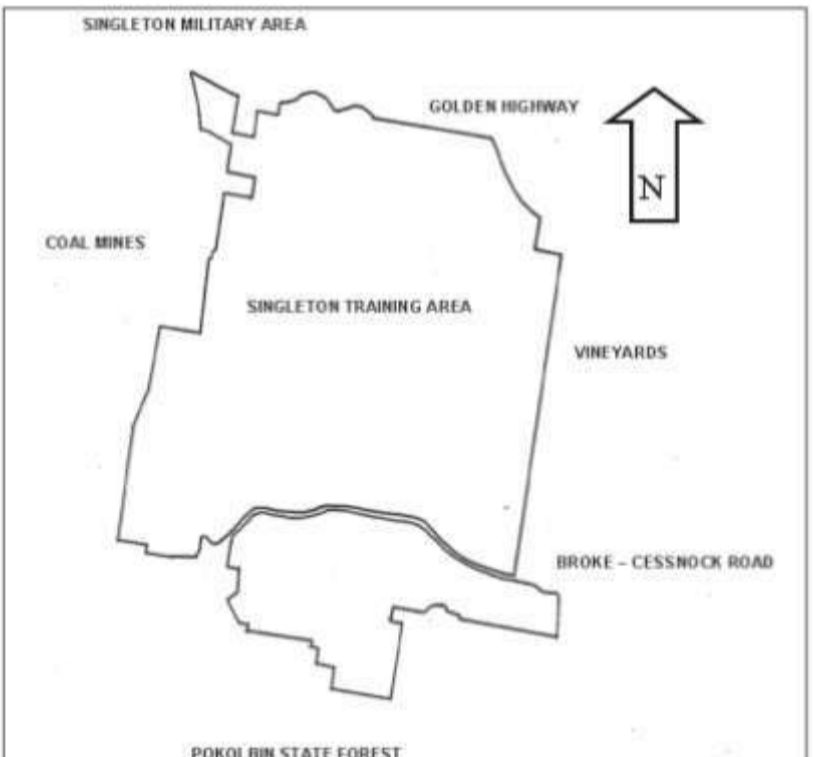
1. **23 weeks on the list**
WHERE THE CROWD SINGS
by Delia Owens – In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.
2. **23 weeks on the list**
THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ
by Heather Morris – A concentration camp detainee tasked with permanently marking fellow prisoners falls in love with one of them.
3. **2 weeks on the list**
CONNECTIONS IN DEATH
by J.D. Robb ~ Eve Dallas scours tattoo parlors and strip joints for clues to the cause of Lyle Pickering's mysterious death.
4. **3 weeks on the list**
THE LOST GIRLS OF PARIS
by Pam Jenoff – Grace Healey investigates the fates of 12 women who were sent to occupied Europe to help the resistance during World War II.
5. **2 weeks on the list**
THE SILENT PATIENT
by Alex Michaelides – Theo Faber looks into the mystery of a famous painter who stops speaking after shooting her husband.
6. **2 weeks on the list**
THE WEDDING GUEST
by Jonathan Kellerman – Milo Sturgis and Alex Delaware investigate the death of a stranger at a wedding reception.
7. **26 weeks on the list**
ELEANOR OLIPHANT IS COMPLETELY FINE
by Gail Honeyman ~ A young woman's well-ordered life is disrupted by the I.T. guy from her office.
8. **6 weeks on the list**
AN ANONYMOUS GIRL
by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen ~ Jessica Farris's life unravels when she signs up for Dr. Shields's psychology study.
9. **17 weeks on the list**
THE RECKONING
by John Grisham – A decorated World War II veteran shoots and kills a pastor inside a Mississippi church.
10. **2 weeks on the list**
BLACK LEOPARD, RED WOLF by Marlon James – A loner named Tracker teams up with a group of unusual characters in search of a mysterious boy.



Australian Government
Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE

DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



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

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

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

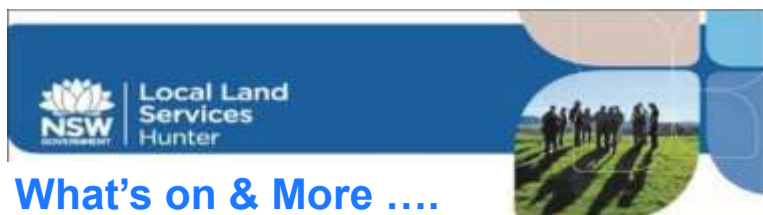
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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



What's on & More

Be aware of blue green algae risks

Hunter Local Land Services is urging landholders to check their water supplies for blue green algae, with several Red Alerts issued in our area.

Recently 12 cattle died in the Murray region from blue green algae toxicity after drinking water from an isolated farm dam.

Blue green algae may produce toxins that can affect the nervous system or the liver of livestock, resulting in serious disease and potential death.

While blue green algae blooms are relatively common, livestock poisonings are not.

Currently there are Red Alerts for blue green algae at a number of locations, including:

- Hunter River Upstream of Glenbawn Dam
- Lostock Dam dam wall
- Lake Liddell recreational area WEST
- Lake Liddell Centre
- Lake Liddell CW Inlet
- Walka Water Works Dam
- Telarah Lagoon
- Rathluba Lagoon

Red alert levels represent 'bloom' conditions. The water may appear green and may have strong, musty or organically polluted odours. Blue-green algae may be visible as clumps or as scums. The 'blooms' should be considered to be toxic to humans and animals, and the water should not be used for drinking (without prior treatment), stock watering, or for recreation.

District Vet Jim Kerr said the warnings come as water supplies across the region become critical in many places, as ongoing hot dry weather continues to add to the impacts of the drought.

"We are unfortunately being hit with more hot weather this week, and after recent dry spells the evaporation rates are a big issue for producers, especially in the Upper Hunter," said Jim.

"Some rivers and creeks are again drying up, and it's not just the quantity of water, the quality is obviously critical too with issues like blue green algae creating problems for livestock.

"Please remember that in these conditions, just one lactating cow can drink up to 100 litres of water a day, so it's crucial producers ensure they have enough water on hand."

More information about algae alerts and regular updates on local conditions can be found at <https://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/algae>

Landholders with concerns about livestock health and blue green algae in isolated farm dams should contact their nearest Local Land Services District Vet on 1300 795 299.

Australian Thoroughbred

Compiled by Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

Travelling sires helped produce world's best of 2018

Every one of the leading twenty performers of 2018 in the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 3yos plus have sires used at stud in each hemisphere somewhere in a five generation extension of their pedigrees.

To start with their best for northern hemisphere racing, England foaled Cracksman, is by the former great English galloper Frankel, a son of Galileo (Ire) (Sadler's Wells – Kind by Danehill (USA) and from Rhadegunda (GB). She is a Pivotal Listed winning great granddaughter of Lorenzaccio (GB), conquerer of Nijinsky in the Champion Stakes in England but only a modest sire from use in both hemispheres. He became a resident sire in NSW at 12 years of age.

Both Galileo (1998) (five visits 2002 – 2006, 585 foals) and Danehill (deceased, 12 visits 1990 –

2001, over 1000 foals) were used at Coolmore, formerly Arrowfield, Jerrys Plains Hunter Valley and at their headquarters in Ireland. A winner of both the English and Irish Derbys, Galileo has been champion European sire ten times and has good claims to the title of World Champion Sire so far this century.

According to figures accessed through the Australian service Bloodhound, Galileo's world statistics to date are 2046 starters, 1400 winners (68.4%), 3667 wins and over \$281million. Black type contributors have included 289 stakes winners (14.1%), including 190 (9.3%) at Group race level.

