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10 April 2019

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School NEWS



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St Nicholas Early Education's expansion to Branxton



Above: (L-R) Kurt Daley, Construction Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle, Sean Scanlon, Chief Executive Officer at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle, Kerri Armstrong, General Operations Manager of St Nicholas Early Education & Ray Bowen, Head of Property at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle

St Nicholas Early Education's expansion in the Upper Hunter is set to take-off, with construction commencing in Branxton next week and other centres soon to follow

A purpose built, state-of-the-art early education facility is set to open in Branxton in 2020, licensed to provide care and education for up to 104 children, between the ages of 0-5 years.

Sean Scanlon, Chief Executive Officer at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle and Kerri Armstrong, General Operations Manager of St Nicholas Early Education visited the green fields' site in Station Street last Friday (4 April 2019) to ceremoniously turn the first-sod.

They were joined by Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle employees Ray Bowen, Head of Property and Kurt Daley, Construction Manager- who've helped pave the way for the exciting development.

Mr Scanlon said the site, located directly opposite

Rosary Park Primary School, was selected with parents in mind.

"We want to make the school drop-off and pick-up experience as easy as possible for parents and children. With the addition of an early education centre across the road from Rosary Park Primary School, parents with children of various ages can avoid the hassle of getting in and out of the car for multiple drops offs, saving precious time," Mr Scanlon said.

Branxton will be the seventh early education centre operated by the Diocese in the Hunter region for St Nicholas Early Education. Other sites include Lochinvar, Chisholm, Singleton, Newcastle West, Raymond Terrace and Cardiff.

Future developments of St Nicholas Early Education centres to follow Branxton include Maitland, Muswellbrook, Gillieston Heights and Medowie.

"Branxton and the surrounding area has been identified as an area of extensive

growth over the next five years. St Nicholas plans to provide early education services that will cater to the needs of the community now, and in the future. Our research indicates that by 2026, the area will experience a 41% population growth," Mr Scanlon said. Operating Monday-Friday, from 6.30am-6.00pm, the Branxton-based early education centre will also provide local families greater flexibility.

"Many Branxton residents are employed in neighbouring areas. We expect St Nicholas' extended operating hours, coupled with an increased provision of child-care in town, will be of huge benefit to locals when managing the demands of family and work life," Mr Scanlon said.

In addition to supporting families in employment outside the township, the establishment of the centre is expected to increase employment opportunities locally.

"At capacity we expect the centre to employ approximately 22 educators,

three trainees a cook and cleaners. St Nicholas Early Education promotes employment from the local community as a priority," Mr Scanlon said.

Rosary Park Primary School and the local Parish have been very supportive of the St Nicholas Early Education development, which will provide local families with the opportunity to enrol their children in a Catholic-inspired education in Branxton from ages 0-12 years.

Ms Armstrong said St Nicholas Early Education has a proud history of working with the Catholic Schools Office to deliver exciting learning opportunities for children enrolled at their centres. "We're looking forward to offering our Transition to School Program in collaboration with Rosary Park Primary School, for pre-school aged children, to support their educational pathway," Ms Armstrong said.

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Council Council takes out national award for resource recovery and waste management

Cessnock City Council was named winner of the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award at the Australian Sustainable Communities -

Tidy Towns Awards held in Tasmania last week. The Cessnock Waste Management Centre (CWMC) that opened in 2017 attracted the award.

This category of award is about recognising innovation and achievements in recycling or waste reduction including initiatives that conserve resources or recover materials.

This win comes after Cessnock was named the 2018 NSW Sustainable Communities - Tidiest Town in the iconic Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Communities Awards.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said taking home a national award is a reflection of the huge amount of work Council and community groups put in.

"We are working tirelessly to provide a better service for our residents, increase opportunities for resource recovery and improve the management of waste. The new facility is a huge improvement, in the first six months we saw a 17% increase in recovery of source-separated materials."

"There are many supporters in our community who are also



working towards this common goal and we thank you all for your dedication. At the NSW awards we took home the top spot and also another six awards for varying work in our community. These community initiatives and projects are contributing to ensuring to a brighter future that is a vibrant, sustainable and liveable."

Congratulations to all the communities from across Australia who were

recognised at the prestigious awards. Council is looking forward to hosting the 2019 State Awards and showing off what the Cessnock Local Government Area has to offer.

Above: (L-R) Council's Director of Works and Infrastructure Justin Fitzpatrick -Barr, Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, Sustainability Officer Tricia Donnelly and Environment and Waste Services Manager Michael Alexander.

Cessnock named in TripAdvisor's top ten cities

The secret is out, Cessnock has been named on TripAdvisor's top 10 cities, as part of its Travellers' Choice awards.

While it won't come as a surprise to locals that Cessnock is one of the best locations in Australia, we now have the bragging rights of being officially listed at number six.

The Cessnock Local Government Area was recognised for 'Vineyards, world-class golf courses, gourmet eateries, lush gardens and blissful spas set in a relaxed rural setting.'

Our endless list of attractions without the hustle and bustle of major cities saw Cessnock beat out cities like Adelaide and Perth in the running.

Known for the high density of award winning wineries, Cessnock is building a reputation beyond just wine. Tourists are taking note of the abundance of wildlife, restaurants, pet friendly accommodation and relaxed atmosphere that the Hunter Valley has to offer. The Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this recognition is an opportunity for local businesses and reflects the unique experience we offer visitors as a destination.

"It's no surprise we've been named. It's a reflection of the hard work and passion our local businesses have when it comes to their customers. As a community we are keen to share what makes Cessnock so special."



tripadvisor



What Happening Anzac Day

Branxton

05:30 Commence dawn service.
11:15 Marchers form up in front of old Branxton Inn.
11:30 March steps off down main street to Rotunda.
11:45 Commence Day service at the Rotunda.
12:15 Day service ends.

Order of March

Police vehicle.
Light horseman. (Chris Fredricks)
Catafalque Party.
Army Vehicle (with Music Kelly)
Branxton RSL Sub Branch Members (Errol Bailey in front)
Ex Military & family members.
NSW Fire brigade.
All non- military units will form up behind the NSW Fire brigade.

Greta

Greta RSL Sub-Branch invites all members and their families, residents of Greta and any other interested parties to attend our ANZAC Day Commemorations in Greta.

These Services are our way of remembering the sacrifices of servicemen and women, not only in the Great War, but in all wars and conflicts where our assistance has been requested.

Not only do we remember lives lost, the injured personnel (in many cases no longer able to continue in their civilian occupations), but also lives altered, families affected and communities forever changed. This is the day for the ANZAC Spirit to be instilled into the younger generation, for how can we teach them about peace if they aren't taught of the privations of war.

The Day will commence at 5.30am with the Dawn Service at the Greta Cenotaph, followed by a Gunfire Breakfast in the Old Greta Courthouse. The March will commence at 9.30am – leaving the corner of the New England Hwy and Nelson St, and finishing at the Cenotaph. The Main Service being held at the Cenotaph at approximately 10am.

Hand held flags will be available at the Dawn Service and prior to the March – at no charge. Please come and join our current ANZAC personnel as they remember the generations who have passed before.



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NOTICE

The News

The next issue of **The Branxton Greta Vineyards News** will be published on the 1st May 2019 being a 3-week interval instead of the normal 2-week interval. Our normal publish date falls on ANZAC Day 2019. We hope this does not inconvenience our advertisers & loyal readers.

Mike Lowing, Editor

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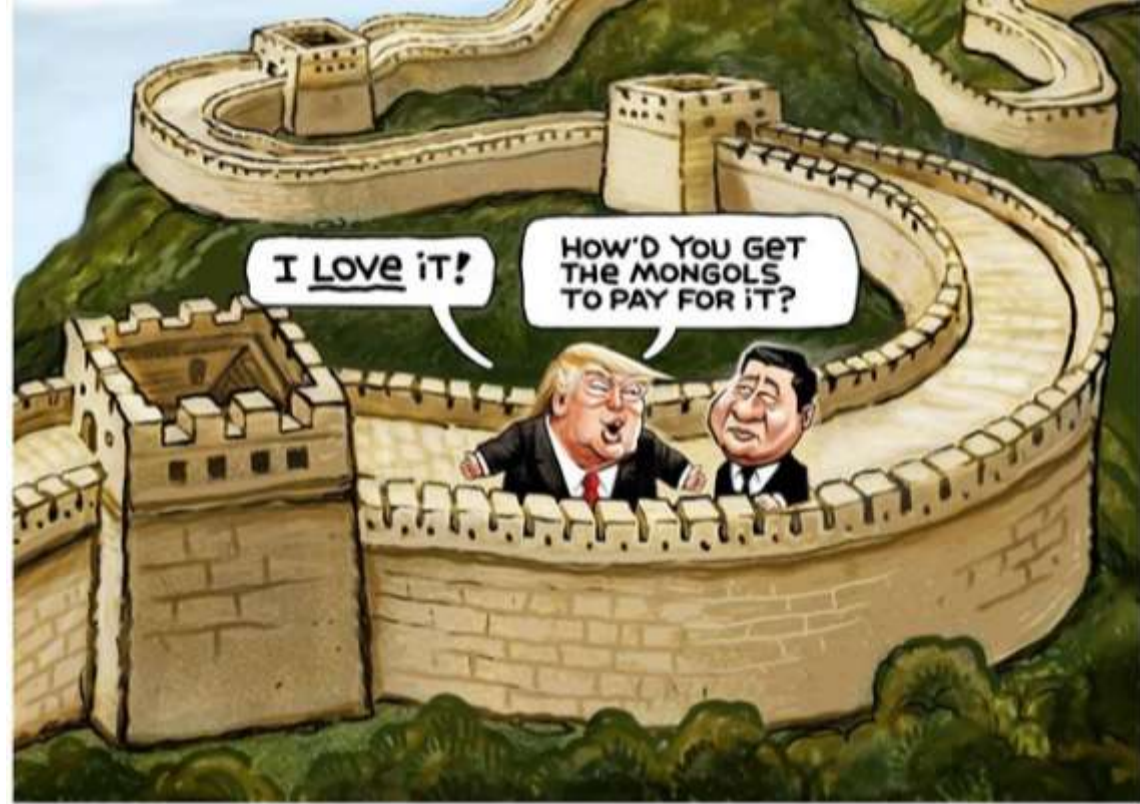
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STEVE'S RANT

The Federal election campaign is off to a flying start So, the federal election campaign is off to a flying start with strange non-governmental organisations running negative television advertisements against the Morrison Government and in particular Tony Abbott. First, we had Greenpeace blaming the Government for bushfires in Tasmania with special mention of Tony Abbott as the chief cause. What logic is behind this advertisement I fail to grasp but if you are a dedicated believer in global warming - climate change and the anthropogenic causes of this - then you may perceive a tenuous link to Tony Abbott and the stopping of the carbon tax, among other things he was able to stop. So, stopping the carbon tax has caused bushfires in Tasmania and we cannot support Tony Abbott in the federal election but must vote for some sweet young thing who knows nothing and only stands for the myth of the anthropogenic (manmade) climate change. The science is in, she says; bollocks I say. Trouble is our vote here in this electorate will have no effect in Tony Abbotts electorate but Greenpeace would have us prefer a totally inexperienced young woman to a man with 25

years' experience in parliament, who has been a Minister of all kind of things and Prime Minister elected in his own right. To me that is a no brainer but I guess many people's brains are lacking in simple logic and are bemused by the ideological clap trap of the progressive left. How many members of Greenpeace are volunteer fire fighters or surf life savers or spend their holidays visiting remote aboriginal communities to learn more about the problems they have? The other NGO (Non-Government Organisation) that has leapt onto the band wagon trying to influence the elections in favour of the socialist parties is the Victorian Teachers Union. They are trying to get people to accept the Morrison Government has taken 13 Billion dollars out of the public education system. This is an absolute lie and one the Labor Party has been spruiking ever since the Gonski report was presented. It was a pipe dream of throwing public money at an educational system that was, and still is, systemically dysfunctional and only produces results where individual headmasters and teachers, by their dedication and

professionalism, set their own standards and methodology. The teacher's unions contribute nothing to the process of educating our children and never will. Their function is to make the life of teachers as simple and easy as possible and to hell with the results-based education; no testing of students, no testing of teacher's ability, no competition and no peer review. These unions have nothing to contribute to anybody and to believe they might is delusional. This programme of political advertising by NGO's will continue up to election day and will consist of outrageous assertions about the evil Morrison Government. There will be lies and there will be statistics which have been selected to paint a damning picture of Government performance. We must question these glib assertions and seek the truth by turning the story around and seeing who else these assertions apply to, and what different outcomes may have applied in different circumstances eg., if the huge funding figures for public education recommended by the Gonski Report had been forthcoming over the past three years would education outcomes be better than at present? We don't know and will never know so the assumptions by the Victorian Teachers Union that not fully funding the Gonski recommendation amount to some terrible neglect by the federal government is simply a strawman as is the figure of 13 billion dollars. What other NGO will come out of the woodwork in the coming weeks. Who knows and who cares? Just don't believe what these turkeys come up with and don't rely on the ABC for any kind of balanced



view or corrective. On top of this we will have to endure a well-funded drive by the Shorten mob to win over our hearts and minds. If your heart is with Labor, well and good but please keep you mind open and understand what is at stake in the coming months. Policy's based on the myth of global warming, climate change and the dreadfully dangerous gas carbon dioxide is simply about who has the biggest delusion and will not pay the bills or put bread and butter on your table. Think coal fired power stations.

Cheers Steve



with Mike Lowing THE Branxton RV Park, which surrounds Branxton Oval at its northern end, is



heading into its 3rd year of operation with still no official signage or a meaningful management plan in place. It flies in the face of a ratification by council in February 2014, that council resolve to support the Branxton Oval being used as an RV Friendly Park, and more so the endorsement of the council to enable Branxton to become RV Friendly. After the ratification of endorsement by Cessnock Council the first hurdle was thrown up; the proposed park was contained within a 1 in a 100 flood plain. Council used a 2005 report by the Department of

Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources to stop its operation by closing the gate and locking the amenities block. It wasn't until local RSL Sub Branch President, Brian Furner, had a close look at the report to see that it also stated, inter alia, that ...

* The policy recognises the benefits of the "use of flood prone land" & recognises the benefits of use of occupation & development of flood prone land & it's benefits to the community. * The document recognises a merit approach which balances & determines particular developments on the use of flood prone land that is "sustainable & appropriate" to the

site. That sorted that one; gates opened! Since that brief intermission the local business chamber has provided 2 shelters & the park has become a very popular stop for travellers but again not without some problems. The problems can be put down to the regulations in place for RV parks; one, you must be a self contained RV unit viz., providing your own ablutions, power & bathing facilities. Two, a maximum stay of 72 hours only.

Cont. next page



The single cause of all these events is mankind After the latest round of events that received an extensive write-up in the media, ie Christchurch, climate change, pollution, banking inquiry etc., it is perhaps time to reflect on the root cause of all these events. In doing so one can only come to the conclusion that the single cause of all

these events is mankind. And from there it is only a small step to conclude that there is something fundamentally wrong with the human animal. It is the only inhabitant on this planet which - kills its kind for not agreeing with its beliefs, for greed, for envy, for occupying space

- rapes and pillages the natural resources of the planet for greed - controls and manipulates its kind, not for the better of the tribe but for personal gain. Enough said about Christchurch and similar atrocities, we know who has perpetrated the act. A human. What about Climate change? Let's not get bogged down into whether it is occurring or not, but look at the events, fish dying in the river, town's

water supply drying up, significant less rainfall, etc. It is not caused by Elephants, mosquitos, bears, horses or any animal you can think of, except the human animal, that keeps putting more greenhouse gasses in the air, more cars on the roads, more water extraction for irrigation all for the lie of progress and creation of jobs, for the human animals that need more of what has created this situation in the first

place. In all the events there has been a human which made the decision that caused the event. A human which did not think about the good of the tribe but about the profits. And then there is the hiding behind corporate entities. Banks and financial institutions did not defraud their customers, it was the humans who made the decisions that this could be done. For greed and profits and have they been held to account? No it is blamed on a system fault. Not a human. Next is the overwhelming evidence of pollution, air and water, round water not to mention the plastics. Once again it is a human which made the decision to produce it without thinking about its effect except bottom line, and we are all to blame, as it is also a human that discards the plastic into the environment

without thinking about the consequences. Volumes could be written about the detrimental effects of these decisions made by undoubtedly seriously flawed human animals. And we are adding more humans to the planet at a staggering rate. Perhaps Mr Smith was right in the Matrix when he expressed the opinion that humans were a vermin and a pest for the planet. D. Wesseling, North Rothbury Alligator weed infestation in Branxton and North Rothbury Village is now beyond the pale. This is a declared noxious weed and is the responsibility of every land owner and resident to eradicate, or as they say in Dr Who - EXTERMINATE EXTERMINATE!! To control the weed, which is heavily seeded right now, it is best not to mow until you have physically removed the plant and its tap root from the ground. When doing this care needs to be taken that you gather all the seeds you can with the weed and dispose of it in the land fill bin. (Red one) Do not put the weed or its seeds into the green waste bin. We don't want to take the risk of spreading this weed to others people's gardens or property. Whilst the ground is relatively wet and the weeds are easily identified by the white pom pom seed heads, now is the time to tackle your infestation. Use a garden fork to dig into the centre of the weed and recover as much of the tap root and seeds as possible, FYI and I hope quick action, Steve Lind, North Rothbury for & on behalf of North Rothbury Tidy Town.

