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15 May 2019

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25 years of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

You can still get involved this year ~ Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is the easiest way to bring people together to raise funds that will make a big difference to those impacted by cancer. The idea is simple, just get your friends, colleagues or community together over some tea and treats, and help fund Cancer Council's life-saving research, prevention, support programs, and information.



AN estimated 180 local residents & nearby neighbours have helped raise almost \$4000 for cancer research by attending "Branxton's Biggest Morning Tea" last Tuesday.

For the fourth year in a row the local branch of the CWA have organised & hosted the day at Branxton Community Hall.

"Apart from those attending we had a large number of orders from local businesses & local residents which, thankfully was attended to prior to the onslaught," said spokesperson Helen Scott. Well done again CWA! Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is Cancer Council Australia's most popular fundraising event and the largest, most successful event of its kind in Australia.

Last year, it raised an amazing \$11.9 million to help beat cancer.

This year they are hoping to get more people involved and raise over \$13 million, to fund research, prevention and support services for those affected by cancer. For 25 years, Cancer Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea has brought together millions of Australians over a cup of tea in support of those affected by cancer. Since Australia's Biggest Morning Tea began in

1994, Cancer Council's generous community supporters have raised more than \$192 million by hosting morning teas. Brianna Carracher, Communications & Events Coordinator at Cancer Council said while the official date is Thursday, May 24 people can register to host their own Biggest Morning Tea at any time from now until the end of June.

"Taking part is easy - simply register online as a host, set a date in May or June and start sending out your invites. An event can be anything from a small gathering at home or in your workplace to a community bake off competition in your local area."

Those who want to host can register at biggestmorningtea.com.au or call 1300 65 65 85 to receive a free morning tea host kit.

Those unable to host a morning tea can still get involved by donating directly to Cancer Council via biggestmorningtea.com.au. The National Corporate supporters are:-

Shout Shout for Good, powered by ANZ have generously provided ANZ BladePay® payment devices for a number of Biggest Morning Tea events this



year. In addition, the Shout giving platform is the first in Australia to include Donate with Apple Pay, and thanks to this partnership, the Cancer Council will be among the first charities to accept donations in this way. You can donate conveniently using Apple Pay, credit card or PayPal here.

Twinings Twinings have generously provided more than 200,000 tea bags to help our hosts! Beautiful, 12 compartment wooden tea chests have also been donated as host prizes. www.twinings.com.au
Metro Petroleum Metro Petroleum, who are

supporting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea for the first time this year across a number of their stores. You may have spotted Metro's support for Cancer Council already this year through Tap Tins 'tap to donate' devices in selected stores and Metro will also be promoting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea across the country, including encouraging customers to host their own morning tea.

Photo above: (L-R) Kathy Pynsent, Jenny Aitchison MP & Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent. Jenny is a CWA member in Maitland & Kathy is a volunteer driver & organiser for the Cancer Council

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**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
DRAFT 2019-20 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

At its meeting of 1 May 2019 Council resolved to place the draft 2019-20 Operational Plan on public exhibition from **9 May 2019 to 5 June 2019**.

The draft document will be on public exhibition for 28 days in order to seek public comment, as required by section 405 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

The draft 2019-20 Operational Plan details Council's proposed activities for 2019-20 including the draft budget, as well as Council's proposed Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges. The draft documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);
- Cessnock Public Library;
- Kurri Kurri Public Library;
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions on the draft documents should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **5.00 pm Wednesday 5 June 2019**.

Any enquires should be directed to Donna Ladmore at donna.ladmore@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or on 4993 4242.

Submissions are NOT kept confidential. Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with privacy laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission.

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
DRAFT RATES SUBSIDY POLICY**

At its meeting of **17 April 2019**, Council resolved to place the draft Rates Subsidy Policy on public exhibition from **Wednesday 1 May 2019 to Wednesday 29 May 2019**.

The draft documents will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days in order to seek public comment, as required by sections 402, 404 and 405 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

The policy is designed to enable Council a framework to ensure that Council is acting fair, reasonable and in a transparent manner for all ratepayers of the Local Government Area.

The draft document can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);
- Cessnock Public Library;
- Kurri Kurri Public Library;
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions on the draft documents should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **5.00 pm Wednesday 29 May 2019**.

Submissions are NOT kept confidential. Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with privacy laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures.

Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission.



Want changes to your waste service? Tell us in the waste survey!

Cessnock City Council has commenced the process of reviewing Council's Waste Management Strategy 2014-2019 and are currently working on preparing the next strategy for 2020-2024.

As part of this review Council wants to hear from the community. Residents are being encouraged to complete a short survey during the month of May either by completing the on-line survey or hard copy

and returning to the Council Administration Building.

The survey aims to gather information on the services Council provides around five key areas:

- * Bulky waste services – (vouchers or kerbside pickup)
- * Cessnock Waste Management Centre
- * Illegal dumping
- * Food in the garden organics bin
- * Household waste collection

Residents can also attend drop-in sessions to ask questions. The next drop-in sessions are on Tuesday 21 May at the following locations:

- 11am to 1pm Branxton Community Hall
- 4 to 6pm Kurri Kurri Library

Council's Environment and Waste Services Manager, Michael Alexander said this is an opportunity for residents to share ideas, suggestions and provide feedback.

"This is a unique opportunity to get your questions answered and have input into the next five year strategy. Managing our waste is both complex, emotive and heavily regulated and the service Council provides must adapt to meet those challenges. We want the community to have the best service available and we need to know what elements they believe will deliver this."

So don't waste your opinion and take the survey before Friday 31 May www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wastesurvey.

Banner poles proposed at Miller Park, Branxton

Cessnock City Council is asking the community for feedback on proposed location for the installation of three banner poles at Miller Park, Branxton.

Council received \$19,046 in grant funding from the Department of Veteran Affairs to install new banner poles in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

Following community consultation in January 2019 it was determined poles would be installed in Maybury Peace Park, Weston and along the New England Highway, Greta. In consideration of community feedback collected it was determined Wollombi was not a suitable location for the installation of banner poles and the location at Miller Park, Branxton

has now been identified.

The exact location selected for the installation of the three poles is at the edge of the park, along Maitland Street. This location was selected as banners will be easily seen from the roadway and it aligns with the Miller Park Masterplan.