He has 75 Group1 winners on the board, four of them sired in Australia and the rest got at Coolmore in Ireland. In comparison, Danehill (1986 – 2003), benefiting from solid use in Ireland and Australia, has world figures of 2082 starters, 1622 winners (77.2%) of a world record 5658 races and over \$416million. He supplied a massive 347 stakes winners, including a world record 89 successful at Group1 level, 48 of them

sired in Australia.

Danehill probably has more sire descendants than any other sire in breeding history and breaks records as a broodmare sire. His daughters to date have been recorded as having 3719 winners, 368 of which have been successful in stakes.

Galileo – Danehill cross stars

Among the Danehill broodmare stakes winners, a list that can be expected to added to in the future, have been 69 Group1 winners. Twelve of these are by Galileo and include Cracksman's sire Frankel, a Great Britain foaled son of Kind, a competent Danehill sprinter.

Frankel has a look alike Group1 winning brother in Noble Mission, a winner of nine of 21 starts, including Group1s at five in England (2000m), France (2400m) and Ireland (2100m). Noble Mission is at stud at Lane's End Kentucky and supplied 14 first crop winners in 2018.

The Galileo – Danehill mare produced Frankel retired from racing in 2013 the highest rated performer in European history after 14 unbeaten outings, 1400m-2100m, including appear-



Saleyard report - cattle

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 19th February 2019

Consignments eased by 30%, the cheaper prices recorded at the previous market the contributing factor. With the exception of the yearling heifers, all younger categories were reduced in number, while the cow consignments lifted marginally in total. The younger cattle trended dearer, as the cows sold to a cheaper trend. The over 80kg calves to the restockers improved 15c and sold from 160c to 222c/kg. The 200kg plus vealer steers returning to the paddock increased 15c and made from 152c to 280c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers lifted 6c, making from 183c to 230c/kg. Yearling steers and heifers to feed gained 10c, with the steers making from 220c to 254c, as the heifer portion received from 197c to 232c/kg. The best of the prime conditioned yearling steers to the butcher orders topped at 290c/kg. Grown heifers to process made from 150c to 202c/kg, depending on the weight offered. Cows trended cheaper by 5c to 10c, with the plainer light weights receiving from 90c to 120c/kg. The medium weighted 1 and 2 scores made from 80c to 170c, while the better covered medium and heavy weights sold from 165c to 189c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 200c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 20th February 2019

Consignments increased, as the quality in the penning remained mixed. The bulk were younger cattle, with all categories lifting in number week-on-week. There were approximately 70 cows in the offering. The younger cattle sold to a dearer trend, while the cows sold cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers and heifers returning to the paddock gained 18c, with the steers making from 190c to 280c, as the heifer portion sold from 178c to 240c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeders gained 12c, with the medium and heavy weights making from 220c to 264c/kg. The majority of the yearling heifers were purchased by the butcher orders. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers trended firm to dearer, with the better yielding pens reaching 290c/kg. The cows trended cheaper by 8c to 12c, with the plainer medium weights making from 110c to 166c/kg. The better finished heavy weights sold from 155c to 180c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 210c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 18th February 2019

With water and feed options running out there was a slight increase in the numbers. Once again vealers, yearlings and cows were offloaded in large numbers. Quality through the young cattle was very mixed with condition only fair. There were some very good quality pens of vealers and yearlings. Again there was a good supply of plainer condition cows and noticeably pens of younger breeders. The usual processors were in attendance, however there was less feedlot competition and somewhat subdued restocker competition. Market trends through the young cattle varied with the steer vealers to restockers selling to cheaper trends for the most part. There were odd breed related sales that remained firm. The secondary quality and less sought after breeds experienced significantly cheaper trends. Conversely the heifer vealers to restockers sold to a dearer trend. Limited supplies suitable to the trade sold to a cheaper trend with local butcher orders unable to satisfy requirements. There were cheaper trends through the yearling steers, where again the secondary quality cattle were most affected. The better quality feeder steers were up to 10c/kg cheaper. There were cheaper trends of 12c to 16c/kg and more in places through the yearling heifers. Odd classes saw some quality related price change. There were too few heavy grown steers or well finished grown heifers to quote a trend. The cow market was the better quality, 1 and 2 score cows showed little change. The very plain and very light weight cows were cheaper. Well finished medium and heavy weight cows sold to a cheaper trend, up to 6c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 19th February 2019

Numbers continued their upward trajectory, with a further increase. All but heavy grown steers and heifers were well represented. There were a lot of good quality young cattle penned, albeit out of condition. Conversely, there were also large numbers of secondary and very plain quality cattle penned. Once again, there were large numbers of plain condition cows and a fair supply showing finish. There was reduced processor and feedlot competition. Market trends through the young cattle varied, while quality variations accounted for much of the larger price changes. Vealer steers to restockers were up to 25c/kg cheaper. Heifer vealers to both the trade and finishing orders sold to a dearer trend, with a marked improvement in quality. The greatest variations came in the yearling cattle, where large numbers of medium weight steers remained firm for the better quality lines and significantly cheaper for the plainer quality lots. The heifer yearlings followed a similar trend. The few well finished heavy grown steers sold firm to 15c/kg cheaper. Despite the reduced processor competition, the cow market held up well. Restocker orders competing on the plainer condition lots. There was little, but quality related price change through most classes.

ances in nine Group1s. Put to work as a sire at his owner Prince Khalid bin Abdulla's (Saudi Arabia) Juddmonte Farms Stud, Newmarket UK in 2013, he has proved one of the best young sires of the century, supplying 23 stakes winners in his first crop, four of them at Group1 level, the most distinguished of them being Cracksman.

Now looking after his first book as a sire at Darley's Dalham Hall stud at Newmarket GB, Cracksman ran 11 times for 8 wins, three minor placings and just over \$5million Aust. Four starts at four in 2018 resulted in three Goup1 wins, the Ascot Champion Stakes (2000m) (for the second time), Epsom Coronation Cup (2400m) and Longchamp Prix Ganay (2100m). He had been Europe's champion 3yo in 2017, a year he won the Ascot

Champion Stakes for the first time, York Voltigeur-G2 (2400m), Chantilly Prix Niel-G2 (2400m) and Epsom Derby Trial (2100), finished second in the Irish Derby (neck) and a third in the English Derby (also a neck).

On top of this his deeds on the racecourse in 2018 resulted in his ranking as world's best of the year, albeit an honour he shares with Australian bred and raced giant of racing Winks. This mare is another who carries a dual hemisphere sire in her breeding, being by one of the best of them, now deceased Street Cry (Ire). Returning to Cracksman, this 4x4 Danzig inbred stallion is a new racing star for one of world bloodstock's most distinguished families, that established in the 1920s by the Aga Khan owned extremely speedy Mumtaz Mahal.

The honour board for the Mumtaz Mahal descendants is huge and includes many in Australia. For one, she is the sixth dam of Eight Carat, a modest race-mare by a modest sire who became a celebrated broodmare in this part of the world with her Group1 descendants including Octagonal, Marquise, Diamond Lover, Kaapstad, Mouawad, Danewin, Emerald Dream, Don Eduardo, Tristalove, Viking Ruler, De Beers, Viscount, Shooting To Win and Luna Rose. In each year since he went to stud, Frankel has served a small number of mares to southern hemisphere time at the Newmarket stud, some of them, including Samantha Miss (by Redoute's Choice), Rostova (Testa Rossa), More Strawberries (More Than Ready (USA), More Joyous (More Than Ready (USA) and Lovetorn (Giant's Cause-

way (USA). They had been sent across from Australia for mating and returned for foaling. Results of the Frankel Australian mare matings have included Miss Fabulass (stakes winning filly from Samantha Miss), Merovee (stakes placed colt from More Strawberries), Farooq (stakes placed colt out Rostova), Woman (winner only start, from More Joyous) and exported Fratelli (ex Lovelorn). Fratelli has won twice in Japan, the latest success being in early February when he cruised to a nine lengths win at Kyoto, the principal racecourse in Western Japan. There are five yearlings by Frankel in this year's Inglis Easter catalogue, three on account Three Bridges Stud and one each from Cressfield Stud and Esker Lodge. Two are from mares by one Danehill's noted sire son Dansili (GB).



