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WEDNESDAY
27 March 2019

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say... Not So Well Done



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School NEWS



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Saturday 30th March 2019
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OPEN HOUSE

BRANXTON





8 Russell St, Branxton
Saturday 30th March 2019
10am ~ 10:30am

'Status quo' in Hunter following state election with Libs retaining government

Representation for the 7 state seats in the Hunter have remained the same after last Saturday's unpredictable state election. It had been widely predicted that the result would be a hung parliament but the coalition will govern in their own right with the Nationals, Dugald Saunders, taking the seat of Dubbo giving them a majority of 48 seats. Labor now has 36 seats in the 93-seat lower house, the Greens and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers each have three and there are three independents. Locally, the seat of Cessnock saw the ALPs' Clayton Barr heading for his third term but with a minor loss to his 2015 margin; 2-party preferred he gained 68.27% but in 2015 he had 72.01%.

Mr Barr said in a statement on his Facebook page that he was "humbled and grateful" for the support. "I consider it an honour to represent, support and fight for our community," he said. The seats of Upper Hunter & Maitland saw both incumbents re-elected with Labors' Jenny Aitchison, Maitland, losing a small percentage 2-party preferred & Michael Johnsen with an unchanged margin. The Coalition was returned to power for a historic third term after Labor leader Michael Daley's disastrous final campaign week, which saw the party's vote collapse in Sydney and regional seats. Michael Daley last Monday evening quit as Labor leader following the party's poor showing, but says he intends to re-nominate after the federal poll. Mr Daley said he would stand



Newly re-elected Member for Upper Hunter MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP



Newly re-elected Member for Maitland Jenny Aitchison



Newly re-elected Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr

Candidate	Representation	Candidate Votes	% Total Candidate Votes
BARR Clayton	Country Labor	19,531	68.27%
ANGUS Josh	The Nationals	9,076	31.73%
TOTAL CANDIDATE VOTES		28,607	100.00%

Candidate	Representation	Candidate Votes	% Total Candidate Votes
HALLIDAY Sally	Liberal	10,043	36.42%
AITCHISON Jenny	Country Labor	17,533	63.58%
TOTAL CANDIDATE VOTES		27,576	100.00%

Candidate	Representation	Candidate Votes	% Total Candidate Votes
JOHNSEN Michael	The Nationals	12,953	52.33%
DAGG Melanie	Country Labor	11,798	47.67%
TOTAL CANDIDATE VOTES		24,751	100.00%

aside until after the federal election - due in May - with deputy leader Penny Sharpe to fill in as interim leader. To do otherwise would be an unnecessary distraction from the task of trying to elect a Bill Shorten federal government, he said in a statement. His final week of the campaign involved two major blunders. A video from September

emerged of the-then Opposition telling a pub forum that Asian migrants were taking local jobs and he then stumbled on key numbers behind his education policies during a live television debate. NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has weathered an election that pundits predicted would tip her coalition government into deep minority or opposition.

Both Greta & Branxton Polling booths had a major problem with the NSW Electoral Commission under providing ballot papers. Greta managed to get more in just before they ran out but according to a number of reports, all unconfirmed, around 50 voters were denied a vote at Branxton. As one denied voter said the NSW Election Commission couldn't run a BBQ.



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Landholders invited to free workshop on protecting our bushland



Cessnock City Council is excited to offer a free landholder workshop educating residents on how they can help enhance biodiversity in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The workshop will be held at Ellalong Community Hall on Wednesday 17 April from 5pm to 6.30pm. Our LGA is a haven for rare plants and birds, including species such as the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot yet public reserves are unlikely to be sufficient to protect these species into the future. The workshop will explore how private landholders can support and enhance local conservation efforts. Those attending the workshop will hear from local experts on a number of topics including managing land in a way that benefits both the environment and agricultural production, and potential funding sources available to landholders to help them protect wildlife in their natural environment. Council has partnered with a number of organisations to bring to life including Birdlife Australia, Hunter Region Landcare Network, Hunter Local Land Services and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. This workshop has been made possible by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust. Spots are limited, residents are encouraged to register early at www.trybooking.com/BBKZT. For more information call 4993 4100.

Singleton Mayor pledges support to work with re-elected Upper Hunter MP to deliver on vital infrastructure and services

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the people of Singleton would be looking for a return on their investment of confidence in re-electing the Coalition Government at the weekend's State election. Cr Moore has congratulated Michael Johnsen on his return as the Member for Upper Hunter. But she is hoping for a short celebration so that work can continue on the issues important to Singleton. "Council has worked productively with Michael over the past four years and we are confident that this will continue throughout his next term as our representative in Macquarie Street," she said. "But the people of Singleton sent a clear message when they went to the polls on Saturday, and that is that we have high expectations for the infrastructure and services vital to the liveability and vibrancy of our area. "There's a long way to go to fulfil the needs of our community." Cr Moore said Council would be looking to formally meet with Mr Johnsen as soon as possible.

"We will be discussing our Advocacy Agenda which outlines the issues our community have raised as being essential for the future of Singleton, and we will also send a copy on to the Premier and members of the new Cabinet when it is announced," she said. The issues outlined in the agenda are:

- New England Highway Bypass and ancillary works
- Upgrades to Singleton Police Station and appropriate staffing
- Increased passenger train services to and from Singleton
- Improved Resources for Regions funding program
- Commitment to resourcing post-mining land use, economic development and community planning
- Leadership and resources to help respond to recycling issues
- Expansion of health services in Singleton
- Environmental issues associated with power stations and mines
- Ongoing commitment and expansion to TAFE services in Singleton
- Ongoing leadership to address impact of flying-fox colony on community
- Upper Hunter water security planning, works and protection of water utility status
- Return 100% income from waste levy to councils to fund minimisation and programs
- Legislated framework for Voluntary Planning Agreements
- Review of the Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan for Rural Landholders
- Address overcrowding at Singleton High School
- Changes to cost shifting model imposed by State Government
- Revision of Roads and Maritime contract to improve maintenance of the New England Highway
- Simplification of State-delivered grant programs
- Commitment to the agriculture industry and improved drought support
- Ongoing funding of Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils

Cr Moore said she knew



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

from experience the feeling of pride from being entrusted to represent the people of Singleton. "It is a great honour to be elected, but as Michael also well knows, our community has very high expectations from its political representatives," she said. "I'm looking forward to

getting back to business straight away to continue to advocate on the long list of issues our community has identified for Singleton, and I assure Michael he will have Council's full support to be able to deliver the outcomes we need. "The future of Singleton depends on what we do now."

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CESSNOCK Library News



New free streaming service launched at Cessnock City Council libraries.

30,000 more reasons to join your library!

If you live or work in the Cessnock LGA, are keen on movies or a regular stream-binger, there are now 30,000 new reasons to join your local library. Free online movie streaming service Kanopy is now available to all Cessnock City Library members.

Kanopy offers hundreds of movies, documentaries, kids' programs and more. It's all available for library members to stream to their own device free of charge. Library members will have access to thousands of films, including favourites from Australia and New Zealand and classics from The

Criterion Collection. Members may also indulge in festival indie or world cinema sourced from award-winning filmmakers around the world. Library members can log into the service from home or on a mobile device to access an extensive online library. Up to 10 films can be streamed free each month and members have up to three days to watch each downloaded item.

"This is just one more benefit of joining Cessnock City Library," Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said.

"Our library service extends far beyond the books on the shelves. If you haven't taken the time to explore everything our libraries have to offer, you might be missing out. Kanopy will also be particularly handy for the school holidays, there is an entire section of dedicated to children's programs and movies," Ms Walters said.

Kanopy is compatible with a range of devices, including iOS, Android, Apple TV, and Chromecast.

Members can now access Kanopy via the Cessnock City Library website. A library membership card is required for registration. Non-members are invited to join Cessnock City Library and enjoy all of the services available. You can join at either Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Branch Library. While the use of Kanopy is free of charge, members are responsible for managing their data use when using the service.

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STEVE'S RANT

The 'Silent Majority'
We often hear the term "The silent majority" or to put it another way, as Bob Menzies and John Howard referred to it, as the 'Forgotten People'. What is the silent majority? They are the great bulk of citizens who vote in a very traditional way. They have been called the 'rusted on' Labor and Liberal/ National party voters. I prefer to call them the people who vote for the party which best reflects their values across a broad spectrum of issues. As time goes on and life becomes more frenetic and complicated the issues of importance to Australians have changed somewhat or our concerns have changed in order of priority. The people who would normally comprise the silent majority wax and wane as issues change or are invented by the so-called progressives to frighten us in one direction or another, sometimes in disastrous ways. For example, immigration and the handling of illegals. The confected horror of coal or nuclear-powered electrical generation. The deliberate removal of any competition between students at primary and secondary level and the dumbing down of standards. This is not what the 'Silent Majority' seek. These

issues are the pet projects of the single-issue progressives who have the knack of catching the attention of the media to a degree that both major political parties in Australia feel compelled to react to. And they unfortunately do this without broad consultation or consideration of the unforeseen outcomes which inevitable occur... e.g., Blackouts in SA and Victoria and prohibitive power costs. Both political sides are wont to do this. It is not a Left or Right, Red or Blue thing. Unfortunately, the media do not question these things from the point of view of the Silent Majority but latch on to what might be the next big scoop in the news and don't even apologise when it turns out to be fake. So how do we the Silent Majority let our political representatives know what concerns us and what we want done about it. We must make a habit of writing to our local member and express to them what we expect as they represent us. If you think we should have new coal fired power stations built then tell them to get on with it. If you disagree with elements of your members party ideology say so and why. When our

local member does something, we applaud then tell them 'Good O' and well done. Just don't expect them to fly blind and come up with what we want if we are not prepared to tell them, in writing, preferably. The more letters they receive the more authority they will have in parliament. Of course, we hope with a good lot of letters issues don't cancel each other out. Trends will be indicated however and our local member will have the guidance required to express our views. So, when Joel conducts a public meeting, by all means attend and express yourself whether you voted for him or not. But follow this up with a written note. He has staff to sort through this and present to him a summary of concerns. If concerns so expressed run counter to Labor Party Policy at least he will be aware of changes that need to be made to that policy. The major policy items that Shortens Labor Party hopes to get up if they win the next Federal Election are.

- * Increase the basic wage, to a living wage. Sounds great doesn't it. But this will result in large scale unemployment amongst the most vulnerable workers. All other workers will expect that increase to flow onto them. The size of the proposed increase will cause many businesses to be stricken.
- * Cut CO2 emissions by 50% by the year 2030. To achieve this, it will be essential to stop using fossil fuel to generate electricity. Unless nuclear generation is planned for and delivered this will leave the country without dispatchable power. Battery and hydro will not provide this and electricity costs will skyrocket to the



point where they will stop industry. The further reduction of CO2 emissions will cripple farm production and require the restructuring of transport from road to rail and from internal combustion engines to battery powered personal transport (the good old bicycle is looking better all the time). The cost of this is incalculable and we cannot afford it unless we forgo some other critical expenses.

- * Reinstate the authority of the unions to balance the so-called class power struggle with the bosses. The people who will be most affected by

this are in small to medium business which employs the majority of all workers and the unions will put huge obstacles in the way of casual employment which provides flexibility for workers and the employers. Who wants to be paid award wages to do nothing but watch the business go out the back door? That will be the result.

- * Raise taxation in order to increase government expenditure. Money in private hands is 100% more productive in propelling business and wealth than money subjected to the dead hand of government. As I have said before we

must not come to depend on the government to provide for us. Be self-sufficient.

- * Increase spending on education and health. Motherhood statements of course, but mean nothing unless measured by results. We have seen in the past huge increases in spending for both health and education with no measurable improvement, in fact the opposite has often occurred.

What about Scott Morrisons policies. That is purely academic for our electoral district always vote Labor and we are stuck with Joel. So, it is all the more important that you

write him letters and tell him what you want parliament to do.
Cheers, Steve



with **Mike Lowing**
THE NSW state election is over with a resounding win for the government taking into a third term with our current premier being elected in her own right as an endorsed premier; the first lady in our short NSW political history. This was written last Sunday with the ALP conceding defeat, Clayton Barr being returned in the seat of Cessnock, Jenny Aitchison returned in the seat of Maitland & ALP Mel Dagg looking at defeat in the seat of Upper Hunter. Surprisingly the leader of the opposition Michael Daley said that he will continue as leader ... me think 'not'. He was unable to remember the exact figures of his key education funding promise during the final televised debate before yesterdays poll (when asked how much more the ALP had pledged on TAFE, Mr Daley paused and seemed uncertain, before saying it would be about \$3 billion. He then said: "I'll just check that figure and get back to you." Labor had promised to make TAFE free for 600,000 students over the next 10 years, costing at \$64.5 million over four years. That did their election win chance!!
Cheers, Mike



Some Mongrel B*#tard
This morning (Saturday 10/3) I called in to see a young friend who had lost her mother a few years ago and her father last month. When I stepped inside the

house it was total devastation. Some Mongrel B*#tard had broken into her deceased parents home, stole things and trashed the house she

had grown up in. My heart broke for her when I saw what had happened and when I had stopped having a rant, you know what she said "MUM USE TO SAY ... "THINGS ARE ONLY THINGS AND THINGS CAN BE REPLACED" with a smile on her face, as she waited for the police to come. I hope we find out who did this MONGREL act, and if they live here I will make it my business to let their names be known around town; no matter how old they are.
Valerie Randall, Greta

We want to let the chickens out Yesterday I voted at Cessnock RSL in the NSW State election. Amongst the array of people handing out how to vote cards was one tiny old lady who grasped desperately at my arm, restraining me for several minutes. "We want to save the Animals" she pleaded. We want to let the chickens out ... and ran through all the animals she wanted to save. I felt so sorry for her but she just didn't understand that her one vote was going to be wasted on a one policy issue. It is a common humanitarian thing to fear

for the welfare of other animals & members elected from all parties would feel the same way. I admire her compassion and have sympathy for her mercy. She doesn't understand that politics is big business, cut throat, mean and selfish. Rabble, chasing agendas that will benefit themselves or those that naively think they can make a difference. Bully boys and babes!
Esme, North Rothbury.
Congratulations

I must congratulate Allan Thomas of Lochinvar in his letter to you in the last addition of the News. The point he makes about the interaction of CFC gas and the Ozone layer in the upper atmosphere is a perfect example of how mankind can stuff up his environment. In the 1950's atmospheric testing of nuclear detonations caused the background level of particle and electromagnetic radiation to rise sharply.

To have continued to do this would lead to world wide radiation sickness and a threat to the future of man. As pointed out in the novel by Neville Shute "On the beach" is set in Melbourne after a nuclear war, only cockroaches and rabbits would remain. However, both of these events were simple cause and effect and once this was realised the practice of atmospheric testing of nuclear detonation and the use of CFCs etc., were discontinued worldwide. The business of climate and weather is not so straight forward and due to the scare mongering of the ill-informed, so called people of influence, the truth of the matter is far from resolved. This is the point my Dearest was making. As King Canute (Cnut) told his erstwhile minions he could not stop the tide from coming in.
Steve Lind, North Rothbury

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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
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Rothbury.... 4991 1733	Scotts..... 6575 1200	Central..... 4015 0000
Cessnock)... 4015 0000	Electricity	
Energy..... 131 388	Hospitals	
Maitland... 4939 2000	Cessnock... 4991 0555	Singleton... 6572 2799
SES.....132 500	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	



The Hunter Valley Boutique Collective celebrate International Women's Day



• Michelle Jones



• Iglal Kodi

On Friday 8 March 2019 The Hunter Valley Boutique Collective (HVBCI) hosted a luncheon for members and guests to celebrate International Women's Day. It was great to see a wonderful group of people from around the Hunter come together to celebrate this years International Women's Day theme of 'Balance for Better'. The HVBCI are pleased to partner with four local charities based in the central Hunter - Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteers, Branxton Playgroup,

Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre and Cessnock District Rescue Squad with \$500 being donated to each charity from the proceeds of the event. The event was held at Tamburlaine Organic Wines where attendees enjoyed the hospitality in a beautiful location and learned about the winemaking philosophy of Tamburlaine which is built around contemporary organic practices in the vineyard and winery. Guest speaker Iglal Kodi, a Sundanese refugee, spoke about her three year

journey from Sudan to Australia. Iglal inspired and empowered attendees as she recounted her unwavering determination to become a teacher despite the fact that when she began school in Australia in Year 10 she barely spoke English. After years of hard work Iglal became a qualified secondary school teacher and her passion for teaching was evident as she spoke. Michele Jones, business and life coach and the founder of 'Live Your Best Life' (LYBL) was the second guest speaker and shared the LYBL philosophy of empowering people to live their life on purpose. Michele's desire to support

people to design, create and live their best life provided attendees with the opportunity to reflect and focus on what LYBL means to them. The HVBCI would like to thank the Sponsors of the event Biglift Cranes and Heavy Haulage and performHR, all of for businesses who contributed to the event and the attendees for making the day a success and look forward to hosting an International Women's Day event next year.