The poles will be used to display Armistice Day banners for years to come and other banners that mark important occasions including ANZAC Day. Council will also utilise these poles to hang banners that promote community events such as Seniors Festival and NAIDOC Week. The poles will also be available to hire for community groups. Currently the community can apply to utilise the

poles located on Vincent Street, Cessnock and Victoria Street, Kurri Kurri. To view the application for these poles visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/bannerpolesbranxton.

The proposed exact locations of the three poles can be viewed online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/bannerpolesbranxton. Council is encouraging residents to have their say on the proposed locations and email communication@cessnock.nsw.gov.au with any feedback. All feedback must be received by Tuesday 11 June 2019.



24 May 2019

Leaving Jackson: The Johnny Cash & June Carter Show

Jeff Carter Music

Take a step back in time to when country music told a true story of life, love and heartache



15 June 2019

Buddy Holly and the Beatles In Concert

Ben Maiorana Entertainment

Hey Rock & Roll music fans! The wait is over – let's go back to where it all began as we relive the magic & hits of legendary music icons Buddy Holly & The Beatles Together Live In Concert.



Mr. Deputy Premier ~ can you please let us know if the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway is to receive a 'Resources for Regions' grant

THE latest round of 'Resources for Region' grants has still not been fully announced. Originally it was to be announced prior to Christmas last year & then February this year. At this stage all we know is that Singleton has missed out (again), Muswellbrook have nearly \$5million to upgrade 9 roads in their paddock & that 10 other projects have been given the green light but what they are is yet to be announced.

Deputy Premier, John Barilaro, said 11 projects are being funded in this round of the program and they will be announced over the coming weeks. With Muswellbrook already known it leaves 10 projects to be announced. Singleton asked for \$8.6m to fund their roads upgrade program which was rejected. The Deputy Premier met with the Mayor & GM to give them the bad news personally. Mayor Sue Moore said that they are extremely disappointed with the outcome of Council's latest application, particularly because of the improved road safety benefits for the miners literally travelling to the coal face every day. "Add to that the level of

impact our community experiences every day, and it is beyond belief that we could ever miss out on a grant program aimed to support mining-affected communities" said Sue. At the meeting Mr. Barilaro promised to review the programme. "I've asked for a review of the Resources for Regions program, to ensure maximum support is provided to mining communities across regional NSW," said Mr Barilaro.

The Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway & the Kurri Kurri CBD Upgrade were the two successful projects that Cessnock City Council endorsed in this round.

The cycleway application was for \$2.6M, excluding the memorial aspect of \$1.2million, & the maximum Cessnock Council co-contribution (25%) is \$650,000.

Cessnock Council have asked that their co-contribution be 12.5% instead of the 25%.

Resources for Regions is part of the \$1.6 billion Regional Growth Fund, which is designed to support growing regional centres, activate local economies and improve services and community infrastructure

for regional communities. Applicants must demonstrate that projects will meet the statutory purpose of the Restart NSW Fund to improve economic growth and

productivity in NSW. For the purposes of the R4R program, funding must be used to improve local infrastructure in regional areas that are significantly

affected by mining operations. Mr. Barilaro can you, please, cut the suspense and let us know.



Members of North Rothbury Tidy Town & their BBQ will be at the North Rothbury Polling Booth this Saturday, Federal Election day, providing weary voters the opportunity to not have to prepare their own breakfast or lunch!

On offer 'Egg & Bacon Rolls' & 'Sausage sandwiches'

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Rural Fire Service shed Rothbury St, Nth Rothbury
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Authorised by Joel Fitzgibbon, Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch), 3 Edward Street Cessnock 2325 NSW.

LABOR HAS A PLAN TO BRING POWER PRICES DOWN

Joel Fitzgibbon MP

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STEVE'S RANT

Anger, generally born of frustration for not being able to do something either because of your own inability to do the thing or being stopped by some regulation or individual, or shortage of the money to carry out your desires. We can generally handle that sort of anger by taking a few deep breaths or saying something to the God of little things and by taking the trouble to reassess what result we want and how to achieve it. As they say, there are many ways to stuff a cat. Some people are more prone to anger or rage just by their make-up & then you have the delightful personality which remains calm and tends to see the funny side of things even in their own frustration. Would that we were all like that. My wife is one of these until she is pushed too far, then incandescent, without warming, might shoot you in the face. After crashing into someone's vehicle in a car park, incensed by the reaction she got from the other driver, she reversed back and did it again faster and harder. For the first 20 years of our marriage she was the gentlest lady of all. I personally have a short fuse and after cussing the God of little things I regain my composure quickly. Well, that's what I would like to think. It seems society is currently on a *rage cyclical peak* and we see evidence of this in the news daily and probably experience somebodies' anger or road

rage more often than we have in the past. Hopefully, we can laugh this off and no real harm is done. But, as in all things, there are degrees of anger and rage from the mostly harmless and pathetic to spontaneous acts of violence which can have extreme consequences for both victim and perpetrators. Why rage and anger are on the rise and, indeed is it really on the rise, or are we just more aware of it. Both I think. Then there is the disastrous consequence of illegal drug use and alcohol. The ambos, police, rescue services and hospital staff will attest to the violence they see. The only answer I see is one of total intolerance and refusal to give assistance... but this flies in the face of every human instinct to help those in need. Another group of angry people are those who suffer mental illness or who are otherwise abnormal in their consideration of others and will plan to do harm. These people are becoming more and more dangerous due to the access of knowledge about how to commit crimes and the availability of weapons. Browse through the collection of medieval swords, axes, daggers and killing implements available for sale at the gadget man's stall at your local shopping centre. We all love to tell stories about our frustration when dealing with the local



council (hint; never approach a council worker unless your mood is calm and your request well-rehearsed). Ask for help with your problem and they will fall over themselves to help. A 'win win' situation. The same applies whenever you approach a public servant. Although it might be against your nature to be nice or if you like, subservient; do so for it will pay dividends. A friend of ours recently wrote saying: "After working in the public service for 26 years, although not on the front line (except for one brief stint when I told an abusive druggie to go into the lane behind the office & take an overdose); (I digress) the most disappointing aspect of customer service these days is eat or be eaten. Staff are so geared to being abused or harassed, they defend their position by being over officious and abrupt.