What are cyber attacks and how do they happen?

by Felicity Lewis SMH

A major hack of political parties has come less than a fortnight after another hack of MPs databases in Parliament. What is a cyber attack and how does it happen?

Australian political parties and Parliament have been hacked in the past fortnight with China said to be the main suspect. But how does this happen? What is malware? And how do investigators work out whodunnit?

We asked the director of UNSW Canberra Cyber Nigel Phair who is a leading cyber security analyst.

What is a cyber attack? I would class a cyber attack as an attack against the IT infrastructure of an organisation.

Is a data breach the same as a cyber attack?

A data breach might arise from a cyber attack.

What's the distinction?

In my old purist form, I call a cyber attack a denial of service or some sort of brute force attack against an organisation that could result in a data breach. That's just how I define it. I call it a data breach when there's been a loss of data. It could be criminals that hack into an organisation and exfiltrate data. There's a bunch of scenarios.

Reports on this latest attack say that hackers started "prodding around" in November. What does prodding around mean?

That could be a range of things. It could be looking at IP addresses, vulnerable end points on the computer network ...

What's a vulnerable end point?

Anything from a mobile device to a desktop to some part of a network that you could get access to. It could be a person.

How could it be a person?

One of the easiest ways to hack into an organisation is through a phishing attack where you do a social engineering attack against a person and get them to divulge their details, click on a link. You'll get an email that, traditionally, purported to come from a bank or a financial institution or someone you know on social media and it's getting you to do

something: click on a link to download something.

In the recent hacking, it was reported that the "malware signature" was new and hadn't been seen before by Australian cyber spies. What's a malware signature?

Malware is malicious software. You think about your traditional Norton Antivirus. That's constantly scanning for signatures and, in this case, it's a new signature that it [whatever the security software in use was] hasn't seen and it's got through by exploiting a vulnerability in the network.

But what does the signature look like? Is it a string of code or something?

Yes. It's a unique identifier that proves who you are.

But really the substance of what you're dealing with are strings of numbers?

Yes, it's ones and zeroes at the end of the day, that's all it is.

Ones and zeroes?

Essentially, that's all a computer knows. A one or a zero. When you type the letter L, it's a series of ones and zeroes. All a computer does is decipher numbers, letters and characters into a series of ones and zeroes.

What's a cyber spy?

When you think about your traditional statecraft spy, it's someone who does it online rather than physically.

Do you have a profile of who these people are?

Once upon a time you might have, but it's really morphed. Attribution is really difficult.

Why?

Because you can obfuscate where you come from, or you can pretend to be in a jurisdiction that's not yours and point the finger at another nation state, for example. So you might be in Sydney but you could pretend to be using a computer in Melbourne or Vladivostok or somewhere else.

So that's what the reports mean when they say the hackers "covered their tracks"?

Yes.

The reports also say the hackers exercised "command and control" to direct the malware. What does that mean?

It's a very militaristic term. They've got ownership of the network and they've got command and control ... to get it do functions or program it to do things. It might be to exfiltrate data or look for particular files – those sort of things.

They're probably searching for trophy information –

valuable information.

And they'd be using that trophy information for potentially what?

When you think about the data that a political party has, apart from probably a database of all the electorates, it's going to have emails, calendar invites, files notes, spreadsheets, it might be next week's tactics in Parliament, it might be fundraising details.

Do different countries have different styles of hacking?

Not overly. It's hard to finger one country versus another. Until they do a thorough forensic investigation, they're not going to know.

In that CSI crime show, they go around dusting for fingerprints. What would an investigation look like in this instance?

You'll have investigators that'll turn up on site and you'll have those that are doing network forensics.

So what does network forensics look like? People sitting at computers in a room?

Yep. Pretty much.

Are they uber high-tech? They're highly trained individuals.

If you can hack political parties and you can hack Parliament, what else can you hack?

Any network that's open to the internet can be compromised. If a nation state wants to get into a network and hide in the network, they won't leave any clues that they're in the network.

How was this hack discovered?

That hasn't been divulged.

It could have gone on and on.

Yeah, absolutely.

Ok, so cue paranoia.

Yeah, absolutely.

10 cyber security facts and statistics for 2018

Cyber security threats evolve. So do cyber security facts.

You hear a lot about cyber security dangers — data breaches, ransomware attacks, cryptojacking, threats to your connected devices. And they all contribute to new rounds of cyber security facts, figures, and statistics.

Do you find it hard to keep up? Let's cherry-pick 10 cyber security facts for 2018 to help give you the big picture.

1. Cybercriminals land on FBI's most wanted list Let's start with the bad

guys. Since the FBI first expanded its familiar "Most Wanted" list to include a Cyber Most Wanted in 2014, the list has grown to 42 people and groups in 2018. Park Jin Hyok tops the list. He's a computer programmer who's part of a state-sponsored hacking organization. Here are a few of his career highlights, according to the FBI:

"Responsible for some of the costliest computer intrusions in history, including the cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment, a series of attacks targeting banks across the world that collectively attempted to steal more than \$1 billion, and the WannaCry ransomware attack that affected tens of thousands of computer systems across the globe." We can probably skip the other 41 on the list. You get the idea.

2. Mobile malware on the rise

Malicious software, also known as malware, is taking aim at your mobile devices. Things like spyware, ransomware, and viruses used to focus on your laptop or desktop computer. Well, look out, mobile devices. The number of new malware variants for mobile increased 54 percent in 2017. That's according to Symantec's Internet Security Threat Report 2018.

Overall, in 2017, 27 percent of malicious apps were found in the Lifestyle category. Next in line: Music & Audio, with 20 percent, followed by Books & Reference, with 10 percent.

3. Third-party app stores host most mobile malware

So where's all that mobile malware coming from? We've got a stat for that. The same Symantec report found third-party app stores hosted 99.9 percent of discovered mobile malware.

A third-party app is a software application made by someone other than the manufacturer of a mobile device or its operating system. For instance, app developers create a lot of applications for Apple's or Google's operating systems. Some of those apps may only be available on third-party app stores.

Third-party app stores might offer a normally pricey app for free. But the real cost might be malware installed on your device. That's why it's a good idea to stick to reputable purveyors like Google Play and Apple App Store.

4. U.S. to account for half of breached data by 2023

OK, brace yourself for some big numbers. Cybercriminals will steal an estimated 33 billion records in 2023. **CONT P. 20**

MOVIE REVIEW

Stan & Ollie

PG

Laurel & Hardy, one of the world's great comedy teams, set out on a variety hall tour of Britain in 1953. Diminished by age and with their golden era as the kings of Hollywood comedy now behind them, they face an uncertain future. As the charm and beauty of their performances shines through, they re-connect with their adoring fans. The tour becomes a hit, but Stan & Ollie can't quite shake the specter of Laurel and Hardy's past: the long-buried ghosts, coupled with Oliver's failing health, start to threaten their precious partnership. A portrait of the most tender and poignant of creative marriages, they are aware that they may be approaching their swan song, trying to rediscover just how much they mean to each other.