Additional information about the HVBCI can be found at www.hvbc.com.



• Guests enjoying the occasion

Annual General Meeting

Branxton RSL Hall

Thursday 18th April 2019 @ 6.30pm

All Members welcomed

Get involved by joining our Board. Our members are vital to the success of the Chamber.
Light Refreshments provided

REFLECTIONS

Reflection
Mothering Sunday

We are midway through our Lenten journey and moving ever closer to Christ's Passion and Resurrection. During this penitential time, we reflect on the ways in which we have failed to live in God's unconditional love. We allow the Holy Spirit to remind us of the times that we have chosen not to live by faith, and we reflect on our sins, those actions, attitudes and thoughts, that separate us from God. We focus on deepening our relationship with God and trusting Him for all that we need. Mothering Sunday which some Christian churches will remember this coming Sunday was traditionally observed as the day when Christians visited their "mother" church to receive a blessing. In more recent times it has also become an occasion when mothers are honoured. Servants were given the day off so that they could visit their own mothers and families. This was often the only time that servant families could gather together. Mothering Sunday is also a day of celebration with the relaxation of Lenten disciplines and fasting. Celebration may be the furthest thing from our minds if we are observing Lenten disciplines, but it is a chance to relax and then refocus. In our Gospel this week, the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15.11-32), we witness the generosity of God through the generosity of the father, whose son has asked for his inheritance, spent it and returned penniless. The Prodigal Son had turned his back on his father, effectively wishing him dead by asking for his inheritance. But his father did not close the door on him. Rather, when his son returned, he ran to meet him and celebrated his return "let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" (Luke 15.23-24)

Ring any bells??? Do we do similar things when it comes to our relationship with God? Maybe we do our own thing, make our own choices, think that we know the best way, and then only when we are in need, return to the one who loves us unconditionally. If the father welcomes his son back, celebrates and rejoices in his return, how much more do we think that God celebrates and rejoices when we return to Him?

As we celebrate Mothering Sunday, let us also celebrate God's extravagant love and generosity. If we would turn and call, God will answer. He is ever-present, always loving, and ready to receive us, His wayward children. May we continue to keep a Holy Lent, ready to celebrate the many blessings of each new day.

Every Blessing, Rev. Nicole

Bush Fire Danger Period extended to Hunter Valley District

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has extended the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period in the Hunter Valley District area due to ongoing dry conditions. NSW RFS Inspector Paul Best, District Manager said the Bush Fire Danger Period, which usually ends on 31 March, had been extended this year to 30 April 2019 due to weather conditions in the Hunter Valley. "The extension means anyone wanting to light a fire in the Singleton and Muswellbrook Local Government Areas (LGAs) after 31 March 2019 will still require a Fire Permit," Inspector Best said. "Fire Permits are free and available from your local fire station or NSW RFS Fire Control Centre. "As always, residents must also notify neighbouring land owners and the local fire authority 24 hours prior to burning." Inspector Best said the decision to extend the Bush Fire Danger Period was made in consultation with other Fire Authorities and local NSW RFS Group captains.

"These decisions are never made lightly and involve a number of stakeholders from the local area," Inspector Best said. "Our overriding concern is the safety of all Hunter Valley residents and we have acted accordingly by extending the Bush Fire Danger Period until 30th April 2019. "Despite some rain over the past weekend, many areas in the Hunter Valley remain extremely dry and now is not the time for anyone to become complacent about the risk of bush fires. "I urge all residents to know what they and their family will do if a fire was to threaten. When will you go, what will you take and where will you go? Ask yourself, how fireproof is your plan? "Please also report any unattended fires you see to Triple Zero (000) immediately."



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826

Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Behind the Mayoral desk

Federal Member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson MP and State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP Labor election commitment to fund an 80 space commuter car park and roundabout in Heddon Greta is fantastic news for our community and we are thankful for their support. This \$5 million pledge is appreciated by Council as our community are concerned about safety in the precinct due to an increase of traffic. Council has the project 'shovel ready' and looks forward to progressing this important piece of infrastructure. Kurri Kurri High School set a great example to the business community at the recent business breakfast. The value of young people getting engaged in the workplace early certainly helps them gain fulltime employment. Council has been active in offering school based traineeships to local young people and we currently have three trainees working at Council. We are also proud to have seven apprentices/ trainees working across varying departments of our Council. These young people are gaining invaluable experience and they are fantastic members of our team.

Youth Week 2019 is on next month and the program is jam-packed with excellent activities for young people of all ages. The fun kicks off on the Thursday 4 April and runs up until Friday 26 April. There's lots on offer from learning how to make your own podcast, trying your hand at hip hop or having some family fun at the PCYC Colour Run. A highlight will be Youthfest which is on at Kurri Kurri Skate Park on Saturday 13 April. There will be live music, face painting, street art workshops and a chill out space. All the while you can watch some of our talented local young people show off their skate, scoot and ride skills. To find out more visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/youthweek.

Last week Cessnock City Council's, General Manager Stephen Glen announced his resignation and retirement. Mr Glen has been in the position for more than five years and in July will celebrate an impressive 30 years of service in local government. Through Mr Glen's leadership and experience Council is in a strong position. Congratulations to Mr Glen on his retirement and we wish you all the best in the future. A report will go to the Council and with Council's consent Mr Glen will finish up in July 2019. *Cheers, Bob*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

With the State member for Upper Hunter only hours into his re-election at the time of writing this column, Singleton is looking to the example set by our Premier when she acknowledged the significance of the support from across NSW, but went back to her electorate to thank them for their support. That's why, although the streamers are still mid-air, the people of Singleton will be looking to the Government for a return on their investment of confidence to deliver the services and infrastructure we have been advocating for. And that's why every member of the new cabinet can expect a copy of our Advocacy Agenda coming their way as soon as Premier Berejiklian announces it. I congratulate Michael Johnsen and the Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr on their re-elections at the weekend. But as we all know, the only result that really matters is the outcomes we can achieve for our community. Council has worked productively with our local members and the Berejiklian government over the past four years, and I am confident that this will continue throughout this next term. However, our community sent a clear message to the Government when they went to the polls on Saturday. And that is that we have high expectations for what we want for the vibrancy and livability of our

community. Advocacy is and will continue to be a major focus for Council in the coming year, so it's timely that Singleton Council's draft 2019/20 Operational Plan will be unveiled for community feedback this week. The draft plan includes 153 individual projects or activities, a projected \$2.65 million operating surplus (not including capital grants and contributions) and a \$37.6 million capital works program, including the biggest investment in water and sewer since 2006. Among the actions are a community commemoration for Singleton's bicentenary, finalisation of the Floodplain Risk Management Plan and condition assessments on all critical road, drainage, building, open space and transportation assets. And the capital works program will see the continued emphasis on asset renewal, in keeping with the fourth year of Council's Special Rate Variation, with \$29.4 million (or 79 per cent) of the capital works budget to be spent on keeping our community assets in a satisfactory condition – or better. That includes the Singleton Historical Museum restoration, replacement of Brookers Bridge, major turf renovations on various sports fields across our local government area and the replacement of the Gowrie Reservoir. Your submissions on the draft Plan are open until 24 April 2019. The document is available in hard copy at Council's Customer Service Centre or Singleton Library, or head to the website at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au *Cheers, Sue*



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

We may never fully understand what happened in New Zealand on March 15 but we know it was evil, atrocious, horrendous and wrong. We can't know exactly what was happening in the mind of Brenton Tarrant. But we can be sure he knows little about Islam and knew nothing about his victims. In a sense, the latter is the scariest part. If the perpetrator of these horrible acts thinks Islam is evil, he is wrong. Terrorism has no religion or ethnicity as he himself proved. Some

of our best and most talented doctors, nurses and fire fighters are Muslims. Like Catholics and Protestants, a few are bad but the overwhelming majority are good. Muslims are born to Muslim families in Indonesia, Malaysia, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, England, America, Australia and New Zealand. Of all the things that might drive a person to slaughter others based on their religion, ignorance is likely to be the dominant factor. There are politicians in Australia and abroad who seek to capitalise on an unfounded fear of a faith. They seek to win votes by whipping up fear and hatred. As a tactic it's been around for thousands of years. But it has no place in 21st Century Australia and I make an appeal to all Australians to reject it absolutely. *****

In recent weeks my work as the Shadow Minister for Agriculture has taken me to many parts of the Country - north, south and west. Agriculture has enormous opportunities but just as many challenges. Chief among the latter is a more challenging climate. If we don't start taking the latter more seriously we will pay a heavy price. Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world and our arable land amounts to just 10 per cent of our land mass. In the face of a drier and hotter continent we need smarter approaches to water efficiency and soil health. Both adaption and mitigation must be part of the equation. *****

I note the increasing casualisation of our mining workforce has become a topic of local conversation of late. I also note that there are some who have come late to the debate. Labor has long had a policy to stop mining companies treating employees as casual for unacceptable periods of time.

Casual status leaves mining families living with employment uncertainty. That same uncertainty also makes it hard to do the things many take for granted, securing a home loan for example. It must stop. *Cheers, Joel*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR OH MY GOODNESS – THE ELECTION SPIN THAT MAKES YOU SICK

Over the past few weeks there has been significant focus on the NSW State Election. Prior to the start of the campaign I thought that I had suitably braced myself for the various spin, lies and mistruths that would come. I was under-prepared. I spent most of the past 2 weeks really feeling the pain of the voter who is trying to see the truth in amongst the bull. I spent most of the past 2 weeks really disappointed with the political identities that deliberately, knowingly, purposefully lied. Plain, straight lies! Sadly it was no surprise that on the polling booth I was hearing these same lies being repeated over and over again. And to be perfectly fair to the citizens repeating those lies, they were only repeating what someone that they trusted had already said. So the lie became their reality. I applaud the various efforts of most political persons to tell the truth about their own policies, about their own priorities and about the future that they see for the people of NSW. I got to the end of the campaign cycle feeling like I had been on one of those

spin around rides at the local show. I can only try to imagine how it was for all of you.

MY FEAR OF WHITE SUPREMACY MOVEMENT
In August last year I fearfully wrote a column about the rise of white supremacy movements across the globe, fuelled by the language of many politicians. I wrote the following back in August and in light of the Christchurch shootings we should all hold our elected politicians far more responsible for their language:

You may recall from history a fellow called Adolf Hitler who led an attack on the Jewish people internally and the world at large externally – all based on his extreme view that he was entitled to “cleanse” the world by killing millions and millions of people he deemed unworthy. As though one human was somehow less than another! The work of Hitler sickened us all and that is why I am so alarmed at an emerging action in our communities, across the globe, that are pushing the same agenda. Right now, in the U.S. there are people running for Government that openly identify as supporters of Nazism. Here in Australia we have politicians that are not far less extreme in their views. Folks, we don't need to hate our fellow man. Hatred will lead us to war and to doing unthinkable things to our fellow humans. Those terrible things will be done to men, women and children. And quite frankly I have seen enough sickening images on the nightly news to remind me of the pathetic injustice of hatred across our world – that is not me, that is not who I am, and I am sure that is not you either. 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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Pharmacist Advice

Medicines and side effects

Prescription medicines can cause side effects

All medicines can cause unwanted side effects. For example, antibiotics such as those in the sulfonamide and penicillin families cause allergic reactions in around five per cent of the population. Skin rashes are a common reaction. However, whether a reaction is caused by the medicine or the illness that it is used to treat is sometimes difficult to tell. A further complication is the interaction of medicines with any other medicines the person may be taking, including prescription, over-the-counter and complementary medicines.

Complementary medicines also cause side effects

About 60 per cent of Australians use complementary medicines at least once a year. Many people believe that alternative or complementary preparations, such as herbal remedies, are safer because they are derived from natural sources. This isn't always true. Some herbs can act on the body as powerfully as any conventional medicine, and unwanted side effects can occur. Some examples of complementary medicines that can cause side effects include:

- echinacea – more than 20 different types of reactions have been reported, including asthma attacks, hives, swelling, aching muscles and gastrointestinal upsets
- feverfew – pregnant women are cautioned against using this herb, as it can trigger uterine contractions. In animal experiments, the use of feverfew was found to trigger spontaneous abortions (miscarriages)
- asteraceae plants – (from the daisy family, including feverfew, echinacea, dandelion and chamomile) – side effects include allergic dermatitis and hay fever.

Complementary medicines can interact with prescription medicines

About 20 per cent of Australians are thought to take complementary medicines and prescription medicines at the same time. This increases the risk of side effects, because the active ingredients in the various preparations can interact in a negative way. For example, the medicines may have similar active ingredients that act in the same way, or the complementary

medicine may increase or reduce the effectiveness of the prescription medicine. Some interactions between complementary medicines and prescription medicines that can put people's health at risk include:

- Echinacea may interact with medications broken down by the liver.
 - Many complementary medicines – including feverfew, ginkgo and chamomile – may increase the risk of bleeding in people taking anticoagulant medicines such as warfarin and anti-inflammatory medicines such as aspirin.
 - St John's wort has caused breakthrough bleeding and could cause unwanted pregnancy in women taking the oral contraceptive pill. St John's wort increases serotonin. Taking St John's wort at the same time as other medicines that increase serotonin (such as antidepressants) increases the risk of serotonin toxicity (serotonin syndrome) – symptoms include tremors, high temperature and low blood pressure and can range from mild to life threatening. Alcohol used with medicines can cause side effects Consuming alcohol with some medicines can also cause unwanted and sometimes dangerous side effects. For example:
 - Alcohol can cause drowsiness or dizziness when taken with antihistamines, antidepressant medicines, sleeping tablets or medicines for anxiety.
 - Medicines for high blood pressure and travel sickness, and some pain relievers can also be affected by alcohol. Some antibiotics interact negatively with alcohol. For example, the antibiotics metronidazole and tinidazole can cause a severe reaction if combined with alcohol, including nausea, vomiting, skin flushing, headache and a fast or irregular heartbeat. Other antibiotics can cause stomach upset, drowsiness or dizziness if combined with alcohol. Ask your doctor for advice about alcohol when you are prescribed antibiotics. Alcohol can stay in your system for several hours after your last drink, so it is important to be aware that interactions can occur if you take your medication within this time frame. Talk to your doctor or other health professional for advice about your medication and drinking alcohol.
- What to do if you experience side effects**
If you experience side effects when taking medication:

- In an emergency, call triple zero (000).
 - Note the side effects and consult your doctor if you have any concerns. The dose or type of medicine may need to be adjusted.
 - If you are sensitive to a particular medicine, and a substitute is not available, your doctor may suggest desensitisation therapy.
- How to reduce the risk of side effects**
To reduce your risk of experiencing side-effects:
- Take all medicines strictly as prescribed. (Taking medication incorrectly can cause side effects.)
 - Don't take anyone else's medicines. Learn about your medication. All prescription medicines have an information leaflet called Consumer Medicine Information (CMI). This includes detailed information on the medicine in plain English, including use, side effects and precautions. Your pharmacist can give you the CMI for your medicine.
 - Ask your pharmacist for advice if you buy over-the-counter medicines. They can advise you about side effects and interactions with other medicines you are taking. Be aware that medicines you buy in the supermarket can also cause side effects.
 - Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription, over-the-counter and complementary medicines.
 - Ask your doctor if improving your lifestyle could reduce your need for medication. Some conditions can be better managed with changes to your diet and regular exercise.
 - Have an annual review of all the medicines you take. This is particularly important for older people because, as people age, they are more likely to have side effects from medicines. Any medicines considered no longer necessary should be stopped. Ask your doctor if you might benefit from a Home Medicines Review. A pharmacist will review all the medicines you take.
 - Return unwanted and out-of-date medicines to your pharmacy for safe disposal. This service is provided free of charge.
 - Talk to your pharmacist about dosage aids that can help you organise your pill taking. You may be at risk of making mistakes if you take many different medicines at different times.
 - Ask your doctor or pharmacist questions so you can clearly understand the benefits and risks of your medicines.