Emergency Phone Numbers

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FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED For non-life threatening calls..... Police Assistance Line (PAL).... 131 444

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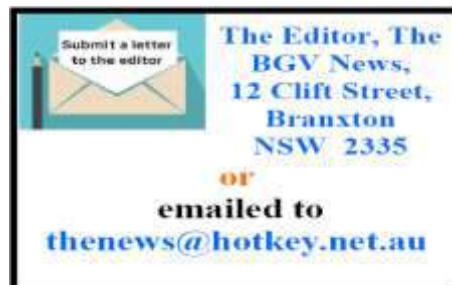
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Wanted: Election staff in the Hunter Valley

The Australian Electoral Commission today called for Hunter Valley residents to register their interest in being a polling official for the upcoming federal election.

State Manager for NSW, Mr Warwick Austin said that around 500 polling officials will be required for the Hunter Valley region.

“Being a polling official provides people an opportunity to earn money, gain valuable experience and see behind the scenes of how the election is run,” Mr Austin said.

“There’s a variety of positions on offer with pay for the election day ranging from \$400 to \$1,000.”

The majority of polling officials will work on election day only and rotate between tasks of polling place setup, voter mark-off, queue control, ballot box guard and counting.

“In Australia we’re fortunate to have an electoral system where each polling place creates the feeling of a community event. Being behind the scenes of that process as a polling official is fascinating and a really rewarding role.”

For further information or to register your interest go to www.aec.gov.au/employment. No experience is required.

At the 2019 federal election the AEC will employ around 80,000 polling officials at more than 8,000 voting venues across Australia.

Approximately 50% of polling officials return to work for the AEC again. AEC spokespeople are available for interview upon request.

A range of relevant images are available on the following pages, from <https://www.aec.gov.au/media/image-library/> or by request.



Annual General Meeting



Central Hunter BUSINESS CHAMBER

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

From previous page

What’s the Goss

Since its inception the park has been home to some ‘homeless’ living in their car or a tent, grape-picking backpackers living in tents and cars &, in one case, a homeless registered paedophile in residence for 2-weeks (living in his car).

In all cases Cessnock Council rangers were aware of it & did absolutely nothing about it.

In the case of the ‘back-packing grape pickers’; the local vigneron who employ them for their short vintage should not shove them off to other areas (outa sight outa mind) but should be made to provide areas on their holdings for them to camp. They would only need to provide ablutions/showers, power & matches to light their magic cigarettes.

The local business chamber, years ago, asked Cessnock Council to hand over its management under a Sec 355 committee but it has not responded accordingly as it appears some of the site is crown land & have, it appears, thrown it into the ‘too hard’ basket.

The park is a wonderful asset for the area & needs to be run properly & under local guidance.

Last weekend the park hosted, I think, for the third time The Sydney Wanderers who arrive in numbers at about 60 RV’s a time.

To the near retiring GM at Cessnock Council; can you please help resolve this issue prior to your wave good bye(?). Cheers, Mike

In Memorandum

Maxwell George Richards

Passed away 8th March 2019

In loving memory of Max Richards; loving husband, father & grandfather.

Janette & Family

REFLECTIONS


The Holiest Week of the Christian Year

Our journey through the wilderness of Lent is almost complete this year. It has been a time of focussing and reflecting on our relationship with God and the ways that we have been separated from God. It has been a time of renewal, when we have heard again God’s deep, deep love for His people.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, which culminates in the celebration of Easter. On Palm Sunday Jesus makes His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, with crowds lining the streets, waving palm branches and shouting “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.” [Luke 19.38] Yet even as the crowds welcome Jesus, there are some who do not want to hear what the crowds know to be the truth. It is not long before the shouts of the crowds turn from “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord” to “Crucify, crucify him.” [Luke 23.21] The crowds are easily swayed by the religious leaders, but it is Jesus that has the last word. With two criminals, one on his right and one on his left, Jesus was crucified. Moments before Jesus dies, He says “Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” [Luke 23.34] Even as He prepares to take his last breathes, Jesus thinks of His people first. He gives us yet another opportunity to turn to God, to receive God’s gifts of hope, love and forgiveness.

The beauty of Easter is that the Easter mysteries are for all people of all time, including all of us. Jesus’ love is extravagant and never ending. Will we be among the crowds who welcome Him, the crowds who call for His crucifixion, or among those who followed Him from Galilee, stayed at a distance and watched these things happen? The choice is always ours. Jesus does not force His way into our lives but beckons us from the Cross. He loves us so much that He was willing to die like a criminal so that we might have life and have it in abundance.

May the mystery of Easter, of Christ’s Passion and Resurrection, live in our hearts and minds. May we receive God’s gifts of hope, love and forgiveness from the Cross.



Wishing you a Happy and Holy Easter
Reverend Nicole

FROM FRONT PAGE

St Nicholas Early Education’s expansion in Branxton

As part of the program, children will take part in excursions to the neighbouring school, supporting children to gain the foundational skills that will help make the leap to the school environment a positive experience.



“St Nicholas educators implement a Reggio Emilia inspired curriculum that is underpinned by a child-led, play-based approach to learning. This approach is complemented by our high ratios of educator to child, ensuring personalised care and support,” Ms Armstrong said.

Natalie Cortis, a mother to two children and new resident to the Branxton area, has embraced the St Nicholas Early Education development, having already registered interest to enrol her youngest child at the centre via the St Nicholas website.

“Being a new family to the area of Branxton, we are extremely excited to see big things happening, including the development of a brand new early education centre for our daughter,” Ms Curtis said.

“It is a bonus to have it located across the road from our school of

choice, and where our daughter is currently enrolled in kindergarten. Mostly, we are excited St Nicks will be implementing a Transition to School Program, meaning our youngest daughter will be given the opportunity to visit her future primary school in a supportive and educational setting (and visit her big sister at the same time!),” Ms Cortis said.

“We just love the community vibe that Branxton allows our family to experience,” Ms Cortis said.

The Branxton early education service will provide children with a full-service food-menu including morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as well as the provision of nappies and cot linens.

The centre is expected to take shape within months, with construction-company *Artel Constructions* arriving onsite this week with machinery and a workforce of up to 70 people during the build.

St Nicholas Early Education will be taking interested families on tours of the centre from December 2019, and officially commence operations from January 2020.

Demand for the service is expected to be high, and those interested in reserving a space for their child are encouraged to register their interest by visiting stnicholasmn.org.au Hunter-based company *SDA Architecture* is the lead design consultant for the centre, supported by *Terras Landscape Architects*, who designed the outdoor play area. Above: (L-R) Kurt Daley, Construction Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle, Sean Scanlon, Chief Executive Officer at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle, Kerri Armstrong, General Operations Manager of St Nicholas Early Education & Ray Bowen, Head of Property at the Catholic Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle



If you require assistance please call

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Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

note of the abundance of wildlife, restaurants, pet friendly accommodation and relaxed atmosphere that the Hunter Valley has to offer. This is a very positive result for our community and reflects the hard work of our local business community who are offering up unique and high quality experiences to visitors.

Two weeks ago Councillor Darrin Gray and I attended Kurri Kurri TAFE's Excellence Awards. It was fantastic to see recognition of young people in our area in the development of skills that will contribute to our local workforce.

Cheers, Bob

Behind the Mayors desk

New shade sails have been installed in six playgrounds in the Cessnock Local Government Area making a trip to the local playground a whole lot sun safer. It can be difficult for children to remain active and enjoy playground equipment on those warmer days. The shade sails will provide sun protection for park visitors during the hotter months meaning more time for exercise and fun.

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. This project was funded by the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund. Youth Week kicked off on the 30th March and runs until Friday 26 April. This is a great opportunity for our younger local residents aged between 12 and 25 to get out into the community and see what Cessnock has to offer.

Youth Week is also a great opportunity to try something new. Whether you are looking to gain a skill like cupcake decorating, producing your own podcast, learning how to use power tools or creating your own Aboriginal artwork. Maybe you're looking to explore your interests in anime, skating or sewing? If any of this sounds like you we have you covered. Pick up a program today at Cessnock City Council or like the CYCOS Facebook page for more details

at www.facebook.com/cessnockyouthcentre. A program is also available on the Cessnock City Council website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/YouthWeek.

The Cessnock Local Government Area was named on TripAdvisor's top 10 cities, as part of its Travellers' Choice Awards that were announced last week. Our endless list of attractions without the hustle and bustle of major cities saw Cessnock beat out cities like Adelaide and Perth in the running. Known for the high density of award winning wineries, Cessnock is building a reputation beyond just wine. Tourists are taking

I stuck my hand up. To receive online hate comments that suggest that I am lazy, that I do nothing, that I am only in it for myself, that I am riding on some gravy train, that I am never in the community and/or that I don't care; this all just does not make any sense. And generally speaking, these same online hate comments, while being very good at abuse and insult, almost never offer any ideas about a different way to do things or make suggestions about a new way forward. On the bright side, in complete contrast to the haters, there have been a number of people jump online and offer sensible suggestions on things I could change about my work and our wonderful community, as well as offering a small dose of reality check for the haters. Also on a positive note, after the election I have had an absolute barrage of well wishes from all quarters across our community.

Thank you to these wonderful people that have helped restore my self-confidence and made me realise that I am not a dastardly villain. I guess that it has helped me to realise that the haters are a minority group with little regard for responsibility, while having a high regard for their own right to deliver vile, in this wonderful democracy of ours.

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



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Reports in the media over the past week have cast a shadow over the future of the Big W store in Singleton, consequently bringing the retail landscape – and our economic climate generally – into sharp focus. Economic speculation usually centres on the mining industry, appropriately because the Singleton Local

Government Area has the advantage and disadvantage of being a one engine economy with 65% of regional output coming from mining.

But our residents told us they want a diverse economic base in Singleton and, along with agricultural production, Defence and tourism, retail is a vital part of the mix.

Council recognises it has a role to play in creating an economic framework that allows businesses of all sizes to flourish for the benefit of our community now and into the future. Future planning is already underway with a region-wide focus such as Council's representation on the State Government's Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Work Group. Significant projects to ensure water security into the future are also progressing in collaboration with Water NSW, Hunter Water and Department of Premier and Cabinet.

At the same time, Council is developing the Singleton Council Socio-economic Development Strategy 2019-2021, to outline our socio-economic principles, priorities and actions with the goal to maintain Singleton's importance to the economic prosperity of NSW – with or without mining. Strategic focus areas identified in the draft document look to create an environment that fosters and supports business and entrepreneurship and encourages new industry investment, recognising the need for capital investment. It also acknowledges the needs of people in our community to be fulfilled outside their working life, with actions around the provision of a high quality education system, social support and community facilities.

But many of these actions cannot be delivered by Council in isolation. Which is why I have already written to newly re-elected Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen seeking their support in our bid to attract diverse and significant investment to our region and in doing so, cement the future of Singleton and the prosperity of our community. The future of our community depends on what we do now. While the draft Singleton Socio-economic Plan 2019-21 sets out actions for the next two years, what we are working for is the thanks we'll never hear from the people of Singleton who will come after us.

Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

State Matters NSW Parliament Resumes Next Month

Now that the polls are declared and the Nationals/Liberals Cabinet has been sworn in the NSW Parliament is set to resume on the 7 May, 2019.

Whilst I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported me at the last State election and I feel very privileged to represent you in the New South Wales Parliament.

I am committed to maintaining our state as the premier place in Australia to live and do business.

The Nationals in Government truly value the input from our local residents on the important issues and I aim to empower our local communities to have a real voice, so please never hesitate to contact me.

New Light Rescue Vehicle for Ellerston Brigade

I was delighted last week to unveil a new light rescue vehicle whilst handing it over to the Ellerston Brigade of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) on behalf of the NSW Government. Joining me was the NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM at Ellerston Club. This vehicle is the first of its kind within the NSW RFS and I am thrilled that the Upper Hunter Electorate was the first electorate in NSW to receive such a vehicle.

The new vehicle is worth more than \$120,000 and will provide our local members with greater ability when responding to serious car accidents in the area. This investment in the Ellerston community ensures our local volunteers have the necessary equipment to help save lives. Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that this is the first light rescue vehicle in the NSW RFS fleet to specifically deliver road crash rescue services.

This purpose-built vehicle features off-road capability with heavy duty hydraulic cutting equipment to perform rescue operations. The introduction of 'road crash rescue' in this area ensures that a greater level of service can be provided to residents and visitors to the area.

Previously, those who had a serious car accident in the area would have to wait more than an hour for the closest rescue vehicle to arrive. This time will be dramatically reduced with the introduction of this new vehicle and accreditation of the Ellerston Brigade.

The community should take comfort in the fact that our highly skilled volunteers can now provide an even greater level of protection and service to them.

As a returned member of the Nationals in Government, it

is satisfying to see our Upper Hunter electorate benefit from the good policy and financial decisions of the last two terms.

Contact: My Email address; upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au, phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333

Cheers, Michael



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

We were expecting the Prime Minister to drive to Government House on the weekend to announce the date of the Federal election. That did not happen so we expect he will call the election in the coming week with May 18th and 25th possible options. So buckle up for five weeks or so of campaigning and all the advertisements and interviews that go with it.

I hope health services, education (including early learning), cost of living pressures, workers' rights and job opportunities dominate the debate. These are issues which affect all of us.

Recently Labor announced its approach to reducing carbon pollution. After a decade of political bickering, I hope we've delivered a model that the major parties can embrace. We've done so by not only embracing but enhancing and improving a number of the current Government's policies. There will be no carbon tax and a Labor Government will receive no revenue from the measures we are proposing. Rather, we'll put incentives in place to drive down emissions in the energy, transport, industry and land sectors. The model will also help farmers build defences to drought.

Being able to afford to visit the doctor is something all Australians deserve. But increasingly people are struggling to pay the out of pocket costs and are forgoing the medical treatment they need. In fact people in the Hunter electorate are on average out of pocket \$33.38 to see a GP and \$79.49 to see a specialist. So I'm pleased that if elected, Labor has committed to the removal of the Government's Medicare freeze in our first 50 days in office. This means we will remove the freeze on Medicare rebate indexation on 1 July 2019, one year before it is due to end.

After five years of health funding cuts, Government figures show that 1.3 million Australians are now forced to skip basic health care due to cost. This includes more than 660,000 who skip GP care and over 530,000 who skip specialist care – both as a direct result of out of pocket costs.

This year's increases will put even greater pressure on family budgets and force even more Australians to skip essential care. Yet Scott Morrison is determined to cut Medicare by keeping parts of his Medicare freeze in place until 2020 - driving out of pocket costs up even higher.

As Treasurer, Scott Morrison personally extended the Coalition Government's Medicare freeze by two years, cutting another \$925 million from Medicare. Medicare rebates for 100 GP items – including family counselling, urgent after-hours care, mental health care and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island health checks – will start going up again.

Labor will invest an extra \$213 million in Medicare to end the Liberal and Nationals' six-year rebate freeze a year early and make health care more affordable for all Australians. This will be paid for by making multinationals pay their fair share and closing tax loopholes used by the top end of town.