Rating: PG (for some language, and for smoking)

Genre: Comedy, Drama
Directed By: Jon S. Baird
Written By: Jeff Pope
In Theatres: Jan 25, 2019 wide
Runtime: 97 minutes
Studio: Sony Pictures Classics



Review

By Moira Macdonald, *Seattle Times arts critic*
"Stan & Ollie" is the story of a tiny world of two; of how a world-famous comedy team faced its final act, with love. In their prime in the 1930s, there were few stars more beloved than Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, who made a successful transition from silent films to early Hollywood talkies and beyond. Appearing in more than 100 films together, from 1927 to 1950, they were an unmistakable duo: slight Laurel and stout Hardy, a goofball picture of friendship. Their famous dance in 1937's "Way Out West" — reprised in "Stan & Ollie" — sums them up; its flappy kicks and silly posing matched with a breezy, we're-just-making-this-up lightness. They were having a ball, without ever seeming to try too hard.

Likewise, when it's not trying too hard, "Stan & Ollie" is itself a sweetly charming good time. Director Jon S. Baird found just the right actors to pull this off: Steve Coogan's long, faintly mournful clown's face looks just right under Laurel's derby; John C. Reilly's trademark warmth slips nicely into Hardy, his gentle smile punctuated by a piano-keyboard of bangs and a smudge of a mustache. You believe them, as friends who frequently get on each other's nerves (as even the



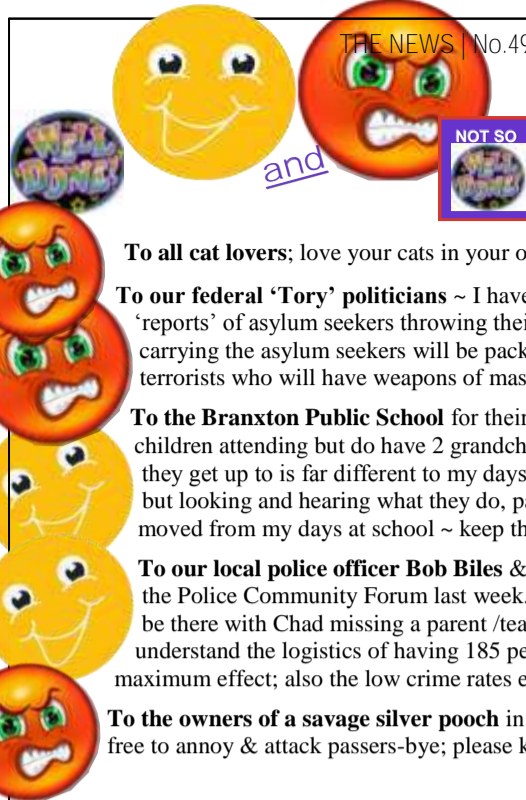
best of friends do), as collaborators, as performers slowly realizing that the sun is setting on their careers. Though "Stan & Ollie" kicks off with a brief glimpse of the two of them in their prime (one of the first images we see, in a 1930s dressing room, is their two derby hats companionably hanging on a rack), it mostly takes place in 1953, as the two men toured Britain with their comedy act. They're in their 60s, and more than a little tired; Hardy's health is failing, Laurel frets about their next movie, which may or may not actually happen. But audiences still love them, despite (or because of) the predictability of their act.

"You're still using the same old material!" a woman enthuses; she means it as a compliment, but Laurel barely chips off a cool "Thank you." There's plenty of wit in "Stan & Ollie": the meticulously re-created bits from the Laurel & Hardy repertoire; the sly, wordless double takes from the actors (Coogan's particularly good at this); the funny rat-a-tat repartee from the men's strong-minded wives (Nina Arianda, Shirley Henderson), who clearly deserve their own double act. But its primary tone is wistful; a slow, reluctant goodbye, not just to an act but to an era. *By its end, all you want is to see that dance, just one more time.*

Scott Morrison cops backlash after mentioning Julie Bishop's love of shoes



by Alexis Carey



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 All contributions welcome

Australia was shocked when steely political pro Julie Bishop announced her resignation last week~ but there was one thing we missed. COMMENT Love her or loathe her, former foreign minister Julie Bishop has been one of Australia's most popular political figures during her glittering, decades-long career. So when she announced her decision to quit politics at the next election, our leaders scrambled to pay tribute after delivering a standing ovation "During the last two weeks it has become evident that Labor has learnt nothing from its past failings and is doomed to repeat these failings if elected," Ms Bishop said. "It is thus my view that the Liberal-National Coalition will win the next election and that the government will be returned to office because it is focused on the matters that matter to the Australian people."

Next came congratulatory speeches from Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition leader Bill Shorten, with both paying tribute to Ms Bishop and her long, successful career. However, Mr Morrison also took the opportunity to joke about Ms Bishop's love of Aussie pop icon Tina Arena — and her shoes. "I think it's important to mark the speech that we've just heard from the member for Curtin — simply to acknowledge her tremendous service to our country, her tremendous service to her community and her tremendous service to our party, the Liberal Party," Mr Morrison began. "Julie is a Liberal through and through. She has always held fast to those important Liberal principles.

"We share many things in common, not just thinking that Tina Arena is the best Australian female singer! Apart from that, there is the passion that she has always brought to her role; the dignity and grace that she has always demonstrated in every single role that she has held. "She is an incredibly classy individual, as we remarked about Julie in our own party room some time ago. "The other thing I'd say about this is that one of my favourite verses relates to the phrase, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' That is a phrase that, I think, very much speaks of the service that we seen from the member for Curtin. "Her successor will have big shoes to fill, and we all know Julie has the best shoes in the Parliament! They will, indeed, take some filling," he said, referring to the now infamous red heels Ms Bishop wore when she announced

her resignation as foreign minister. "Whoever replaces Julie Bishop will have big shoes to fill and we all know Julie has the best shoes in parliament," Mr Morrison said in a follow-up tweet.

It didn't take long for the backlash to begin, with some Aussies taking to social media to express their frustration about Mr Morrison's even mentioning a senior figure's fashion choices at that time

His words have been variously described as "tone deaf", "tacky" and even "sexist" on social media, with many pointing out the wardrobe choices of a male politician of a similar status would rarely earn a mention.

Mr Morrison's office declined to comment further on the growing furore.

But while the Prime Minister's affection and respect for Ms Bishop was clear, some felt his words glossed over the 62-year-old's many undeniable achievements over her almost 21-year career.

Some of those achievements include her election to the seat of Curtin in 1998 with a primary vote of 44.6 per cent — which soared to 65.6 per cent at the last election.

She served as Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2013 to 2018 — the first Australian woman to hold the title.

She was also the first woman to become the Liberal Party's deputy leader, a position she managed to hold on to from 2007 to 2018 despite a number of leadership spills which took place during that unstable, deeply divided period. Of course, she has attracted her fair share of criticism along the way, including scrutiny over taxpayer-funded travel claims, and her previous role defending CSR from compensation claims by asbestos victims.

But she's also been widely praised for her handling of the MH17 tragedy, representing Australia at the United Nations Security Council in 2014 and helping to smooth over our rift with Indonesia as a result of the live cattle debate, boat turnbacks and the President's phone tapping debacle.

Ms Bishop has also somehow managed to maintain an almost miraculous popularity among everyday Aussies — a feat all the more impressive as public confidence in our pollies has sunk to near-record lows in recent years.

In an ideal world, those many accomplishments would have been front and centre when the political trailblazer announced her exit yesterday — not her fashion choices.

But as Mr Morrison's comments proved, that ideal world is apparently light years away.