It's like I'm in charge here, don't give me shit if you want a good result'. Over-worked with hands tied by too much red tape, it is the most frustrating and upsetting situation to have to defend a broken system. I'm not defending rudeness, don't get me wrong, I can just empathise for someone that has to resort to that behaviour to cope." People get to know about who you are, by your manners, polite behaviour, and polished etiquette. ... nothing worse or more unbecoming than a person with poor manners. Other contributing factors to an anger spike are the skewered points of view of the ABC and the lefty loonies who promote fear of CO² and coal as a terrible menace that will destroy the planet. As I have said before these zealots are the menace, not the naturally occurring mineral wealth of Australia.

Social division, egged on by the political class and magnified by social media is the main course of our anger (did someone mention being egged?). We will all be incensed at some time; it is how we deal with it that matters. What motivates others to feel anger is perhaps their unhealthy ideology or fanatical political agenda or religious enthusiasm which, in their naivety, gives rise to this anger and makes them willing to do harm. Those climbing on the 'climate change' bandwagon; they really believe that the planet is going to be irreversibly damaged in ten years and they are angry that those who disagree can't see the light. I know that every ten years since the 1940 we have had similar predictions. These people feel entitled to visit farms and families who provide our food. What motivates them is anger. The kind of anger we

haven't seen since the 1970; their anger and rage make them willing to do harm and destroy property, and fear has caused that anger. Remember it will be as nothing in years to come. Cheers, Steve

What's Happening & other
with Mike Lowing

AS reported elsewhere in this edition the state government is still to announce the majority of recipients in their latest round of Resources for Regions grants. It was due well before Christmas last but, at this stage, all we know is that Singleton Council have missed out again,

Muswellbrook Council will be getting close to \$5million to restore 9 roads & that there are 11 other beneficiary's. The fact of another 11 beneficiary's to be announced was stated in a press release from the Deputy Premiers office on the 30 April 2019. (From Press Release "Mr Barilaro said 11 projects are being funded in this round of the program and will be announced over the coming weeks). Cessnock City Council has not been told that their two applications, in this round, have not been successful as they did with Singleton Council Cessnock's 2 applications; the Kurri Kurri CBD upgrade stage 1 (\$4.17M) & the Branxton to Greta Cycleway (\$2.6M) are, it seems, still in the mix. For all the work & effort that the local Memorial Cycleway committee have gone too we can only hope. Cheers, Mike



THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY. This year's ANZAC Day services in Branxton far exceeded our expectations. I would like to acknowledge the following people and groups for their invaluable support. Rod Styles, Chris Fredricks, Brett Wild, Steve Weiss, Jon & Kelly Shearman, Errol Bailey, Cath Harvey, Val & Sam Hobbs, Lester & Joy Bootes & Rod Attwell. Again, local support was at its finest with schools Rosary Park and Branxton Public heavily involved. The Dawn Service was well attended, and the address was

given by RAN MCDO CMDR Neill Bell (Ret) which was inspiring. As the sun rose and the bugle sounded, it was time to reflect on those who have gone before us and to whom we owe so much. The Dawn Service was followed by a community sponsored breakfast at Miller Park Sports & Recreation Club cooked by Gus Kedwell and his

busy crew of helpers. An excellent breakfast, as usual. The main ANZAC Day March and service was, again, well attended and there was some wonderful support from a number of local people including:- Chris Fredricks representing the Light Horse, the Catafalque Party provided by Singleton Army Camp, Mr. Errol Bailey, our most senior member, Mr.

Brett Wild and his Land Rover, who kindly transported Mrs. Kelly Shearman during the March, Rev Nicole Baldwin on her first ANZAC Day as a parish priest and the Branxton community. The March was highlighted by a flyover by the Air Wing from Rutherford in their Tiger Moths, on their way to Scone for a reunion - thank you. The Day Service was opened by Annabel Hughes with the "Welcome to Country", which commenced after the town

march. The service included representatives from both local schools who gave several readings. The music and vocals were provided by Jo Hansen & singers, JLS Band and Sophie Fredricks on keyboard. The service was made especially poignant by two musical numbers. These songs recognize stages in our military heritage. The "Last Post" and "Rouse" were performed by Mitch McLaughlan. A special rendition of "God Defend New Zealand" was performed by members of our local New Zealand 'Kiwi' community. Following the service at the Rotunda members of the local RSL Sub Branch were treated to

a special lunch catered for by Kelly Payne, whilst supported by Branxton Girl Guides, who willing served the RSL members & guests on the day. Hopefully, we have not missed out anyone who deserves our thanks and gratitude. Thank you to all. "Lest we Forget" Brian J Furner OAM, President. Branxton RSL Sub Branch

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Branxton.... 4938 3396	Cessnock... 4991 0555
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CPAC shaping up to be a record year



Live'. Ian Moss 'The 2019 National Solo Intimate and Acoustic Regional Tour' saw an almost sell out theatre of 399 people. CPAC isn't just for adults. The children's performance 'The Gruffalo' delivered a magical experience for local kids and was that popular two performances were held. For those youngsters looking to be on the stage, Hunter Drama is delivering drama classes from CPAC working with approximately 45 local young people rehearsing for their upcoming performance 'Madagascar Jr'. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said CPAC brings an important service to the community. "CPAC continues to deliver performances and culture residents would have once had to drive to Sydney or Newcastle to experience. Cessnock continues to draw in incredible performers and touring companies who recognise the amazing artistic culture Cessnock offers." No need to travel to Melbourne to experience the internationally recognised 'Melbourne Comedy Festival'. CPAC will be hosting performances from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow and also on the program in coming months includes *Waist Watchers the Musical!*, *My Brilliant Divorce* and *Echoes of Pink Floyd*. Mayor Pynsent encouraged everyone to get out to see the

shows on offer on their door step. "There is something for everyone, if you feel unsure about what you should see the friendly staff at CPAC would be more than happy to make recommendations."

The 2019 season will continue to pack a punch with tickets selling fast for 'Leaving Jackson: The Johnny Cash & June Carter Show'. Preparations have commenced for Spring Awakening 2019 after last year's unfortunate cancellation due to wet weather. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Performances for the 2020 season are already being confirmed, for more information on the 2019 CPAC Season visit www.cessnockperformingartscene.com.au/shows.