Branxton VIEW Club's new President, Helen Christy Rix was delighted with the large attendance at our last meeting. Judy Groves brought along two ladies and Del Cruickshanks filled out her application to join our friendly club. Judy also gave a most comprehensive delegate's report. Well done! Evelyn Thrift gave a report on the schoolchildren whom we sponsor through the Smith Family Learning For Life Program. Our fundraising occasions contribute to the education and welfare of these disadvantaged children and we sincerely appreciate our friends and supporters who help us achieve our donations to this worthwhile goal. Tuesday, 2nd April, 10 am at Branxton Community Hall is our popular donna-lou Fashion Parade and we look forward to seeing you

there. a light lunch \$15 is included. Bethany 0419 429 364 is our Secretary who can answer every question you may have. What a wonderful recovery, Bethany, we are so proud of you !! Bethany is also holding a fundraising "Party Lite Party" -lovely candles, etc. at her home in Greta and is happy to invite anyone who would like to join us on Thursday, 28th March-11 am, Bring a plate towards lunch and \$5. All monies raised go to our Learning For Life students. RSVP to Bethany on the above number. Sandie gave a report on the activities by the Branxton Greta Business Chamber. A wonderful donation to Greta Public school of \$2,500. On the 9th November at Greta Oval two special occasions will take place at the Greta Silky Oak Festival. The 80th Anniversary of the Greta Army

Camp and the 70th Anniversary of the Greta Migrant Camp. A most memorable celebration to remember for everyone. On Thursday, 9th May, at Greta Workers Club I have arranged a speaker from the Department of Fair Trading to address our VIEW club meeting. Advance notice to any individuals and clubs who are welcome to attend. Topics covered include avoiding scams, planning ahead for Seniors and consumer rights. There will also be a question time. Come along about 11.30 am, hear our speaker and join us for lunch if you wish. All welcome. To our dear members, Jan Travis, Jan Bennett and Denise Hungerford. We trust that your health will continue to improve and that each day brings you closer to good health once more. Our lucky new President Helen celebrated her imminent birthday by winning the raffle prize ! Happy Birthday also to Grace Brown od Lower Belford. You look younger every day! Our gardens sigh with relief after the blessed rainfall and remind me of one of Cicero's knowledgeable sayings-"If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need." Peace and love to everyone, Judy Spillard

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Husband : First make it, we will name it later
A frustrated husband in front of his laptop :
Dear google, please do not behave like my wife..
Please allow me to complete my sentence before you start guessing & suggesting.
A married man's prayer :
Dear God, You gave me childhood, You took it away
You gave me youth, You took it away.
You gave me a wife ... Its been years now, just reminding You.
A man brings his best buddy home for dinner unannounced at 5:30 after work. His wife begins screaming at him and his friend just sits and listens in.
"My hair & makeup are not done, the house is a mess, the dishes are not done, I'm still in my pyjamas and I can't be bothered with cooking tonight ! Why the hell did you bring him home?"
Husband answers: "Because he's thinking of getting married"
Employee : Sir, You are like a lion in the office! What about at home ???
Boss : I am a lion at home too, But there we have a lion tamer !!!
A couple was having dinner at a fancy restaurant As the food was served, the husband said, "the food looks delicious, let's eat."
Wife : honey ... you say prayer before eating at home
Husband : that's at home sweetheart ... here the chef knows how to cook.



Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon gochujang
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon caster sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 tablespoons peanut oil
- 100g shortcut bacon rashers, chopped
- 1 brown onion, halved, thinly sliced
- 3 teaspoons finely grated fresh ginger
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 x 250g packets microwave white rice, microwaved for 40 seconds
- 90g (1/3 cup) kimchi
- 1 carrot, cut into matchsticks

Korean fried rice

- 80g (1/2 cup) frozen peas
- 150g snow peas, trimmed, thinly sliced
- 3 green shallots, thinly sliced diagonally

Method

- Step 1**
Combine the soy sauce, gochujang, 3 teaspoons sesame oil and sugar in a small bowl. Set aside. Whisk the eggs and remaining sesame oil in a separate bowl. Season.
- Step 2**
Heat 2 teaspoons peanut oil in a wok over high. Add egg mixture. Scramble until just cooked. Transfer to a plate. Wipe wok clean.
- Step 3**
Heat the remaining peanut oil over high heat. Stir-fry bacon for 2 minutes or until golden and crisp. Add onion and stir-fry for 1-2 minutes or until softened. Stir in the ginger and garlic for 30 seconds or until aromatic. Add rice, kimchi, carrot, peas and snow peas. Stir-fry for 1 minute or until the vegetables are tender crisp. Add soy sauce mixture. Stir-fry for 1-2 minutes or until well combined and rice is hot.
- Step 4**
Remove from heat and stir in egg. Sprinkle with shallots.

Cessnock Local Government Area gets sun safe



Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent at Jeff Maybury Peace Park Weston

You might have noticed new shade sails popping up in some local parks across the Cessnock Local Government Area that will make a trip to the local playground a whole lot sun safer.

Funded under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, Council has installed shade sails at six local parks.

Shade sails can now be found at Log Of Knowledge Park Pelaw

Main, Centenary Park Abermain, Maybury Peace Park Weston, Whitburn Park Greta, Buckland Avenue Park Cessnock and Kitchener Poppet Head Park.

It can be difficult for children to remain active and enjoy playground equipment when it's a warm day. The shade sails will provide protection for park visitors from the UV and heat during the hotter months meaning more time for exercise and fun.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's great to be able to secure funding and upgrade important community facilities.

"We are excited to be able to provide improved spaces for our local residents, we hope to expand this project to further locations throughout the area. During summer we often get soaring temperatures and these shade sails will mean families can enjoy the park even on those really sunny

days." This project was funded by the Stronger Country Communities Fund. For more information visit

www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/regional-growth-fund/stronger-country-communities/

Faces from Greta Migrant Camp featured in this years Harmony Week



Harmony Week, they were remembered as images of their faces filled the foyer of the Cessnock Library in a kaleidoscope of projected images. This year's Harmony Week theme "Everyone Belongs" reflects some fascinating statistics about

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of Harmony Day and the celebration has now been renamed Harmony Week, recognising diversity and inclusion across the entire week. Harmony Week kicked off on the 16th March and ran until last Friday 23 March. It's about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is an opportunity to celebrate multiculturalism and diversity in our community. This year Cessnock City Library is focusing on a particular part of our local migration heritage, the Greta Migrant Camp (1949-1960). Tens of thousands of migrants came to Greta from Europe, beginning their lives in Australia at the camp after World War II. During

Australia's diversity:

- nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- we identify with over 300 ancestries
- since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- more than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia

*Source ABS 2016 Census Data.



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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 Mick Roderick of Hunter Bird Observers Club
- 12.00 to 13.00 Australian bush tucker and tasting with Maree McCarthy of Australian Plants Society

Entry cost \$10 per person includes delicious morning tea.

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)



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Employees and Independent Contractors

The distinction between employee and independent contractor has long troubled workers and employers alike. The question arises often: in the particular circumstances of engagement, is the worker to be regarded as an employee or a contractor? An employee works in a business and receives superannuation, leave and other entitlements. A contractor runs their own business, pays their superannuation, withholds tax and typically does not receive employee-like entitlements from clients. Contracting has emerged as an alternative to the traditional employment relationship. A contractor can be engaged directly as a natural person, through a trust, partnership or company, or through a labour hire agency. The common law test for determining whether a relationship is one of independent contract or employment is known as the 'multi-factor' test. This

involves identifying and weighing up various features of the relationship to see where the balance lies. Some common features that are considered include:

- * Degree of control over how work is performed
- * Hours of work
- * Expectation of work
- * Risk
- * Superannuation
- * Tools and equipment
- * Tax
- * Leave entitlements
- * Method of Payment

Some individuals who appear to be contractors can also be caught by legislation which deems them to be employees for the purposes of relevant legislation.

Problems occur when companies confuse or misrepresent employee/contractor status. The categorisation as employee or contractor has many implications—for an employer liability for negligent acts, for payment of entitlements such as annual, sick and long

service leave, as well as superannuation obligations. There are also specific provisions in the *Fair Work Act 2009* in respect of sham contracting arrangement. A sham contracting arrangement is when an employer attempts to disguise an employment relationship as an independent contracting arrangement. This is usually done to avoid responsibility for employee entitlement.

Under the sham contracting provisions of the *Fair Work Act* an employer cannot: Misrepresent an employment relationship or a proposed employment arrangement as an independent contracting arrangement; Dismiss or threaten to dismiss an employee for the purpose of engaging them as an independent contractor; Make knowingly false statements to persuade or influence an employee to become an independent contractor.

The Fair Work Act provides serious penalties for contraventions of these provisions.

competencies exist in the high-frequency, low-dollar value, minimal legal complexity transactions. Property transactions by comparison are low-frequency, high-dollar value and by their very nature inherently complex. A regulatory authority seeking to adequately support the property industry, must be well educated and experienced in the industry and be exclusively focused on it. "Consumers making home purchases in the hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars require specialist service providers and an experienced and competent regulatory authority that can maintain a regulatory environment for consumer protection. Expecting the same people at Fair Trading who represent consumers when buying a toaster or getting a haircut to then step up into complexities of a property transaction is ludicrous. A property transaction is a very serious undertaking, there is no room in the transaction for the ill-equipped, particularly the regulatory authority. "The REINSW says a new Property Services Commissioner would provide a centralised overview of legislation and



Labor promises to remove property services from Fair Trading

In the lead up to the 23 March election, REINSW has been running a vocal campaign calling for the appointment of a dedicated Commissioner for the Property Services Industry. In what is clearly good news for the industry, Labor has written to REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin stating that it will place property services in the first instance within Property NSW if it forms Government this month. The NSW Building Authority would also be placed under the expanded Property NSW agency. Shadow Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Yasmin Catley, writing on behalf of Michael

Daley, believes REINSW's argument for a Commissioner for the Property Services Industry has merit. Ms Catley believes the move to a property focussed agency will improve the relationship with industry and Government while achieving economies of scale. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin says: "We support NSW Labor's policy to establish a Government agency that has the experience in, and understanding of, the property industry. Fair Trading's regulatory

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!

regulation that impacts residential, commercial, strata and rural property; support the drive to increase education and service delivery standards in the industries, and advise government on the best outcomes to remove legislative red tape and improve consumer protection across the industry."

REINSW is calling for changes to property services industry

REINSW is calling for changes to the regulatory environment for the property services industry – particularly the paltry training requirement of just four days to gain a qualification to enter real estate practice. It ran a vocal campaign prior to the 23 March State Election. REINSW congratulates NSW Labor on its recent announcement to establish a dedicated Strata Commissioner, but believes that a Commissioner for all things property, including strata and real estate services, would serve the public even further. Real estate agents are charged with guiding consumers through complex transactions involving their most valuable asset. Traditionally, gaining a qualification for entry to the property services industry required three years at TAFE. The education requirement was slashed to four days by NSW Fair Trading in 2003, but since then property transaction values have skyrocketed and become increasingly more complex. REINSW has been lobbying the NSW

Government for improved education and training standards since then. The weeks leading up to the 23 March election was a key period for REINSW and its members. The REINSW has met with the political parties and sought their policy position as it relates to the industry. REINSW will be informing its members of these policy positions and requesting them to appraise their clients so that, come Election Day, they can make an informed choice. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin says: "Government ultimately listened to REINSW, passing legislation in 2016 that will increase the education requirements by new entrants into practice by 600 per cent. Surprisingly, however, NSW Fair Trading has not yet implemented the reforms. We believe this is because Fair Trading believes more training will reduce competition in the industry. REINSW agrees competition is a positive market influence, however it must be competition between well-educated, experienced professionals. Competition alone is not the panacea for all that ails a market. "The current education requirement not only fails to prepare agents to respond to the reasonable expectations of consumers, it fails people wanting a career in real estate practice. Eighty (80) per cent of new entrants leave the industry in the first year." REINSW is calling for the appointment of an industry-experienced Commissioner for Property Services, who will work cooperatively and constructively with industry. "The industry, and more importantly consumers, need a regulatory authority that

will work in a collegial manner, and support it. Industry's current relationship with Fair Trading is adversarial, which benefits no one," Tim says. REINSW believes that all industry stakeholders should be protected by quality legislation that evolves and promotes continuous improvement of standards. REINSW has strong support from its member base: to date, it has gained over 2,300 signatures on its petition calling for a Commissioner for Property Services. REINSW's four reasons for the property services industry to be moved out of NSW Fair Trading and located under the regulatory control of a Commissioner for Property Services:

1. Property transactions are high-value, low-frequency and inherently legally complex. Currently, under NSW Fair Trading, the property services industry is squeezed in among 40 other different trades and service providers that manage low-value, high-frequency transactions with minimal legal complexity. These industries include tattoo parlours, second-hand dealers, hairdressers and tow-truck drivers. NSW Fair Trading does not have the requisite industry knowledge and experience to support the property services industry.
2. Property is Australia's biggest industry. The property industry has an annual turnover exceeding \$107 billion annually in NSW alone. This is far greater than the aggregate of all of the other industries regulated by NSW Fair

Trading. In addition, it is bigger than the mining industry (\$21 billion), the retail industry (\$22.8 billion) and tourism industry (\$38.1 billion) combined. A real estate acquisition is the largest financial transaction most NSW residents ever undertake. Even the cost of rent is estimated to be 30 per cent of the average income. The industry's contribution to the NSW economy is significant, with stamp duty contributing \$8.4 billion to the NSW Government revenue in FY2018.

3. NSW Fair Trading has made poor legislative decisions. These have resulted in appalling consumer outcomes. For instance, NSW Fair Trading removed the need for an auctioneer to be licensed in 1993, reinstated it in 2002 and recommended its removal again in 2018. Additionally, it amended consumer protection legislation associated with trust accounts, which has had severe consequences. The total cost, which is being funded by the NSW taxpayer, is still being calculated. Despite several efforts to rectify this, consumers remain unprotected today.
4. Real estate agents require better training and qualifications. Today, a certificate of registration to become an agent can be obtained in less than a week. Another example is that property managers – rather than trained inspectors – are expected to inspect important property safety devices, without the requisite training, qualifications and experience. Fair Trading is content with someone to blame quickly and not consumer protection. Real estate transactions require an experienced and dedicated specialist, not someone who has acquired a certificate with four days of training and no practical industry experience

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300 M: 0412 566 041



From 10am until 10:30am 8 Russell Street, Branxton NSW

**Claim it as your Home!!
One of Branxtons' finest
Excellent family home in very
popular street.**

This stunning 3 bedroom Federation home has all the features of a bygone era but all modern features of a contemporary family home. The home features lead light windows, high ceilings, polished floorboards, Modern Kitchen & bathroom. The home is set on a low maintenance lot with carport & verandah (away from summers western sun).

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

ASKING \$480,000



From 10:30 am until 11am 9 Morgan Street, North Rothbury NSW

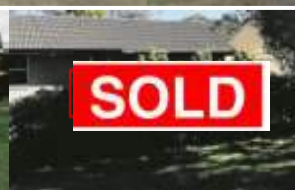
**Stylish, tasteful & smart all
describe this wonderful 4
bedroom family home.**

Stylish, tasteful & smart all describe this wonderful 4 bedroom family home on over 1000sm.