To all cat lovers; love your cats in your own yard please.

To our federal 'Tory' politicians ~ I have this premonition that shortly there will be 'reports' of asylum seekers throwing their children overboard. Of course the boats carrying the asylum seekers will be packed with rapists, murderers, paedophiles and terrorists who will have weapons of mass destruction.

To the Branxton Public School for their school article every paper. I haven't any children attending but do have 2 grandchildren attending & what a great school. What they get up to is far different to my days at school; it wasn't much fun, as they say, but looking and hearing what they do, particularly the extra curricular, is far removed from my days at school ~ keep the great work up!

To our local police officer Bob Biles & Superintendent Chad Gillies for organising the Police Community Forum last week. All officers attending gave their time free to be there with Chad missing a parent /teacher night. I attended & can now well understand the logistics of having 185 personal in our district being utilised to the maximum effect; also the low crime rates etc in our area. Thank you all.

To the owners of a savage silver pooch in Mitchell Street North Rothbury who let it free to annoy & attack passers-by; please keep it in its yard.



Classified's

Cost:- For one-off domestic advertising The News will not charge you. Otherwise it is \$2/line.

Classified's

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908
Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
For Sale: 15-inch Commodore wheel with new tyre \$50 P: 0421 102 711
For Sale: Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077
For Sale: Alpacas Ph 4930 6291
For Sale: New 'Star Post' rammer \$35 P: 0421 102 711
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Seamstress: Sewing & mending P; Brune 0413 351 057
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Home maintenance. Building repairs, painting,

tiling and more. Fully insured. Ph: 0418 982 657. Prompt service to local areas.
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobca' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance. P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

Has your phone stopped ringing?
 You need to advertise your business
 Call Mike at 'The News'
P: 4938 1773 M: 0414 757 826

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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

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 Tamburlaine 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.
 For further information contact Katherine Geczy, HVBCI President, 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'
SUN 10 Mar — Free Community Event Social Tennis and BBQ. Sunday afternoons 5:30-7:30pm (fortnightly). Miller Park Tennis Courts. Family fun and meet some locals. Hosted by Gospel Church - Central Hunter. Contact Darren 0407 490 646.
TUE 12 Mar — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigid's Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
THUR 14 March — Branxton VIEW Club meeting at Greta Workers Club. 10.30am All welcome. Enquiries Bethany 0419 429 364
SAT 16 Mar — Kiely Minoque at Bimbaden Estate
TUE 19 Mar — Branxton Public School Visiting author Tim Harris
SUN 24 Mar — Free Community Event Social Tennis and BBQ. Sunday afternoons 5:30-7:30pm (fortnightly). Miller Park Tennis

Courts. Family fun and meet some locals. Hosted by Gospel Church. Contact Darren 0407 490 646.
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.
SUN 24 Mar — Free Community Event Social Tennis and BBQ. Sunday afternoons 5:30-7:30pm (fortnightly). Miller Park Tennis Courts. Family fun and meet some locals. Hosted by Gospel Church - Central Hunter. Contact Darren 0407 490 646.
WED 2 Apr — Branxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade. Latest Autumn/Winter affordable clothes. **TUE 9 Apl** — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigid's 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. Brigid's 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
TUES 11 JUNE — Branxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigid's Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
SUN 1 Sept — Fathers day

ROYAL FEDERAL HOTEL BRANXTON

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

Page 22 of this edition

Bag Bargain Books and Much More

The Annual Bargain Book Sale at Cessnock City Council Library is on again from Tuesday 5 March.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the sale of pre-loved library stock is always very popular.

“There will be something for everyone with ex library items and donations including books, magazines, music and DVDs”.
 “Reading is an activity everyone in our community can enjoy and benefit from, I encourage all residents to check out the bargains on offer,” Cr Pynsent said.
 The book sale will start at 9am on Tuesday 5 March and will run until Friday 15 March or until all items are sold.
 For further information please call Cessnock Library on 4993 4399.



■ Cessnock Council's Andrew Powell preparing for the BIG SALE

FROM P. 18

10 cyber security facts and statistics for 2018

..... That's according to a 2018 study from Juniper Research. The compares with 12 billion records Juniper expects to be swiped in 2018. Records include personal information you share with various entities. It might include your name, address, credit card information, or Social Security number. Here's another statistic: Jupiter expects more than half of all data breaches globally to occur in the United States by 2023. Why? It's due to the amount of consumer and corporate data stored across the country.

5. Identity theft impacts 60 million Americans

Nearly 60 million Americans have been affected by identity theft, according to a 2018 online survey by The Harris Poll. The same survey indicates nearly 15 million consumers experienced identity theft in 2017. While data breaches can expose your personal information and leave you vulnerable, low-tech and offline methods also contribute to the spread of identity theft. Every time someone has access to your personal data, there's potentially more of it "out there" for criminals to try to profit from.

6. U.S. government to spend \$15 billion on cyber security — and then some

The President's Budget for fiscal year 2019 earmarks \$15 billion for cyber security-related activities. That's a 4 percent pop over the previous year. But, wait, there's more. From the budget document: "Due to the sensitive nature of some activities, this amount does not represent the entire cyber budget." The Department of Defense gets the most funding with nearly \$8.5 billion in the budget. Runner-up? Homeland Security with roughly \$1.7 billion.

7. Coin mining a big growth area in cybercrime

Types of cyberattacks vary from year to year. Lately, cryptocurrency coin mining is in vogue. Here's what Symantec's Internet Security Threat Report 2018 had to say: "Coin mining represented the biggest growth area in cybercrime in 2017, with antivirus detections up 8,500 percent." Not only that, "The growth in coin mining in the final months of 2017 was immense. Overall coin-mining activity increased by 34,000 percent over the course of the year."

Consider this: Symantec blocked 8 million coin-mining events in December 2017 alone.

Coin mining requires a lot of computing power. Coin miners might even try to add your computer to their arsenal through cryptojacking.

8. The United States is No. 1 target for targeted attacks

Targeted attacks are often state-sponsored, though some have been by private groups. A nation might try to spy, disrupt, sabotage, or rob from another entity. The U.S. is the No. 1 target. It's not a statistic you'd want to own, but the U.S. is not alone.

9. Internet of Things devices can increase security vulnerabilities

Just how vulnerable are internet connected devices? Symantec research in 2015 found multiple vulnerabilities in 50 commercially available devices. They included a "smart" door lock that could be opened remotely online without a password. That's one reason why cyber security requires comprehensive coverage — to help protect your devices, privacy, personal information, and home. The number of connected things is expected to grow. Cybercriminals see that as an opportunity.

10. Average cost of a data breach rises

No business wants to be the victim of data breach. One reason? The cost is rising. Here are three telling stats from the Ponemon Institute's 2018 Cost of a Data Breach 2018 study for IBM. *Cost of the average data breach to companies worldwide: \$3.86 million (U.S. dollars) Cost of the average data breach to a U.S. company: \$7.91 million (U.S. dollars)*

• **Average time it takes to identify a data breach:** 196 days ~ Here's a parting thought. There's really not much you can do to help prevent data breaches. If an organization has your personal information, a cybercriminal may be able to access it. But there are things you can do to help protect yourself in other ways. It's a good idea to consider investing in a comprehensive cyber safety product to help protect your devices, personal information and home. For instance, it can help protect against viruses, malware and other threats.

After all, the last thing you want is to become a statistic.



ARE YOU WATCHING?

Water is only safe while you're watching.
 Give all of your attention all of the time.

BE POOL SAFE

cessnock.nsw.gov.au/poolsafety



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 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

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School News



Branxton Public School

Introducing Branxton Public School's 2019 Kindergarten students and Leaders.