I urge residents and businesses to be vigilant of callers claiming to be from NBN Co requesting personal or financial information. This follows a significant increase in enquiries about suspected scams to NBN Co's contact centre in the past six months.

It's vital the community understands the steps involved in making the switch, including how and when NBN Co and retailers will communicate with customers.

If someone claiming to work for NBN has contacted you trying to sell you an internet or phone service and you're in doubt, ask for their details, hang up and call your retail service provider to check if they're legitimate. Remember, do not share your bank or personal details with an unsolicited caller or with those who door knock claiming to be from NBN trying to sell you an NBN service or seek payment for related services.

NBN approved technicians and workers carry enable identification cards – always request to see this card before providing physical access to your address. Never give an unsolicited caller remote access to your computer via the installation of programs such as Team Viewer. NBN does not call you with automated assistance to advise you will be disconnected. NBN is a 'wholesaler' – you will need to purchase an NBN powered plan through a phone or internet provider. If you have provided bank account, credit card, or gift card (iTunes/Coles) details to a scammer claiming to work for NBN, you should contact your bank or financial institution immediately and report the matter to your local police.

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News

P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Medicine information leaflets for consumers

A typical CMI contains...

- accurate and up-to-date
- clear headings
- simple instructions
- straightforward explanations of what consumers need to do
- easy for consumers to use



Members say ...



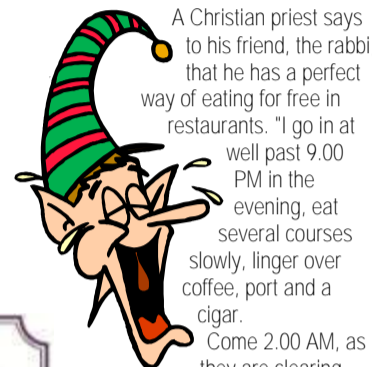
Cllr Melanie Dagg - Deputy Mayor & Cessnock City Councillor representing Ward 'C'

With the State election now over it has been nice to return to some kind of normality, and continue focusing on good community outcomes. The

announcements Labor made for Upper Hunter would have been of great benefit to our communities here in the Branxton/Greta area, namely the Singleton Bypass and Singleton Cancer Treatment Centre. Alas, it was not meant to be. As an elected representative I will continue to work hard every day for improved investment in services and infrastructure for our region. I'm disappointed the Government had previously chosen to downgrade the position of *Minister for the Hunter*, to *Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter*. But more disappointing is they have now scrapped that position altogether. The Hunter region is a major contributor to the State's economy and the Government's budget bottom line - we deserve to have a seat at the decision-making table, but instead these decisions will be made by those who live in Sydney. It's not good enough. Last weekend saw Paul Bennett's Hunter Valley Air Show come to

town. I hope you made the time to see the displays as it was quite a sight. We expected around 10,000 visitors to the area as a result, with a projected expenditure of around \$3.5m. This is a huge boom for our area, with that money being spent in shops, cafes and tourist venues, contributing to consumption and ultimately jobs. Council is working hard to continue to attract quality events like this to the area, to not only contribute to the local economy, but also enhance the cultural fabric of our community and build our reputation as a must-see destination, particularly after being named #6 on TripAdvisor's best cities list, beating out Perth and Adelaide - what a win for our LGA.

Cheers, Melanie



A Christian priest says to his friend, the rabbi, that he has a perfect way of eating for free in restaurants. "I go in at well past 9.00 PM in the evening, eat several courses slowly, linger over coffee, port and a cigar.

Come 2.00 AM, as they are clearing everything away, I just keep sitting there until eventually a waiter comes up and asks me to pay. Then I say: 'I've already paid your colleague who has left.' Because I am a man of the cloth, they take my word for it, and I leave." The rabbi is impressed, and says: "Let's try it together this evening." So the priest books them into a restaurant and come 2.00 AM they are both still quietly sitting there after a very full meal. Sure enough, a waiter comes over and asks them to pay. The priest just says: "I've already paid your colleague who has left." And then the rabbi adds: "And we are still waiting for the change!"

FROM PAGE 6

Members say

You could also report your issue to the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN).

Scams of all types are unfortunately prevalent in our community. Visit www.scamwatch.gov.au for more information on the latest scams circulating and how to protect yourself.

Cheers, Joel

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- Ingredients**
- 2kg pork shoulder, skin scored
 - 4 garlic cloves, quartered lengthways
 - 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
 - 1 tablespoon ground cumin
 - 2 teaspoons chilli powder
 - 1 teaspoon Masterfoods Whole Fennel Seeds
 - 1 brown onion, thinly sliced

Method

Step 1
Using a sharp knife, make slits in pork. Insert garlic slivers into pork. Rub all over with spices and seeds. Season.

Easy slow-cooker pulled pork

Step 2
Arrange onion over base of slow-cooker. Place pork over onion. Cook, covered, on low for 8 hours or until pork meat falls off the bone. Transfer pork to a clean board. Discard skin and as much fat as you like. Shred with 2 forks. Add as much cooking liquid as you like to moisten pork.

Notes
Keep leftover pork in the fridge for up to 1 week. You could also store the leftovers in individual portions for up to 1 month in the freezer.



Nutrition per serve: 3127 kJ Energy 54g Fat Total 19.7g Saturated Fat 1.2g Fibre 58.9g Protein 225mg Cholesterol 173mg Sodium 0.7g Carbs (sugar) 3.3g Carbs (total)

for side effects and possible interactions with other medications or substances, such as alcohol. You can also find out what to do if you miss a dose. You should speak with your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about your medication or how to read the CMI. Do not vary your dose or make treatment decisions based on your own reading of the CMI.

All CMIs are set out in the same way and include information such as:

- brand name – appears at the top in large letters
 - active ingredient – the main ingredient in the medication appears under the brand name
 - all ingredients of the medication, including non-active ingredients (such as binders or tablet coatings)
 - contact details for the manufacturer
 - how to take the medication – including what to do if you take too much or miss a dose
 - information to consider before you use the medication – including possible interactions with other medication or substances
 - safe storage and disposal information
 - what can happen while you are taking the medication – including side effects
 - what the medication is used for
 - **contraindications** – certain reasons when not to take a medication (for example, some medication is not recommended for pregnant women or children under a certain age). Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns.
- Finding a CMI leaflet**
You can find the CMI for your medication in a number of ways, including: Search for a CMI leaflet on the Better Health Channel.

- Ask your pharmacist to print a copy for you.
- Check inside the medication box.
- Contact the pharmaceutical company that made the medication.
- Call Medicines Line (Australia) on 1300 MEDICINE (633 424) for information on prescription medication and over-the-counter or complementary medicines. Search and download CMIs for prescription medication and pharmacy-only medication from *NPS MedicineWise Medicine Finder*. Search and download CMIs for prescription medication from *the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration*.

Where to get help

- Your doctor
- Pharmacist
- Medicines Line (Australia) Tel. 1300 MEDICINE (1300 633 424) – for information on prescription, over-the-counter and complementary medicines

* Consumer medicine information Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) leaflets gives you important information about all prescription medication and some medications you can only buy over-the-counter at pharmacies. Reading the CMI will help you understand how to safely take your medication, explain possible side effects and interactions with other substances. Find out more what information you will find on the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) leaflets.

Search for a CMI leaflet Powered by Healthdirect, a free service supported by the governments of Australia, you can search a medicine by its brand name, active ingredient, or browse it by name. Please note you will be taken to Healthdirect for your search result.

Also called Consumer Medicine Information ~ CMI

A Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) leaflet gives you important information about your medication. CMIs are available for any medication prescribed by your doctor or for medication available only from a pharmacy. CMIs are not available for medications sold generally through other outlets such as supermarkets. Reading the CMI will help you to understand how to safely take your medication and will give you information about possible side effects and interactions with other substances. You can search for CMIs online, or you can ask your pharmacist to print a copy.

Purpose of a CMI leaflet

A CMI is designed to give you accurate information about the safety of your medication and how best to take it. The pharmaceutical company that makes the medication writes the CMI and must follow government guidelines. This makes sure that the information is accurate and is written using language that consumers can understand.

Using a CMI leaflet

Make sure you have the correct CMI for your medication. Some medication is available in different formulations and each will have its own CMI. The exact brand name is written on the top of the leaflet in large letters and should match the brand name on the box. Read the CMI before you begin taking your medication so you are well prepared. You may also refer to the CMI during treatment to check

The Great War Nurses from the Hunter with Christine Bramble



© Kathleen-Lillie Doyle

In the lead up to ANZAC Day, join us as researcher and historian, Christine Bramble, shares some of the extraordinary stories of the Great War nurses of the Hunter Region. 2019 is the centenary year of the repatriation of the

of 'Sisters of the Valley: First World War Nurses from Newcastle and the Hunter Region.' Cessnock City Library's Local Studies Librarian, Kimberly O'Sullivan says "Australian World War I nurses have a remarkable but rarely told story. During World War I, these nurses worked in field hospitals, on hospital ships and trains and in casualty clearing stations on front line, attending to thousands of injured men. They were not silent, their voices were not unheard. The nurses wrote letters home and they kept detailed diaries – these surviving records give a moving account of day-to-day life in a war zone. They reveal first-hand accounts of trauma, bravery and shell-shock."

This free and fascinating talk is happening on Wednesday 17 April from 10.30-11.30am at Cessnock Library. Morning tea is provided and bookings are essential. Book online at libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au, through the event listing on Cessnock City Library's Facebook page or by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399.

AIF including most of the nurses. Hear their stories: what happened to them during and after the war. Christine is the author



Childrens Authors visit Cessnock LGA Schools as part of the Newcastle Writers Festival

Last week, well over a thousand children in the Cessnock Local Government Area were lucky enough to meet and listen to acclaimed children's authors Matt Stanton, Katrina Nannestad and Oliver Phommavanh as part of the Newcastle Writers Festival Program. Matt, Katrina and Oliver enthralled children from Kurri Kurri, Stanford Merthyr, Mulbring, Weston, Cessnock West, St. Patricks, Bellbird, Paxton, Ellalong, St. Phillips, Nulkaba, Cessnock East, Cessnock Public, Kearsley, Kitchener, Rosary Park and Greta Primary Schools and Holy Spirit Infants School. Matt Stanton spoke about how your imagination is your super-power. Katrina

Nannestad shared her passion for playing with words and revealed the inspiration behind her colourful settings and the quirky characters that inhabit them. Oliver Phommavanh presented 'Natural Born Loser': a hilarious exploration of being a little bit weird or nerdy and his inspiration for writing his latest book, as well as his other classic titles like Thai-riffic and Con-nerd. Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-



marie Walters said "this is the second year Cessnock City Library has partnered with Newcastle Writers Festival. The Newcastle Writers Festival Schools Program is a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with their favourite authors and be inspired in a fun, educational, interactive and memorable way."

HE IS NOT HERE

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Maundy Thursday:
St John's Branxton @ 7pm
 Holy Communion with foot washing and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday:
St John's Branxton @ 9am
 A solemn liturgy.
Holy Trinity Lochinvar @ 2pm
 An hour at the foot of the Cross.

Holy Saturday - Easter Eve:
St John's Branxton @ 6pm
 Lighting of the new fire, blessing of the Easter candle, renewal of baptismal vows and Holy Communion.

Easter Day - Sunday:
Holy Trinity Lochinvar @ 8am
 Lighting of the paschal candle, Easter celebration with renewal of baptismal vows and Holy Communion.
St John's Branxton @ 10am
 Easter celebration with renewal of baptismal vows and Holy Communion. Followed by Easter celebration brunch.


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 Diocese of Greta Lichfield

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Guardian

Let's talk about you


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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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!

The notorious Chamberlain case

On 17 August 1980 at a campsite near Uluru, Northern Territory a mother's cry came out of the dark: "My God, my God, the dingo's got my baby". Soon people were choosing sides in a debate over whether the cry heard marked a rare fatality caused by a dingo or was a calculated and fanciful lie.

Alice Lynne (Lindy) Chamberlain was charged with the murder of her nine-week-old daughter Azaria and her husband, Michael, was charged as an accessory after the fact. The Crown alleged that Mrs Chamberlain took her baby from a campsite to their car and cut her throat, later disposing of the body with the help of her husband. Mrs Chamberlain asserted that a dingo had taken her baby. A search failed to find the body, though Azaria's jumpsuit and vest were found a few days later, but not the matinee jacket which Mrs Chamberlain swore Azaria had been wearing. The fact that the Chamberlains were Seventh Day Adventists gave rise to series of improbable rumours that Azaria had been sacrificed by religious fanatics.

An inquest supported Mrs Chamberlain. But its findings were quashed and a new

inquest ordered, which led to the charges being laid against the Chamberlains. The Crown's case was circumstantial and relied on half a dozen strands of evidence, much of it scientific, which taken together, the Crown's counsel suggested, had the strength of rope. The evidence included what the Crown said was blood of a type that could only come from a baby found in the Chamberlains' car; the cuts in the fabric of the jumpsuit not being consistent with being pulled by a dingo's teeth but a sharp instrument; the vegetation on the jumpsuit not being consistent with being dragged over a distance; an imprint of a bloodied hand on the jumpsuit and so on. The jury apparently rejected evidence of independent witnesses that they had heard a baby cry after the time the Crown alleged Mrs Chamberlain had killed her baby. The Chamberlains were found guilty and Mrs Chamberlain sentenced to life imprisonment and Mr Chamberlain to a suspended sentence. Mrs Chamberlain appealed to the Federal Court in 1983 and the appeal was rejected. In 1984 the High Court also refused to set aside her conviction.

After Mrs Chamberlain had served three years in jail, the matinee jacket was discovered at Uluru. A commission of inquiry discredited the scientific evidence and concluded that the convictions were unsafe. It concluded, among other things, that the substance in the Chamberlains' car was not blood at all. In 1987 a special Act was passed by the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly to permit the Chamberlains to apply to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory to have their convictions quashed. On 15 September 1988, Lindy and Michael Chamberlain returned to the Darwin courthouse where they had been convicted six years earlier. The three judges of the Court of Criminal Appeal took less than two minutes to announce their unanimous decision to quash the Chamberlains' convictions. The finding being that "the convictions having been wiped away, the law of the land holds the Chamberlains to be innocent." The case gave rise to calls for greater caution with scientific evidence. It also illustrates the balance between the need to respect, within limits, jury decisions against the temptation for a court to look at the whole of the evidence themselves and replace the jury's decision with that of their own. *Cheers, Kerrie*



Reserve Bank sits on the fence yet again

The Reserve Bank (RBA) has again opted to keep the cash rate on hold at 1.5% and this means we can enjoy another month of interest rate stability. However, the case for a rate cut could be getting stronger. Official data shows a slight cooling in the economy, and while it's worth noting that the economy is still projected to

grow, and unemployment is very low, there's a sense that the RBA could take a scalpel to the official cash rate later this year. For now at least we can enjoy cash rate stability, and the outlook for the remainder of 2019 is certainly interesting.

New government; opportunity for property reform



The REINSW congratulates Gladys Berejiklian on winning the NSW State election and calls on the new Government to deliver much needed property

industry reform, initially moving property services out of NSW Fair Trading. Tim McKibbin, CEO of REINSW, said consumers and the industry would be better served by a Property Commissioner who would take a solitary focused and wholistic view of real estate, planning and consumer protection legislation. "Under NSW Fair Trading, the property services industry has suffered from a misguided policy of competition at any cost, which has lowered barriers of entry by reducing the education requirements to become an agent. This ill-conceived policy exposes consumers to identifiable and unnecessary risk," Mr McKibbin said. "Real estate practice is not easy. Real estate agents manage high-value transactions of significant legal complexity that occur infrequently for most property owners – it's a very stressful time. Despite the acknowledged complexity, under the standards set by NSW Fair Trading, it is possible to pretty much walk off the street and put yourself forward as an agent." Mr McKibbin said most property owners would be shocked to know that the

education required by Fair Trading to become an agent, can be completed in four days. NSW Fair Trading squeezes the regulation of property services in amongst 40 other different trade and service providers which are all low-value, high-frequency transactions of minimal legal complexity. These range from tattoo parlours, second hand dealers, hairdressers and tow truck drivers. "Our homes are the most valuable and psychologically important assets many of us own. Property transactions demand well educated, experienced and dedicated specialist," Mr McKibbin said.

positive step to improve the lives of NSW property owners and tenants. "We're seeking better regulation – not self-regulation – and higher standards for the property services industry. NSW Fair Trading does not have the industry skills and experience to support such a dynamic industry."

