‘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 Saturdays 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 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.
Investing in the Pacific Highway as part of the $75 billion 10 year infrastructure plan

Harwood Bridge crossing the Clarence River

A fully duplicated Pacific Highway is on track for completion in 2020. It will reduce costs for freight operators, save lives and improve travel times. It’s all part of the Australian Government’s $75 billion 10 year infrastructure plan to support our nation. Visit the website to learn more about projects close to you.

building our future
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 for wildlife, resource management, and potential funding sources for conservation efforts.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the people of Singleton would benefit from the workshop.

“The people of Singleton sent a clear message in the last election that they want Singleton to be protected for generations to come. The workshop will provide useful information and a platform for landholders to ask questions and learn about the various options available to them.”

The workshop is supported by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and offers a chance to bring to life including Birdlife Australia, Hunter Region Landscape Network, Hunter Local Land Services and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

This workshop has been made possible by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

This workshop has been made possible by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

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 more reasons to join your 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 to 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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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, Liberal/Labour, 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 concern 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 political parties for their own purposes. For example, immigration and the handling of the asylum seeker crisis. The coal fired power stations versus any competition in any form of sustainable energy. The deliberate creation by any government of competition between students at primary and secondary level and the dumbing down of standards.

This is not what the ‘Silent Majority’ seek. These local 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 not vote without broad consultation or consideration of the point we make here.

On the news this morning (Saturday 4th November) was the story of a 91 year old lady who had been broken into her deceased husband’s house. This is not what the ‘Silent Majority’ would think we should have new policies for the country. The point he makes about the next Federal Election are.

Increase the basic wage, to a living wage.

Sounds a great idea. But this will result in large scale unemployment of many if not 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 2015. To achieve this, it will be essential to stop using fossil fuel to generate electricity. Unless nuclear generation is planned for and done now, we will leave the country without dispatchable power. 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.

We have seen in the seat of Upper Hunter. This was written last week and as I write this the federal election is only 10 days away. I am not a politician but I care so much about the people I represent. This is my position on this election.

I have always believed in a federal election being a choice between the people and the government. This has become more and more difficult as the parties have become more polarised.

I hope we find out who did it.

The more letters they write me the more interest they give me in what we want if we don’t put it another way, as Bob Menzies or those that naively think that will benefit themselves or those that naively think they can make a difference. Bully boys and babes!

Cheers, Mike Lowing
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.
Last week Cessnock City Council’s, General Manager Stephen Glen announced 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 Cessnock City 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 Mr Glen’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 polls, Singleton mayor Sue Moore is looking to the example set by our Premier when she acknowledged the significance and importance of 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 advocates 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 Johnson and the Member for Cessnock for their win on their re-elections at the weekend. But as we all know, the only result that really matters in our outcomes we can achieve for our community. Council has done an excellent job working productively with our local members and the NSW Government over the past four years and I am confident that this will continue throughout this next term. On behalf of our community sent a clear message to the Government when they went to the polls on Saturday. And that is why we have high expectations for what we can expect 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 engagement 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 $57.6 million 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 assessment of ebola on critical road, drainage, building, open space and transportation assets.

And the capital works program will see the continued emphasis on asset removal, in keeping with the fourth year of Council’s Special Rate Variation, with $2.8 million (or 79 per cent) of the capital works budget to be spent on keeping our community in a satisfactory condition – or better.

That includes the Singleton Aquatic Centre restoration, replacement of Brookers Bridge, major turf revitalisation and our arable land condition.

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

We may never fully understand what happened in Christchurch 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 knew little about Islam and knew nothing about his victims. In a sense, the latter is the scarier 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, doctors 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 work to capitalise on a unfounded fear of a faith. They seek to win votes by stoking 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 as utterly unacceptable.

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 amongst 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 dirtiest inhabited continent in the world and our land amounts to just 10 per cent of our land mass. In a a world experiencing the greatest food and water stress across our local government area and the replacement of the Gowrie Reservoir already.

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

Casual status leaves mining families living with employment uncertainty but the social and economic certainty also makes it hard to do the many things take for granted, securing a home loan for example. It must stop.

Cheers, Joel

Bob Pyne, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Behind the Mayoral desk

Dennis, sitting, Emma and I are proud to announce yet another massive success for the Labor MP election commitment to fund an 80 space child care park and roundabout in Heddon Greta is fantastic news for our community and we are thankful for their investment. This $5 million pledge is appreciated by Council as well as the local communities far and wide.

A concerned about safety in the precinct due to an increase in road traffic, Council has the project ‘shovel ready’ and looks forward to progressing this important project for the community.