We are proud to introduce our 2019 Kindergarten students. The Kinder Kookaburras, Kinder Magpies and Kinder Emus are settling beautifully into school life with

Ms Murray, Mrs Nimmo and Mrs Quilty. Well done Kinders! We are also pleased to introduce our 2019 School Leaders consisting of Oscar and Jasmine (Captains), Tia and



Kinder Emus



2019 School Leaders



Kinder Kookaburras



Library Monitors with Mrs. Melnik



Kinder Kookaburras



SRC Ministers

Joel (Vice-Captains) and Arianne and Danyelle (SRC Presidents). They have already embraced their duties and are doing a fabulous job. Badges for our other school leaders were presented at the Week 3 Whole School Assembly. Congratulations to Pat, our first ever AECG Junior Representative and Bridget, Marika, Holly, Ava, Max, Jack, Noah, Mia, Dean & Danyelle who are our new Library Monitors. Our 2019 SRC Ministers are Jorja (Secretary), Elijah (Sports), Ruby (Services), Jeremy (Environment) and Bella & Jackson (Health & Safety). These ministers keep our school running efficiently and have already proven themselves to be keen and responsible leaders.



Pat - AECG Leader



FISHING CLUB RESULTS TALLY 2018

	4/03/2018	8/04/2018	27/05/2018	11/06/2018	8/07/2018	12/08/2018	16/09/2018	21/10/2018	11/11/2018	2/12/2018	Totals(gms)
Scott Beckett	65	291	24.8		71.4			59		117.6	588.1
Trey Fields			125.2		106	115.8	37.3	52	34.2	51.5	523
Glenn Beckett	83.4	98.25			91		27.5	76.4	35.4	54	485.95
Rob Beckett	61	57.5	40.1		74	83.4	27	82.5		67.5	483.4
Steve Nevin		48.25	74.6	35	109.5		17		41.04	73.7	398.09
Jeff Nevin		21.8		45.1	89.8		23.4			116.4	288.5
Mark Dever		44.5	58.7	133			14.6	20.2			271.1
Dave Delforce					109.6	119.2					228.7
Nick Edwards		63.8	25.4		35					99.9	224.2
Joel Platt	62.5		95.5				17.6	32.6			208.2
Beck Dougherty	51.75	48.2		31.5	54						185.45
Tracey Miller		52	26.7		59.3		39.35				189.35
Terr Fields			29.9		85.3			21		14.7	141.1
Oray Dorn			26.6	53.6	41						121.2
Harriann Dries		18		56.2	23.8						108
Andrew Jacobs				19.03	61.5				17.5		96.02
Anthony Fields		41.5	32.9				17.1				91.3
Dan Adam	50.2		28.9		59.6						86.5
Tyzen Nevin		34		27			19.9				80.9
Blake Barnes						72.8					72.8
Larry Timmins										67.5	67.5
Logan Dever		16					50.2				64.2
Syde Adam		44			20						64
Greg Mason			15					48.75			63.75
Lachlan Oshan			21.7			35			14.5		51.2
Dominic Platt		49.7									49.7
Robert Barnes						44.5					44.5
Norm Beckett								25.9		19.8	45.5
Judy Shestak			38.8								38.8
David Hodges			28								28
George Mason						17.75	18.8				36.55
Brad Dorn	39.2										39.2
Josh Hill			21.5								21.5
John Mason			12.5				17.7				30.2
Kyle Barnes		30									30
Alaron Holt			23								23
Jason Salvo			24.4								24.4
Trent Cooper									17.4		17.4
Arysha Mason							17				17
Zac Mason			13.95								13.95

Final Fishing Club Calendar 2019



- 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
- 29th/30th November/1st December Open
- 15th 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



Kirkton Public School

Congratulations to our students who attended the Small School's swimming carnival on Friday. I was so proud of the way you supported your peers and made sure each effort was your best effort. Congratulations to Taylor (Open freestyle, 50m backstroke & 50m butterfly), Joseph (50m Breaststroke) and Alyssa (50 freestyle) who were selected for the zone swimming carnival at Scone next Tuesday as a result of the times they swam in their heats. Well done again to Taylor who was 11 years boys swimming champion. Lastly great job everyone—that school spirit showed in our most improved school trophy.



WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE™

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH



OUTLAW AVENUE



8.30PM TO 11.30PM

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION

**SPORTS
RESULTS
GOLF**

**Branxton Veteran Golfers
Results 14-2-19
Stableford**

Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 37 pts (SOD) R/u G Musialik 32 pts 3rd J Sheedy 30 pts
Div 2 Winner R Brooks 30 pts (c/b) R/u B Ward 30 pts 3rd G Beeton 27 pts
Ladies Winner C Caldwell 29 pts R/u J Scobie 25 pts (c/b) 3rd J Harris 25 pts
NTPs Ladies C Caldwell
Gents J Sheedy
Members draw - Not won
What a great Summer's day for a game of golf, overcast with a gentle South Easterly breeze, making it very comfortable for to-day's round. Congratulations to Gary Gazzard on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day" and well done to other winners and placegetters.

**Results 21-2-19
Stableford**

Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 31 pts (SOD c/b) R/u L Hunt 31 pts 3rd J Sheedy 30 pts
Div 2 Winner L Bootes 30 pts R/u R Hebbe 29 pts 3rd A Cannon 28 pts
Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division
NTPs Ladies Nil
Gents B Ward
Members draw - Not won
A positive shower to clear the air, then our merry band of players were on the way to a great day's golf, despite it being overcast and a few "angel's tears" along the way. Congratulations to Gary Gazzard on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day" (Two in a row Gary! What's next - a 'Hat trick' maybe??? And a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

**Results 22-1-19
"Away Day - Hawks Nest"
Stableford**

1st R McMillan 46 pts
2nd G Musialik 39 pts
3rd T Seamer 38 pts
4th A Hackett 37 pts
5th G Gazzard 36 pts (c/b)
Always a great day away for our members at Hawks Nest. Congratulations to Robert McMillan on winning the event and well done to placegetters.
LN Bootes, Hon Sec
Hunter Valley Golf Club
Sunday 10th February
Chris Payne from the Gisborne GC (Vic) found the course to his liking with a great round of 42 points to win the Weekly Challenge from Jarad Hofman 41 and Robert MacBeth of Kurri GC 3rd with 40 points on countback. Ball winners were: Michael Stewart 40, Darrin Maher 39, Scott Armstrong 39, Lloyd Barrett 38, Matt Watts v37, Robert Smythe v36, David Bligh 36, Jason Cowburn 36, Matt Lorenz 36 and David Alexander V35 c/b
Tuesday 12th February
Great scores featured in the Tuesday Stableford with Rob Bradford leading the way with a massive 45 points to edge Todd Mitchell to 2nd with his 44 with Damien Porter 3rd with 42 on countback. Ball winners were: Lloyd Barrett 42, Brad Hoolahan 39, Mark Makin 39, Darrell Porter 37, William Waite 37, Dean Morison 37, Geoff Sweetman 36, Mick Barrett 36, Steven Kane 36, Rick Turnchini 36 and Steve Piggott 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) William Waite (4th) and Peter Payne (17th)
Wednesday 13th February

The Ladies Summer Stableford round has been won by Christine Tancred with 36 points with Dale Hamilton runner up with 33 points. The Summer Stableford will continue next week.