Budget highlights importance of property to a healthy economy

The 2019/20 Budget provides a fiscal stimulus by increasing infrastructure spending and delivering higher disposable incomes to 10 million low to middle income earners, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). "Whilst there were no major surprises in the Budget, the measures will lift the brake of economic activity," REIA President Adrian Kelly said. "The Budget papers forecast private investment to fall by 7 per cent in 2020/21 and a further 4 per cent in 2021/22. "The Papers highlighted the importance of the housing sector to economic well being pointing out that a 10 per cent drop in housing prices reduces real GDP by about 0.5 per cent. "Given the recent falls in house prices and the possibility of further falls, which will be exacerbated if the Opposition's housing taxation proposals are implemented, it is timely to see the importance of the housing sector to Australia's economy illustrated. "With the Government's commitment to not altering taxation arrangements for future property investors

this means that the increased disposable incomes of low to middle income earners can be spent on goods and services and keep the economy ticking over rather than higher rents and worrying about decreasing equity," concluded Mr Kelly.

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is the national professional association for real estate agents in Australia.

Rental repairs and your rights

Property repairs are a common issue and one of the most common complaints raised with tenant advocacy services. Many complaints can be avoided with an understanding of your rights and responsibilities as a tenant or landlord. While tenants are responsible for keeping a property neat and tidy, landlords are responsible for providing a property fit for habitation and maintaining the property in a reasonable state of care. Tenants should notify their property manager in a reasonable time, and work together to rectify any issues. While tenants are responsible for the lawns and gardens, landlords must complete required repairs to appliances, pipes, plumbing and electrical, and any damage caused by natural disaster.

The ATO clamps down on property-related tax errors

By Euan Black

There are three golden rules to claiming deductions on tax, and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has reason to believe thousands of investors are breaking them. Last month, ATO Commissioner Chris Jordan told The Tax Institute conference in Hobart that the ATO had randomly reviewed 300 rental property claims and found errors in almost nine out of 10. Soon after, the ATO announced it would undertake 4,500 audits of taxpayers its data analytics systems had identified as "high risk" – roughly 2,000 more than it undertook last year. Using data from accommodation sharing platforms, rental property bonds and property sales records, these systems flagged instances in which taxpayers were likely to have either over-claimed deductions or under-declared rental income. The ATO then contacted these taxpayers to offer them the opportunity to make appropriate adjustments to their returns – either through letters or via real-time "nudges" on the web-based platform myTax. "We really want to help people get it right in the first instance, so that we don't have to go down the audit pathway," ATO "If the claims raised by the data analytics systems aren't amended or advised, then that's when we do the reviews. And if we get to the end, that's when we need to do the audits." **CONT NEXT PAGE**



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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Real Estate News

Siebert says the ATO's enforcement gave taxpayers the benefit of the doubt and that there were a lot of "genuine mistakes", which could generally be split into one of three categories – over-claiming interest repayments; confusing repairs and maintenance; and incorrectly apportioning rental income

Over-claiming interest repayments ~ According to Siebert, the most common errors were related to incorrectly claiming interest repayments. Current legislation allows investors to offset interest paid on the loan they used to buy an investment property against their assessable income, but Siebert said many investors were continuing to claim interest repayments on the entire loan even when they had refinanced a portion of it for private purposes, which contravenes the law. The ATO only allows you to claim interest on the portion of your loan that is used to fund an investment property, regardless of whether equity in an investment property is used as security in that loan.

Confusing repairs and maintenance ~ The second most common mistake was the conflation of capital works and repairs. While the latter can be claimed immediately, in the income year in which the expense occurred, the former must be depreciated over a long period of time. "For example, let's say you renovate the bathroom in your rental home. Many investors are claiming the entire cost of that renovation in that one income year, but you need to depreciate that at a rate of 2.5% over 40 years," says Siebert. Ben Kingsley, co-host of the Property Couch and chairman of the Property Investors Council of Australia, says investors also often incorrectly claimed immediate deductions when they replaced fixtures and fittings. "Great examples are things like fences, washing machines, carpets, curtains. When people replace rather than repair them, they need to write them off over a period of time, not as a complete one-off claim," he says, in reference to the ATO's rule that only repairs directly related to wear and tear can be claimed as an immediate deduction. Recent change to the laws around depreciation, however, mean that investors who bought a property after 9 May 2017 can only claim depreciation on an asset if the asset was brand-new, the property was newly built, or the property had been substantially renovated and no-one had previously claimed any depreciation deductions on the asset.

Incorrectly apportioning rental income ~ Just as some investors are claiming interest payments for loans used for private purposes, Siebert says many are also claiming interest repayments during untenant periods. "You should only be claiming interest for the periods the property was rented out, or genuinely available for rent," he says.

Travel expenses no longer claimable ~ Finally, Kingsley says taxpayers were still attempting to claim deductions for the cost of travel incurred while visiting their investment property on official business. Investors were able to do this up until 1 July 2017, but changes to the law have since stripped them of this right. Now, only excluded entities or those who are carrying on a business of property investing can claim these expenses. "The vast majority of investors are doing the right thing most of the time," says Kingsley. "But there are some real complexities to some of the details in the tax legislation, so I would always advocate seeking out a professional tax agent who specialises in residential property investment."

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

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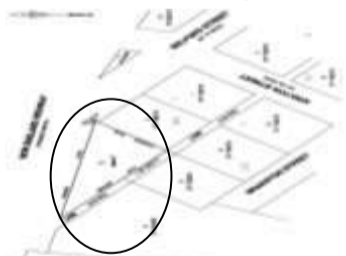


Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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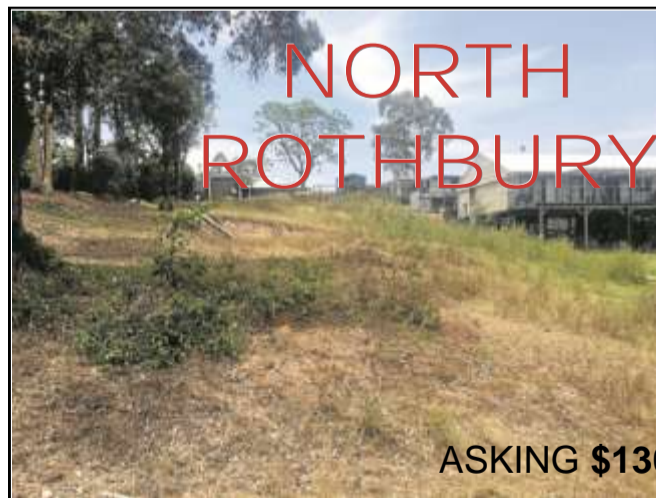
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Building
Block
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SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

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SOLD

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

Changes to the Hunter Local Land Services Board

Hunter Local Land Services has recently welcomed two new board members to replace two long-serving members. Daryl Dutton and James Clarke, two inaugural members of the Hunter Local Land Services board, have now completed their terms. Chair Lindy Hyam has thanked Daryl and James for their hard work over the last five years, helping to shape the strategic direction of Hunter Local Land Services. "Daryl and James have been there since day one of Local Land Services and were crucial

in setting the agenda and developing opportunities and relationships within the Hunter and Manning Great Lakes," said Chair Lindy Hyam. "Our region is in a great position, with a passionate team and a strong relationship with our customers and community, and this is in part due to their commitment and drive to make this organisation a success." "We owe them our gratitude for the five years of service and dedication, and utilising their networks to grow our team and business, for the




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NSW second biggest city deserves to be heard

The Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils (Hunter JO) is calling on the NSW Government to reconsider their decision to scrap the position of Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter. The disappointing decision by the NSW Government was made without any consultation and means less representation for the people of the Hunter. Chair of the Hunter JO and Mayor of Cessnock Council, Cr Bob Pynsent said the NSW Government must reconsider.



Chair of the Hunter JO and Mayor of Cessnock Council Bob Pynsent

"The role of the Parliamentary Secretary has been critical to the Hunter JO and the NSW Government being able to effectively collaborate. The role allows for an efficient pathway for advocacy, ensuring relevant NSW government departments and ministers are aware of the important work we are doing for our region." The Hunter Region and its city, Greater Newcastle has the potential to be one of Australia's great cities, with a globally connected diversified economy, talented and skilled people and a pristine natural environment. This decision limits the ability for the NSW government to identify significant opportunities in the region. The Hunter JO is requesting the Premier of NSW, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP reverse the decision. "This is a great loss to the entire state, our region offers significant opportunities to the NSW Government that may remain untapped if important communication lines are cut. We are NSW second biggest city and we deserve to be heard by our state leaders."

benefit of our customers and local environment." Two new board members have been appointed to fill the board, Allison Mudford and Robyn Parker. Both members will bring a wealth of unique experience to the board. Allison Mudford is passionate about agriculture, sustainability and rural communities; and brings a deep understanding of the agriculture sector and catchment health issues facing rural and remote communities having lived and worked in rural Victoria and NSW her whole life. Allison, her husband and young family run a mixed farming enterprise at Cassilis NSW, where she is heavily involved in her local community. Robyn has a deep understanding of the Hunter region and its diverse agricultural and environmental landscapes. Robyn brings a unique, strong and well-established network of contacts and relationships to the board with more than 30 years of

public sector experience and 12 years in the NSW Parliament. Chair Lindy Hyam said the board has welcomed both appointments. "Both Allison and Robyn bring a diverse range of experiences to Hunter Local Land Services and we look forward to working closely with them to ensure our organisation continues to deliver the best value, support and opportunities for our customers," said Lindy. "We pride ourselves on being well engaged and involved with our local communities, partners and local organisations, and Allison and Robyn will help us to continue to expand our work in the region. "We welcome them both to the board, and believe that our board is ready and able to meet the challenges and expectations on our organisation moving forward." The new board members commenced their positions in late March and have been engaged on four year terms.


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INVITATION

Enjoy endless cuppa and fine food
Tuesday * 14th May 2019 *
At 10.00am
BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL

Lucky Door Prizes Entry is \$15pp **Raffle Prizes**
For Bookings - Marie - 0402 015 850
Due to strong demand, Table bookings are essential
More than 120 guests expected
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Wish you a Happy and Holy Easter
Please join us at our Holy Week Services

Thursday of Holy Week	Good Friday	Good Friday
Mass of the Lord's Supper St Patrick's Singleton 6.30pm St Brigid's Branxton 7.00pm	Stations of the Cross St Brigid's Branxton 10.00am St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am	Passion of the Lord St Brigid's Branxton 3.00pm St Patrick's Singleton 3.00pm
Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday	
Easter Vigil St Brigid's Branxton 6.00pm St Patrick's Singleton 6.30pm	St Catherine's Greta 8.00am St Patrick's Singleton 10.00am St Patrick's Singleton 6.00pm	

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 (pictured) 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 or visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity.



Free energy workshops

Cessnock City Council has partnered with the NSW Government and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to host a series of free workshops on energy efficiency, solar energy and energy management for small businesses. These workshops include:
Energy Basics for Households
 Thursday 16 May 10.30-11.30am at Kurri Kurri Library
 Thursday 16 May 5.30-6.30pm at Cessnock Library
Energy Management Basics for Small Business



Thursday 30 May 5.30-6.30pm at Cessnock Library
Solar and Battery Storage
 Thursday 6 June 5.00-6.30pm at Cessnock Library
 Come along to better understand your electricity bills and learn practical energy saving tips to help you reduce your energy use and overall costs. Solar PV installation is an increasingly popular way for NSW households to save on energy bills and reduce their carbon footprint. Battery storage is also attracting considerable attention. The information, tools and resources provided in these free workshops will help you decide if a solar or battery storage option is right for your household.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said rooftop solar installations are booming and more and more people in our community are interested in learning more about solar panels. "These workshops will provide free, independent advice on solar, battery storage and reducing energy use for homes and small businesses in cost-effective ways." If you're interested in coming along, register online at libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au under 'Events & Bookings' or by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.

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WHAT'S ON



Friday 12th April
EARLY DAZE

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Members Badge Draw

Every Wednesday & Sunday

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

EASTER RAFFLES

SUNDAY 14TH April Easter Eggs & Meat

THURSDAY 18th April - Seafood & Meat

NO RAFFLES—Good Friday



Thursdays 4pm—6pm
\$3.80 Schooners

Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 4938 1226

EASTER RAFFLES

SUNDAY 14TH April Easter Eggs & Meat

THURSDAY 18th April - Seafood & Meat

NO RAFFLES—Good Friday



Every Thursday & Sunday

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Thai & Aussie

NOW OPEN @

Miller Park Sports Club



Wednesdays

4pm—6pm
\$3.80 Schooners

SOCIAL BOWLS

WED'S 4PM

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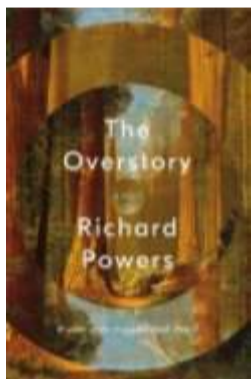


The best books of 2018 ... Tim Winton

I read a lot of memoirs last year. I didn't go looking for them; they seemed to find me. Particularly books about the entrapment of family trauma. Like Tara Westover's widely acclaimed *Educated* (Hutchinson). But you don't have to be born into a gun-toting hillbilly sect to experience the poverty and claustrophobia of life in a closed system.

Gregory P. Smith's *Out of the Forest* (Heinemann), a hard-won story of neglect, family violence, institutionalisation and homelessness, makes that painfully clear. Both these books are about escape and survival – also about the transformative acts of kindness that seed liberation, and resilience. There's no such breaking away in Jessie Cole's quiet, luminous memoir, *Staying* (Text). Her story, too, is about family pain and the limits of loyalty, but she writes about deciding not to flee. Which sounds conservative, but turns out to be both brave and radical.

As for fiction, there was really only one contender. An ecosystem all its own. Richard Powers' *The Overstory* (Heinemann). Deadset masterpiece.



By Barbara Kingsolver
April 9, 2018

THE OVERSTORY
By Richard Powers
Trees do most of the things you do, just more slowly. They compete for their

livelihoods and take care of their families, sometimes making huge sacrifices for their children. They breathe, eat and have sex. They give gifts, communicate, learn, remember and record the important events of their lives. With relatives and non-kin alike they cooperate, forming neighborhood watch committees — to name one example — with rapid response networks to alert others to a threatening intruder. They manage their resources in bank accounts, using past market trends to predict future needs. They mine and farm the land, and sometimes move their families across great distances for better opportunities. Some of this might take centuries, but for a creature with a life span of hundreds or thousands of years, time must surely have a different feel about it. And for all that, trees are *things* to us, good for tables, floors and ceiling beams: As much as we might admire them, we're still happy to walk on their hearts. It may register as a shock, then, that trees have lives so much like our own. All the behaviors described above have been studied and documented by scientists who carefully avoid the word "behavior" and other anthropomorphic language, lest they be accused of having emotional attachments to their subjects. The novelist suffers no such injunction, but most of them don't know beans about botany. Richard Powers is the exception, and his monumental novel "The Overstory" accomplishes what few living writers from either camp, art or science, could attempt. Using the tools of story, he pulls readers heart-first into a perspective so much longer-lived and more subtly developed than the human purview that we

gain glimpses of a vast, primordial sensibility, while watching our own kind get whittled down to size.