Features include 4 good sized bedrooms with built-ins, large living areas, spacious modern kitchen & bathroom, ducted air con, men's shed and carport.

All this overlooking a community park.

ASKING \$485,000



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

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

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

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

ASKING \$399,000



BRANXTON

EAST BRANXTON



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

ASKING \$349,000

East Branxton

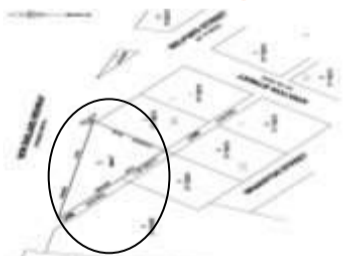


Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

ASKING \$275,000

BELFORD



Vacant Land 2559m²

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

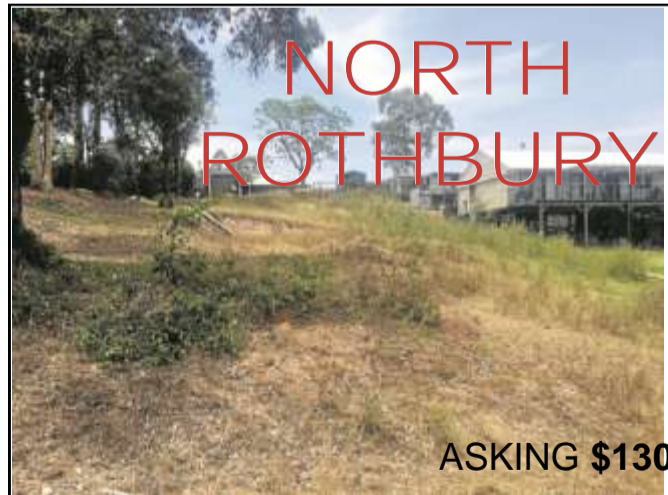
NORTH ROTHBURY



Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road, Vacant blocks

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

NORTH ROTHBURY



Vacant Land 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ONO

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

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

Three motorcyclists die in three days on NSW roads

Motorcyclist dies in Hunter Valley crash

Friday, 22 March 2019 09:59:40 PM

The New England Highway remains closed to southbound traffic following the death of a motorcyclist in a collision in the Hunter Valley tonight.

Emergency services were called to the New England Highway near Whittingham, after a motorcycle and two cars collided shortly before 7.30pm (Friday 22 March 2019).

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District rendered assistance; however, the 50-year-old rider died at the scene.

All southbound traffic on the New England Highway is closed at the Golden Highway; diversions are in place. Northbound traffic is

reduced to a single lane.

Officers from the Crash Investigation Unit are en route to the scene and traffic is expected to be disrupted for some hours.

Fatal crash – Howells Valley, south of Singleton

Saturday, 23 March 2019 06:30:19 PM

Police are investigating a fatal crash south of Singleton.

About 8.30am today (Saturday 23 March 2019), a motorcycle and a utility collided on Putty Road, Howells Valley, about 50km south of Singleton. The rider of the motorcycle, a 44-year-old man, sustained serious injuries and was taken by air ambulance to John Hunter Hospital where he died. The driver of the utility, a 58-year-old man, was uninjured. He was taken to Singleton Hospital for mandatory blood and urine tests.

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District have commenced an inquiry into the incident. A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

Motorcyclist detected travelling almost 70km/h above limit in Hunter

Monday, 25 March 2019 10:17:35 AM

A motorcyclist has been stopped after being detected travelling almost 70km/h above the limit in the Hunter at the weekend.

About 3.35pm on Sunday 24 March 2019, officers attached to Hunter Valley Highway Patrol were carrying out stationary speed enforcement on the New England Highway at Lower Belford, when they detected a motorcycle travelling at 169km/h in a 100km/h zone.

Police activated lights and sirens and directed the rider to stop.

A 25-year-old Dubbo man has been issued a traffic infringement notice for the offence of motor vehicle exceed speed above 45km/h, and his licence was suspended.

NSW police response

Police are urging riders use more caution after three fatal motorcycle crashes in as many days on NSW roads.

Three deaths recorded across the weekend include:

- Just after 4.30pm on Sunday 24 March 2019, emergency services were called to the Great Western Highway at Meadow Flat, following reports a motorcyclist had come off his bike. Officers from Chifley Police District attended and found the 59-year-old man had died at the scene.

- About 8.30am on Saturday 23 March 2019, a motorcycle and a utility collided on Putty Road, Howells Valley, about 50km south of Singleton. The motorcycle rider, a 44-year-old man, sustained serious injuries and was flown to John Hunter Hospital, where he later died. The driver of the utility, a 58-year-old man, was uninjured. He was taken to Singleton Hospital for mandatory blood and urine tests.

- Just before 7.30pm on Friday 22 March 2019, emergency services were called to the

New England Highway near Whittingham, after a motorcycle and two cars collided. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District rendered assistance; however, the 50-year-old rider died at the scene.

Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy of the state's Traffic & Highway Patrol Command said three motorcyclist deaths in three days should serve as a warning to all riders on NSW roads.

"As a motorcycle rider myself, to have three riders lose their lives should act as a warning as to just what can go wrong," Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

"All NSW road users have an obligation to look out for each other, particularly on wet roads.

"Speed, fatigue, drink or drug driving, not wearing a seat belt or proper helmet, driving or riding while distracted are all the leading causes of serious injury and fatal crashes on our roads, however, these are all causes that can be prevented," Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

Police also prosecuted dangerous riders across the weekend in an effort to reduce the risks that some pose on our roads.

- About 12:20pm on Sunday 24 March, Highway Patrol motorcycle officers observed a motorcycle travelling towards them on the incorrect side of the road, while overtaking another vehicle across double yellow lines. The rider was issued an infringement notice for 'not keep left of the dividing line', fined \$337, and lost three points.

- About 3.35pm on Sunday 24 March 2019, officers attached to Hunter Valley Highway Patrol were carrying out stationary speed enforcement on the New England Highway at Lower Belford, when they detected a motorcycle travelling at 169km/h in a 100km/h zone. Police activated lights and sirens and directed the rider to stop. A 25-year-old Dubbo man has been issued a traffic infringement notice for the offence of motor vehicle exceed speed above 45km/h, and his licence was suspended.

- About 11:20am on Saturday 23 March 2019, at Carrathool, officers detected a rider at 160km/h in a 110km/h zone, while overtaking another vehicle. The 19-year-old provisional licence-holder was arrested for the purpose of a blood/urine analysis at hospital, and also issued an infringement notice for exceeding the speed limit over 45km/h, fined \$2345, his licence was suspended for 6 months, and his registration for three months.

Assistant Commissioner Corboy said the recent fatalities add to a concerning total for 2019.

"With 18 motorcycle riders losing their lives so far this year – six more from this time last year – drivers and riders alike need to make sure that they are doing the right thing and sharing our roads safely.

"Highway Patrol officers will continue out in force to prevent further harm to NSW road users; however, we need the help of the public to stem the current rise in fatalities," Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

The state's road toll currently stands at 98, 10 more than this time last year.

Huntlee's first community library to be officially opened this Friday

On Friday, 29 March at 2.30pm, Huntlee's first community library will be launched.

Located outside the Huntlee café, the street library will encourage residents to share books while visiting the community playground and the café.

The initiative was inspired by Huntlee resident, Brett Laing, who received funding for his idea through the Huntlee Community Grants scheme.

Brett and Huntlee



Community Liaison Officer, Walter Mansfield, commissioned the Greta-Branxton Men's Shed to construct the custom-made library. "The Men's Shed took on suggestions from the residents and have created a unique design, perfect

for location and purpose," said Walter.

"Residents of Huntlee have been invited to attend the launch and bring along a book to donate and kick start the community-sharing initiative.

"As many will have heard, the Member for Warringah, Tony Abbott, this week discovered his first Street Library and has enthusiastically embraced the concept. We can neither confirm nor deny rumours Mr Abbott will be in attendance at the launch of the Huntlee Street Library next week but if he can make it, we're hopeful he'll drop in a few copies of *Battlelines*."

Report

CRIME STOPPERS
com.au
1800 333 000



on Public School

Assembly News

Congratulations to all students who practiced their public speaking skills by talking on the microphone at our assembly last Friday. Thank you to those parents who were able to share our assembly with us. We hope you enjoyed getting to spend time in the technology room with your children as they shared the skills they had been practicing.



Principals Award

Indigo—Showing initiative in organizing lunchtime activities.

Class Awards:

K/1/2:

Cash Mayo—Being a friendly student to everyone.

Trinitee Williams—A willingness to learn and try new things.

4/5/6:

Joseph— Making great use of learning time during literacy.

Lachlan—Actively contributing to class learning



HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXPORT COUNCIL (ATEC) TO DELIVER IMPORTANT TOURISM WORKSHOPS IN THE HUNTER VALLEY IN MARCH.

The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) has been working with ATEC over the past several months on delivering a practical, wine-specific skills development program for wine businesses looking to

develop their wine tourism products and services for the inbound tourism market. The program is a key component of the Australian Government's \$50 million Export and Regional Wine Support Package (the \$50m Package). The program comprises three modules which are being delivered in the Hunter Valley on the 25th & 26th of March.

The \$50m Package is designed to deliver on the two objectives – increased exports of Australian wine and increased wine-related tourism. A nine-person Marketing Advisory Group has had a pivotal role in setting the multi-year strategy, which seeks to increase the perception of, and demand for, Australian wine and wine tourism amongst the wine trade and consumers through media, events and education campaigns.

Wine tourism in the Hunter Valley provides \$502m annually to our local economy and provides over 2800 jobs. The delivery of the workshops in the Hunter Valley will give businesses the skills and knowledge to further develop their products and services for a growing inbound tourism market. An increase in international visitors to our

region will have a future positive impact on our local economy. Cheers, Jo

* Photos courtesy Annemaree Winter

Out & About

with Mike Lowing



Club member Bruce Cavanagh chatting to a supporter about his BMW.



Merv, a club member enjoying a chat with a supporter discussing the good role up considering the weather conditions.



Three generations of the Drinkwater family of Greta attended the annual bike show at the weekend.

COALFIELDS CLASSIC & ENTHUSIASTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC.

MOTORCYCLE SHOW

18th MARCH

TATTS HOTEL GRETA

A	B	C	D	E
Pre 1926	Hunter Valley Motorsports	1	Waratah	Noel Terry
1926 - 1945	Chris Watson Motorcycles	16	BSA Goldstar	Michael Archer
1946 - 1955	Branxton/Greta Locksmiths	42	BSA Bantam	Rob
1956 - 1965	Kawasaki Connection	72	BSA Goldstar	Damon Power
1966 - 1975	Classic Bike Spares	103	Kawasaki	Kevin Oconnor
1976 - 1985	Grant's Barber Shop	133	Honda XL	Paul
1986 to present	CAN Graphic Design	179	Honda CR	Joel Drinkwater
Bike of the Show	BTP Group	114	Norton Commando	Tony
Peoples Choice	Tattersalls Hotel	42	BSA Bantam	Rob
Best Club Bike	The Mordue Family	262	Honda CB750	Sean Burkill
Clubman of the year	The Lowe Family			Rob Benbow



Linda Filewood displayed her beautifully restored AJS to all the onlookers delight.



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

(Wood rimmed child-safe magnifying glass that really works)

Greta Historical Museum
96 High Street Greta
Open 11am-3pm
Wednesdays & Saturdays

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

4938 3300

12 Clift Street, BRANXTON

.....for all your Real Estate needs

FREE PROPERTY MARKET APPRAISALS

M: 0412 566 041

E: thenews@hotmail.net.au
WEB: www.domain.com.au

Cessnock Day Night Pharmacy

Open 7 days
8am - 8pm

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock (opposite ALDI)

Greta Museum

Honours the sacrifices of our local Service People - Come in to see our displays and photographs, about them and many other subjects.

Open Wed. & Sat. 11- 3pm
96 High Street Greta

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325

WHAT'S ON

**Members Badge Draw
Every Wednesday
& Sunday**



MARRIAH BAND



Friday 29h March

Friday 22nd March

Fridays & Sundays

MARRIAH

MINIUTE BY MINUTE

Courtesy Bus

Call Greta for details 4938 7325
SERVICING BOTH CLUB PREMISES



Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays



Thursdays 4pm—6pm

Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 4938 1226

MEAT RAFFLES



Fridays & Sundays

TUK TUK Thai & Aussie

NOW OPEN @

Miller Park Sports Club

Dine-In or Take away



\$3.80 Schooners

Wednesdays

4pm—6pm



Thursdays

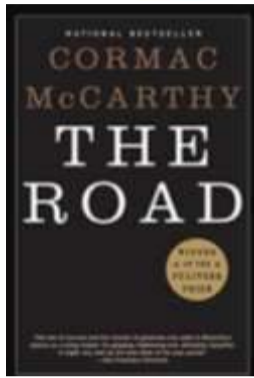
& Sundays

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

SOCIAL BOWLS

**WED'S 4PM
PRIZE MONEY
TO BE WON!**





(The Road was first published in September 2006. I had not read it.

On my way home from Brisbane last week I listened to an interview on ABC with Ross Wilson of Mondo Rock fame. The interview was not on his musical life but on what book he had read that had a profane impact on him.

As he stated he's a prolific reader & when he finished reading The Road he didn't read another novel for 18 months. I had to read it; it's not for the faint hearted. The review is not by me but he's sentiments are, pretty much, as I saw it. ed)

The road to hell

Cormac McCarthy's vision of a post-apocalyptic America in The Road is terrifying, but also beautiful and tender, says Alan Warner
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
 Shorn of history and context, Cormac McCarthy's other nine novels could be cast as rungs, with The Road as a pinnacle. This is a very great novel, but one that needs a context in both the past and in so-called post-9/11 America. We can divide the contemporary American novel into two traditions, or two

ABOUT

Cormac McCarthy (born **Charles McCarthy**; July 20, 1933) is an American novelist, playwright, and screenwriter. He has written ten novels, spanning the Southern Gothic, Western, and post-apocalyptic genres. McCarthy's fifth novel, *Blood Meridian* (1985), was on *Time* magazine's 2005 list of the 100 best English-language books published since 1923. For *All the Pretty Horses* (1992), he won both the National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award. His 2005 novel *No Country for Old Men* was adapted as a 2007 film of the same name, which won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture. *All the Pretty Horses*, *The Road*, and *Child of God* have also been adapted as motion pictures, while *Outer Dark* was turned into a 15-minute short. McCarthy won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction for *The Road* (2006). In 2010, *The Times* ranked *The Road* first on its list of the 100 best fiction and non-fiction books of the past 10 years. Literary critic Harold Bloom named McCarthy as one of the four major American novelists of his time, alongside Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon and Philip Roth, and called *Blood Meridian* "the greatest single book since Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*".