Thursday 14th February
The pairing of Greg Amloh and John Pascoe has seen a +17 return in the Vets 4BBB Par event for a clear win, runners up went to Dave Blackburn and Peter Guest with an impressive +14 with Peter Payne and Garry Clarke 3rd with +13. Ball winners were: Don Bradley and Bruce Chambers +10, Wayne Berry and Darrell Preston +8, John Harison and Ray Boyd +8 and Wayne Drayton and Paul Bullock +8 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart (3rd) Bruce Chambers (4th) Paul Smith (8th) David Peel (10th) and Greg Amloh (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stroke event.

Saturday 16th February
The Blue Tee Challenge has resulted in some solid scores handed in with Toronto GC visitor Blake Glennie claiming A grade from Shannon Attewell on countback after both had 38 point returns, B Grade to Mick Barrett with 43 points to claim 'round of the day' from Quirindi RSL GC visitor Hugh Brownhill with 40 on countback and C Grade to Tony Butler with 40 points with Jarad Hofman runner up with 38 points. Ball winners were: Glenn Mann 40, Wade Attewell 39, Tracy Morison 39, Chad Mitchison v38, Ryan McGregor v38, Wayne Drayton 37, Matt Delforce 36, Angello Wood 36, Mike Carter 36 and Andrew Zok 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Tracy Morison (3rd) Blake Glennie (4th) and Troy Wallis (17th) Next weeks event will be a Medley American Stableford
Sunday 17th February
Newcomer Brendon Clark has smashed his handicap by 16 shots to return a massive 52 points to claim the Weekly Challenge from Jai Kumar who returned 43 points, Brendon will certainly come under the handicappers axe. Ball winners not known at this time.

Tuesday 19th February
Graeme Flynn received the judges nod in the Tuesday Stableford after 4 players handing scores of 39 points, Gary Arnold took 2nd while Wayne Burgess claimed the final podium spot. Ball winners were: Jodie Dunn 39, Thomas Waite 38, David Peel 37, Bob Prentice 37, Darrell Porter 37, Rex Talbot 36, Michael Watson 35, Rick Turnchini 35, Damien Porter 33 and Steve Piggott 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bob Prentice (3rd & 4th) David Peel (8th) and Graeme Flynn (10th)
Wednesday 20th February
Lorraine Clack showed the benefit of fairway golf with an excellent 37 points to win the Ladies Summer Stableford round from Dale Hamilton 33 and Melita Watson 3rd with 31 points. Ball winners were: Christine Tancred, Kerrie-Anne Skinner, Di Atton and Sue Peel. Next week will be the Season Open day playing a 2 Person Ambrose.

Thursday 21st February
John Pascoe has returned a brilliant 61net to win the Vets Stroke event with Dave Fury runner up with 64 on countback to Garry Clarke in 3rd. Ball winners were: Peter Payne 67, John Carmody 67, Ray Boyd 68, David Peel 69, Ken Harris 69, Geoff Sweetman 69, Wayne Burgess 69, Ken Springbett 69 and Wayne Barber 70 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Munro (3rd) Wayne Barber (4th) Geoff Sweetman (10th) and Steve Rawlings (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.
Saturday 23rd February
The ongoing showers led to some scratchings from the field with those in played handing in some great scores in the American Stableford.

Wednesday 13th February

A Grade to Steve Piggott with 58 points from Angello Wood with 56, B Grade to Anthony Bower 58 with Tony Krishna runner up with 56 and C Grade to Cameron Carmody with 60 points from Craig Creatorex with 57 points. Ball winners were: Paul Bullock 55, Shannon Attewell 55, Rob Flanagan v55, Michael McNab 54, Jai Kumar 54, Matt Delforce 54, Ken Harris 54, Simon Nicholson 53 and Troy Wallis 53 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Scott Jones (3rd) John Parish (4th) Wayne Barber (8th) Anthony Bower (10th) and Kevin Smith (17th). Next week's event will be the Monthly Stroke rounds

Branxton Lady Golfers

**Summer Cup
16/1/19**

Winner: Jen Salna
Runner Up: Carol Miller
NTP Ruth McCarthy
23/1/19
Winner: Carol Miller
Runner Up: Neridah Busch
NTP: Neridah Busch
30/1/19

Winner: Jan Scobie
Runner Up: Kerrie O'Connell
NTP: Kerrie O'Connell
6/2/19

Winner: Carol Miller
Runner Up: Jen Salna
13/2/19
Winner: Ruth McCarthy
Runner Up: Kerrie O'Connell
NTP: Jan Scobie

20th February 2018 - Stableford
Winner Carol Miller on 37 points
Runner Up Trish McMillan on 36 points
3rd Jan Scobie on 35 points
4th Jen Salna on 32 points
NTP Jen Salna

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
JOHN MARTIN FOR
SPONSORING OUR
9TH/18TH HOLE IN ONE!
Branxton Golf Club
Saturday, 16 February 2019**

Stableford

Grades A Steve Eccles 40
Grades A Michael Tracey 39
Grades A Joshua Tracey 39
Grades B Mick Martin 40
Grades B Tony Seamer 39
Grades B Paul Bush 37
Grades C Benjamin Bridge 35
Grades C Col Hughes 35
Grades C Richard Alley 35
NTP 2/11 B 2nd Neil Jordan
NTP 4 C 4th Nicholas Redgrove
NTP 9/18 A 9th Greg Gillard
NTP 13 A 13th Chris Zawirski
Balls 4 Distributed down to score: 33
DSR 69
Steve Eccles returned to the

winner's list recording an excellent 40 pts to win Saturday's A Grade Stableford Competition. He defeated the father and son combination of Mick and Joshua Tracey who both had wonderful rounds of 39 pts, Mick's equating to a near par round and Joshua to a 2 under par round—great rounds in any circumstances. Mick Martin won B Grade with 40 pts as well, just ahead of his playing partner Tony Seamer with 39pts with last week's winner Paul Bush third with a pleasing 37 pts. C Grade proved to be a very close affair with Benjamin Bridge prevailing with 35 pts, defeating Col Hughes and Richard Alley with the same scores. 33 pts was needed to win a ball on a day where the DSR was a 69. On Sunday the Pennant team's had mixed successes once again, with our strong A Grade team going down 3-2 against The Vintage at Muswellbrook, B Grade lost their first game in 4 years, going down to Kurri 2-1 at Cessnock, C Grade recorded their first win for the year, defeating Kurri 2-1 at Maitland whilst the Seniors won 2-1 against Murrurundi at Aberdeen.

**SATURDAY (23/2)COMP -
STABLEFORD**

Grades A Joshua Tracey 38
Grades A Mark Makin 37
Grades A Michael Tracey 36
Grades B Gary Walsh 38
Grades B David Kinch 35
Grades B Joseph Bereza 31
Grades C John Martin 38
Grades C Lee Jackson 37
Grades C Steven Primmer 36

NTP ~ B 2nd Tony Seamer, 9th Joshua Tracey, B 13th Peter Marquet
Balls 11 Distributed down to score: 31
The 2017 Club Champion continues to play great golf, winning Saturday's A Grade Stableford competition with an excellent 38 pts, just ahead of Mark Makin with 37 pts and his ever consistent father Mick with 36 pts. His round included a nearest the pin on the ninth and an unbelievable eagle on the 6th where his 2nd shot finished only 2 cms from the cup after his 3 wood landed inches from the hole. Gary Walsh showed how it was done, winning B Grade with a pleasing 38 pts, on a difficult day where rain interspersed all day. David Kinch was runner up with his 35 pts whilst Joe Bereza was third with 31 pts. John Martin continued the theme of the day, winning C Grade with 38 pts as well. He finished just ahead of

Lee Jackson and Steve Primmer. 31 pts was needed to win a ball with a DSR for the day being 69. The last hole's pin position was one to remember—thanks to committee member Dan Turner—located near the front of the green at the bottom of the slope. Club Professional Marcus enjoyed his time watching the sagas which ensued with at least a dozen players missing short putts which rolled off the green. Tony Seamer was one of these unfortunate players but he made up for it by sinking his next putt from off the green- very clever! On Sunday the Pennants continued with A Grade continuing their fine form (they are now equal leaders), defeating Hunter Valley 3.5-1.5 at Singleton; the B Grade won an epic struggle against Singleton 2-1, with team

captain Dave Hollis sealing the deal on the last hole with a strong 4 footer. Troy Felan helped his team win impressively after a 3 under par effort on the last 9 holes. C Grade unfortunately lost 2.5 - 0.5 against Paterson at Dungog whilst the Seniors had a bye.