Kurri Kurri High School set a great example to the business community three trains at the recent business breakfast. The value of young people getting engaged in an industry that clearly early certainly helps them gain fulltime employment. Council has many school based traineeships to mining, agriculture and construction.

I note the increasing calls for workplace early certainly and retirement. Casualisation of our mining workforce has become a serious concern for workers and employers 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 advocates 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.

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Cheers, Sue
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**Prescription Advice**

Prescription medicines can cause side effects. All medicines can cause unwanted side effects. For example, antibiotics such as tetracycline and penicillin families cause allergic reactions in about five per cent of the population. Skin rashes are a common reaction.

However, a side reaction is caused by the medicine or the illness that needs to be treated and 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 same part of the body 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 actions have been reported, including asthma attacks, hives, swelling, aching muscles and gastrointestinal disorders
- feverfew – pregnant women are cautioned against using this herb, as it can trigger spontaneous abortions (miscarriages)
- stinging nettle – this plant, used in traditional herbal medicine, causes skin rashes
- garlic – high doses can cause skin flushing and headache

**Medicines and side effects**

- An in emergency, call triple zero (999).
- Note the side effects and consult your doctor if you have any concerns. The type and amount of the 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.
- Reduce the risk of side effects.

To reduce the 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 medicine. All prescription medicines have a consumer information leaflet called Consumer Medication 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 any 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 or 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 Home Medicines Review 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 if you have trouble remembering to take your medication:
- 2 tablets of soy sauce
- 3 teaspoons of sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- 1 teaspoon of honey
- 1/2 teaspoon of castor sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of mustard
- a little grated ginger
- a little garlic

**Serving Branxton, Greta & surrounds**

Talk to us about our Pre-paid Funeral Plans & Pre-Arrange Options.

Paul and Jacinda Smyth and their staff take great pride and personal satisfaction in providing a dignified & timeless service, continuing a tradition started more than 90 years ago on February 2, 1925 by Paul’s grandfather, Cecil R Smyth.

**Funeral Services**

**Wednesday 27 March 2019**

**Branchon**

**Branxton View**

President Helen Chestney-Rix was delighted with the large attendance at our last meeting. Judy Groves brought along two ladies and De Curtisskahs filled 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 school’s perspective to the Smith Family Learning Program. Our fundraising objectives will help us to extend 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, at 10 am at Branxton Community Hall is our poplona lous 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” Jovely candle, 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 to go to our Learning For Life students. RSVP to Bethany on the above number.

Sandle gave a report on the activities at the Branxton Greta Business Chamber. A wonderful donation to Greta Public school of $2.500. On the 9th Greta Oval 2 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 Migrante Camp. A most memorable celebration to remember for everyone.

On Saturday, 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 included advising scams, planning ahead for Seniors and consumer rights. There will also be a question time. Over the break about 11.30 am, hear our speaker and join us for lunch if you wish. All welcome.

We trust that your health will continue to improve and that each day will bring you closer to good health once more.

Our lucky new President Helen celebrated her imminent birthday using the raffle prize !

Happy Birthday also to Grace Brown of Lower Beach. Enjoy your youngster every day !

Our gardens sigh with relief after the blessed rainfall and remind me of one of Cassie’s knowledgeable sayings “If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need.”

Peace and love to everyone, Judy Spillard

**Korean fried rice**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4 cup (120g) frozen peas</td>
<td>150g snow peas, trimmed, thinly sliced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 green shallots, thinly sliced</td>
<td>1 carrot, cut into matchsticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 onion, finely chopped</td>
<td>2 tablespoons soy sauce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon sugar</td>
<td>1/2 tablespoon sesame oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cloves garlic, crushed</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon gochujang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon ginger, finely</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon sesame oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon rice vinegar</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon castor sugar</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 teaspoon soy sauce</td>
<td>1/2 tablespoon mustard</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 teaspoon rice wine</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon olive oil</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 teaspoon sesame oil</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon ground cumin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 teaspoon nigella seeds</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon ground coriander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 teaspoon salt</td>
<td>1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Method**

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 1**

2. Fry bacon for 2 minutes or until well combined and rice is hot.

**Step 2**


**Step 3**

4. 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 vegetables are tender crisp. Add soy sauce mixture. Stir-fry for 1–2 minutes or until well combined and rice is hot.

**Step 4**

5. Remove from heat and stir in egg. Sprinkle with shallots.

**Step 5**
Cessnock Local Government Area gets sun safe

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-growth-fund/stronger-country-communities/.