We are only five months into the year and already Cessnock's Performing Arts Centre (CPAC) has experienced an outstanding response from the community with the 2019 season program. It has been a bumper start with a

number of sell out shows including, Marina Prior & David Hobson 'The 2 of Us', 'The Gospel According to Paul', 'Menopause the Musical' and back by popular demand Anh Do: 'The Happiest Refugee

Yancoal extends partnership with Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service



The Westpac Rescue Helicopter is thrilled to announce that Yancoal have signed a three year agreement to support the vital emergency service throughout Northern NSW. The Service operates 24-7 from three bases in Belmont, Tamworth and Lismore and is here for 1.5 million people throughout Northern NSW.

In 2017 Yancoal purchased Hunter Valley mines from Rio Tinto (Coal & Allied) who had held a long standing partnership with the Rescue Helicopter for in excess of 15 years. Yancoal has agreed to extend this partnership and to increase its financial commitment in support of the Service.

The support from Yancoal is also received from its employees, who generously contribute through payroll deduction. Yancoal's logo will sit proudly on both sides of the four (4) AW139 Westpac Rescue Helicopters and will be represented throughout the corporate stationary and official website of the Service. Other prominent sponsors include NSW Mining, Glencore, BHP Billiton, CFMEU, Caltex, Coal Services and NBN News.

Chief Executive Officer of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Richard Jones OAM says the Service is extremely grateful for the extension of the partnership.

"The Service regularly responds to a diverse range of missions throughout Northern NSW and this would not be possible without the continued support from generous corporate partners such as Yancoal and their employees."

"The Mining community have always been there to support the Rescue Helicopter and we will be there for them in their time of need."

"The partnership with Yancoal will make a significant impact on the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, ensuring that the Service is ready to respond 24 hours per day, 7 days per week," Mr Jones said.

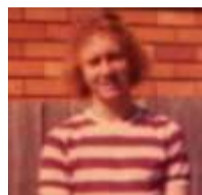
Yancoal Australia Chief Executive Officer Reinhold Schmidt celebrated the partnership with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

"We consider it a privilege to operate in the Hunter Valley and this donation reflects our desire to give back to the communities who create such a terrific environment to live, work and play.

"The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service plays a critical role in providing safety and support to locals in need and we are very proud to support this great service," Mr Schmidt said.

"The service can be requested for several reasons, including primary missions (to attend an accident site, to treat and transfer patients to hospital), secondary missions (to transfer patients between hospitals for specialist treatment) and search and rescue (help to locate missing people, rescue and return to safety)," Mr Schmidt said.

In Memory Peter J Rowlands



29/6/1958 ~ 26/5/1079

IN loving memory of our brother Peter John Rowlands who sadly passed away 40 years ago. Never forgotten by his two surviving brothers, Neil & David.

REFLECTIONS

"Love one another."

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Love, it is a central theme in many parts of the Old Testament, but as Jesus says farewell to his disciples, he gives them a new commandment, one that we too are to follow. It is the simplest and clearest yet also hardest commandment and it is new because Jesus commands us to love in a new way. Jesus says "I'm giving you a new commandment, and it is this: love one another! Just as I have loved you, so you must love one another." [John 13.34]

And this sounds simple and easy, but there are times that it is the hardest thing to do too. It is easy to love the people who are important in our lives ... our families and friends. It is also easy to love people who look at the world in a similar way that we do or who have a similar way of life. On the other hand, it can be very difficult to love those who are the outcasts of our lives. Perhaps these are the refugees, the homeless, those who are dependent on drugs, alcohol or financial assistance ... perhaps they are the ones who live differently, choose differently, and believe differently?

Jesus does not tell us to love only those who love us, he tells us to love one another as he has loved us. This is a sacrificial love, a love where the health, well-being and happiness of the other person is of the greatest importance. It is a love that has great depth, born out of walking beside one another and spending time listening. It is a love that is all about the other person rather than about the people who affirm our own sense of who we are. It is love for those who challenge and oppose us as well as being love for all those who love us.

These are some of the most beautiful and challenging words that Jesus ever spoke. Image the world, the communities and the families we could create if we took them seriously and love others as Jesus loves us. Jesus was willing to die on a cross for us so that we many have life and have it in abundance. What are we willing to sacrifice in order to love one another?

Every Blessing, Reverend Nicole



DON'T WASTE YOUR OPINION

COME AND SEE US

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

To help us plan waste services for the next 5 years we want your thoughts and ideas:

Branxton Community Hall 35 Bowen St, Branxton	Tues 21 May	11am - 1pm
Kurri Kurri Library Cnr Lang & Allworth Sts, Kurri Kurri	Tues 21 May	4pm - 6pm

Complete the survey at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wastesurvey or request a hard copy by calling 4993 4100.



Members say ...



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

A big congratulations to the nine students who were announced as recipients of a Mayoral Academic Scholarships Cessnock Performing Arts Centre last Tuesday night. The scholarships worth \$2500 will assist each recipient with their studies. This could include helping students purchase tools, textbooks or pay fees. A huge thank you to the sponsors who make this scholarships possible. As a community it is wonderful to support those trying to further their education and training. This is the 18th year Council has offered the Mayoral Academic Scholarships. In this time Council has supported 219 students and provided students with a magnificent total of \$547,500. This is an annual program and Council looks forward to next year's event.

Residents are being encouraged to do a survey and tell Council what they think about the waste services Council provides. The results will be used in preparation of Council's Waste Management Strategy 2020-2024. The survey is an opportunity to share feedback on all aspects of the waste service including the Cessnock Waste Management Centre, bulky waste services (vouchers or kerbside pickup), food waste, household waste and illegal dumping. Residents can also attend drop-in sessions to ask questions. The next drop-in sessions are on Tuesday 21 May. The first session kicks off at 11am to 1pm at the Branxton Community Hall and the second session runs from 4 to 6pm at the Kurri Kurri Library. All residents can access their survey online or request as hardcopy from Council. For more information visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wastesurvey.

Congratulations to Cessnock City Toastmasters on reaching the milestone of 25 years. The club received its Charter from Toastmasters International way back in 1994. For the past 25 years it has been part of our local community and in that time 137 people have been members of the club. Toastmasters is a non-profit and community based organisation that is focused on public speaking and

leadership skills. Cessnock Toastmasters Club is an active part of our local community taking part in the recent STOMP festival, working with locals who want to improve their speaking skills and volunteering at local schools to assist in debating and public speaking competitions. Congratulations Cessnock Toastmasters.