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*Do you
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when....*

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**Local riders set their sights
on the 2000 Olympics**



Above: Pru Barrett with a young horse she is training for 'eventing'. Many long hours are required to train these young horses for the rigours of 'eventing'.

Husband and wife team, Pru & Craig Barrett of McMullins Road, Branxton, are heading to England this February to compete against the best 'event' riders in the world to get that vital competition experience as a lead up to selection in the Australian Equestrian Team for the 2000 Olympics. The main competition they will compete in, whilst England based, will be the Badminton Three Day Event. Pru will ride "High Opportunity", which is owned by Mrs. Moira Provost. Pru was to ride "High Opportunity" at the World Equestrian Games last year in Rome but unfortunately he went lame the day before the event commenced. She left "High Opportunity" in England and will renew her acquaintance with him next month.

Both Craig and Pru are considered two of the best Australian 'event' riders and, barring unforeseen circumstances, should qualify for the Australian team to contest the 2000 Olympics.

The cost of both their preparations is very expensive as you could well imagine. To help in this regard, both Craig & Pru have an ongoing business in coaching budding local talent. Sponsorship is another way of making ends met. At present they have sponsorship from Horseland, Vetsearch & Oakley Sunglasses and as Pru said, they will accept more if they can get it as.. "every bit helps".

Pru moved to the Hunter Valley in 1989 and her performance, since her arrival here, has been quite extraordinary & her record speaks highly of her dedication and perseverance. High points of her career are:-

- ◆ 1992 - First at Lochinvar 3 Day Event.
- ◆ 1992 - First at Melbourne 3 Day Event.
- ◆ 1993 - Australian Team Member, TransTasman.
- ◆ 1993 - First at the Australian National Event.
- ◆ 1994 - Australian Team Member for the World Equestrian Games. Pru was placed 9th. Individually.
- ◆ 1996 - First at Lochinvar 3 Day Event.
- ◆ 1997 - First at Lochinvar 3 Day Event.
- ◆ 1998 - Australian Team Member for the World Equestrian Games in Rome.

The coming trip to England will take them through to May this year and they are both hoping that the experience they will get will far outweigh the tremendous cost. Selections for the 2000 Olympics will be about 3 or 4 months prior to the games so we wish them both safe passage & a successful campaign. *

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Local Cricket Results



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report - Week 13

Yet another memorable round for the Greta/Branxton Club to complete week 13 of District Cricket, with all five grades winning their respective matches. First grade wrapped up the minor premiership with two rounds still to play following their 9-wicket thrashing of Supporters Club at Baddeley 1. Greta/Branxton had a forgettable opening

20 overs with Supporters cruising at 3-131. But as he has done numerous times in the past, Martin Shearer came into the attack and ripped through the Supporters line-up to have them all out in the 36th over for 184. Shearer finished with the outstanding figures of 6-25 off 10, with Alex "Penguin" Walking taking 2-42 off 7.3. The highlight in the field was a brilliant diving one-handed catch by makeshift wicket keeper Brent Watson. Greta/Branxton breezed to victory inside 31 overs in reply after losing just the one wicket, with Barry Richards (74no) in a cameo appearance and Mark Bercini (scratchy 73no) getting the job done. Co-skipper Joey Butler also timed the ball nicely with 32. Second grade picked up a vital three-wicket win over Supporters at Miller 1. Supporters batted first and posted a healthy 206, with Connor Thomson (4-30 off 10), Anthony Brunson (3-46 off 10) and Jason Varley

(2-41 off 4) picking up the wickets. In an exciting finish Greta/Branxton reached the target with four balls to spare and three wickets in hand. Thomson showed experience many years above his youth to cap an exceptional all-round game with an unbeaten 53. Dylan Lipscombe returned to form with 39, Griffith import Jason Rosenow continued his good start with his new club with 25, meanwhile James Shoulders snr (14), Brunson (11), and Paul Walking (7no) remained as cool as a cucumber in the final over to hit the winning run. Third Grade Blue picked up a rare victory when they thrashed Laguna by 125 runs at Laguna. Greta/Branxton piled on 8-204 from their 40 overs, with Mal Hedger leading the way with an unbeaten 63. He received good support from Ryan O'Donnell (42), Ben Lahey and Blake Campbell (18-apiece), Steve Wilkinson and Craig Gillings (15-apiece) and Zac Watkins (14no). Laguna were all out for just

79 in reply, with Jarrad Wilkinson (2-13 off 6) and Hedger (2-7 off 7) completing a fine all-round game. Third Grade White picked up a 5-wicket victory over Bellbird at Miller 2 to remain on top of the ladder. Bellbird managed 161 batting first, with Ben Miezi responsible for the majority of the damage with 5-36 off 36 off 9 very good overs. Will Young was the other main wicket taker with 2-7 off 1.4. Greta/Branxton reeled in the target with 9 overs to spare and five wickets left in the sheds. Jayden Miller (52) made a fine half-century, supported well by his son Ethen (33no), with Young (27no) and Cade Bradley (15) completing the formality. In what was already a memorable day, another fine milestone was achieved in Fourth Grade. Club



grade game with Brock and Dion Charnock six seasons ago. He still showed glimpses of his former best in his score of 10, with McCann thriving on the good genetics with an unbeaten 34. Seamus Keegan was also at the crease for the winning runs with 12no. Supporters were skittled for just 61 earlier in the day, with Correy Stone (4-26 off 6.3), (Sam Hines 3-11 off 5) and Jeremy Brown (2-8 off 3) picking up the wickets. Charnock could not be kept out of the action, showing his gazelle-like agility in the outfield with a catch low down diving forward. The penultimate round of matches were all washed out the following week, with all sides except Third Grade Blue to feature in the semi-finals. Greta/Branxton

still hold a slim 5 point lead over Bellbird for the Club Championship. **Points Tables**
First Grade Greta/Branxton 82, Mulbring 71, Bellbird 70, Wine Country 58, Supporters 57, Peden's Hotel 52.
Second Grade Chelmsford Hotel 76, Bellbird 74, Peden's Hotel 66, Greta/Branxton 65, Wine Country 61, Supporters 58.
Third Grade Greta/Branxton White 68, Bellbird 67, Wine Country 66, Mulbring 64, Greta/Branxton Blue 59, Laguna 46.
Fourth Grade Chelmsford Hotel 74, Bellbird 70, Greta/Branxton 70, Peden's Hotel White 62, Wine Country 59, Cessnock Hotel 53, Peden's Hotel Blue 51, Supporters 39.
Club Championship Greta/Branxton 643.88, Bellbird 638.28, Wine Country 547.08, Supporters 421.95, Peden's Hotel 417.18, Mulbring 377.07.
• Photo above: Club life member and curator Chris Charnock padded up with Grandson Daniel McCann prior to opening the batting together against Supporters at Baddeley 2



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