SINGLETON SHIRE LANDCARE NETWORK INVITES YOU TO A WORKSHOP ON

‘The Brilliance of Australian Flora and Birdlife’
31 March 2019 (9.30am - 1pm)
Elderslie Hall, 758 Elderslie Rd

9.30 to 10.30 Brilliance of Australian flora by Mark Abell of Australian Plants Society
10.30 to 11.00 morning tea
11.00 to 12.00 Australian Birds presentation by Mick Roderick of Hunter Bird Observers Club
12.00 to 1.00 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://sainflora.eventbrite.ie or email lowerhunterlandcare@gmail.com
0429444305

GIVE US A BREAK
DUMPING ISN’T GIVING

NOTICE FOR EVERYONE WITH A CONNECTION TO THE GRETA CAMP

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Army Camp, Greta Museum is asking for YOUR STORY, in the year 2019.

• Only one page is required, so it needs to be sumarised. Please also provide a photograph (old or new). The title be “My Story of Coming to Greta Camp, by…”
• All 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/ies 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 2334. Open Wed. & Sat. 9am - 3pm. Phone 13000 3922 (queries: (02) 4766 7100).
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 arena and receives traditional employment relationships. 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 whether the balance lies. Some common features that are considered include:
- Degree of control over how work is performed
- Hours of work
- Expectation of work
- Skill
- 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 an employee or contractor has significant ramifications with respect to taxation and typically does not attract superannuation, withholds tax and is not subject to contributions. A contractor runs their own business, and there is no requirement to provide a particular service to the consumer, so it has the experience, and is typically more complex.

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 palpable 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 complicated 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 weekly leading up to the 23 March election was a key period for REINSW and its members. The REINSW has met with real estate 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 engage their clients so that, come Election Day, they can make an informed choice.

REINSW CEO Tim McBikbin says: “Government ultimately listened to REINSW, passing legislation in 2016 that will increase the training 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. A real estate agent 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 to acquire 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. Fair Trading removes the need for an auctioneer to be licensed in 1993, reinstated in 2002 and recommended its removal again in 2018. Additionally, it amended consumer fair trade legislation associated with trust accounts, which has had mixed results. The total cost, which is being funded by the NSW taxpay, 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 look after important property safety devices, without the requisite training, qualifications and experience. Fair Trading is content with someone to blame quickly and not collective accountability. It fails people wanting a public, professional and service delivery standards that are expected.

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 billion) and the property industry ($38.1 billion) combined. A real estate agent would be among 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 Government revenue in FY2018.

3. NSW Fair Trading has made poor legislative decisions. These are resulted in appealing consumer outcomes. For instance, NSW Fair Trading removed the need for an auctioneer to be licensed in 1993, reinstated in 2002 and recommended its removal again in 2018. Additionally, it amended consumer fair trade legislation associated with trust accounts, which has had mixed results. The total cost, which is being funded by the NSW taxpay, is still being calculated. Despite several efforts to rectify this, consumers remain unprotected today.

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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
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

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

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

Vacant Land 2559m²
Vacant Land with building approved Lot 1 DP 1265149
Well over half an acre of good level block.

ASKING $160,000 ONO
Motorcyclist dies in Hunter Valley crash

Friday, 22 March 2019 09:56:40 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 motorcyclist 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 ROAD, 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 Road, 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 unjured. 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, where 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 Meatow 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 Road, 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

On Friday, 29 March at 2.30pm, the Hunter’s first community library will be launched. Located outside the Huntlee café, the street library will encourage residents to share books while enjoyment 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 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 Paterson, Craig Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. No Abbott, this week discovered his first street library. 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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

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WEB: www.domain.com.au

Out & About

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

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.

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

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. 11am-3pm
96 High Street Greta

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Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

WHAT’S ON

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325
Members Badge Draw
Every Wednesday & Sunday

Friday 29th March
MARRIAH

Friday 22nd March
MINTIUE BY MINUTE

Friday 22nd March
MARRIAH

Fridays & Sundays
MINTIUE BY MINUTE

Fridays & Sundays
MINTIUE BY MINUTE

Call Greta for details 4938 7325

SERVICING BOTH CLUB PREMISES

Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays

MINTIUE 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

MEAT RAFFLES

Fridays & Sundays

TUK TUK Thai & Aussie

NOW OPEN @

Miller Park Sports Club
Dine-In or Take away

SOCIAL BOWLS

WED’S 4PM
PRIZE MONEY
TO BE WON!