The Draft Operational Plan for 2019-20 is now on public exhibition and Council is asking residents to provide their feedback. The plan is an opportunity for all residents to get an insight into what Council will achieve in the next financial year. The Draft Operational Plan includes details of Council's draft budget, as well as Council's proposed Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges. The draft plan will be on public exhibition from 9 May 2019 to 5 June 2019 at Council's Administration Building, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries or view it online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR NSW PARLIAMENT HEADS BACK TO WORK

On Tuesday of this week the new session of the 57th Parliament officially began. It is quite a series of tradition, pomp and ceremony from a past time and another country. It is all known as the Westminster system. It begins when the Usher of the Black Rod is sent down from the Legislative Council to tap three times on the door of the Legislative Assembly (often referred to as "commoners" and includes all of us local MP's). The Usher of The Black Rod demands the attendance of the Legislative Assembly commoners in the Legislative Council (often referred to as "lords") so that Parliament can be opened by the Queen's representative, the Governor of NSW. I kid you not. This is all real and factual. The red carpet is laid out on the front stairs of Parliament to ensure that the Queens representative, the Governor, does not soil his/her shoes. In the Legislative Council there is an enormous chair at the front/

middle of the room that can only be occupied by the Queen or King of the day so of course it sits empty day after day after day – except for this 30 minutes every fourth year. The Governor then reads the message from the Queen about the expectations for NSW for the next 4 years (which is in fact a speech written by the Government).

We local MP's, the "commoners", are then sent back to the Legislative Assembly to get on with our business of the common people (you and I) so that it can later be considered by the worthy "lords" in the Legislative Council. The issues raised by us "common" people can only be finalised and approved if the "lords" give their approval.

Back in the Legislative Assembly we elect a Speaker of our House. The Speaker is generally reluctant to take the position because tradition requires that should there be trouble or strife that comes from the house where the commoners meet, the Legislative Assembly, then the Speaker will be beheaded by sword. We can then begin debate at the table which is designed to be two and a half swords across so that during debate one would not be able to reach the other with a sword.

Parliament will only sit for 36 days this year – apparently the lowest number of sitting days in the past 40 years. But rest assured, my job is full time and when not in Sydney I am generally working a 6 day week, 50hours+, back here in the Cessnock Electorate that stretches from Putty, Milbrodale and Broke in the west across to Edgeworth, West Wallsend and Barnsley in the east as well as Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Branxton, Greta, Wollombi and Laguna in the middle and all other villages in between.

Cheers, Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

People still ask me why we can't build a new coal-fired power station. The answer is we can, but no one wants to. They don't want to because the price tag is around \$3 billion and the financial reward would not be sufficient to make a decent profit. But even if the numbers did



≡ Canteen Manager Sharyn Baker, Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon and P&C President Kerrie O'Brien.

stack-up in the first year or even for five years, the investment would be a very risky one because we don't know what the energy production system will look like in ten years let alone in 40 years.

This is an important point because to make a decent financial return the coal-fired generator would have to be able to compete with new forms of generation for decades.

That's a big call when you consider how fast new technologies like hydrogen are emerging. I certainly wouldn't be putting my money on such a risky proposition.

Even today, existing technologies like wind and solar are more competitive because they operate with zero marginal costs. That is, once they are built, it costs nothing to run them other than for maintenance and supervisory costs. By contrast, a coal-plant has to burn coal to generate power and that costs money.

You might ask; well if the private sector won't do it, what about government? Surely we don't want Government risking our money where business won't? In any case, Government would rather spend the money on roads, schools and hospitals and leave electricity generation to the many businesses already building cleaner generators.

But whether it's the private sector or government, coal generators face other challenges. It could take up to ten years to build a coal plant because the approvals and construction periods would be considerable. But even if it only took five years, the plant could be obsolete before it had time to warm up.

The next challenge is location. You can bet London to a brick that no one will want a power station within cooee of their place: not their home, not their farm, and not their school or hospital. One of the few property owners with a viable and isolated location is AGL, the area on which Liddell and Bayswater stand. But AGL is putting its money elsewhere; into new, clean technologies like large-scale solar, pumped hydro and battery storage. They'll also build a gas peaking generator if they can secure the gas.

None of this should be of concern to our local coal miners or you and me. The

overwhelming majority of the Hunter's coal is exported. And if our coal generators closed tomorrow, the coal they were using would go to export markets too. This is all academic of course because while Liddell will run out of puff by 2022, Bayswater and Eraring will be around for another fifteen years. They can compete in the market now because the capital cost has already been returned to investors.

Our coal mining industry will be employing thousands of people in our region for decades to come because our customers in Asia need our relatively clean and efficient product. AGL has promised that by the time Liddell closes, many will have already made the transition to Bayswater as people there retire. Those who don't make it across the road will receive redundancies if they want one. Some will be ready to retire. We'll need to find new work for anyone looking for it. Hopefully there will be new work opportunities constructing, maintaining and supervising new forms of generation. I am certainly committed to ensuring there is a new opportunity for everyone who wants one.

Branxton Public School Canteen

has benefitted from a \$5,000 investment in its facility thanks to a Volunteers Grant. The canteen is run by its hard working canteen manager and enthusiastic volunteers who take great pride in serving their school community delicious and nutritious food. Since the canteen was built, the school has grown from 245 students to more than 400 meaning greater pressure has been placed on the space and its equipment. The grant has allowed the school's P&C to purchase a commercial oven and other brand new appliances. Without dedicated volunteers, the school canteen would not operate as wonderfully as it does. I'm pleased this grant has allowed for the upgrade of its kitchen.

I thank Branxton Public School's active P&C for continuing to look for ways to better support its school community and volunteers. 41 volunteer organisations in the Hunter electorate have shared in \$145,395 under the latest Volunteer Grants program.

Volunteer Grants aim to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers. The grants provide small amounts of money that organisations and community groups can use to help their volunteers. The grants aim to support the volunteers who help disadvantaged Australian communities and encourage inclusion of vulnerable people in community life.

Cheers, Joel



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council



≡ Last weekend's Firelight and the Glencore Singleton Festival

With so much political campaigning over the past few months, first with the NSW state election in March and the upcoming Federal election this weekend, it's easy to assume that the big issues for our area have consumed our focus in advocating for a fair share for the people of the Singleton local government area. But there's been plenty of hard work happening in a range of other realms as well, and not least last weekend's Firelight and the Glencore Singleton Festival that has been running over the past few weeks.