But: Birds gotta fly, fish gotta swim. People will only read stories about people, as this author knows perfectly well. "The Overstory" is a delightfully choreographed, ultimately breathtaking hoodwink. The handful of readers who come to the book without benefit of reviews or jacket copy will believe it's a collection of unrelated short stories. The opener is a gorgeous family saga with the texture of a Ken Burns documentary, and more plot. The Hoels are Norwegian immigrants whose vocations link them with our continent's once-predominant tree, the American chestnut, as they all flourish and then are tragically cut back — both Hoels and chestnuts — to a lone scion. Pause for a moment to absorb this, then move on to the next immigrant story, in which Mimi Ma's father invests too many hopes in a mulberry tree. Then, in the Vietnam War, Douglas Pavlicek is shot from a military plane and survives through a fortuitous intersection of his fate with that of a centuries-old fig tree. In another time, in Silicon Valley, an 11-year-old coding prodigy named Neelay Mehta has a much unluckier tangle with an ancient Spanish oak. Trees are everywhere but incidental, it seems, until the seventh tale in the series, about an odd little girl who loves trees more than she loves most people and grows up to be a scientist. As Dr. Pat Westerford she spends years alone in forests doing her research, initially mocked by her peers but eventually celebrated for an astounding (and actually real) discovery: A forest's trees are all communicating, all the time, via a nuanced chemical language transmitted from root to root. As this revelation dawns, the reader is jolted with electric glimpses of connections among characters in the previous stories. And then we remember we're in the hands of Richard Powers,

winner of a genius grant, a storyteller of such grand scope that Margaret Atwood was moved to ask: "If Powers were an American writer of the 19th century, which writer would he be? He'd probably be the Herman Melville of 'Moby-Dick.'" His picture really is that big. These characters who have held us rapt for 150 pages turn out to be the shrubby understorey, for which we couldn't yet see the forest. Standing overhead with outstretched limbs are the real protagonists. Trees will bring these small lives together into large acts of war, love, loyalty and betrayal, in a violent struggle against a mortgaged timber company that is liquidating its assets, including one of the last virgin stands of California redwoods. The descriptions of this deeply animate place, including a thunderstorm as experienced from 300 feet up, stand with any prose I've ever read. I hesitate to tell more, and spoil the immense effort Powers invests in getting us into that primal forest to bear witness. It's a delicate act, writing about tree defenders: In an era when art seems ready to embrace subjects as painful as racism and sexual harassment, it still shrinks from environmental brutality. We may agree that deforested continents and melting permafrost betray the gravest assaults we've ever committed against anything or anyone, but still tend to behave as if it's impolite to bring this up. In the kind of meta-conversation that makes a Powers novel feel so famously intelligent, the narrative is seasoned with canny observations on this exact problem. The tree scientist frets about public indifference to her work: "Forests panic people. Too much going on there. Humans need a sky." Elsewhere, a patent attorney becomes profoundly disabled and seeks solace in novels, even while he muses on the limitations of the form. "To be human is to confuse a satisfying story with a meaningful one. ... The world is failing precisely because no novel can make the contest for the world seem as compelling as the struggles between a few lost people. ... *Though I am fake, they say, and nothing I do makes the least difference, still, I cross all distances to sit next to you in your mechanical bed, keep your company and change your mind.*"


Given that Richard Powers has swept the literary-prize Olympics, he should be a household name, but isn't quite. Critics have sometimes blamed a certain bleakness of outlook, or a deficit of warmth in his characters: As Atwood put

it, the story going around is that he's "not cozy enough at the core." I suspect the complaint isn't entirely Powers's problem, but rather a symptom of the art/science divide and some potent cultural stereotypes. At the prospect of a science-y genius taking the podium, a lot of the audience expects to be frozen out, or bored. "The Overstory" makes a strong case for expecting otherwise. The science in this novel ranges from fun fact to mind-blowing, brought to us by characters — some scientists, mostly not — who are sweet or funny or maddening in all the relatable ways. The major players number more than a dozen, all invested with touching humanity, and they arrive with such convincing, fully formed résumés, it's hard to resist Googling a couple of them to see if they're real people. (They aren't.) This is a gigantic fable of genuine truths held together by a connective tissue of tender exchange between fictional

friends, lovers, parents and children. A computer programmer brings his work home to spend hours inventing games with his son: "Now, Neelay-ji. What might this little creature do?" A cute Eastern European backpacker invites herself for a one-nighter in the vet Douglas's remote cabin, and he warns that she shouldn't be out there by herself, looking the way she does. "How I look?" She blows a raspberry and whisks her palm. "Like an ill monkey who needs washing." Best of all are two aging misanthropes, Patricia and Dennis, who will wreck any unsentimental heart with their gentle discovery that just an hour a day together can make a marriage, providing the nutrient that's been missing all along. Even when viewed from very high up, through the lens of a thing that's been alive since before Jesus, all these little people with their short, busy lives and blinding passions are

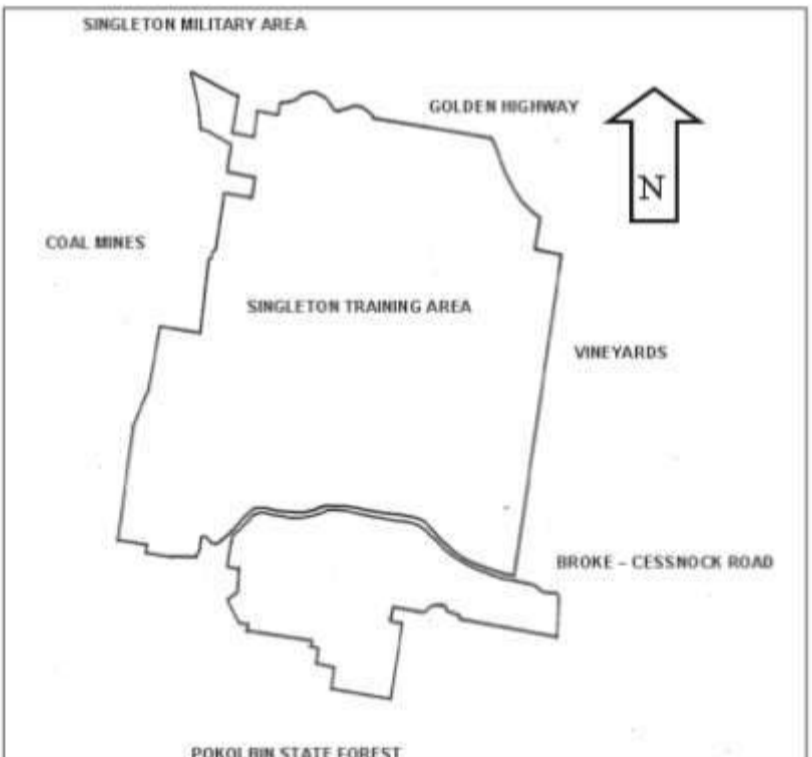
very dear indeed. A tree's-eye view on a planet can also be plenty unnerving, in life and in art. Powers doesn't hesitate to give us wide-screen views of the machinery of his plot, so we can't miss the roles his characters have been assigned as fulcrum and levers bent to a larger purpose. It's a fair enough device in a novel meant to tell us that humans aren't the only show on earth: that in fact we're not much more than a sneeze to a bristlecone pine. In the end, "The Overstory" defies its own prediction about fiction's limits, making the contest for the world feel every bit as important as the struggles between people. Even if you've never given a thought to the pulp and timber industries, by this book's last page you will probably wish you weren't reading it on the macerated, acid-bleached flesh of its protagonists.

That's what a story can do.



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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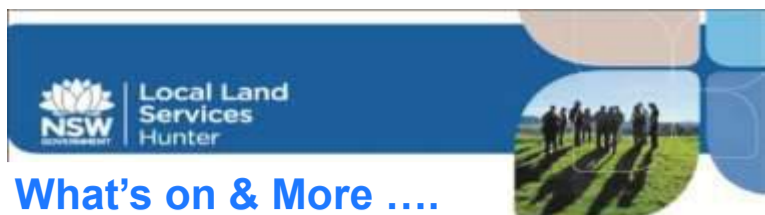
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What's on & More



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR CANE TOADS

Hunter Local Land Services is asking Lower Hunter residents to keep an eye out for cane toads, after a confirmed toad was found in Lake Macquarie, followed by reports of more sightings this week. The toad is believed to have travelled to the area in sugar cane mulch designed for use on local gardens. It is the third confirmed cane toad in our region this year.

Hunter Local Land Services Acting General Manager Andrew Hodgson is urging residents in Eleebana, Warners Bay, Mt Hutton and Swansea particularly to be watching out for cane toads after further reports of sightings in the area this week. "Cane toads are not endemic in our region, they are an invasive pest and could have devastating impacts on our local environment if they became established here," said Mr Hodgson. "We have heard of toads travelling on vehicles before, but it appears this toad hitched a ride in a load of mulch, that was destined for local gardens. "We are reaching out to local nurseries to monitor mulch deliveries, just in case any cane toads are present, but would be asking residents who are out in their gardens over the weekend or using mulch to also be mindful."

Hunter Local Land Services biosecurity officers are working with the Department of Primary Industries and Lake Macquarie Council to investigate any sightings. It is important residents report sightings of any possible cane toads immediately.

The best time to look is on warm rainy nights, however you can also look in spots they may be sheltering during the day or cool weather.

"Please if you find a suspected cane toad, don't kill it as cane toads can be confused with some native frogs," said Andrew Hodgson. "Cane toads can hurt humans and kill domestic pets such as dogs and cats,

and are also poisonous to many native species. "As a community we need to work together to stop them from moving in and breeding in our area, as they could seriously threaten many native species of frogs and other small wildlife."

Many people can't tell the difference between a native frog and a cane toad because they share features such as warty skin, a visible ear drum and webbed toes.

However, unlike native frogs, adult cane toads have all of these features:

- distinct bony ridges above the eyes, which run down the snout
- a large paratoid gland behind each eye
- unwebbed hands but webbed toes
- dry warty skin
- cane toads can range in colour from grey, yellowish, red-brown, or olive-brown, with varying patterns

What to do if you find a cane toad:

- Always wear protective gloves and eyewear when handling potential cane toads. They extrude (and sometimes squirt) poison from glands positioned behind the head.
- The animal should be collected and held in a closed, well-ventilated, non-toxic container, with some water.
- DON'T HARM THE ANIMAL until we confirm what it is.
- Photograph the animal and report it to NSW DPI using this online reporting form www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/sighting
- or email invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au

HUNTER FARMERS ON TOUR

Following on from last year's highly successful 'Let's tackle the drought together' event supporting drought affected farmers at Gundy, the NSW Waratahs have offered more support for our community. The Waratahs have provided Hunter Local Land Services with 150 tickets for local farmers and their families to attend a Super Rugby Game in May. The game is between the Waratahs and the Jaguares, on Saturday 25 May at the

new Western Sydney Stadium. Hunter Local Land Services will be running free buses from Scone, Singleton, Taree and Maitland. We will also provide catering at the event for each ticket holder.

We are very grateful to the NSW Waratahs for their commitment to supporting local producers after what has been an incredibly difficult period.

These places are limited so to reserve your seat book now via: <https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/z1edwb8m1hip8ei/>

EQUINE HERPES VIRUS (EHV) – ABORTION ALERT FOR HUNTER HORSE OWNERS

Hunter Local Land Services is urging horse owners to be aware of the risks of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV).

An EHV-1 abortion occurred on a local property last week, and during the 2018 breeding season, a number of EHV-1 abortions were reported to Hunter Local Land Services.

There are a number of different Equine herpes viruses that may infect horses.

Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV-1) causes respiratory disease, abortion and neurological disease in horses and is a significant problem in horse industries around the world.

Once infected with EHV-1, a horse becomes a lifelong carrier of the virus which may then reactivate and be shed during periods of stress. District Vet Dr Kristi Arnot said it is a crucial time for horse owners to be monitoring for signs of Equine Herpes Virus.

"Most mares are now due or will soon be due for their five month vaccine, the first in the series of three that they need," said Dr Arnot. "Horse owners need to be aware of so-called 'abortion-storms' where one EHV related abortion in a single mare may be followed a few weeks later by abortions in multiple mares on the farm if strict biosecurity practices are not followed.

"For more than a decade now this disease has been managed in Australia by a combination of vaccination programs and management practices in

an attempt to reduce the risk of abortion storms."



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 2nd April 2019

There was an increase in supply despite upwards of 80mm of rain across the area. Cows made up almost half the yarding, with wealers and yearlings well supplied. The quality of the offering was very mixed, with large numbers of 1 and 2 score cattle penned. There were limited supplies of well finished young cattle. The regular buyers attended, along with extra feedlot competition. Market trends varied and quality was a factor in some price change. For the most part, trends were dearer through the young cattle, however some very plain quality and condition yearlings experienced difficulty in attracting interest and sold accordingly. Restocker vealer steers sold to dearer trends, with the better quality light and medium weights improving by 20c to 30c/kg. The heavier weights were also dearer, however the improvement was not as great. Heifer wealers to processors experienced strong gains with a larger selection available. The few well finished lots suitable to the local butchers were as much as 30c/kg dearer. Increased competition and stronger demand saw medium and heavy weight yearling steers sell to a dearer trend of 25c to 30c/kg. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed experienced a dearer trend of 8c to 13c/kg. There were insufficient heavy grown steers or well finished heifers to quote a trend. The plainer quality and condition grown heifers attracted increased feedlot competition to record a dearer trend. Varying trends through the cow market. For the most part the plainer condition light and medium weight cows sold to dearer trends. The increased supply brought about some variation in quality, with this having a negative effect on some averages. Well finished cows met with weaker demand to sell to a cheaper trend. Only a few of the best cows managed to remain firm.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

With good rainfall recorded throughout the supply area numbers remained low and were similar to that yarded at the previous market. Breed and quality improved, with some very good vealer and yearling steers suitable for the restocker and feeder orders in the market. Cow numbers declined, with only 42 in the penning. The market was dearer throughout. The 80kg plus calves to the restockers lifted 30c and sold from 228c to 286c/kg. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock increased 40c, with breed and quality contributing in places, as prices varied from 240c to 311c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers and backgrounder orders lifted 15c, making from 226c to 264c/kg. The yearling steers showed better breeding and fat cover this week and prices increased by 30c, the better end receiving from 259c to 308c/kg. Yearling heifers to the lot feeders lifted 14c, making from 230c to 250c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers gained 20c, with good numbers making over the 300c mark, as the best topped at 334c/kg. Cows increased by 20c to 40c, with the plainer 1 and 2 scores making from 172c to 220c/kg. The better covered heavy weight cows sold from 220c to 237c, with the best heavy weight bull topping at 242c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 3rd April 2019

Consignments remained similar in number, however breed and quality lifted compared to the previous market. High yielding younger cattle in prime condition were well supplied, along with good runs of the sought after Angus wealers suitable for the restocker orders. There were 52 cows in the offering and the market trend was again dearer. The over 200kg vealer steers returned to the paddock gained 30c, with breed contributing in places, as prices ranged from 250c to 310/kg. Strong gains were recorded for the heavier drafts to the feeder orders, with prices topping at 318c/kg. The heifer portion to the restockers and backgrounders lifted 10c, making from 222c to 272c/kg. Yearling steers improved in quality this week, as the ideal weighted drafts to the feeder and restockers improved 20c to 25c for an average price of 292c to 295c after reaching 312c/kg. Yearling heifers gained 20c, with lot feeders and restockers paying from 200c to 270c/kg to secure their selections. The prime conditioned younger cattle were higher yielding this week and prices improved 20c, with good percentages receiving over the 300c range, with the best topping at 340c/kg. Grown steers were limited in supply, the best milk tooth well-muscled heavy weight reached 294c/kg. Grown heifers were 20c dearer ranging from 230c to 266c/kg. Cows sold to a mixed trend, with the plainer 2 scores struggling to maintain firm prices, while the better finished heavy weights gained from 5c to 15c/kg. The heavy weight cows topped at 228c, with most receiving around the 212c to 224c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 230c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 1st April 2019

In a sign that Winter is around the corner and producers are reluctant to continue feeding, even 20-50mm of rain could not stem the flow of cattle with numbers increasing. Once again, cows made up a large percentage, with wealers and yearlings well supplied. The quality and condition of the offering was fair to good. The plainest condition cattle mostly cows. There was extra restocker and feedlot competition, while all other regular buyers attended. Demand was high and competition strong through the young cattle. This resulted in dearer trends throughout. The only negatives were related to quality change. Medium and heavy weight steer wealers to restock and feed sold to a dearer trend of 8c to 18c/kg. The heifer portion also sold to a dearer trend, experiencing similar gains. Increased competition and strong demand saw medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers 11c to 24c/kg dearer, with the heavy weights seeing the greatest improvement. The extra competition for feeder heifers saw suitable medium and heavy weights as much as 37c/kg dearer. The limited supply of heavy grown steers attracted strong demand from restockers, feed lotters and processors. This resulted in dearer trends through all classes, those to process improving by 13c/kg. The cow market was very strong despite the numbers. All classes showing significant market improvement, upwards of 20c/kg and more in places. Strong gains also for heavy bulls with some live export competition once again.