$3.80 Schooners

Wednesdays
4pm—6pm

Jackpots $100 EACH DRAW
The Road is a novel of trans-continental America. It is a tale of survival and adventure that has captivated readers for decades. The Road was published in 2006 and has since become one of Cormac McCarthy's most acclaimed works. The novel tells the story of a father and his son as they journey through a post-apocalyptic world, struggling to survive in a world that has been ravaged by war and famine. The Road is a powerful and thought-provoking work that explores themes of love, loss, and the human condition in the face of adversity.

In the novel, the father and son are forced to confront the harsh realities of their world. They must learn to hunt and gather, and to defend themselves against the dangers that lurk around every corner. The Road is a story of endurance and determination, as the father and son struggle to stay alive in a world that is falling apart around them.

The Road is a masterpiece of post-apocalyptic fiction, and it has been widely praised for its vivid descriptions and its depiction of the human condition. The novel has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and it has been translated into more than 30 languages. The Road is a must-read for anyone who is interested in post-apocalyptic fiction, and it is a testament to Cormac McCarthy's incredible talent as a writer.
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.

Cerelco 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 recent 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 bloodstream.

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 ‘dram 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 unlikely 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)
• deaths occur in paddocks when the cattle have no alternative feed available
• cattle deaths occur in paddocks when they are offered alternative feed (silage or hay)
• affected kikuyu is likely to be less palatable to cattle, as they will avoid it if
• cattle deaths occur in paddocks when the cattle have no alternative feed available
• 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 should strongly be advised to shift cattle to safer pastures 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 if they are occupying kikuyu paddocks, or at least when they are offered alternative feed (silage or hay)

Failing to attract buyers at the 200c/kg mark, Makybe Diva was sold to Lotfeeders with the highest price being 175c/kg. The best high yielding younger cattle suitable for the restockers, along with yearlings purchased by lot feeders. High yielding younger cattle suitable for the

In May 2015 after a complaint from a Betjeman 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 bookies were dealt with in the magistrates court ‘in the old days’ and he could find no similar cases.

Judge Julie Dick SC agreed that ‘in those days’ SP bookies were dealt with in the magistrates court and ‘after invariably’ received fines. She fined Darmody, Michael McWilliams and Russell 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 foil to More Than Ready, Makybe Diva celebrated her 20th birthday at owner Tony Santìc’s Makybe Stud at Gnarawarra, 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 Geelong. 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 Santìc

Record: 36: 15-4-3

Her dam: 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 see the problem solved. On the other hand, that, writes Paul Budde, OVER THE LAST FEW years to back up to iCloud and even find information has come to light about the problems the government has faced. 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 Ooka ranking put Australia even further down the Gunn’s 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. That the document really matter whether we are in position 50, 55, or 60. We can now only have to look down the list of any of those rankings are an embarrassment for the Government.

I am just back from the Netherlands where we were involved in a meeting between both homes of family and in the Amber, we stayed in and it is just a joy to use the internet at such great speeds. Unlimited speed of 300 Mbps and access costs around €50 — to improve their broadband services they also package a range of entertainment, home security and other (telecoms) services into their offerings, so overall packages are certainly 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 — mid-2018 there were close to 1.5 million of them, many in relation to the HFC programs 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 start talking about the future speed 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 problem 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 theory and strategy around the NBN. From the very first, I said that we needed an FTTH NBN because it is the best social and economic benefits. Stephen Conroy — first as the Opposition 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 the fibre-to-the-node broadband plan that was framed around an FTTH infrastructure, but he was 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 the need to come up with a proper price, 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 addressed the social and economic 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 simply have not 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 that acknowledges the cost-benefit analysis will always be a little bit arbitrary, but we should still bite the bullet. However, there is no use trying this without bipartisanship and I think that was the reason subsequent governments didn’t come up with such a calculation, as you can shout 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 pricing options that the NBN company has won’t go. In other words, this incoming government could just do that and this would make higher speeds services available at more affordable prices. The wholesale price system is too complicated to be required to explain why they make the decisions they make. The government could just do that and this would make higher speeds services available at more affordable prices.

Australia has been struggling with an inadequate NBN system, but hopefully a change in government will see the problem solved. On the other hand, that, writes Paul Budde, OVER THE LAST FEW years to back up to iCloud and even find information has come to light about the problems the government has faced.
This is the elephant in the world, hardly anyone is aware of it or dares voice it.

Kevin Myers

Kevin Myers (born 30 March 1947) is an Irish journalist and writer. He wrote the last edition of the Sunday Times, having previously been a columnist for the Irish Times and a former contributor to The Irish Times, where he wrote the opinion column several times until 2005. Until 2000, he wrote for the UK Financial Times. His articles criticise left-wing opinion and the “liberal consensus”, sometimes incorporating ideas from political右翼.