About 4,500 people turned out at the Civic Green on Saturday for our homage to winter, where laser shows, African drumming, fire dancers and LED hula hoops took centre stage alongside the Yancoal Singleton Art Prize and the Singleton Amateur Theatrical Society's performance from Les Miserables. It was great to see so many people of all ages rugging up for a fantastic night of free entertainment, and while the Glencore Singleton Festival aims to showcase the creative inspiration that comes from our area in a range of fields from filmmaking and music to

quilting, the happy faces at last weekend's events were further inspiration for why we need to keep the pressure on all levels of government, even after the polls have closed, for the benefit of our community.

We've seen the benefits of a bypass of the New England Highway in Branxton as further evidence that heavily trafficked highways no longer belong in modern towns. That's why Federal funding for a bypass of Singleton is a major issue in this Federal election. Labor has committed funding, which we enthusiastically welcome. But we need this project to come to fruition - ideally by 2024 - regardless of who wins on Saturday. So we're calling for bipartisan support from all levels of

government, and for our State and Federal politicians to work together to deliver this vital project not for voters, but for the people of the Singleton local government area and beyond.

And we'll be holding the NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro to his word to overhaul the Resources for Regions program, following news our area missed out yet again in the latest round of funding designed to benefit mining-affected communities. In a personal visit to Singleton, Mr Barilaro also committed to finding an alternative funding source to deliver Singleton Council's \$8.5 million Roads Upgrade program, targeting four major transport routes servicing the area's 17 coal mines.

In the meantime, as well as Saturday's Federal election, the Glencore Singleton Festival wraps up this weekend with plenty of events celebrating the artistic and cultural abundance in our area. For all the information you need, visit www.singletonfestival.com.au

Cheers, Sue



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News

P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Australia on track for killer flu season; 'get vaccinated'

Health experts are warning Australia is on track for a killer flu season, with numbers showing three times as many people have been diagnosed with the virus so far this year, compared to the same period in previous years. In March, more than 10,000 people were diagnosed with the flu. In March 2018, that number was 3,173. Chair of the Immunisation Coalition, Professor Robert Booy, said those affected were mainly in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. "The data I have received shows that we are seeing three times as many cases this year as last year," he said.

At the end of the first week in April, we were nearly halfway to our 2018 annual total. Professor Booy said so far this year, nearly 27,000 people had been struck down by flu.

New South Wales: 7,595 cases
Queensland: 7,289 cases
Victoria: 4,627 cases
South Australia: 4,397 cases
Western Australia: 1,498 cases
Tasmania: 322 cases
Northern Territory: 296 cases
Australian Capital Territory: 203 cases

SO, WHY IS THERE SO MUCH FLU AROUND ALREADY?

In 2018, Australia had a pretty quiet flu season and that means that community immunity wasn't built up to protect against this year's virus. "It means many more people will be prone to the flu this year and susceptible to getting it," Professor Booy said. There was also a long flu season in the Northern Hemisphere earlier in the year, up until about March. "Many Australians went to the US for holidays earlier in the year and brought the flu back, and in February, school goes back and kids mix and spread the flu," Professor Booy said.

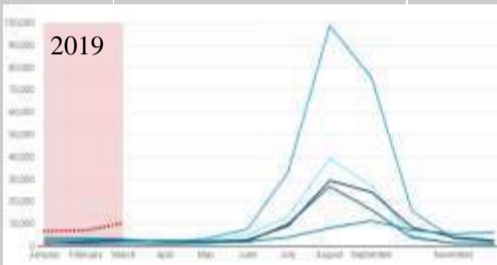
"How DEADLY IS IT?" Most deaths from the flu occur in people aged over 65, and are usually from complications such as pneumonia, heart attacks or stroke.

Professor Booy said in a busy year, there were a number of people who would be expected to get the flu and die from it. "This year, we expect the flu to kill at least 4,000 people which is the same

number as deaths from suicide and the road toll combined," he said. Professor Booy said most years, 12 Australian children died from the flu. "If we had a high rate of immunity in kids, it would also stop the spread of the flu to susceptible adults," he said.

Chair of the Australian Medical Association council of GPs, Dr Richard Kidd, said one in 10 people who died in intensive care from the flu were otherwise healthy.

"More than half of all kids who end up in hospital with the flu were healthy and didn't have any chronic health conditions," he said. **WHEN TO GET THE VACCINE?**



How the 2019 flu season is tracking

The earlier the better. Experts said early April is a good time to get a vaccine as it takes two weeks for your immunity to develop. "With the flu [rates] three times as high this year as last year, we can stop transmission now if people get vaccinated," Professor Booy said.

"Otherwise the numbers could rise even more." Flu season in Australia usually runs from June to September, peaking in August.

Chief Medical Officer for the Federal Government, Professor Brendan Murphy, recommends vaccinating from mid-April in order to develop immunity before rates of influenza increase. **WHERE DO I GET THE VACCINE?**

In most states, the vaccine has already been distributed to GPs and many pharmacies. If you are a healthy adult with children or looking after someone with a chronic illness, Professor Booy said it was fine to go to a pharmacy for the flu vaccine.

"But if you are elderly or pregnant, it's best to go to the GP who can give you the flu shot as well as over-see your health generally," he said.

And if you are healthy, is it still worth getting the vaccine?

Experts say, yes. It's not just about you, community immunity helps protect everyone.

"I encourage healthy people to get the flu shot as it protects you from getting and from spreading it to more vulnerable groups

like the elderly," Professor Booy said.

George Tambassis from the Pharmacy Guild, whose members sell the flu vaccine, said boosting community immunity was the best way to protect against the flu.

"While there are people at high risk of the flu, including those aged 65 and above, the flu can in fact strike anyone, even the young, fit and healthy," he said.

"In fact, one-in-four people who are hospitalised with the flu have no underlying medical condition."

WHICH VACCINE AM I LIKELY TO GET?

This year, the four strain or quadrivalent vaccine is available for people aged under 65 years old. People aged over 65 will get an enhanced vaccine, which has a component in it which boosts their immune system. Separate to the Federal vaccine program, all states

are providing free vaccines for babies from six months up to the age of five.

In countries such as the United States, most children get the flu vaccine for free.

WILL WE HAVE VACCINE SHORTAGES?

There were shortages last year, but that meant vaccine manufacturers produced a lot more doses this year. Experts said any shortages were unlikely to happen again and if there were any supply issues, it should be fixed in a few days.