Failing to follow strict biosecurity and hygiene protocols following an initial EHV-1 abortion case

- Mares purchased pregnant and unvaccinated Susceptible mares may inhale or ingest EHV-1 from the following sources:
 - Aerosols, fluids or foetal matter from aborted mares
 - Young horses with 'colds'
 - Clinically healthy carrier horses
 - Pasture, feed bins, water troughs, halters, rugs, bedding, floats and staff clothing that have been in contact with affected horses
- "After an abortion, mares clear the virus from their reproductive tracts in a few days, but can shed virus from their respiratory tract for up to 14 days," said Dr Arnot.

"The virus may remain infective in the environment and on horse hair for up to six weeks in cool, moist conditions. "EHV is a notifiable disease in NSW and must be reported to the Department of Primary Industries, with aborted foetuses to be sent for laboratory diagnosis." It is important the mare that has aborted is isolated immediately, until the diagnosis is confirmed. During an outbreak, the movement of horses on and off your farm may be restricted.

This will include the movement of horses to other farms to be covered by stallions or for foaling and the movement of horses for sales. Talk to your veterinarian about how best to protect your horses. If you notice anything unusual or are aware of a plant or animal disease threat, please contact Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.



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Microsoft Windows XP on New Computers ~ It's rare but the older version of the operating system is still available

by Mark Baggesen



Why would you want to buy a new windows desktop or laptop running Windows XP? If you're familiar with XP, you won't have to learn a new operating system. Also, there won't be compatibility or driver issues between the operating system on your new system and your old devices and software. Also, older desktops or laptops running Windows XP are inexpensive and have a lot of applications.

WARNING ~ When you purchase a new desktop or laptop running Windows XP, take all the security issues mentioned in this article into account.

Security Issues When Running Windows XP
Microsoft ended support for Windows XP in April 2014, and no longer provides security updates or technical support for the Windows XP operating system. Instead, Microsoft encourages users to migrate to a modern operating system such as Windows 10. Despite this, there are some new and refurbished computers for sale equipped with Windows XP.

If you decide to buy a new or used desktop or laptop computer running Windows XP, be aware of the security issues you'll need to deal with.

Vulnerable to new bugs: Hackers are constantly searching for bugs in existing operating systems. When those bugs are exploited, companies that make the operating system patch those bugs. In the case of Windows XP, Microsoft won't fix those bugs.

- **Incompatible drivers:** Since most hardware manufacturers stop supporting Windows XP drivers, you'll need to use old drivers. Old driver software is as susceptible to new bugs as the operating system.

- **Old Software:** Most

software companies stopped supporting Windows XP, so you'll be working with outdated software on your computer. Outdated software is at risk for hacking as well.

- **Outdated network cards:** The older a network card is, the more likely it is that hackers have found problems that they can exploit and hack into your computer. This makes it especially dangerous to connect your Windows XP computer directly to the internet.

If you want to buy a computer that has Windows XP on it, there are plenty of ways you can use it and still stay relatively safe.

4 Best Uses for a Computer with Windows XP
Despite the dangers, there are ways you can use your new Windows XP computer or laptop while minimizing the risks. The following are the top things you can do with a Windows XP computer.

Set Up a Data Server
A very useful thing you can do with a new Windows XP computer is shove it into the closet and close the door.

Just make sure that you install FreeNAS onto it, plug it into your home network, and leave it running. FreeNAS is free, open source software that transforms your computer into a data server that shares data over your home network. Imagine a huge memory stick that you plug into your home network so anyone connected to the network has access to it. That's what FreeNAS transforms your Windows XP computer into. Why this is a great use for Windows XP:

- Attackers need to get through your router security to get at your Windows XP computer.

- You can remove all

internet software from the server to further reduce risk.

- The computer runs quickly when it's only running FreeNAS software.

- Lockdown security by only providing FreeNAS access to your home users. **IMPORTANT** ~ Plugging a Windows XP computer into a home network isn't as safe as keeping it disconnected. Ensure that your home router security is configured to the highest level possible to reduce the risks

Turn Your PC Into a Vintage Gaming Console
If you're into retro gaming, a Windows XP computer or laptop is cheap and practical. It's ideal for playing any of your old computer games that were created for Windows XP. There are also many retro game console emulators that run great on Windows XP. Use these emulators to run old games for Nintendo DS, PlayStation, and Atari. The benefits of running a Windows XP retro gaming console:

- After the initial setup, disconnect it from the network for full security.

- Retro games work great on lower performance computers.

Windows XP computers are cheap, set up several gaming consoles for your family and friends. Create a Home Media Server

It's much easier to set up a home media server than you think. Enable Java on Windows XP and install a simple media server software like SimpleDLNA. When you're done, let the computer run and access your movie library from another computer or DLNA-capable TV in the house. The benefits of running a Windows XP computer as a home media server include:

- Only devices on your home network have access to the computer.

- DLNA software has built-in security settings.

Store an entire movie library in one convenient place.

Read E-books

If you're an avid reader, a laptop running Windows XP makes an excellent e-book reader. All you need to read e-books is any software that opens PDF files. You can easily install Adobe Acrobat on your Windows XP laptop. Keep the computer disconnected from the network for full security. Just transfer new e-books from your network-connected computer to your Windows XP e-book reader using a USB drive.

Benefits of a Windows XP e-book reader:

- More storage space for your e-book library.

- Completely secure since it's not on the network.

- The portability and convenience of a laptop. In all of these cases, keep the computer completely disconnected from the internet to avoid the risks associated with using a Windows XP computer.

Secure Your New Windows XP Computer
Regardless of how you decide to put your new Windows XP machine to use, it's important to follow some basic steps to secure it.

Install antivirus software: Even if you took steps to secure the computer, install free antivirus software to ensure ultimate security.

- **Update all software:** Even though the OS isn't receiving patches, improve security by keeping anything you install on the computer frequently updated.

- **Avoid internet browsing:** Because of the risks, it's not advisable to connect a Windows XP computer to the internet. If you do, avoid using web browsers.

- **Install minimal software:** The fewer applications that are installed on the computer, the lower the odds are that there will be a software vulnerability that hackers can exploit.

Many people choose to discard or recycle their old Windows XP machines. That means there's a massive market of these computers for sale. Don't let them go to waste. There are plenty of great uses for a new computer or laptop running Windows XP.



Synopsis

After sending shockwaves across contemporary culture and setting a new standard for provocative, socially-conscious horror films with his directorial debut, *Get Out*, Academy Award®-winning visionary Jordan Peele returns with another original nightmare that he has written, directed and produced. Set in present day along the iconic Northern California coastline, *Us*, from Monkeypaw Productions, stars Oscar® winner Lupita Nyong'o as Adelaide Wilson, a woman returning to her beachside childhood home with her husband, Gabe (Black Panther's Winston Duke), and their two children (Shahadi Wright Joseph, Evan Alex) for an idyllic summer getaway. Haunted by an unexplainable and unresolved trauma from her past and compounded by a string of eerie coincidences, Adelaide feels her paranoia elevate to high-alert as she grows increasingly certain that something bad is going to befall her family. After spending a tense beach day with their friends, the Tylers (Emmy winner Elisabeth Moss, Tim Heidecker, Cali Sheldon, Noelle Sheldon), Adelaide and her family return to their vacation home. When darkness falls, the Wilsons discover the silhouette of four figures holding hands as they stand in the driveway. *Us* pits an endearing American family against a terrifying and uncanny opponent: doppelgängers of themselves. Writer and director Peele produces for his Monkeypaw Productions alongside Sean McKittrick, Jason Blum, and Monkeypaw's Ian Cooper. *Us* will be released by Universal Pictures this March, 2019.

Director ~ Jordan Peele
Main Cast ~ Lupita Nyong'o, Elisabeth Moss, Winston Duke
Genre ~ Thriller, Horror
Running Time ~ 116 MIN



We have met the enemy and they are Us *Ben Sachs*

Warning: This review contains spoilers. With his debut feature *Get Out* (2017), Jordan Peele announced himself as a horror filmmaker in the grand tradition of George A. Romero and Larry Cohen, savvily using the genre to interrogate American social issues. The film was perfectly scary, but its ingeniousness lay in its satirical streak. Peele dramatized common fears among various minority groups about assimilation into and appropriation by the dominant white culture, mining the subjects for discomforting laughs before turning the story into more unsettling territory. But even when *Get Out* became a full-fledged horror film, Peele didn't lose sight of its guiding theme of white people using a range of ploys to entrance and ultimately subordinate people of color. Released around the time of Donald Trump's inauguration, the movie became a social phenomenon, touching a raw nerve in the culture and making loads of money in the process.

In short, Peele had a tough act to follow, and the smartest thing about his second feature, *Us* (now playing in wide release), is that it doesn't try to repeat the formula of *Get Out*. The film, like its predecessor, is centered around a metaphor, but that metaphor is more open-ended, harder to pin down. Peele's imagery carries a wealth of associations; the movie doesn't encourage the sort of straight-ahead reading that *Get Out* did. This ambiguity is something of a blessing

and a curse. On the one hand, *Us* isn't a funny, cathartic crowd-pleaser like Peele's debut. (Where the audience with whom I saw *Get Out* cheered or screamed at every twist, I saw *Us* on opening night was far more subdued.) On the other, it achieves an insidious, lingering effect that's rarer in the horror genre.

Us begins with three separate framing devices, each of which opens up a possible reading of what's to follow. First comes a title card informing the audience that there are thousands of miles of unused underground passageways in the United States; Peele uses ominous language to hint at something devious lurking beneath the surface of American life. Next comes a TV promo from 1986 about the nationwide charity benefit Hands Across America. Peele maintains the ominous tone of the title card, slowly zooming into a vintage TV set that's playing the ad and which has stacks of VHS tapes arranged around it with eerie neatness. Again, Peele intimates an unseen devious presence, but he complicates the mood by foregrounding a call for unity. What are we to make of the juxtaposition? That the promise of Hands Across America (and other photogenic acts of public concern) is simply a cover-up for darker, unacknowledged impulses within our society? Peele returns to this idea, but only at the end of *Us*, leaving the audience to wait and see. From there the film presents a dramatic prologue, set in 1986, in which the heroine, Adelaide (played effectively by newcomer Madison

Curry), gets separated from her parents at a beachfront carnival in Santa Cruz, California. Adelaide wanders near the ocean, then comes upon a fun house. Inside, she explores the hall of mirrors and encounters another little girl who looks exactly like herself. (Peele creates a nice surprise by making the stranger appear to be a reflection at first; some people in the audience when I saw the film jumped when the stranger turned around.) It's an affecting moment that taps into the fear that a person may not have agency over their identity—that someone can be him- or herself and also a stranger. Peele leaves it up to the viewer to decide how this ties into the fears introduced in the other two framing devices, letting the ambiguity get under one's skin.

The next half-hour of *Us* gives the audience time to chew over the ideas presented in the first ten minutes, as Peele builds a creepy atmosphere before getting to the next big scare. The least successful section of the film, the first act slowly introduces the primary characters, who aren't particularly interesting or unique. Adelaide is now middle-aged (and played by Lupita Nyong'o), married to a genial man named Gabe (Winston Duke), and raising two kids, aloof teenage daughter Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and goofy younger son Jason (Evan Alex). Peele shows the family driving to their summer home—which happens to be in Santa Cruz—and ready to have a relaxing vacation. All that's clear about these characters is that they have money and typical upper-middle-class social aspirations; Peele doesn't reveal what the parents do for a living, what their backgrounds are like (apart from Adelaide's traumatic experience as a girl), or where they live the rest of the year. All that matters is that they're a well-adjusted black family, which Peele emphasizes for perhaps longer than he should.

CONT NEXT PAGE

Social media bosses could be liable for harmful content, leaked UK plan reveals

Exclusive: Long-awaited government white paper proposes regulator to enforce duty of care and fine offenders ~ *Heather Stewart and Alex Hern*

Social media executives could be held personally liable for harmful content distributed on their platforms, leaked plans for a long-awaited government crackdown obtained by the Guardian reveal. There has been growing concern about the role of the internet in the distribution of material relating to terrorism, child abuse, self-harm and suicide, and ministers have been under pressure to act. Under plans expected to be published on Monday, the government will legislate for a new statutory duty of care, to be policed by an independent regulator and likely to be funded through a levy on media companies.

The regulator – likely initially to be Ofcom, but in the longer term a new body – will have the power to impose substantial fines against companies that breach their duty of care and to hold individual executives personally liable. The debate has been sharpened in recent months by the case of the British teenager Molly Russell and issues raised by the Christchurch shootings. Molly’s parents said she killed herself partly because of self-harm images viewed on social media.

The scope of the recommendations is broad. As well as social media platforms such as Facebook and search engines such as Google they take in online messaging services and file hosting sites. Other proposals in the online harm white paper include:

- Government powers to direct the regulator on specific issues such as terrorist activity or child sexual exploitation.
- Annual “transparency reports” from social media companies, disclosing the prevalence of harmful content on their platforms and what they are doing to combat it.
- Co-operation with police and other enforcement agencies on illegal harms, such as incitement of violence and the sale of illegal weapons.

An Ofcom survey last year found that 45% of adult internet users had experienced some form of online harm and 21% had taken action to report harmful content.

In a joint foreword, the home secretary, Sajid Javid, and the secretary of state for culture, media and sport, Jeremy Wright, say it is time to move beyond self-regulation and set clear standards, backed up by enforcement powers.

Companies will be asked to comply with a code of practice, setting out what steps they are taking to ensure that they meet the duty of care – including by designing products and platforms to make them safer, and pointing users who have suffered harm towards support.

The code of practice is also likely to include the steps companies will be expected to take to combat disinformation, including by using fact-checking services, particularly during election periods, and improving the transparency of political advertising. Regulated firms will be expected to comply with the code of practice – or explain what other steps they are taking to meet the duty of care. However, many questions are left to the regulator to determine.

Theresa May has repeatedly raised the issue of online harm, and the government has gradually shifted its position, from favouring voluntary self-regulation to backing tougher enforcement. The white paper has repeatedly been delayed. Whitehall sources said the government had been

holding it back for several reasons including difficulties finding “appropriate legal advice” due to Brexit. Labour’s Tom Watson, the shadow culture secretary, said: “Labour have been calling for a new regulator with tough powers to bring social media companies into line for the last year. The public and politicians of all parties agree something must be done to force them to take responsibility for the harms, hate speech and fake news hosted on their platforms, and the plans for personal liability are promising.”

But he said “some major concerns remained”, including the fact it could take years to implement. “They also do nothing to tackle the overriding data monopolies causing this market failure and nothing to protect our democracy from dark digital advertising campaigners and fake news.” Wright’s predecessor, Matt Hancock, took an increasingly robust approach to the issue of regulating the internet, which for some years after its creation was regarded as effectively beyond the writ of governments.

With just months or even weeks left of her premiership, May is keen to show that she has made progress in a series of domestic policy areas. The death of 14-year-old Russell in 2017 has had a strong impact on the white paper. Her father launched a passionate campaign earlier this year to highlight the fact that self-harm and suicide were widely promoted on Instagram, a fact that he felt contributed to her death.

In January, Hancock, now the health secretary, called on social media firms to remove such content, saying he was specifically moved to issue the demand by Russell’s case.

The Christchurch shootings in March also left their mark on the debate. The attacker used Facebook Live to stream the killings in progress, with thousands watching the attack as it occurred and millions more seeing the video as it was uploaded across the internet over the following day.

That highlighted the specific difficulties in regulating live content on the internet, where the standard “notice and takedown” practice enshrined in EU law is tricky to apply. By the time Facebook was officially notified about the live stream, a suspect had already been arrested, and the video had been downloaded to be shared elsewhere.

The white paper addresses those problems, calling on the regulator to outline specific procedures that companies need to take to keep livestreamed material off the internet, but does not suggest an answer beyond embracing technology as part of the solution. Regulation of the internet has gradually become popular, even among the companies that would be regulated.