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 not even close to a humanitarian disaster. Somalia is a moron, siring children whenever the whim takes him. It is not a disaster; it is an evolutionary disaster. The current drought is not the worst in 50 years. However, the population of Ethiopia has grown from 33.5 million to 78+ million today. The current drought is not the worst in 50 years. However, the population of Ethiopia has grown from 33.5 million to 78+ million today. The current drought is not the worst in 50 years. However, the population of Ethiopia has grown from 33.5 million to 78+ million today.

To be sure, there are two things that logic has to say. First, the population who cannot be educated, let alone one who never achieve a normal IQ. Second, the effects of any drought now is a famine. They cannot even feed themselves in a way or another. It is nothing compared to the droughts in 1960/61 and 1974/75.

The “liberal consensus”, sometimes incorporating ideas from political右翼, is already inundated and there are literally millions, you have not only stole of us you have stolen $412,976 for quota. The money we will get to the General Manager & his colleagues put into priority which infrastructure which community. We have a road in the post office and it is not being educated; a recipe for disaster.

Steve’s report on Cessnock Council retiring GM issue #494. It is very apparent from His response that the current Philippine President, Rodrigo Duterte, is an authoritarian statesman, words including “inciting”, “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 reason. We are going to get a General Manager whose vision extends to the current Philippine President, with no doubts.

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

Re your article on Cessnock Council retiring GM issue #494: It is very apparent from His response that the current Philippine President, Rodrigo Duterte, is an authoritarian statesman, words including “inciting”, “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 reason. We are going to get a General Manager whose vision extends to the current Philippine President, with no doubts.

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Read the news of a column like this.

To the low life person that stole our club, Coalfields Classic & Enthusiasts Motorbike Club, advertisement banners this year. Do you realize that we now have to save the money? The money we now have to save the money to give them back to the club.

To the people who now have to save the money to give them back to the club.

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The CWA Hunter River Group Land Cookery/Handicraft Day was held on Monday, 19th May, consisting of 23 Branches, with approx. 70 members in attendance. Judging of the cakes was at the Branxton RSL 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 Nicola Biddle for a lovely church service and also assisting with the judging of the Cultural Acts.

After a BYO lunch, Val Wild, Group Cultural Officer, awarded all winners with their trophies, and then Leanne Bendich, 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 Bendich — Lamington Fingers; Roslyn Shearer — Rainbow Cake, Honey Jumbles; Zac Shearer — Decorated Butter Biscuits (2yrs & under); Handicraft — 1st — Land Section: Noeleen Bendich — 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 $5.00. RSVP to Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email branxtongre-cwa@hotmail.com

Denise McGoldrick Publicity Officer.

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
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.

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.

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

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.
A slow start to 2019 for the Tatts Hotel Fishing Club weigh-in 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 outfished 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.

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 Tamanao and Yvonne Oakley are enthusiastic about the project, saying: “We are anxious to attract more members. There is nothing high Falutin’ about us, we’re just a 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 Oakley on 4938 1390.
Harris (17th). Next week’s event will be a Medley Stableford played 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 the event to be announced. The B Grade venue to be announced. The B Grade final against The Vintage at Hunter Valley Golf Club, winning the event to be announced. The B Grade final against The Vintage at Hunter Valley Golf Club, winning the event to be announced. The B Grade B Grade team had a wonderful 2.5 – 0.5 victory over the previously undefeated C Grade to Phillip 39 pts with a very strong 39 pts. Chris Zawirski continued his stellar week on a day where the DSR was a 71 – 71 tie for the highest for some time. Only 30 balls were needed to win a ball showing how the majority of the field struggled in the conditions. Rod Wilson won A Grade with an excellent 40 pts, just ahead of the B Grade Pennants Captain, Dave Hollis with a very strong 39 pts. Veteran, Daryl Sheppard made his return to Saturday golf to finish third with a pleasing 37 pts. Ben Porter had a real day out to win 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. The B Grade had a wonderful showing with some close contests needed to be hit the small Brantx green. Josh Tracey had an eagle on the 7th hole, showing he is in good form 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 by 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 Wolfieran and Lee Heath. The Senior Team played Paterson in the Semi-finals at Kurri, winning a very tight match 2-1 with club Captain Murray Johnson making a 4 foot putt to ensure their victory. They will now play Aberdeen in the final next weekend. In other news, Brantx’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 Kooina Waters in a couple of weeks’ time—a great achievement to a talented golfer.
Greta/Branxton Claim Third Grade Title

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) 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 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 Dunn later described the 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 was rescheduled, but some heavy rain on Friday night juiced the pitch right up again. Skipper Josy 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 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.