achievement is not an American dream but near on 30 years of neglect for a writer who, since *The Orchard Keeper* in 1965, produced only master-works in elegant succession. Now he has given us his great American nightmare. *The Road* is a novel of transforming power and formal risk. Abandoning gruff but profound male camaraderie, McCarthy instead sounds the limits of imaginable love and despair between a diligent father and his timid young son, "each other's world entire". The initial experience of the novel is sobering and oppressive, its final effect is emotionally shattering. America - and presumably the world - has suffered an apocalypse the nature of which is unclear and, faced with such loss, irrelevant. The centre of the world is sickened. Earthquakes shunt, fire storms smear a "cauterised terrain", the ash-filled air requires slipshod veils to cover the mouth. Nature revolts. The ruined world is long plundered, with canned food and good shoes the ultimate aspiration. Almost all have plunged into complete Conradian savagery: murdering convoys of road agents, marauders and "bloodcults" plunder these wastes. Most have resorted to cannibalism. One passing brigade is fearfully glimpsed: "Bearded, their breath smoking through their masks. The phalanx following carried spears or lances ... and lastly a supplementary consort of catamites illclothed against the cold and fitted in dogcollars and yoked each to each. "Despite this soul desert, the end of God and ethics, the father still defines and endangers himself by trying to instil moral values in his son, by refusing to abandon all belief. All of this is utterly convincing and physically chilling. The father is coughing blood, which forces him and his son, "in their rags like mendicant friars sent forth to find their keep", on to the treacherous road southward, towards a sea and - possibly - survivable, milder winters. They push their salvage in a shopping cart, wryly fitted with a motorcycle

mirror to keep sentinel over that road behind. The father has a pistol, with two bullets only. He faces the nadir of human and parental existence; his wife, the boy's mother, has already committed suicide. If caught, the multifarious reavers will obviously rape his son, then slaughter and eat them both. He plans to shoot his son - though he questions his ability to do so - if they are caught. Occasionally, between nightmares, the father seeks refuge in dangerously needy and exquisite recollections of our lost world. They move south through nuclear grey winter, "like the onset of some cold glaucoma dimming away the world", sleeping badly beneath filthy tarpaulin, setting hidden campfires, exploring ruined houses, scavenging shrivelled apples. We feel and pity their starving dereliction as, despite the profound challenge to the imaginative contemporary veils to cover the mouth. The world shrinking down to a raw core of parsible entities. The names of things slowly following those things into oblivion. Colours. The names of birds. Things to eat. Finally the names of things one believed to be true." Such a scenario allows McCarthy finally to foreground only the very basics of physical human survival and the intimate evocation of a destroyed landscape drawn with such precision and beauty. He makes us ache with nostalgia for restored normality. The Road also encapsulates the usual cold violence, the biblical tincture of male masochism, of wounds and rites of passage. His central character can adopt a universal belligerence and misanthropy. In this damnation, rightly so, everyone, finally, is the enemy. He tells his son: "My job is to take care of you. I was appointed by God to do that ... We are the good guys." The other uncomfortable, tellingly national moment comes when the father salvages perhaps the last can of Coke in the world. This is truly an American apocalypse. The vulnerable cultural references for this daring scenario obviously come from science fiction. But what propels *The Road* far beyond its progenitors are the diverted poetic heights of McCarthy's late-English prose; the simple declamation and plainsong of his rendered dialect, as perfect as early Hemingway; and the adamant surety and utter aptness of every chiselled description. As has been said before, McCarthy is worthy of his biblical themes, and with some deeply nuanced paragraphs retriggering verbs and nouns that are surprising and delightful to the ear, Shakespeare is evoked. The way McCarthy sails close to the prose of late Beckett is also remarkable; the novel proceeds in Beckett-like, varied paragraphs. They are unlikely relatives, these two artists in old age, cornered by bleak experience and the rich limits of an English pulverised down through despair to a pleasingly wry perfection. "He rose and stood tottering in that cold autistic dark with his arms out-held for balance while the vestibular calculations in his skull cranked out their reckonings. An old chronicle." Set piece after set piece, you will read on, absolutely convinced, thrilled, mesmerised with disgust and the fascinating novelty of it all:

The New York Times Best Sellers PAPERBACK Non Fiction (31 March 2019)

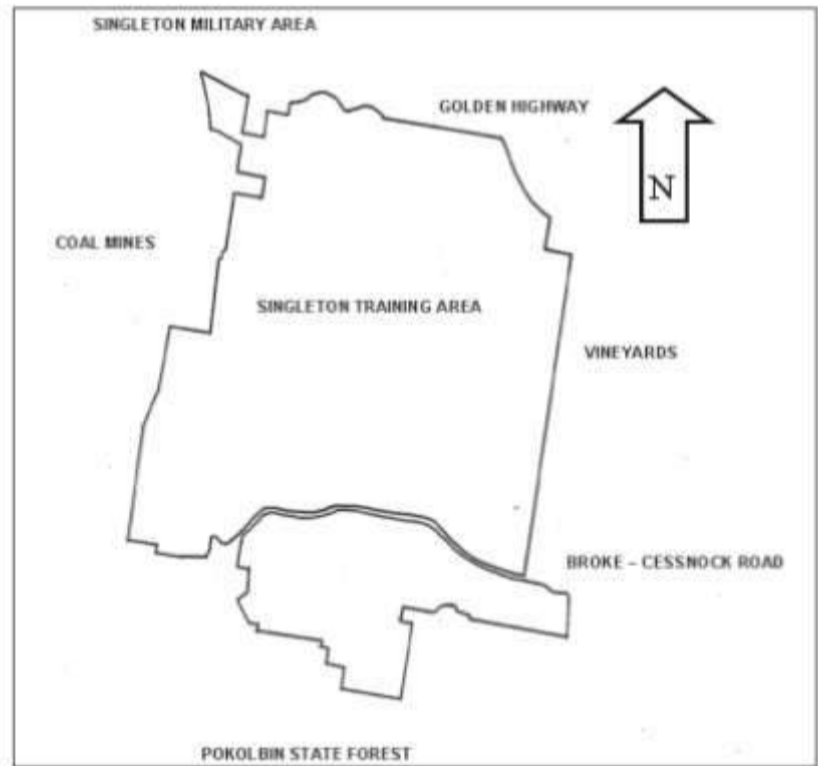
Paperback Nonfiction

1. 5 weeks on the list
BORN A CRIME by Trevor Noah
A memoir about growing up biracial in apartheid South Africa by the host of "The Daily Show."
2. 44 weeks on the list
SAPIENS by Yuval Noah Harari
How Homo sapiens became Earth's dominant species
3. 36 weeks on the list
WHITE FRAGILITY by Robin DiAngelo
Historical and cultural analyses on what causes defensive moves by white people and how this inhibits cross-racial dialogue.
4. 21 weeks on the list
THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE by Bessel van der Kolk
How trauma affects the body and mind, and innovative treatments for recovery.
5. 50 weeks on the list
KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON by David Grann
The story of a murder spree in 1920s Oklahoma that targeted Osage Indians, whose lands contained oil. The fledgling F.B.I. intervened, ineffectively.
6. 144 weeks on the list
JUST MERCY by Bryan Stevenson
A law professor and MacArthur grant recipient's memoir of his decades of work to free innocent people condemned to death.
7. 3 weeks on the list
I'LL BE GONE IN THE DARK by Michelle McNamara
The late true-crime journalist's search for "the Golden State Killer."
8. 29 weeks on the list
GRIT by Angela Duckworth
The MacArthur Fellow argues that passion and perseverance are more important than innate talent in creating success.
9. 35 weeks on the list
SHOE DOG by Phil Knight
A memoir by the co-founder of Nike, Inc.
10. 75 weeks on the list
BEING MORTAL by Atul Gawande
The surgeon and New Yorker writer considers how doctors fail patients at the end of life, and how they can do better.



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

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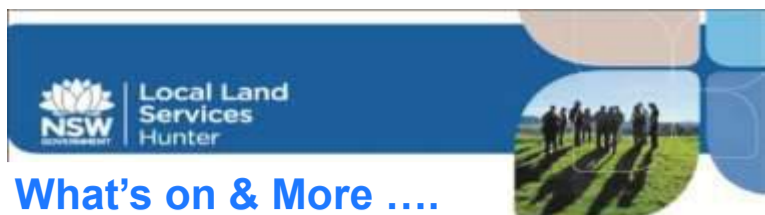
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What's on & More

URGENT KIKUYU POISONING ALERT FOR LOCAL CATTLE PRODUCERS



Hunter Local Land Services is urging Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes cattle producers to be aware recent rain may increase the risk of kikuyu poisoning on kikuyu dominant pastures.

Concerned producers should consider moving cattle to safer pastures or providing alternate feed in kikuyu paddocks such as silage or hay.

Recent rains across the Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes is prompting strong pasture recovery and could lead to a repeat of last year's kikuyu poisoning outbreak that killed more than 100 head of cattle across the region.

District Vet Jim Kerr said Hunter Local Land Services has issued an urgent alert to local cattle producers after multiple cattle deaths on rapidly growing kikuyu pasture over the weekend.

"Kikuyu poisoning is still not completely understood, but what we do know is Kikuyu pasture can become poisonous when it grows rapidly after a period of prolonged dry weather," said Dr Kerr.

"The exact nature of the toxin in the kikuyu plant remains unknown and is subject to ongoing research, and may involve a fungal element.

"The decent rainfall experienced in the lower Hunter and Great Lakes districts in recent days has created suitable conditions for a repeat of last year's outbreak of kikuyu poisoning and we want producers to be alert to the risk."

Kikuyu poisoning damages the stomachs of cattle, resulting in a situation where fluid accumulates in the rumen, but can't be absorbed into the blood stream.

As a result, affected cattle become severely dehydrated, but can't drink anymore because their rumen is already full of fluid.

Consequently, affected cattle are observed to drool and 'sham drink', where they stand at troughs and dams trying to drink, but unable to do so.

In some cases there is an audible abdominal 'sloshing' when they walk because their rumen is so full of fluid, and gut pain and staggering gait may be evident before they go down and die.

What we do know about kikuyu poisoning is:

- affected kikuyu does not look any different to safe kikuyu
- affected kikuyu is likely to be less palatable to cattle, as they will avoid it if alternative feed is available
- cattle deaths occur in paddocks when the cattle have no alternative feed available
- deaths seem to stop once cattle are removed from the affected pasture, or at least when they are offered alternative feed (silage or hay)
- the risk seems to subside after 3-4 weeks.

"Cattle producers with high risk kikuyu pasture, containing little alternative feed are strongly advised to shift cattle to safer pasture or provide cattle with alternative feed if they are occupying kikuyu paddocks," said Dr Kerr.

"An additional warning, however, applies to provision of hay and silage - please introduce it gradually if the cattle are unaccustomed to it, as there have been a lot of cattle deaths during the last 12 months caused by nitrate poisoning when unadapted cattle have been given sudden access to rich hay."

Cattle producers are also being urged to report suspected cases of kikuyu poisoning to Hunter Local Land Services, as we continue to collect samples for research.

Thanks to those who have reported stock deaths as this enables Hunter Local Land Services to warn all local producers, preventing further deaths.

Photo: from a kikuyu poisoning incident in 2018. Credit to Hunter LLS for the photo.

Racing

Rare case of SP bookmaking in the headlines

Are SP bookmakers relic of the colourful bygone days of Australian

gambling? Maybe not, with three Gold Coasters involved in an illegal gambling operation charged with SP bookmaking in the first prosecution of its type in Queensland in decades. Brisbane's The Courier-Mail newspaper reports Bartholomew Darmody, Nigel McWilliams and Ruth Sullivan pleaded guilty in Southport District Court on Thursday to unlawful bookmaking. The Courier-Mail says the court was told they were

employed by a company called Parkview Corporate Services which was linked to an unlicensed bookmaker called Betjack. Vanuatu-based Betjack was shut down in 2015 after police raids on Gold Coast 'boiler room' call centres accused of duping punters out of \$60 million. The court was told Darmody, McWilliams and Sullivan were working at Parkview Corporate Services when police raided the offices



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 19th March 2019

Gunnedah numbers decreased by over a 1,500 head this sale, due to scattered rain over some of the district, as well as major sell-offs over the past few months. Cow numbers decreased by half of last weeks' sale. Young cattle quality improved, but there were still numbers of plain cattle available. All the regular operators were present and operating in a strong market. Restockers were active on secondary types, more particularly on light cows. Restockers operated strongly on drafts of weaners, although feeders competed on both steers and heifers to see trends increase up to 30c/kg. Yearling steers to feed also experienced good increase in excess of 50c/kg. Similarly, heifers sold to dearer trends of 20c/kg. Conversely, plainer drafts of steers and heifer found resistance at the 200c/kg mark, but still enjoyed dearer trends, due to the interest in plainer grades. Grown heifers saw dearer trends of 20c/kg. Competition on 1 score cows by restockers saw that category rise by 30c/kg. 2 score cows to the trade sold to dearer trends of over 20c/kg. A rise in quality of the secondary drafts of D3 and D4 cows saw averages for that category improve by 50c/kg. The very limited bull numbers saw a dearer trend.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 19th March 2019

There was only a small offering of cattle after patchy rainfall was recorded throughout the supply area. There were 57 cows in the penning, with the remaining offering made up of the younger drafts. There were pens of well bred vealers suitable for the restockers, along with yearlings purchased by lot feeders. High yielding younger cattle suitable for the processors and trade buyers were also in the penning. The market trend was dearer throughout all categories. The over 200kg vealers to the restockers improved by 35c, with the steers selling from 170c to 230c, while the heifer portion made from 190c to 216c/kg. Yearling steers improved from 20c to 30c, with the lot feeders paying from 268c to 278c/kg to secure their selections of the medium weights. Yearling heifers to the lot feeders increased by 15c and made from 194c to 238c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers improved by 14c, with the best making to 324c/kg. Cows increased from 18c to 20c, with the plainer drafts making from 80c to 150c/kg, depending on weight. The better covered 3 scores made from 145c to 175c, with the best heavy weight bull topping at 203c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 20th March 2019

Consignments decreased, with rainfall recorded throughout the supply area the contributing factor. Breed quality was fair to good, with the majority of the younger drafts suitable for the restockers and lot feeder orders. There were percentages of the younger stock in prime condition and suitable for the butchers and trade orders. Approximately 80 cows were penned, with most weights and grades represented. The market trend was considerably dearer. The younger cattle increased in price by 20c to 30c throughout all the categories, with the over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock making from 154c to 260c/kg. The same weight heifer portion ranged from 166c to 220c/kg. The yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeders received from 140c to 232c/kg, the latter for heavy weights to the feeder orders. The heifer portion to the same orders made from 136c to 208c/kg, depending on the breed offered. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 320c/kg. Cows showed the greatest gains in value to increase from 30c to 50c/kg. The plainer drafts ranged from 86c to 160c, depending on weight, as the better covered heavier cows made from 170c to 194c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 210c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 18th March 2019

Scattered rain through the surrounding district, along with a previous major sell-off of weaners, saw numbers fall by 70%. The yarding, while mixed, showed improved quality and contributed some very good drafts of heavy vealers, along with a good offering of cows. All the regular buying panel attended a very strong market for all categories. Heavy vealers sold to much dearer trends of 20c to 40c/kg, selling to both feeders and the trade. Drafts of the plainer types, selling to restockers realised dearer trends of up to 50c/kg. Yearling steers to feed also saw dearer trends of 16c, while the heifer portion sold to increased trends of 25c/kg. Heavy steers were in minority and sold slightly cheaper, while the heifer portion sold up to 40c/kg better to the trade. Cows were a stand out, with a better quality offering and some high yielding drafts. Light cows saw dearer trends throughout of 40c/kg. Medium weight cows also saw substantial increases. A pen of four score, high yielding cows sold to 205c, with most drafts of three and four score cows selling to rising trends of 40c to 50c/kg. Most of the better bulls offered saw decreases of 16c/kg.

in May 2015 after a complaint from a Betjack punter.

Darmody told police he was a 'consultant' for Parkview, earning between \$1000 and \$2000 a week. He admitted to taking 'the odd phone bet there' if there were technical problems with the website. Crown prosecutor Matt Hynes told Judge Julie Dick SP betting prosecutions happened in the magistrates court 'in the old days' and he could find no similar cases. Judge Julie Dick SC agreed that 'back in those days' SP bookies were dealt with in the magistrates court and 'almost invariably' received fines. She fined Darmody, McWilliams and Sullivan \$1500 each and did not record convictions.

Makybe Diva turns 20

How time flies. The great three-time Melbourne Cup winner Makybe Diva has just turned 20.



Currently in foal to More Than Ready, Makybe Diva celebrated her 20th birthday at owner Tony Santic's Makybe Stud at Gnarwarre, just west of Geelong. In November it will be 14 years since she last graced a racetrack when the curtain came down on her glorious career on that famous day at

Flemington when she won her third Melbourne Cup in 2005. Makybe Diva's grand journey started when she was born on March 21, 1999, entering the world just after midnight in England. Failing to attract buyers at the 1999 Tatts Newmarket sale, Makybe Diva

remained in England until August 2000 when she and her dam Tugela were shipped to Australia. (In 2005, she also won the Cox Plate) Owner: Tony Šantić Record: 36: 15- 4-3 Her dad: Desert King Earnings: 14.53 million AUD Trainers: D & L Freedman



Will the Federal Election be able to end the NBN mess?