In late March, the Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg issued a public call for international regulation of the web on four fronts: political advertising, data portability, privacy and harmful content. “I’ve come to believe that we shouldn’t make so many important decisions about speech on our own,” Zuckerberg wrote.

A government spokesperson said: “We will shortly publish a white paper which will set out the responsibilities of online platforms, how these responsibilities should be met and what would happen if they are not. We have heard calls for an internet regulator and to place a statutory ‘duty of care’ on platforms, and have seriously considered all options.”



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

and

NOT SO

To the dog walkers using our walkway’s/cyclepath’s; can you please take a doggy poo bag when you take ‘Fido’ for his daily constitutional. I walked from Branxton to home in North Rothbury last Saturday evening & played Hopscotch almost all the way. I did some forensics & the main culprits are small pooch’s with some full of worms. Huntlee has provided a wonderful dog run; why not us it ~ poo bags are provided for offenders. For the record

COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998 - SECT 20 - Dogs defecating in public place
20 Dogs defecating in public place (1) If a dog defecates in a public place: (a) the owner of the dog, or (b) if the owner is not present at the relevant time and another person who is of or above the age of 16 years is in charge of the dog at that time—that other person, must immediately remove the dog’s faeces and properly dispose of them. Maximum penalty: 8 penalty units. (2) Proper disposal includes disposal in a rubbish receptacle designated for the purpose by the local authority. It is the duty of a local authority for a place that is commonly used for exercising dogs (including an off-leash area) to provide sufficient rubbish receptacles for the proper disposal of the faeces of dogs that defecate in the place. (3) This section does not apply when the dog is an assistance animal being used bona fide by a person with a disability to assist the person and the person’s disability makes compliance by the person with this section not reasonably practicable.

Ed.
To the organisers, Singleton Shire Landcare Network, of the recently held workshop on the “Brilliance of Australian Flora & Birdlife” held at the Elderslie Hall. I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the day with Australian Bush Tucker & Tasting with Maree McCarthy the highlight.

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

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Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
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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
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Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
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Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50zj ct70 st170 & 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 > **Dates for your diary >**

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.
Thurs 11 Apl – Branxton Public School 'Easter Hat Parade' 2pm
Fri 12 Apl – Branxton Public School - Whole School PBL Assembly and last day of Term 1
SAT 13 Apl -Youth Fest Join us for the 15th Youthfest, this huge Youth Week celebration includes live music, a scooter, bike and skate competition, street art workshops, face-painting, chill out space and more! For more information phone Will Doran on 0438 636 009 or CYCOS on 0401 107 413. When: 13 April 9am untill 4pm Where: Kurri Kurri Skate Park
TUE 16 Apl - FREE GRETA Skate Jam 10am ~ 2pm at Greta Skate Park. Learn some tips and tricks with a Pro. Supported by Skate Connection, Newcastle Skate Shop and Essential Skate Boarding Lessons this event will allow Skateboarders, Scooter and BMX riders to learn some tricks, show off their skills and share a meal. Demo from 10:30am ~ 11:30am, Skate and Scooter Workshops from 12:00pm ~ 2:00pm. *Workshop numbers are limited, booking is essential contact CYCOS on 49934356.*
THUR 25 Apl — ANZAC DAY
Mon 29 Apl – Branxton Public School -Staff Development Day (no students)
Tues 30 Apl – Branxton Public School - First day Term 2 for students
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., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
FRI 7 Jun — 'Back to Greta' 'Back to Greta' is an all-day event. Includes: morning tea with the Mayor at the Library, a trip to the camp site and a visit to Greta Museum. For information about the event contact Kimberly O'Sullivan. To RSVP for the event call the Library directly: (02) 4993 4399.
MON 10 June — Queens Birthday Public Holiday
TUES 11 JUNE — Branxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 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., Branxton, 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., Branxton, 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., Branxton, 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., Branxton, 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., Branxton, 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., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Movie Review

US

The director creates a compelling frisson between the normal on-screen behavior and the eerie visual aesthetic (lots of slow zooms and Steadicam shots reminiscent of Kubrick's *The Shining*), but it wears out its welcome before the plot advances.

After a day at the beach, where the characters relax with some white family friends and Adelaide freaks out when she sees that the cursed fun house from her youth is still standing, the family returns to the summer home for the night. Adelaide is restless, her post-traumatic stress triggered by what she saw on the beach, and soon her worst fear emerges in the form of a family that resembles her own. The doppelgangers barge in and start terrorizing the protagonists, threatening them verbally before taking out pairs of very sharp scissors. With the exception of Adelaide's double, none of the other doppelgangers speak—they communicate mainly in grunts, suggesting they come from some barbarian culture. The primitiveness of the doubles is one of the most evocative details of *Us*; it suggests, alternately, those aspects of a person that can't be assimilated into polite society and the barbaric urges that society trains us to suppress.

The family's grisly escape from their murderous doppelgangers makes for the lengthiest and most effective climax of *Us*. In fending off their demonic doubles, the family succumbs to their own worst instincts, becoming murderers themselves. This development suggests a sort of negative unity, with everyone joining together in a mutual ugliness. (The film will amplify this idea in its haunting final image.) Peele reiterates the notion when the family seeks help from their friends, only to find that the other family has been murdered by their own doppelgangers and that these brutes must be destroyed lest they kill again. Adelaide's family proves surprisingly adept at getting rid of them. Eventually it turns out that a whole army of doubles is rising up from under the earth to declare war on aboveground society. Peele doesn't make clear what the hordes want, and this ambiguity (as opposed to that with which he defines the principal characters) strengthens the film's central metaphor. Do the doubles represent America's suppressed underclass? Or perhaps the realization of a fear of society devolving into barbarism? Again, Peele doesn't resolve the issue, forcing viewers to leave the theater with their fears intact.



Report

Police renew appeal following fatal hit and run – Glenridding, near Singleton

Detectives investigating a fatal hit and run in the Hunter last year are renewing an appeal for public assistance. About 5.35am on Saturday 29 September 2018, emergency services were called to Carrington Street, Glenridding, after the body of a man was located on the side of the road. The man was formally identified as 43-year-old husband and father, Ian Pullen, who was a New Zealand resident

volunteering as a fire-fighter for the start of the Hunter region bushfire season. An investigation was launched by detectives from Hunter Valley Police District under Strike Force Awabakil. Inquiries suggest Mr Pullen had been struck and killed by a car between 4am and 5.30am. During earlier stages of the investigation, police sought to speak with the driver of a silver hatchback; they have since spoken to that driver and finalised those inquiries. Following further inquiries, strike force investigators



The vehicle is described as being a white utility with a black front bumper bar

are now seeking to identify another vehicle that is reported to have been in the area at the time. The vehicle is described as being a white utility with a black front bumper bar. Investigators have released an image, which is believed to be a similar make and model ute. Hunter Valley Police District Commander, Superintendent Chad Gillies, is appealing for anyone who may have seen a similar vehicle driving in or around the area at the time to come forward. "As it nears the six-month anniversary of this incident, we are hoping this image could jog someone's memory," Supt Gillies said. "We are urging anyone who

may have been in the area at the time and could have seen something, to contact detectives or Crime Stoppers." Mr Pullen's widow, Vicki, joined police to appeal to the community for answers to what happened that morning. "I'm just hoping that someone will have the decency to come forward," she said. "It will give our family closure and let us be able to put Ian to rest." Inquiries into Strike Force Awabakil are continuing. **Anyone with information that may assist Strike Force Awabakil detectives is urged**

to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>
Motorcyclist detected travelling almost 70km/h above limit in Hunter
 A motorcyclist has been stopped after being detected travelling almost 70km/h above the limit in the mid-Hunter. 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.



When the soldiers came to town!

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Greta Army Camp (1939-1949) and the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Greta Migrant Camp (1949-1960). These two camps had a significant impact not just on the Hunter Valley, but for the entire nation. What happens to a town when thousands of out-of-town soldiers arrive on its doorstep? The exhibition 'When the soldiers came to town' explores the social impact of the Greta Army Camp on the local population, its interactions with the soldiers, the fiercely patriotic Cessnock District Mayor's Comfort Fund and a one chance encounter which led to a life-long romance. The Greta Migrant Camp saw tens of thousands of refugees and migrants pass through its gates, one of the largest post-World War II migrant camps in the country. Beautiful photos bring camp to life in all its happiness and its contradictions.



These two exhibitions will be on display in the foyer of Cessnock Library 1 April to the 30 May. As part of the commemoration two significant author talks have been organised at Cessnock Library. On Thursday 11 April, historian Christopher Keating, who has written the only book on the Greta Army Camp and the Greta Migrant Camp, will give us an insight into writing the book. On Thursday 9 May, journalist Alek Schulha presents his decades-long work collecting the stories of the people who called the Greta Migrant Camp home. This is a chance to hear from the camp residents.

Author talk with Alek Schulha 5.00 to 7.00pm on Thursday 9 May 2019
 Free but booking necessary via Eventbrite
 Exhibitions: Cessnock Library foyer
 Monday 1 April to Thursday 30 May 2019

Things You May Not Know About
 with Neridah Kentwell
 ..Greta, Branxton & surrounds

Greta's Cemetery - Grand Entryway Finalised

After over eighteen long months of planning, and grants, Greta now has the beautiful entrance in Evans Street for its locals' gravesites, gravestones and two-sided columbarium (for those cremated) that it deserves. The new brick entryway was a vision of the late Peter Hodges who worked hard to achieve this important structure for the town, with the help of others in Greta Tidy Towns, and which replaced a dilapidated old wooden fence and gates. The cemetery also contains the Greta War Cemetery on the same plot of land in its southern corner, which is closer to Hunter Street. The main cemetery contains Church of England, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Wesleyan denominations with Jews and 'Other Denominations' marked to be placed to the right of the War Cemetery when facing in from Hunter Street. Essentially, they are all together for

eternity. The Greta Cemetery first began in the late 1800s, although the town was gazetted in 1843. Some earlier corpses may have been taken up to Oswald Cemetery or Maitland to be buried, before the town was allotted its own area, although the really early ones were sometimes buried where they died. There are local legend examples of this in Molly Morgan, who is still said to be resting somewhere on her property on what is now known as Molly Morgan's Hill, and William Harper from Harpers Hill, who was supposed to be so disliked that when his labourers were carrying his coffin and it slipped out of their

hands, they buried him where it fell on his sloping land. Examples of inscriptions of Greta Cemetery headstones include migrants Ludwick and Weronika Dziergas, who were both born in Poland. Ludwick died aged 64 in 1990 and Weronika aged 77 in 2004. There are a number of local migrants buried in the town where they had made their new homes after the terrible displacement of the Second

World War. There is a total of 21 Hodges in the cemetery, which is the most common name in Greta, but all are not necessarily related. The second most prevalent name represented appears to be Redgrove. In the war section of the cemetery there are soldiers from both the First World War and the Second. Although many were buried overseas where they were



killed they are slowly being brought home to Australia, where possible. There are also a number of gravesites in the general cemetery without headstones, some of which are unlocated, but named. Others have been named and located in plots and rows, although not all are easy to find as the cemetery is somewhat jumbled, and not necessarily in straight rows. Greta Museum has two books of these names compiled in 1984 by the late historian Jack Delaney, with the help

of grave digger Ray Ellicott. They should help locate some families' ancestors that have no markers.
The Greta museum is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11am and 3pm. Enquiries can be made at gretamusum@gmail.com or by calling Neridah on 0427657150.

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate 4938 3300

A local business with local knowledge ...
 Helen Lowing Sales Consultant

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

Markets Fresh Awards. We are the first store outside of Sydney to have ever won this category
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enquiries@wollombiroadprovidore.com.au
 Contact use for orders & enquiries

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School NEWS



Kirkton Public School

Week 8

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



Week 9

HORSE SPORTS

Congratulations Savanna and Taylor who represented our school at Willow Tree for horse sports.

The results for the previous events were:

Blandford horse sports: Taylor Overall 11 years boys champion

NSW State Interschool Champions ships:

Taylor 6th place Combined training (dressage and show jumping).

Branxton Public School

The Branxton PS gardening group are doing a wonderful job keeping the gardens looking tidy and beautiful. Under the careful eye of Miss Towns, the keen gardeners are weeding beds and planting new greenery, which will be a fabulous backdrop for our class scarecrows. The scarecrow competition will be judged in Week 11 and the winner will receive some seeds and a pot to grow something special over the holidays.



↻ Cross Country Seniors



↻ Cross Country

In Week 10 thirty-two BPS students competed at the Zone Cross Country at Tocal. Congratulations to all kids who showed great pride and determination in their performances. An extra congratulations to Ella, Aden, Lachlan, Emily, Lucy, Oliver & Natasha who qualified to represent Maitland PSSA at the Hunter carnival next term.

Mark Hughes visited our school and spoke about facing challenges in life. Nate interviewed him for the school and Mark was candid about his experiences and encouraged us all to do our personal best, in school and in life in general.

Dates for the Calendar

Thursday 11th April – Easter Hat Parade 2pm

Friday 12th April – Whole School PBL Assembly and last day of Term 1

Monday 29th April – Staff Development Day (no students)

Tuesday 30th April – First day Term 2 for students

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



Its not cricket by John Bryant

Honorary curators of Greta Sports Ground cricket pitch, Gary Kedwell and son Scott, are hard at work restoring the pitch and the outfield, since it was vandalised on Saturday 23rd January.



The News Issue No. 36. Thurs 11th. Jan. 1999 Page 43



Neighbouring resident Jim Goodwin said “ I heard a car roaring around the park during the late TV News on that night. The car was doing wheelie skids all over the pitch and when the driver saw me approaching the car sped off through the gate and down Nelson Street with the lights off. I could not read the number plate. The offending car was an early model Falcon Sedan, a light blue colour with a grey insert.”

“The Kedwells have a big job ahead of them to make the damage good. They take pride in keeping the pitch in very good order and it is disgraceful to see their careful work treated in this manner,” said Jim Goodwin.

The police are making enquiries and it is thought that the car and driver are not from the Greta area. We hope that this is the case but if the offending car is spotted again, there will be some explaining to do.

↻ Above : (L-R) Brendon, Gary & Scott inspecting the vandalized cricket pitch. If the offending car is spotted again, there will be some explaining to do.

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

There is a strong demand for residential rental accommodation in the local area & our office needs more properties to sate the current demand. If you are contemplating renting your property please contact either Helen or Mike on **4938 3300**

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

In The Garden

TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR YARD FOR WINTER

How to keep your garden happy during the coming winter

Brave the cold and give your garden the love it deserves this winter. While many people think of winter as the 'off season' for gardening, it's actually the perfect time to get out there and get your garden ready for spring. Your garden needs plenty of love throughout winter to help it survive the cold, inevitable periods of heavy rain as well as dry spells and a reduced amount of sunshine.

Want to know exactly what you should be doing in the garden this winter? Winter gardening in Australia is never drab with plenty of flowers to plant, plants to prune and winter vegetables to grow. Here, horticulturalist Helen Young provides her tips for garden maintenance during the cooler months and the winter gardening jobs to do now in order to prepare your garden for spring.

Winter plant pruning

Sharpen the secateurs! The first chore, in all but frosty areas, is rose pruning. Be bold, leaving only an open framework of three or four main stems. Spray these and the surrounding soil with lime sulfur to clean up pests and diseases.

- Other plants to prune when bare include hydrangeas, wisteria and grapes.
- Early August is the best time to give gardenias their main pruning. Cuttings of frangipanis will make instant new trees; leave them to dry for a few weeks, then pot or plant into a sandy mix, adding stakes for support. Cut ornamental grasses almost to ground level to rejuvenate and spray lawns for bindii as soon as their ferny leaves appear.

Winter flowering plants

Although many plants are resting, spring bulbs, winter-flowering natives and flowering hedges are growing actively. Keep these watered and fertilised for peak performance.

Winter gardening jobs

- Feed citrus in late July, using an allpurpose citrus fertiliser.
- Keep sowing carrots, spring onions, leeks, broad beans, radishes, English spinach and peas.
- If you haven't planted asparagus and rhubarb crowns yet, don't delay. Strawberries can also go in now. Start seeds of tomatoes, eggplant and capsicum on a warm windowsill, ready for planting when the soil warms.