SOME AUSTRALIANS CAN GET A FREE VACCINATION. WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Many Australians can get vaccinated against the flu for free thanks to the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

This year, the Government has secured more than 6 million doses of the vaccine to help protect those most at risk of getting sick.

For the first time, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged six months or older will be eligible for a free flu vaccine.

Previously, only Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people aged six months to five years, or older than 15, were eligible.

Other Australians who are entitled to a free flu vaccination include:

- Adults aged 65 and over
- Adults and children (aged six months and over) with certain medical conditions
- Pregnant women

Congratulations to the 2019 Mayoral Academic Scholarship recipients



The Mayoral Academic Scholarships were held last night at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and nine students were announced as successful recipients.

The scholarships worth \$2500 will

assist each recipient with their studies, including helping them purchase items like textbooks or tools. The scholarships are made possible by local sponsors who recognise the importance of

supporting those trying to further their education and training. Council received applications from students across the local government and the successful applicants were chosen through an interview selection process.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated the recipients and thanked the sponsors. "We had a number of applications from a variety of students. It was wonderful to meet with these applicants as part of the selection process and learn about their goals. There is certainly a bright future ahead for all those who applied." "For those that missed out this year, we encourage them to apply again and look forward to their application."

This is the 18th year Council has offered the Mayoral Academic Scholarships. In this time Council has supported 219 students and provided students with a magnificent total of \$547,500.

The deserving group of scholarship recipients are listed below:

- Austar Coal, Mining Technical/Engineering—**Jackson Woodbine**
- Hunter Resource Recovery, Post HSC—**Kyle Rees**
- Hunter Resource Recovery, Undergraduate—**Kelsey Popple**
- John Knipe Memorial, Cessnock Rugby League Supporters Club Tourism and Hospitality—**Georgia Bailey**
- Cessnock Retired Mineworkers Association, Mining—**Jessica Grierson**
- Kurri Kurri Retired Mineworkers Association, Local Government—**Olivia Palfreyman**
- Solo Resource Recovery, TAFE—**Emily Munnery**
- The Rotary Club of Cessnock Inc. Building and Associated Trades—**Ashleigh Neville**
- Merv Mahon, Northern District and State Council Retired Mineworkers Association, Undergraduate—**Brianna Crawford**

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Ingredients

- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 3 teaspoon finely chopped ginger
- 12 chicken drumsticks
- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- 150g (1/2 cup) Korma curry paste
- 400g can finely chopped or diced tomatoes
- 210g (1 cup) split red lentils, rinsed
- 500ml (2 cups) Massel chicken style liquid stock
- Crème fraîche, to serve
- Baby fresh coriander, to serve

Method

•□□□□□□□ **Step 1**
Preheat oven to 220C/200C fan forced. Sprinkle the onion, garlic and ginger over the base of a large baking dish. Nestle the

Indian-spiced chicken drumsticks tray bake



chicken in the onion mixture. Spread the curry paste over the chicken. Drizzle with oil. Season.

•□□□□□□□ **Step 2**

Roast for 15-20 minutes or until vegetables and chicken start to turn golden. Reduce heat to 180°C/160°C fan forced. Use tongs to turn the chicken over. Drizzle the tomato around the chicken. Sprinkle the lentils over the tomato and pour over the stock. Roast for a further 30 minutes or until the stock is absorbed and the chicken is cooked through. Top with crème fraîche and coriander.

2019-20 Operational Plan - Public Exhibition

The Draft Operational Plan for 2019-20 is now on public exhibition and we need your input! This is your chance get insight into what Council plans to achieve in the next financial year. The Draft Operational Plan includes details of Council's draft budget, as well as Council's proposed Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges. This is your chance to provide comment on Council's projects and plans for the 2019 -2020 period, your feedback is important and will help to inform the preparation of the final plan. This year continues the focus on improving access to better

transport links, accessible infrastructure, services and facilities. A few highlights include public domain works in Branxton, the continuation of the Cessnock Civic Precinct Revitalisation Program and development of the Cessnock Airport. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he is excited to deliver the plan and all of the wonderful projects to the Cessnock community. "It's a pleasure to present Council's Operational Plan, for the upcoming financial year. The annual Operational Plan provides us with a road map to achieve our objectives."

"We have a strong focus on improving the services we provide and upgrading community infrastructure throughout the local government area." "I encourage members of the community to take the time and look over the plan. It's going to be another busy year for Council as we continue to work towards achieving the vision set out under the Community Strategic Plan." The draft plan will be on public exhibition from 9 May 2019 to 5 June 2019 at Council's Administration Building, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries or view it online.

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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Green ballot paper – Number every box in the order of your choice

Sample ballot paper

White ballot paper – you can choose to vote either above or below the line

Sample ballot paper

EITHER

Vote above the line Number at least 6 boxes for parties or groups, in the order of your choice.

OR

Vote below the line Number at least 12 boxes for individual candidates, in the order of your choice.

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

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



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!

Changes to the Law for Drink and Drug Drivers



From 20 May 2019, anyone caught drink or drug driving in New South Wales will lose their licence immediately in addition to being issued with a fine of almost \$600.00. Under a tough new regime, first time low-range drink-drivers will be slapped with an on-the-spot licence suspension of three months from May 20th and ordered to pay \$561.00. Drivers found with drugs in their system will face the same sanction if the offence is confirmed by laboratory analysis. NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy states that NSW drivers should be able to travel the state's roads without worrying about being hit by a drunk driver or a person under the influence. He has been quoted as saying that there

are "no more excuses". Approximately 68 people died in alcohol-related crashes in NSW in 2018. Drug driving resulted in a similar number of deaths. The NSW Roads Minister, Andrew Constance, says NSW is adopting a zero-tolerance approach. The statistics currently show that 56 percent of low-range drink driving offenders who face Court escape without conviction. They manage to keep their licence and are not fined which is of significant concern to Mr Constance. The legislative changes will bring an end to that with offenders losing their licence on the spot. The offender can appeal the decision but face the risk of a bigger fine and longer suspension if not successful in their appeal. Each state of Australia has differing levels of penalties. NSW will now be considered one of the strictest states. Similarly to NSW, Victoria has some of the strictest penalties for