By Paul Budde | 22 March 2019

Australia has been struggling with an inadequate NBN system, but hopefully a change in government will amend that, writes Paul Budde.

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, further information has come to light about the problems the NBN is facing and it is clear that the Government will have to step in in order to address the mountain of problems with the service. However, in all reality, this will not happen until after the Federal Election. The regular Ookla ranking put Australia even further down on the international ladder of broadband speeds. It is now sitting in position 60. There have been arguments that this also had something to do with the way the list was produced this time, but it doesn't really matter whether we are in position 60, 55, or even 40. We are so far down the list that any of those ratings are an embarrassment for the country.

I am just back from the Netherlands where I enjoyed FTTH services both at the homes of family members and in the Airbnbs we stayed in and it is just a joy to use the internet at such great speeds. Unlimited speed of 100Mb/s and more at access costs of around €50 — to improve their profitability, ISPs also package a range of entertainment, home security and other (telecoms) services into their offerings, so overall packages are sometimes closer to €80.

Back to Australia. Some of the other problems we also saw mentioned in the media comments include that there are still a large number of NBN connections that have been put in the too-hard

basket — by mid-2018 there were close to 1.5 million of them, many in relation to the HFC problems that the company is facing. This put the overall reliability of the NBN in several states below the ACCC standard. But perhaps we should now stop crying over spilt milk. The NBN is what it is and we should take the current situation as the base from which we need to make improvements. The trouble is that because of the politicisation of the NBN it is very difficult to get a good understanding of the nature of the problems and any new government will need to first examine this with a group of truly independent experts (and not hand-picked political favourites).

As mentioned in my previous analysis, back in the period of 2005-2009 I was heavily involved in the strategies around the NBN. From the very first, I said that we needed an FTTH NBN because of the social and economic benefits. Stephen Conroy — first as the Opposition's Minister for Communications and later in his position as the Minister for Broadband and the Digital Economy — mentioned several times that this was the reason he supported a national broadband plan that was framed around an FTTH infrastructure. Also, I have maintained from day one that people are not going to pay more for an FTTH connection. The business model should be based on the economic and social benefits as well as commercial revenue, not just on commercial revenue.

While the government of the day paid extensive lip service to this model, they never put a financial model

in place that reflected the social and economic benefits. So, yes, the Labor Government can be blamed for not setting such a model in concrete. Malcolm Turnbull hammered this home, asking many times for the cost-benefit analysis, but, when he subsequently took charge, he himself — despite promises — failed to come up with one.

In my view, this is the root of all our problems. We, as a country, never properly addressed why we implemented the NBN and consequently we never properly linked the national benefits to the business and financial models. If Labor had remained in power, it would not have been such a problem if there had been cost blow-outs, as they would have continued to talk up the benefits. The Coalition hardly ever mentioned those benefits and certainly not within the context of business and financial models. So, by ignoring this, they only dug themselves deeper into the NBN morass.

We need to come back to this and we should get bipartisan support based on the national interest, not on party politics. We need to stress the national benefits and build a proper business model in which that is recognised. Any cost-benefit analysis will always be arbitrary, but we should still bite the bullet.

However, there is no use trying this without bipartisan support and I think that was the reason subsequent governments didn't come up with such a calculation, as you can shoot down any cost-benefit analysis if there is not the political will for bipartisanship.

If we properly address those national fundamentals, then I believe that we

can both solve the current situation and address the future needs of the NBN. But all of that will take a long time to fix. However, any incoming government can, with the stroke of a pen, create a situation where people can use higher speeds at an affordable price on the NBN as it exists today. For this to happen, the complex wholesale pricing will need to be simplified. The incoming government could just do that and this would make higher speed services available at more affordable prices.

The wholesale price system is so complicated that I will not even try to explain it, nor should any incoming government try to descramble that egg — instead just scrap it and come back with a simplified structure. I understand that this will require the Government to write off some of its investment in the NBN, but so be it.

At the moment, retail service providers have to employ extra specialist resources to understand the myriad of complicated wholesale pricing options that the NBN company has wrought together. In general, this means that as a result of these unattractive wholesale processes, the low-cost entry is now too expensive for RSPs to offer this option to their customers. At the same time, the higher speed options remain too expensive for many users. This is contrary to the spirit of the NBN, it should provide all Australians with affordable high-speed broadband services. What a mess. Let's see how the next government get themselves out of this muddle.

Paul Budde is managing director of Paul Budde Communication, an independent telecommunications research and consultancy organisation.

Canada's Supreme court says Google must stop showing search results featuring Datalink Technologies. And not just in Canada, but all over the world. The company has been accused by Equusteck Solutions of stealing their technology. They wanted Google to stop sending people to Datalink's pages. Some might argue that this violates freedom of speech, but the Canadian court said, "This is not an order to remove speech that, on its face, engages freedom of expression values, it is an order to de-index websites that are in violation of several court orders." Google says they are reviewing the ruling before deciding what to do next.

if you need it.

iCloud is easy to set up on your devices. You're asked to set it up when you first begin using your device.

Open Properties Menu In An Instant

Here's a Windows tip for quickly getting a look at the properties for a file in File Explorer. Hold down the Alt key and then double-click on any file or folder to see its properties. This even works for program shortcuts.

This tip will work in Windows 7, 8.1, and 10!

Canada To Google: Filter Your Results

TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

Backup Your iPhone

iCloud is Apple's cloud-based storage system. It allows you to save all your important things, like documents, notes, contacts, apps, and photos, and access them from anywhere, with any device, notes, contacts, apps, and photos, and access them from anywhere, with any device, even your computer. You can set your device(s) to back up to iCloud and even find your devices when lost. iCloud includes 5GB of space for free, but you can pay to upgrade to more space

MOVIE REVIEW

Fighting with my family

Based on the incredible true story, *FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY* follows reformed gangster Ricky, wife Julia, daughter Paige and son Zak as they make a living wrestling together in tiny venues. When Paige and Zak get the opportunity to try out for WWE, the family grabs a once-in-a-lifetime chance to turn their wildest dreams into a dazzling future. However, brother and sister quickly discover that to become superstars, both their talent and their relationship will be put to the test. *FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY* is a heart warming and smart comedy that proves everything is worth fighting for when it comes to family.



Biopic based on wrestler Paige entertains in 'Fighting With My Family'

Mick LaSalle The advantages of this time of year are oddball, hard-to-place movies such as "Fighting With My Family," which doesn't fit into any particular category, but — partly for that reason — is refreshing and worth seeing.

It's the story of the female wrestler Paige, who is only 26, so this biopic comes a bit early, but it's a welcome film all the same, part comedy and part classic sports story. Some of it's clearly not true, and that's frustrating; but the core of it feels real, about growing up in a wrestling family in England. It's an honest look at how families can make or break a person, and sometimes do both.

The movie is directed by Stephen Merchant, the tall, funny comedian best known for his collaborations with Ricky Gervais. Florence Pugh ("Lady Macbeth") stars as the wrestler, who was born Saraya Knight and grew up fighting with her family, literally. Her parents and her older brother were all wrestlers, and in the early scenes, we see them fighting each other for paying customers at small exhibitions.

The dream is to fight for the WWE — World Wrestling Entertainment. The WWE is a potential express train from the working class to instant wealth, with no stage in between. It's the fairy godmother who materializes out of the air, or the Hollywood agent who spots the next movie star at the soda fountain. It's the thing to hope for and work toward, but it's also something that's almost impossible, especially when you're in Norwich, England. And then

the seas part, and Paige gets a chance.

Though it's set in the world of wrestling, "Fighting With My Family" can be understood by anyone who has ever wanted anything intensely, which is everybody. Paige gets sent to Florida to train with the WWE, knowing that only a handful of the young women will make the cut and go on to debut as a WWE wrestler. Even then, a career isn't assured, because the ultimate decision is with the public. If they don't respond, it's back to wrestling with Mom and Dad in Norwich.

In Florida, Paige finds out that she doesn't fit in. She's not American. Unlike her colleagues, she's not a former model. Paige struggles, though at times the movie's depiction of her struggles is confusing. Despite being a wrestler, she doesn't seem to have the strength or the stamina of the other women, which makes no sense. Yet these scenes work if you see them, not as literal, but as dramatizations of Paige's internal struggle: When it really matters, it can be really hard to get out of your own way.

Paige has two problems in Florida, seemingly in contradiction, but both true: The first is that she is away from her family for the first time, and so she barely knows who she is. The second is that she is not far enough away from her family. She needs to get away from them completely and get them out of

her thoughts, or else she'll never be able to do anything. That's the other meaning of the title — Paige is fighting with the family in her head.

Pugh is able to express that inner struggle, often with little dialogue, and this immediately makes her a strong sympathetic focus. The family is a lot of fun — Nick Frost as the ex-con dad, and Lena Headey, as the mother, are essentially comic characters, but Merchant doesn't render them innocuous. Parents like these could do things to your mind. And what would it be like to have an older brother (Jack Lowden) filled with resentment that you might achieve the dream, and he won't?

The climax is fictionalized and seems to depend on the audience being as credulous as wrestling fans. (It takes an extra suspension of disbelief to forget that wrestling isn't real.) You can go on YouTube and see Paige's actual Wrestlemania debut — it's a lot different from what we see here. But hey, this isn't a drama about World War II. A little license can be forgiven, especially in weird, warm movies like this one.



Director	Stephen Merchant
Main Cast	Dwayne Johnson, Vince Vaughn, Lena Headey, Nick Frost, Stephen Merchant, Florence Pugh
Genre	Comedy, Drama, Biography
Running Time	109 MIN
Release Date	21 Mar 2019

THIS IS THE ELEPHANT IN THE WORLD, HARDLY ANYONE IS AWARE OF IT OR DARES VOICE IT

By Kevin Myers

Irish Independent



Kevin Myers (born 30 March 1947) is an Irish journalist and writer. He writes for the Irish edition of the Sunday Times, having previously been a columnist for the Irish Independent and a former contributor to The Irish Times, where he wrote the "An Irishman's Diary" opinion column several

times weekly. Until 2005, he wrote for the UK Sunday Telegraph.

His articles criticize left-wing opinion and the "liberal consensus", sometimes incorporating hyperbole, sarcasm and parody.

This essay appeared in The Irish Independent:

Somalia is not a humanitarian disaster; it is an evolutionary disaster. The current drought is not the worst in 50 years, as the BBC and all the aid organizations claim.

It is nothing compared to the droughts in 1960/61 or 73/74. And there are continuing droughts every 5 years or so.

It's just that there are now four times the population; having been kept alive by famine relief, supplied by aid organizations, over the past 50 years.

So, of course, the effects of any drought now is a famine. They cannot even feed themselves in a normal rainfall year.

Worst yet, the effects of these droughts and poor nutrition in the first 3 years of the child's life have a lasting effect on the development of the infant's brain, so that if they survive, they will never achieve a normal IQ.

Consequently, they are selectively breeding a population who cannot be educated, let alone one that is not being educated; a recipe for disaster. We are seeing this impact now, and it can only exacerbate, to the detriment of their neighbours, and their environment as well. This scenario can only end in an even worse disaster; with even worse suffering, for those benighted people, and their descendants. Eventually, some mechanism will intervene, be it war, disease or starvation.

So what do we do? Let them starve? What a dilemma for our Judeo/Christian/Islamic Ethos; as well as Hindu/Buddhist morality. And this is beginning to happen in Kenya, Ethiopia and other countries in Asia, like Pakistan. Is this the beginning of the end of civilization?

AFRICA is giving nothing to anyone outside Africa -- apart from AIDS and new diseases. Even as we see African states refusing to take action to restore something resembling civilization in Zimbabwe, the begging bowl for Ethiopia is being passed around to us out of Africa, yet again.

It is nearly 25 years since the famous Feed The World campaign began in Ethiopia, and in that time Ethiopia's population has grown from 33.5 million to 78+ million today.

So, why on earth should I do anything to encourage further catastrophic demographic growth in that country? Where is the logic? There is none. Now they want to move to other countries to continue to breed and possibly commit crimes.

To be sure, there are two things saying that logic doesn't count. One is my conscience, and the other is the picture, yet again, of another wide-eyed child, yet again, gazing, yet again, at the camera, which yet again, captures the tragedy of children starving.

Sorry. My conscience has toured this territory on foot and financially. Unlike most of you, I have been to Ethiopia; like most of you, I have stumped up the loot to charities to stop starvation there. The wide-eyed boy-child we saved, 20 years or so ago, is now a low IQ, AK 47-bearing moron, siring children whenever the whim takes him and blaming the world because he is uneducated, poor and left behind. There is no doubt a good argument why we should prolong this predatory and dysfunctional economic, social and sexual system but I do not know what it is. There is, on the other hand, every reason not to write a column like this.

It will win no friends and will provoke the self-righteous wrath of, well, the self-righteous hand wringing, letter writing wrathful individuals; a

species which never fails to contaminate almost every debate in Irish life with its sneers and its moral superiority. It will also probably enrage some of the finest men in Irish life, like John O'Shea, of Goal; and the Finucane brothers, men whom I admire enormously.

So be it. But, please, please, you self-righteously wrathful, spare me mention of our own Irish Famine, with this or that lazy analogy. There is no comparison!

Within 20 years of the Famine, the Irish population was down by 30%. Over the equivalent period, thanks to western food, the Mercedes 10-wheel truck and the Lockheed Hercules plane, Ethiopia's population has more than doubled.

Alas, that wretched country is not alone in its madness.

Somewhere, over the rainbow, lies Somalia, another fine land of violent, AK 47-toting, khat-chewing, girl-circumcising, permanently tumescent layabouts and housing pirates of the ocean. Indeed, we now have almost an entire continent of sexually hyperactive, illiterate indigents, with tens of millions of people who only survive because of help from the outside world or allowances by the semi-communist Governments they voted for, money supplied by borrowing it from the World Bank!

This dependency has not stimulated political prudence or common sense.

Indeed, voodoo idiocy seems to be in the ascendant, with the president of South Africa being a firm believer in the efficacy of a little tap water on the post-coital penis as a sure preventative against AIDS infection. Needless to say, poverty, hunger and societal meltdown have not prevented idiotic wars involving Tigre, Uganda, Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea etcetera.

Broad brush-strokes, to be sure.

But broad brush-strokes are often the way that history paints its gaudier, if more decisive, chapters.

Japan, China, Russia, Korea, Poland, Germany, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the 20th century have endured worse broad brush-strokes than almost any part of Africa. They are now -- one way or another -- virtually all giving aid to or investing in Africa, whereas Africa, with its vast Savannas and its lush pastures, is giving almost nothing to anyone, apart from AIDS.

Meanwhile, Africa's peoples are outstripping their resources and causing catastrophic ecological degradation.

By 2050, the population of Ethiopia will be 177 million; the equivalent of France, Germany and Benelux today, but located on the parched and increasingly Protein-free wastelands of the Great Rift Valley. So, how much sense does it make for us actively to increase the adult population of what is already a vastly over-populated, environmentally devastated and economically dependent country? How much morality is there in saving an Ethiopian child from starvation today, for it to survive to a life of brutal circumcision, poverty, hunger, violence and sexual abuse, resulting in another half-dozen such wide-eyed children, with comparably jolly little lives ahead of them?

Of course, it might make you feel better, which is a prime reason for so much charity!

But that is not good enough.

For self-serving generosity has been one of the curses of Africa. It has sustained political systems which would otherwise have collapsed.

It prolonged the Eritrean-Ethiopian war by nearly a decade.

It is inspiring Bill Gates' programme to rid the continent of malaria, when, in the almost complete absence of personal self-discipline, that disease is one of the most efficacious forms of population-control now operating. If his programme is successful, tens of millions of children who would otherwise have died in infancy will survive to adulthood, he boasts.

Oh good: then what? I know, let them all come here (to Ireland). Germany and the rest of Europe is already inundated and there are literally millions queuing up who want a handout, taking in refugees because you feel sorry for them will end in the demise of those countries taking part.