What can people do to prepare their lawns and gardens for winter?

To prepare the garden for cold weather and keep it in top condition, be sure to continue watering to provide trees and plants with ample moisture to get them through dry winters. It's also a good idea to get rid of weeds in your lawn by using a selective herbicide and applying a fertilizer such as PowerFeed, which will help keep your lawn looking green and healthy throughout the season.

What flowers, plants or produce are good to plant during the winter season? Which ones should one not plant?

Stick to seasonal plants and produce as much as possible, to ensure the best growth results. When it comes to growing, timing is everything. In August, you can still plant winter veggies like peas, broad beans, onions, spring onions, chives, and leeks.

If you're really keen, you can grow spring and summer vegetable seedlings indoors. Plant pumpkins, beans, tomatoes, corn, zucchini or watermelons in seed trays and place them in a well-lit area. Nurse them through until the weather warms up and transfer to your garden in spring.

Want to keep your garden looking lush? Try these popular evergreen plants...

EVERGREEN PLANTS FOR WINTER

- Rosemary
- Callistemon Little John
- Syzgium
- Nandidas
- Assorted Succulents
- Or, go faux with artificial hedging



APRIL ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTY 
SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC 8.30pm

Fri 5th

WARRIORS vs TITANS 6pm
PANTHERS vs WESTS TIGERS 7.55pm

Sat 6th

MISBEHAVE 

Fri 12th

TITANS vs PANTHERS 6pm
COWBOYS vs STORM 7.55pm

Sat 13th

TOMMY GUN 

Fri 19th

BULLDOGS vs RABBITOHS 6pm
STORM vs ROOSTERS 7.55pm

Sat 20th

PHONIC TRIO 

Fri 26th

BULLDOGS vs COWBOYS 6pm
PANTHERS vs RABBITOHS 7.55pm

Sat 27th

CRAWFISH STEW 

SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 28-3-19

Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Anderson 29 pts R/u M Ryan 28 pts (c/b)
 3rd P Anderson 28 pts
 Div 2 Winner P Hocking 33 pts (SOD)
 R/u L Bootes 30 pts 3rd G Scobie 28 pts
 Ladies Winner M Hunt 27 pts
 R/u R Friis 23 pts 3rd J Scobie 22pts
 NTPs Ladies R Friis
 Gents P Tracey
 Members draw - Not won
 Autumn has arrived, with a very pleasant day for a round of golf. A cool start with the day warming for the players comfort. Congratulations to Phil Hocking on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day" A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

NOTICE - There will be NO Veterans play on Thu 25 Apr 19. This is due to Branxton Golf Club's Special Event Day, however Veterans are invited to play in the day's round. Please check with Marcus (Golf Pro) for further details. Also, our Par 3 - 18 hole event is to be re-scheduled.

Results 4-4-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Anderson 32 pts (SOD)
 R/u J Sheedy 28 pts (c/b)
 3rd B Turner 28 pts
 Div 2 Winner G Scobie 28 pts
 r/u A Hackett 26 pts
 3rd G Beeton 25 pts (c/b)
 Ladies Winner C Caldwell 24 pts (c/b)
 R/u C Millar 24 pts
 3rd N Busch 22 pts (c/b)
 NTPs Ladies C Millar
 Gents J Sheedy
 Members draw - Not won
 Well, the Autumn weather is staying with us and it wasn't long till all players were in short sleeved shirts, enjoying the pleasant conditions for their round of golf. Congratulations to George Anderson on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

Branxton Ladies Golfers results

20th March 2019 - Pauline Thomas Trophy Round 1
 Winner: Carol Miller
 Runner-up: Jen Salna
 Nearest to the pin: Trish McMillan
 27th March 2019 - Stableford
 Winner: Tracey Miller on 39 points
 Runner-up: Trish McMillan on 33 points
 26th March 2019 - Ladies Open Day
 Overall Winner: Jenny Thompson (Newcastle)
 Jill Thomas Memorial Shield: Kerrie O'Connell (Branxton)
 Division 1 Stroke: Lyn Banks C/B (Scone)
 Division 1 Nett: Helen Vandenbruggen (Cessnock)
 Division 1 Stableford: Julie Leckie (Scone)
 Division 2 Stroke: Di Thorley C/B (Denman)
 Division 2 Nett: Toy Martin C/B (Branxton)
 Division 2 Stableford: Kerrie O'Connell (Branxton)
 Division 3 Stroke: Glenda Williams (Cessnock)
 Division 3 Nett: Marlene Rooney C/B (Cessnock)
 Division 3 Stableford: July Miller (Aberdeen)
 Division 1 NTP: Jill Blenkey (Newcastle)
 Division 2 NTP: Robyn

Friis (Maitland)
 Division 3 NTP: July Miller (Aberdeen)
 Division 1 Longest Drive: Royalie Sciani (Maitland)
 Division 2 Longest Drive: Sharon Constable (Maitland)
 Division 3 Longest Drive: Neridah Busch (Branxton)
 1 April 2019 - Monthly Medal
 Winner Ruth McCarthy with 72 nett
 Runner Up Kerrie O'Connell with 80 nett
 Putting Comp 1st - Ruth McCarthy with 28 putts
 2nd - Trish McMillan with 33 putts
 NTP Trish McMillan

Branxton Golf Club Report Saturday, 30th March

There was no play today as the weather flooded the course. Unfortunately the Long Drive Competition had to be cancelled—it will be rescheduled for a later date.
Pennants on Sunday- The Seniors had an epic battle with Aberdeen on Sunday in the Senior Pennants final at Cessnock before going down 2-1 in an extremely tight contest. The first team of Steve Kearney and Gary Walsh took it to the 19th hole, losing to an unbelievable chip in from around 30 metres after looking like they would win the hole after two good second shots—oh the vagaries of golf! The second team of Greg Noble and David Kinch took it to the last hole before losing 1 up despite hitting two excellent shots to the last green, whilst Captain Lee Hunt and Club Captain Murray Johanson won their match on the 17th, 2 up. This is the third time in a row that Aberdeen has won the Seniors Pennants, a great achievement in an extremely competitive competition, with 13 teams involved over two divisions. The competition on the day was excellent to watch with both teams playing to the spirit of the game—they were great ambassadors for the game of golf.

Saturday, 6 April 2019 STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE

Field: 54
 Winners A Stephen Ross 67
 Grades A Lee Heuston 68
 Grades A Isaiah Wolferstan 69
 Grades A Chris Zawirski 71
 Grades B Troy Mc Caw 69
 Grades B David Kinch 69
 Grades B Peter Mathews 70
 Grades C Col Hughes 68
 Grades C Lee Jackson 69
 Grades C Fraser Wilson 71
 NTP 2/11 A 2nd Greg Noble 25cm
 NTP 4 A 4th Joshua Tracey 196cm
 NTP 9/18 C 9th Garry Hill 65cm
 NTP 13 A 13th Lee Heuston 288cm
 Balls 16 Distributed down to score: 75
 DSR 69

A field of 54 golfers participated in the Monthly Medal on Saturday, which is always challenging as it is a stroke event. The DSR was a 69 with balls won for a 76 nett score. Steve Ross won A Grade and the overall Monthly Medal with a very pleasing 67 nett to cement his place in A Grade, continuing his recent good form. Lee Heuston and Isaiah Wolferstan filled the minor placings with excellent rounds of 68 and 69 nett scores respectively. Both these players were part of the victorious A Grade Pennant team so their form hasn't deserted them. Chris Zawirski continued his stellar year finishing fourth with his 71 nett score. Troy McCaw won B Grade with his 69, just ahead of David Kinch and Peter Mathews. Both Troy and David were a part of the B Grade Pennant team which was very unlucky to just miss the final in very controversial circumstances. Col Hughes won C Grade with a 68 nett score, just ahead of Lee Jackson and Fraser Wilson. The shot of the day belonged to Greg Noble on the 2nd, finishing only 25 cms away whilst Gary Hill's shot to the 9th is also deserving of mention, finishing only 65 cms from the pin - a great shot. Monthly Medal days usually test all golfers as every shot counts where as a stableford round is more forgiving on bad holes as only 2 pts is lost when a hole is poorly played. The Seniors Pennants Captain, Lee Hunt is a testament to this after having 20 shots for the first 3 holes before playing the rest of the round near to his handicap—unfortunately all can be lost very quickly making it hard to recover.

Local sports results kindly sponsored by

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No. 26 Thurs 11th, Jan. 1999 Page 44

Branxton/Greta Swimming Club Blitzes them!

Already this year members of the Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club are showing the opposition how to win a race. Twelve year old April Leggett, 14 year old Jacob Hamilton & 15 year Amba Leggett all from Singleton High School & 12 year old Ashlee Anderson from St. Francis Xavier's, Singleton, all came out victorious in their school swimming carnivals.

They all gained first place in their age groups for 50m freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly and a 100m freestyle.

April, Ashlee & Amba came first in their age relay and April also came first in the 15 years relay & broke records in 50m and breast stroke and 100m freestyle, making her the 12 years Girl Champion.

Ashlee came first and also broke a record in the 300m individual medley and broke records in the 50m breaststroke, backstroke & butterfly claiming Senior Girl Champion for her school. Jacob gained second place in his age relay, second in the 16 years relay and first in the 4x50m open age medley. In the Champion of Champions sprint for 12 to 17 year olds, Jacob came third. He also broke records in the 50m freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly and 100m freestyle and 4x50m medley relay making him 14 years Boy Champion.

All are very impressive results and these young people deserve our heartfelt congratulations on a job well done.



Above: (L-R) Ashlee Anderson, Amba Leggett, April Leggett & Jacob Hamilton

BRANXTON DISTRICT NETBALL

Two rounds completed so far and Branxton teams are showing their true purple colours with some awesome goals, intercepts and a lot of wins. Net set go played their first game on Saturday after getting washed out in round 1. The girls were so excited to play with the emphasis in this age group being on developing the rules and skills of the game with fun being the main focus.

Coach of the Week

Dani Messenger is a mum who coaches her daughter's net set go team the Branxton Bellas. Thank you Dani for volunteering your time and teaching these young girls the basics of the game.



Events coming up
 Round 3 games- Saturday the 13th of April
 Coach the Coach Wednesday the 17th of April

A 2 hour session run by Ex National League Netballer Tiffany Gilmour. This session is aimed to teach our coaches the basics of an effective training session, drills and skills to focus on as well as adding some variety to sessions.

Senior Team Report

The Violet Femmes

The Violet Femmes are new to Branxton Netball after a group of local mums decided to get a team together for some fun, friends and fitness. They are keen to be back playing Saturday netball after 12+ years and have slotted in nicely after managing their first win of the season on the weekend against Beresfield 46-13. They are excited to be playing a sport they love with a great bunch of girls. This group of local mums are setting a fine example for their kids wearing the purple and are a team to watch out for throughout the season.



Sponsor Appreciation - Royal Federal Post

DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No. 25 Thurs 28th, Jan. 1999 Page 34

LOCAL TENPIN BOWLERS IN STATE JUNIOR TEAM

Jessika Everingham of Branxton and Lisa Koltz of Luskentye gained selection into the 1999 State Team with consistent high scores in the recent NSW Presidents Shield roll-offs at Port Macquarie. Over two days they bowled 28 games and once again proved themselves to be capable Tenpin bowlers as they both made the top seven to become part of the State Team. The whole point of the 28 games over one weekend is to prove the endurance and ability to perform under pressure. For Lisa this is her second year and for Jessika it is her fifth year in the team. Jessika has made another cue by being named Captain of the team by the coach Dot Hughes of Port Macquarie. This caps off a great year for the girls. Lisa won her first masters at Kempsey (Mid North Coast Championships) and broke the record for all events at the Country Championships. Jessika had her ninth masters win at Grafton, her next event will be the Youth International to be held in Sydney in January 1999.

The girls will be expected to bowl with the team in a number of tournaments next year the first being Maitland Championships in March, NSW Championships and Challenge Shield in Sydney at Easter, Lismore Championships in May, the Mid North Coast championships in June and the Australian Junior Championships in Salisbury, Adelaide, SA in July. The major tournament as a team is the Junior Interstate Tournament (Presidents Shield) which will also be held at Salisbury, Adelaide, SA in July. This tournament is held over three long days of non stop bowling against the elite bowlers from every state, territory and zone. Our girls are the defending champions of this tournament and hope to do as well in 1999. NNSW Presidents Shield Committee.

Above: (L-R) Lisa Koltz & Jessika Everingham

Coaching Profile

DANI MESSENGER

NETBALL HISTORY: I began playing netball in primary school. I played for 10 years and was a member of the 1998 State Team. I currently play for the Branxton Bellas.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COACHING FOR: I have been coaching for 2 years.

WHAT AGE GROUP / TEAM DO YOU COACH: I coach the Branxton Bellas U12 girls.

WHAT IS THE REWARDING PART ABOUT BEING A COACH: It is rewarding to see the girls improve and to see them enjoy the game.

WHAT MEMORIES DO YOU HAVE PLAYING AS A JUNIOR: I remember the first time I scored a goal. It was a great feeling.

WHAT AREAS WOULD YOU LIKE TO DEVELOP IN YOUR TEAM AND WHY: I would like to develop the girls' skills in intercepting and passing.

FINALLY, WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO COACH FOR BRANXTON DISTRICT CLUB: I decided to coach because I love the game and I want to give back to the club.

Junior Team Report

Branxton's Under 10 Fireballs Division 2

The Fireballs who are coached by Charlie Martin a local 14 year old volunteer managed their first win of the season beating Little Lightning Bolts 11 to 7. The Fireballs play in the Under 10 Division 2 competition which is their first time in competition age. The girls are developing nicely as a team under the influence of a new young and passionate coach. Well done Fireballs on your first win!

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The NEWS SPORT

Greyhound Racing... Local Report with Sam

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK IS BURNING

The most legendary character to put a lead on a greyhound was Hunter trainer Ambrose Murray. Ambrose was born in 1918 at Abermain to Hubert (Ned) and Mary Murray and started training dogs at the age of 9 with his dad and eldest brother Hubert. In 1928 Ned built a straight track on his property at Abermain which he later converted to a one-turn track where he conducted illegal races. Hundreds of dogs and dozens of bookmakers participated every Sunday for over 15 years. The bookies avoided police raids as the local nuns acted as 'cockatoos' and rang the church bells whenever the police were heading to Murrays. The Murray family loved a punt and pulled off some great betting stings at Cessnock. Ambrose was made a Life Member of the Labor Party in 1991. Not only a great greyhound trainer and educator he also had a successful career as a talk back radio host on 2HD for over 20 years and

made a good living training boxers, promoting fights and even refereeing his own fighters at his gymnasium in Abermain. His favourite fighter was 'Young Banjo', Ambrose nicknamed him *Kid Candle* because "one blow and he was out."

The Hunter has another Kid Candle, a black dog by Barcia Bale out of Elusive Zesta, bred and trained by Geoffery Grimwood at Martin's Creek. The Kid is burning up the track with 3 wins a 2nd and a 3rd in the last six weeks. He set tongues wagging after winning his maiden at Gosford over 515m in 29:31secs. (best time of the night). Connections had enough confidence in his ability to send him to Wentworth Park before the age of two and were rewarded with a win and a 2nd.

Greta resident Bradley Timmins (with permission from Tania) formed a syndicate called *Highway to Hell* with three mates (Glen, Peter and Lincoln) then went looking for a Barcia Bale pup & it looks like they found a good one.



◉ 'Kid Candle' winning his maiden



◉ Brad Timmins: part owner of Kid Candle

Brad picked the pup at 3 months old and named him Lenny in honour of his late father who would have turned 100 this year.

Kid Candle could be in for a very successful career with Lenny.



Miller Park Bowls club celebrated a luncheon for its new life members last Saturday 30th March at Miller Park Bowling club which was attended by thirty bowlers. Miller Park Bowls Club celebrated a luncheon to recognise the clubs five life members. The late Esther Hatcher and Betty Bridge along with Joan Reichel, Brenton Appelkamp and Esme Becker were all honoured for their long association with the bowls club. Congratulations to you all.

◉ Photo above: Joan Reichel, Brenton Appelkamp and Esme Becker

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