You will note that; No Gulf State is taking any refugees, and the head of the human rights commission is Saudi Arabian!?!

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

and

NOT SO

To the low life person that stole our club, Coalfields Classic & Enthusiasts Motorbike Club, advertisement banners this year. Do you realize they now have to be replaced? The money we now have to use to replace our signs is money that could have been donated to some of our local groups that we support in our community. It's sad for us all, you have not only stole of us you have stolen from our communities as well. We are a "not for profit group", How can this happen in this day and age. This is the banner that was on display for advertising our bike show on the Bridge Street Braxton over-pass displayed on both sides of the bridge only for them to be stolen on the Friday night. Anybody with information please contact the Coalfields Classic & Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club. 0429700257.

A big thank you and a big well done to the organisers, The Hunter Valley Boutique Collective, for their International Women's Day 'Balance for Better' function held at Tamburlaine Wines. Great food, wine, guest speakers & good company. Congratulations to all concerned.

Re your article on Cessnock Councils retiring GM issue 494: It is very apparent from His Worship the Mayor's words he has never dealt with Council management as a ratepayer. Words including "integrity", "excellence", and "with community needs at the forefront of his mind", are certainly not words I would use to describe any activity of Council for that matter. Are we going to get a General Manager whose vision extends past Vincent Street Cessnock? Will a new General Manager & his councillors put priority into infrastructure which benefits the community over some of the wasteful spending seen in the past? No, probably not.

FREE! Classifieds

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. Comtronic P: 4991 1128

For Rent: Braxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

For Sale: Timber bedroom set, brand new, new mattress, 2xside tables, 1xchest draws, 2xbed lamps, 1xsummer sheets & 1xpair winter sheets, dooner and dooner cover also pillows. Moving sale \$1200 P: 0428 057 253

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: Dining set 6xchairs, glass top. In very good condition. Moving sale \$400 P: 0428 057 253

For Sale: Aviary bred Rainbow & Scaly Lorikeets. \$20ea or \$45ea with new cage P: 0421 102 711

For Sale: Alpaca Ph 4930 6291

For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809

Garage/Moving Sale: Sat 6 April 25 Filey Street, Greta; 9am - 2pm.

Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P; Brune 0413 351 057

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 'Bobcat' 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

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

Dates for your diary >

THUR 28 Mar — Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meet 3pm Cessnock Leagues Club- Guest- Support group member Terry Pearce- Topic- Information about his journey from Biopsy, Scans, Radical Prostatectomy, Salvage Radiation, Incontinence issues, Artificial urinary sphincter installed, Participated in Hormone Trails. All welcome. Cost- Free. Barry 49904554. Rose 0457073852.

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 — Braxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade. Latest Autumn/Winter affordable clothes. \$15 includes luncheon. Contact Bethany 0419 429 364

TUE 9 Apr — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 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 Apr — ANZAC DAY

SAT 11 May — Landcare is holding a Wildlife Discovery Workshop at the Hunter River Reserve at Greta starting at 9.30am. (Landcare is also holding the Brilliance of Australian Flora and Birdlife Workshop on Sunday 31st March at 9.30am at Elderslie Hall).

SUN 12 May — Mothers Day

TUE 14 May — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigid's Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 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 — Braxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

TUE 9 JULY — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

TUES 13 AUG — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

SUN 1 Sept — Fathers day

TUES 10 SEP — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

TUES 8 OCT — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

TUES 12 NOV — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

SAT 7 DEC — North Rothbury Tidy Town Twilight Markets 4pm - 8pm

TUES 10 DEC — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.



The CWA Hunter River Group Land Cookery/ Handicraft Day was held on Monday, 18th May, consisting of 23 Branches, with approx. 70 members in attendance. Judging of the cakes was at the Branxton RSI Hall. All members were welcomed for a lovely morning tea of homemade biscuits and banana bread at the Branxton Community Hall, before heading off to the Anglican Church service and on their return it was time for some fun with the Cultural Show. Val Wild, Group Cultural Officer, introduced the acts, and the entertainment had all the ladies laughing and one poem about the drought (which won the day) moved many to tears.

Congratulations to Anne McPhee. Well done to all other participants who brightened up the day for all. Thanks to Reverend Nicole Baldwin for a lovely church service and also assisting with the judging of the Cultural Acts. Greatly appreciated. After a BYO lunch, Val

FROM PAGE 16

Book Review
The Road
breath-takingly lucky escapes; a complete train, abandoned and alone on an embankment; a sudden liberating, joyous discovery or a cellar of incarcerated amputees being slowly eaten. And everywhere the mummified dead, "shrivelled and drawn like latterday bogfolk, their faces of boiled sheeting, the yellowed palings of their teeth".
All the modern novel can do is done here. After the great historical fictions of the American west, Blood Meridian and The Border Trilogy, The Road is no artistic pinnacle for McCarthy but instead a masterly reclamation of those midnight-black, gothic worlds of Outer Dark (1968) and the similarly terrifying but beautiful Child of God (1973). How will this vital novel be positioned in today's America by Savants, Tough Guys or worse? Could its nightmare vistas reinforce those in the US who are determined to manipulate its people into believing that terror came into being only in 2001? This text, in its fragility, exists uneasily within such ill times. It's perverse that the scorched earth which The Road depicts often brings to mind those real apocalypses of southern Iraq beneath black oil smoke, or New Orleans - vistas not unconnected with the contemporary American regime.
One night, when the father thinks that he and his son will starve to death, he weeps, not about the obvious but about beauty and goodness, "things he'd no longer any way to think about". Camus wrote that the world is ugly and cruel, but it is only by adding to that ugliness and cruelty that we sin most gravely. The Road affirms belief in the tender pricelessness of the here and now. In creating an exquisite nightmare, it does not add to the cruelty and ugliness of our times; it warns us now how much we have to lose. It makes the novels of the contemporary Savants seem infantile and horribly over-rated. Beauty and goodness are here aplenty and we should think about them. While we can.



Noeleen Bendeich's Rainbow Cake - 1st.



• HRG Handicraft 1st places going onto State level in May.

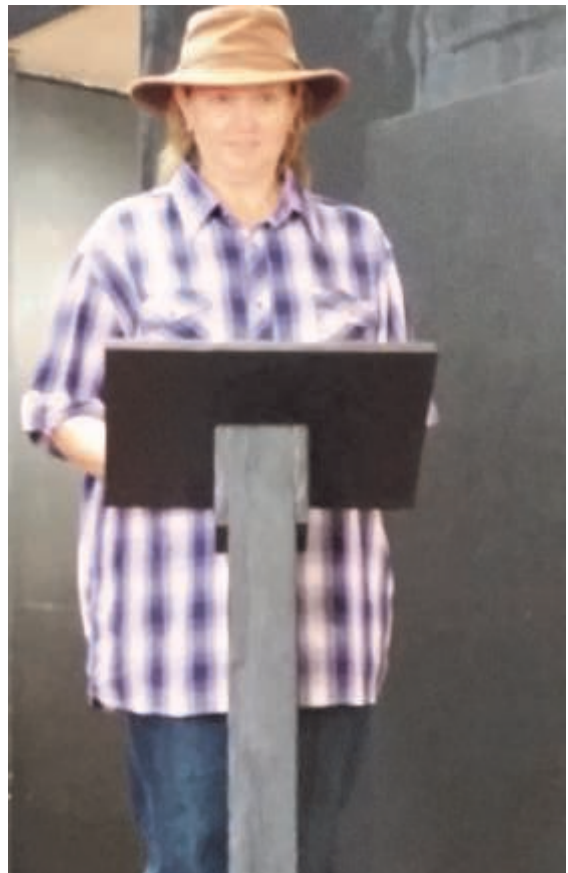
Wild, Group Cultural Officer, awarded all winners with their trophies, and then Leanne Bendeich, Group Cookery Officer, awarded Certificates to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd places of the Cookery. This was followed by Helene Linsley, Group Handicraft

Officer, awarding Certificates to all the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the Handicraft. Congratulations to all. Our Branch achieved the following – Cookery – 1st – Noeleen Bendeich – Lamington Fingers; Roslyn Shearer – Rainbow Cake, Honey Jumbles; Zac Shearer – Decorated Butter Biscuits (12yrs & under). Handicraft – 1st – Land Section – Noeleen Bendeich – Knitted Red Cardigan, Crocheted Aqua Baby Set; Sect. 1 – (9 – 12yrs) Declan Shearer – Toy Dog with Brown/Red Ribbon. Congratulations to you all and all the best for State Conference in May. The Sydney Royal Easter Show is fast approaching, from 12th – 23rd April and it falls in the school holidays. The CWA have Tea Rooms open there every day of the Show, so please if you go keep a lookout. Funds raised from the Tea Rooms go towards CWA Projects,

including Disaster and Drought Relief. The CWA State Conference is on 6th-10th May at Albury. In 2020, it will be in Newcastle which is great – venue to be confirmed. It is with great pleasure that we are joint hosting, as well as catering, with the Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea which will be held on Tuesday, 14th May, at Branxton Community Hall, 10.00am. Cost \$15.00. RSVP to Marie Shearer on 0402015850. All monies raised go to the Cancer Council. A great weekend getaway or daytrip (whichever you prefer), is THE FESTIVAL OF FLEECES held on the Long Weekend in June, every year at MERRIWA. So if you can't go this year, there is always next year. I have been, so can highly recommend it. Saturday is the day when they run the sheep up the street with the coloured socks on. And yes, there is a CWA Rooms there also, serving up lovely

scones, cakes etc. and other shops of interest and entertainment. Country of Study for 2019 is Papua New Guinea. Fauna – Koala. Flora – Kurrajong Tree. Foe – Carp. Product Promotion – Australian Honey

We would happily welcome anyone interested in helping to raise money to help others in need, or assist in any other ways, and also making new friends. Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or like any information, or attending any of our functions, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com
Denise McGoldrick
Publicity Officer.



• Marie Shearer reciting poem called "The Show".

Our Bushland
LANDHOLDER WORKSHOP
Learn from the experts. Connect with your community.
Wednesday, 17 April 2019 5-6:30pm
Ellalong Community Hall, 39 Onley Street
FREE

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cessnock is a haven for rare plants and birds
- Public reserves are not enough to save many of these species from extinction
- You can manage your land in a way that benefits both the environment and agricultural production.
- Funding is available for landholders to help protect wildlife in their natural environment

The workshop will include talks from local experts and information about potential funding sources.
Snacks will be provided.
Limited Space. Book early.

Register at <http://www.biodiversity.org.au>
For more information call 4993 4100 or visit www.cestnock.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate 4938 3300

BRE Branxton

A local business with local knowledge ...

Helen Lowing Sales Consultant

WOLLOMBI ROAD PROVIDORE
EST 2015

Fresh Awards FINALIST 2018

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
enquiries@wollombiroadprovidore.com.au
Contact use for orders & enquiries
80 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
49902468

School News



Branxton Public School

Well done to all our Cross Country participants in Week 8. The K-2 students enjoyed their fun run obstacle course with a focus on participation and enjoyment. The Primary held their Cross Country at the oval, with students doing their personal best. Thank you to Mrs Nimmo and Mr Foster for organising the events and to the many parents who helped out with jobs or were there to cheer on the kids. The P&C are looking forward to holding their Trivia Night at the Branxton Golf Club on Saturday 6th April. Should be a fun night for all. If you're interested in attending the event, check out the P&C's Facebook page. There are some spaces available.



Crazy socks day

All students enjoyed the PBL Celebration Day in Week 6. The inflatable obstacle course was great fun for all and was a perfect way to celebrate our school's PBL achievements. We acknowledged Harmony Day on 21st March by coming together to sing 'Everyone Belongs' as a whole school. We also celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing crazy socks. It was a fun way to recognise and honour diversity and inclusion. Recycling has begun at BPS with our Environmental Ministers working hard to collect our recyclable drink containers and paper in an effort to care for our environment. The Junior AECG had their first meeting and have elected office bearers for this year. Congratulations to Patrick (President), Georgia B (Vice- President), Gracie D (Secretary) and Chase (Vice-Secretary). Mr Cliff from Maitland District Office, who is also an executive member of the local AECG, attended the meeting to explain a little more about its purpose and operation. During the year the group will hold meetings in Weeks 3 and 7 of each term to discuss issues, come up with ideas and make decisions regarding events and activities. The meetings are open to everyone, not just ATSI students. Author Tim Harris visited our students to speak about his books and experiences of being a writer. He was entertaining and informative and our students enjoyed gaining writing tips from a 'real' author.



Cross country warmups

Dates for the Calendar

- Monday 1st – Friday 5th April – Parent Teacher Interviews
- Wednesday 10th April – Kinder Easter Hat making 2pm
- Friday 5th April – Whole School Performance Assembly
- Saturday 6th April – P&C Trivia Night
- Thursday 11th April – Easter Hat Parade 2pm
- Friday 12th April – Whole School PBL Assembly

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



Greta Public School

With Sharon Morris
Principal, Greta Public School

Young Leaders Day 2019

On Monday 11th March our student leaders along with Miss Bousfield and Mr Upcoft travelled by train, down to



Sydney to attend Young Leaders Day. The day provided students with a unique opportunity to gather with other school leaders to hear Australia's most influential leaders speak about their own leadership journey.



Our first speaker of the day was Tim Diamond General Manager for the Cotton On Group. Tim explained to our students that through a unique partnership with customers and team members, the Cotton On Foundation is focused on empowering youth globally through the delivery of quality education projects in Uganda, South Africa, Thailand and Australia.

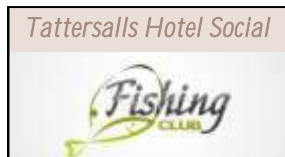


Our second speaker was Tamsin Janu, an award winning children's Author. Tamsin spoke to the students about her inspiration to write, as well as her experiences and setbacks as an author. Her debut junior novel, Figgy in the World, was born from memories of her three month trip to Ghana, West Africa in 2009.

Our third speaker for the day was Olympic Gold Medallist Cate Campbell. She inspired our leaders by talking about her journey of becoming an Olympian, how to pursue your dreams and not to giving up no matter how many set backs are thrown your way.



Our final speaker for the day was Holly Ferling, one of the rising stars of international women's cricket. Having exceeded expectations in her short career to date, she is an inspirational leader for all students by reinforcing the importance of following your dreams and how to conquer challenges and setbacks. After an early start and an exhausting day all leaders were amazing representatives for our school community and made our school community extremely proud.



February/March Fishing Results

A slow start to 2019 for the Tatts Hotel Fishing Club weigh in's has left the door open for members and potential new members to have a big Easter long weekend at Hawks Nest and land some good catches and a lead in the points tally. There was only one fish weighed in February with Jason "Sumo" Salna celebrating his birthday with a 0.315kg Flatty. He out fished the other 2 of the "Three Amigo's" Barnesy and Hodgy in their weekend away to Karuah where there appeared that more drinking took place then fishing. March was a little bit more productive with Judy Masters weighing in a 0.15kg Whiting from Forster, Mick Edwards weighed in a few Tailor and Tarwhine from Sandbar, and Father/Son combo Steve and Tyson Nevin weighed in 7 Mahi Mahi from the Forster FAD. The next trip as mentioned above is the Hawks Nest trip 19th, 20th and 21st April. For anyone wanting to stay at Hawks Nest longer we can do an optional weigh in at 10am Sunday up at Hawks Nest but please notify Nevo prior to arrange this, as he will need to send the scales away with someone.

New members are still welcome for \$30 adult and \$50 family, just see the staff at the Tatts to sign you up. Any questions or enquiries please feel free to email Steve.nevin@hvo.com.au or call Nevo on 0457547478.



Do you REMEMBER when....

The News Issue No. 35, Thurs 28th Jan. 1999. Page 29

New local writers' group formed

A newly formed writing group held its first meeting at Branxton recently. The group has been formed by four women with a common interest - love of language and writing.

The idea of forming a writers' group came about as the result of a creative writing workshop held at the Singleton Leisure Learning Centre in October last.

Under the skilful guidance of tutors Erin Heffernan and Frances Barnes, those attending the workshop found the experience so interesting and stimulating that they decided to continue together as a group.

Founding members Mary Smythe, Honor Lianos, Donna Tamano and Yvonne Oakey are enthusiastic about the project, saying: "We are anxious to attract more members. There is nothing high Falutin' about us, we're just a



Standing L-R: Donna Tamano, Honor Lianos, Mary Smythe, Tutor Erin Heffernan. Sitting L-R Yvonne Oakey & Cherry King

bunch of people who want to get together to help one another with our writing - members bring their own lunches, we get together over a cup of tea or coffee, and it's all very relaxed and comfortable."

They added: "We're interested in welcoming people with little or no experience, so that we can all progress together. We set writing assignments, help one another with writing exercises,

and although our intentions about writing are serious, we still manage to have a lot of fun."

The group plans to meet for a full day workshop every three weeks, and if anyone is interested in joining, further information may be obtained by phoning Yvonne Oakey on 4938 1390.



MARCH

**LIVE
MUSIC
8.30PM**

**FRIDAY NIGHT
FOOTY 6.00PM**



FRI 29TH

**RAIDERS vs KNIGHTS 6PM
EELS vs ROOSTERS 7.55PM**

SAT 23RD

V-DUBS

SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results for 21st March 2019 - Pairs Aggregate Stableford Competition
 1st - R McMillan & G Musialik 56 pts
 2nd - A Cannon & B Smith 54 pts on c/b
 3rd - R Showman & M Ryan 54 pts
 4th - R Brooks & K Anderson 53 pts
 5th - J Atton & B Ward 52 pts on c/b
 Members draw \$180.00 not won NTPs Ladies - M Hunt Mens - G Anderson

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 10th March
 The Weekly Challenge has been won by Rob Bradford with an excellent 44 point round from Scott Armstrong with 41. Ball winners were: Phillipe Byron 39 and Grahame Mankelow 36
Tuesday 12th March
 William Waite has won the Irish Stableford with a massive 86 points from Andrew Edwards from Toronto GC on 80 and Thomas Waite 3rd with 78 on countback. Ball winners were: Col Bradley 78, Paul Neuss 77, Anthony Mudd 77, Lloyd Barrett 77, Mick Barrett 73, Brad Hoolahan 71, Luke McArthur 70, Simon Nicholson 69, Rob Bradford 69, David Peel 68, Matt Lorenz 68, Rex Talbot 66 and Lindsay Self 65 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) Andrew Edwards (4th) Bob Prentice (8th) and Lloyd Barrett (17th)

Wednesday 13th March
 Lorraine Clack has produced one of her best rounds to claim the 1st Rd of Golf NSW Medal with 70 net from Dale Hamilton 72 and Dianne Oakes 3d with 75 net on countback. Ball winners were: Karen Baillie 75, Jenny Chambers 77, Kerrie-Anne Skinner 77, Isabel Skeates 78 and Zelma Powell 78 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jill Ramsden (3rd) and Dale Hamilton (17th). Sue Peel has won the Putting comp. Next week the Ladies will play an Individual Irish Stableford.

Friday 15th March
 The Vets have played an Irish Stableford with Steve Piggott scoring an amazing 82 points from his 5 handicap to win the day from Steve Rawlings 80 and Graeme Flynn 3rd with 71. Ball winners were: Wayne Burgess 70, Ken Harris 70, Wayne Barber 68, Eric Smith 68 and Michael Watson 65 on countback. The raffle has been won by Wayne Barber. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Par event.

Saturday 16th March
 The Saturday Field was gutted with the arrival of the much needed rain early in the morning with only 23 players completing the event. Angello Wood's effort of 77 points from his 1 shot handicap was magnificent in the Irish Stableford format and he was rewarded with the win, runner up went to Jarad Hofman with 74 with Troy Wallis awarded 3rd place with 70 on countback. Ball winners were: Steve Piggott 70, Mark Makin 66, Ken Harris 66, Ryan McGregor 61, Chris Lawson 60 and John Brown 58 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber (3rd) Lloyd Barrett (4th) and Ken

Harris (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford
Sunday 17th March
 Wade Firth from Cypress Lakes found the course to his liking winning the Weekly Challenge with 43 points from Jason Cowburn with 38 points. Ball winners were: Michael Stewart 36, Clarke Sturman 34 and Justin Field v33.

Tuesday 19th March
 Rick Turnchini continued his solid run of form in the Tuesday Stableford with another sub Par round of 41 points and a clear win, runner up went to Col Bradley on countback after he and David Peel returned 36 points. Ball winners were: Steve Piggott 34, Kyle Binco v34, Thomas Waite 33, Lindsay Self 33, Wayne Oliver v33 and Steve Abel 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Smith (3rd) Steve Piggott (4th) and David Peel (10th & 17th)

Wednesday 20th March
 The Ladies have played Irish Stableford with Dale Hamilton doing best with 70 points from Melita Watson 64 on countback to Monica Geeson in 3rd place. Ball winners were: Jill Slatter 59, Dianne Oakes 57, Kay Dunn 57, Karen Baillie 57, Christine Tancered 56 and Sharon Blackett 54. Nearest-the-Pins went to Melita Watson (3rd) and Dale Hamilton (8th & 10th) Next week the Ladies will play Individual Stableford.

Thursday 21st March
 The Vets Par event has been won by Dave Blackburn with +3 on countback to Gerry Irwin with Paul Smith taking 3rd place with +2 on countback. Ball winners were: Paul Ireland +2, David Peel +2, Eric Smith +1, Bruce Chambers +1, Doug Wand +1, Ken Harris +1, Steve Piggott +1, Arthur Cuttriss +1, Ken Springbett sq and Kevin Smith sq on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Ireland (3rd) Garry Clarke (4th) David Peel (10th) and Graeme Flynn (17th) Next week the Vets will play Stroke. This week's raffle winner was Steve Piggott.

Saturday 23rd March
 Overnight rain softened the course leading to some fine scoring in the Medley Stableford with Andrew Zok claiming A Grade with 41 points from Wayne Barber 36, B Grade to Nathan Sweeney with 39 on countback to Adrian Kent also o countback and C Grade to Phillip Darcy with 37 point with Michael MacNab runner up with 35 points. Ball winners were: James Harvey 39, Nick Nancarrow 38, Ryan McGregor 36, Lachlan Peacock 36, Mike Careter 35, Nic Bates 35, Bruce Chambers 35, Ken Harris 35, Dean Morison 34 and David Peel 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Nick Nancarrow (3rd) James Harvey (8th) David Peel (10th) and Mathew Merlo (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford

Branxton Lady Golfers
 6th March
 Monthly Medal
 Winner: Kerrie O'Connell 72 nett
 Runner Up: Ruth McCarthy 73 nett
 Putting Comp: Winner: Kerrie O'Connell C/b
 Runner Up: Melita Watson
 NTP: Kerrie O'Connell
 13th March
 Stableford
 Winner: Ruth McCarthy
 NTP: Caren Caldwell
 Branxton Ladies would like to thank John Martin for sponsoring a Hole In One on the 9th/18th

Branxton Golf Club
Saturday Comp
 Saturday, 16 March 2019
 Stableford
 Field: 46

Grades A Chris Zawirski 38
 Grades A Lee Heuston 37
 Grades A Greg Gillard 37
 Grades B Benjamin Porter 40
 Grades B John Burgess 37
 Grades B Neil Jordan 36
 Grades C Col Hughes 36
 Grades C Ted Zawirski 32
 Grades C Micheal Carling 30
 NTP 2/11 A 2nd Tom Foster 110cm
 NTP 4 A 4th Peter Wilton 110cm
 NTP 9/18 A 9th David Hollis 315cm
 Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 33
 Chris Zawirski continued his stellar year at Branxton Golf Club by winning Saturday's Stableford with a creditable 38 pts, finishing just ahead of A Grade Pennants representative Lee Heuston with 37pts, and Greg Gillard with the same score. Ben Porter had a day out to remember in winning B Grade with the Day's best stableford score of 40 pts, well clear of runner up John Burgess with 37 pts and Neil Jordan's 36 pts. Col Hughes continued his recent good form in winning C Grade with 36 pts, being a clear winner from runner up Ted Zawirski with 32 pts and Mick Carling's 30 pts. The difficult wet conditions meant that 33 pts was needed to win a ball on a day where the DSR was a 69. The shots of the day belonged to Peter Wilton on the 4th and Tom Foster on the 2nd, with both shots finishing just over a metre away.
 Sunday's Pennants went down to the wire in all grades with our excellent A Grade team defeating Muswellbrook 4-1 at The Vintage, finishing first in this competition—a wonderful achievement for our small club. They will now play The Vintage in the final next weekend at Hunter Valley Golf Club beginning at 7.20 am. C Grade had the bye, finally finishing one point out of the playoffs. The Seniors won 2-1 against Denman at Kurri to claim second spot in their division. They now play Paterson in the semi-finals next weekend, starting at 7.30 at a venue to be announced. The B Grade team had a wonderful 2.5 - 0.5 victory against the previously undefeated Cessnock team at Singleton, securing a finals position—so they thought. Unfortunately, since Muswellbrook forfeited their last game on Sunday, all previous results against this team were not counted, meaning the Branxton team finished tied second with Maitland, with the resulting playoff going Maitland's way. The playoff was played after the last game with one player having to return to Singleton and all other players well relaxed after finishing much earlier—hardly the perfect preparation. The Maitland team were very sporting in their acceptance in what happened—hardly their fault- but this district rule needs to be reviewed. The team played great golf to go down fighting—well done Captain Dave!

Saturday, 23 March 2019
SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD
 Field: 54

Grades A Rodney Wilton 40
 Grades A David Hollis 39
 Grades A Daryl Sheppard 37
 Grades B Benjamin Porter 44
 Grades B Troy Mc Caw 41
 Grades B Peter Marquet 35
 Grades C Sam Bridge 44
 Grades C Michael Carling 35
 Grades C Lee Jackson 32
 NTP 2/11 A 2nd Rodney Wilton
 NTP 4 A 4th Chris Zawirski
 NTP 9/18 A 9th Michael Tracey
 NTP 13 A 13th David Hollis
 Josh Tracey Eagle 7th Hole
 Balls 16 Distributed down to score: 30
 Saturday's Stableford competition proved to be a real challenge to most players after the heavy rain that fell on the course the previous night, making the course play rather long with little run—although the rain was most welcome with the course starting to look very green. However, the winners of each grade showed how it was done recording excellent scores to win their

divisions on a day where the DSR was a 71—one of the highest for some time. Only 30 pts was needed to win a ball showing how the majority of the field struggled in the conditions. Rod Wilton won A Grade with an excellent 40 pts, ust ahead of the B Grade Pennants Captain, Dave Hollis with a very strong 39 pts. Veteran, Daryl Sheppard made a rare return to Saturday golf to finish third with a pleasing 37 pts. Ben Porter had a real day out to win B Grade with a superb 44pts, ahead of Troy McCaw with 41 pts—his round included a one over par front nine with 25 pts. Peter Marquet's 35 pts was good enough for third. Sam Bridge also had a wonderful day winning C Grade with 44 pts, well clear of Mick Carling with 35 pts and Lee Jackson's 32 pts. All the nearest the pins were won by the A Graders showing quality shots are needed to hit the small Branxton greens. Josh Tracey had an eagle on the 7th hole, showing he is well prepared for Sunday's a Grade Pennants final against The Vintage at Hunter Valley Golf Course. On Sunday the A Grade team played The Vintage at Hunter Valley winning a tight final 3-2, **thus becoming the Champions for 2019**—congratulations for as great team effort—a wonderful achievement. The team was:- Cameron Johanson, Joshua Tracey, Cody Fletcher, Isaiah Wolferstan and Lee Heuston. The Senior Team played Paterson in the Semi-finals at Kurri, winning a very tight match 2-1 with club Captain Murray Johanson nailing a 4 foot putt on the last to ensure their victory. They will now play Aberdeen in the final next weekend. In other news, Branxton's No. 1 player in the pennants and last year's Club Champion, Cameron Johanson, has been selected to represent the Hunter River District Golf Association team to play Central Coast at Kooinda Waters in a couple of weeks' time—a great achievement to a talented golfer.



Report
 What a busy weekend at BDNC!
SATURDAY- Umpires Clinic
 A big thank you to **Kate Pickles** who volunteered her time to share her umpiring knowledge with some of our developing umpires. Kate ran a 2 hour session that focused on learning the basics of umpiring from how to blow the whistle to using the correct terminology, rules and body stance. These sessions aim to build confidence because without umpires there would be no game. Thank you Kate and we look forward to having you back at BDNC.
SUNDAY- Next Level Clinic



• Next Level Crazy Hair Winner



• Umpire Session run by Cate Pickles



Next Level Clinic Proudly sponsored by the McKeogh

A big thank you to the McKeogh group for sponsoring a playing and development clinic run by Newcastle based Next Level Clinics. Next level are qualified and experienced coaches who work with developing correct technique as well as providing specialist training programs. With 88 girls in attendance Next Level ran the girls through some fun and challenging drills to develop basic footwork, defence, ball skills and passing. BDNC would like to thank McDonalds for making this clinic possible.

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The NEWS SPORT

Local Cricket RESULTS

Greta/Branxton Claim Third Grade Title



● Greta/Branxton Third Grade White Minor/Major Premiers 2018/2019



with Mark Bercini

Greta/Branxton White are the Cessnock District Cricket Third Grade champions after defeating Bellbird by seven wickets at Bellbird's Carmichael 1 in the grand final a fortnight ago. After being washed out on the Saturday, the use of covers allowed the game to be played on the Sunday, with Greta/Branxton White winning their maiden title. Greta/Branxton skipper Neil Bird won the toss, and

with still a little moisture in the wicket asked Bellbird to have a bat first. The home side were all out all out in the 39th over for a competitive 162. Ethan Spliet-Miller was the pick of the Greta/Branxton attack with 4-44 off 8.3 overs, with Jamie McNamara (2-28 off 9), Cory Stephenson (2-36 off 9) and Ben Miezis (2-12

off 6) all supporting well with a brace of wickets each. Greta/Branxton were 2-20 early on in reply, and when Cory Stephenson was dismissed for 37 the match appeared evenly balanced at 3-59. But half-centurions Ben Miezis (56no) and association leading run-scorer Jamie McNamara (54no) swung the momentum back in

win as very pleasing in that seven of the eleven players that took the field are juniors of this great club. Unfortunately First Grade could not make it a minor/major premiership double, when they were soundly beaten by seven wickets against Mulbring in the decider played at East End last Saturday. After being washed out the previous week, the match

Greta/Branxton's favour, and they achieved the target without further loss and 16 balls to spare to claim the premiership trophy. Opener Cade Bradley was the other batsman to make a start with 11. Non playing skipper Steve Daunt later described the

was rescheduled, but some heavy rain on Friday night juiced the pitch right up again. Skipper Joey Butler lost the toss and was asked to have a bat first by the opposition. Greta/Branxton got off to a steady but solid start in the tough conditions, but when they lost their first wicket in the thirteenth over this started a major collapse. They



● Greta/Branxton First Grade Runners Up 2018/2019

were eventually all out in the 30th over for just 103. Veteran Greg Andrews played some superb strokes in his 40 until he holed out to deep extra cover. Mark Bercini and Darren Thomson were next best with 16-apiece, with 16-year-old debutant Connor Thomson making 11. Greta/Branxton needed early wickets to pose a real threat, and another great local junior in Pat Andrews

provided this when he took a brilliant one-handed diving snare at cover to dismiss the Mulbring opener off the bowling of Nathan Holz. Unfortunately this was a rare bit of joy, as veteran Mulbring all-rounder Nigel Callan came to the crease and quickly took the game away from Greta/Branxton with a typical 76 off just 43 balls. They reached the target in just the 15th over after losing three wickets.

Greta/Branxton's best bowler for the year Martin Shearer provided a little bit of consolation with a couple of late wickets to finish with 2-21 off 3. **The annual presentation will be held at the Royal Federal Hotel on Friday 12th April, commencing at 6:30pm. Tickets and details from club president Sean Wright on 0429578322.**

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