drink-driving where a driver will be fined and disqualified from driving for six months if they return a reading between 0.05 and 0.069. The offender is also required to have an alcohol interlock device fitted to their car. In most states the penalty increases if the reading is higher. For example, in Queensland, the penalty for drink driving varies depending on the prescribed concentration of alcohol detected in the driver's blood. If the blood alcohol content is greater than 0.05 but below 0.10, this will incur a 24-hour licence suspension and a fine. If the reading is higher, the penalty increases and police have the power to suspend the driver's licence until the matter is in court. The situation is a little more relaxed for low-range drink driving offenders in the Northern Territory with the result being an infringement notice however their licence will not be suspended. If a driver repeats the offence however the fines are stricter and will penalties will often involve licence suspension and an alcohol interlock device will be fitted. *Cheers, Kerri*



shore up the values of apartments, which in general, have experienced lower price falls than detached houses. With Sydney property values down by almost 11% over the past 12 months, the market is ripe for the picking, especially by investors. There's a good reason why property is one of Australia's best-loved assets, and even amid the current downturn, property is still vastly less volatile than many other asset classes. Who can forget when Australian shares plunged more than 7% in a single day – the infamous "Black Tuesday" of January 2008 during the Global Financial Crisis? The bottom line is that home buyers are getting a lot more bang for their buck today compared to a year ago. Interest rates are still super low, and it really is a very compelling market to buy in.

CGT and negative gearing changes will impact tenants and landlords

A report released by the Housing Industry

Association (HIA) shows the majority of Australian voters do not understand Labor's proposed changes to capital gains tax and negative gearing. "Changes to existing capital gains tax and negative gearing arrangements on residential investment properties proposed by the Federal Opposition will dampen first home buyer capacity to save for their first home," says HIA's Managing Director, Graham Wolfe. Wolfe says these changes will also see rental costs increase for landlords. Bad policy "HIA has always said that changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax for housing are bad policy," says Wolfe. "Rental supply is crucial. The September quarter of 2018 marked the first time since December 2006 that rents in Sydney declined in real terms. "The recent additional supply of rental properties has underpinned the improvement in rental affordability. Changing the tax treatment on residential investment properties risks undoing the good work and lifting rental prices. Research backs up HIA's claim Research commissioned by HIA and conducted by JWS Research surveyed all age groups, political persuasions and socio-economic backgrounds to find out what Australians really think about the proposed changes to capital gains tax and negative gearing. Wolfe says the results show twice as many voters oppose the changes than support them. "This report shows that many Australians have little understanding of how Labor's changes would affect them," he says. "According to the research, only 34 percent of

Australians are aware of the proposed changes and understand it at some level. Others have no understanding. "Australians are being asked to make a decision on a policy that will harm them directly, without fully understanding the consequences, or the policy objectives." Because of this, Wolfe says, 74 per cent of those surveyed believe there should be a review of the policy before any changes are made. Rents will rise and investment will fall Wolfe says the report shows 52 per cent of people surveyed believe rents will rise as a consequence of the changes. "And with 92 per cent of renters aspiring to buy their own home, Labor's proposed changes will weigh heavily on their savings' plans," he continues. "If these changes are made, rents will rise as supply dries up due to a lack of investment in new housing. This will make renting a home less affordable. "If rents rise, renters saving for a deposit for their own home will take a backward step. "These changes are anti-investment. They fail to recognise that private rental accommodation provides homes for almost three million families and reducing the supply of private rental homes will only lead to an increase in rents. Wolfe is adamant the housing affordability challenge cannot be solved by taxing housing. "Yet this policy seeks to do just that," he says. *Impact on property managers* In an already tense and heavily-regulated industry, Michelle McLean, Senior Property Manager at Leah

Jay and Chair of REINSW's Property Management Chapter Committee, says changes to capital gains tax and negative gearing will put even more pressure on agents. "It appears the Government is looking at yet another deterrent for people to invest in the property market and consider other viable investment options, such as shares, managed funds and superannuation," she says. "This is only going to create a tougher market for any tenant looking to rent with the possibility of higher rents and a longer wait to get into the market themselves." With Gladys Berejiklian taking the Coalition to an historic third term as the State's first elected female premier, the NSW property market has achieved some stability in the last month. However major changes at the Federal level could upset that.

Is the Australian dream dying?

Recent independent research released by the Housing Industry Association (HIA) suggests the Australia dream of owning a home is dying. Despite 81 per cent of respondents agreeing everyday Australians should be able to own their own home, the research provides a disturbing insight into Australia's sentiment towards home ownership and housing affordability. "Over 92 per cent of tenants aspire to own their own home," says

HIA Chief Economist, Tim Reardon. "But less than half of them think they will achieve this dream. *Not enough government support* Reardon says the research shows respondents believe the Government must do more to help Australians become home owners. "Australians see that the Government has a role to play in assisting first home buyers address the biggest barrier to home ownership, which is the initial deposit," he says. "This is because they see that home ownership is important to achieving financial stability." 65 per cent of respondents believe young people or first home buyers should be given more flexibility to aid market entry. This is a critical issue given 73 per cent of respondents also believe they will be unable to afford to buy a home in an area they want to live and 71 per cent are concerned that not owning a home will lead to financial challenges in retirement. "It is a sad indictment on the NSW Government if hard-working NSW families can't afford to live the Australian dream," says REINSW CEO, Tim McKibbin. "Renting is a great option for many NSW families, if that is their choice. However, if the reason they're renting is because they cannot afford to buy a home due to government-imposed taxes and charges, something must be done. "Tax should be a consequence of a transaction, not a consideration. if it becomes a consideration, as is the case with stamp duty, it is a very bad tax." Sarah Bester, General Manager of Ray White Double Bay, says housing affordability has always been affected by excessive stamp duty margins, especially for first time home buyers.

Good news home owners!

We're set to enjoy another month of record low interest rates with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) sitting tight yet again, and keeping the cash rate unchanged at 1.5%. The RBA's reluctance to change the cash rate comes on the back of the latest job market figures, which show Australia's unemployment rate has dropped from 5.0% to a tiny 4.9% , the lowest in eight years. Despite signs of a slowing economy, the Reserve says we are still on track to achieve economic growth this year, and a drop in the unemployment rate gives the RBA reason to hit the 'pause' button on a possible rate cut. New South Wales has copped the double whammy of a state

election backed by a federal election. This has bought an element of uncertainty to the market, and it's seen many home buyers and investors sit on their plans – at least until the election results, and consequently, government policies – are known. But not everyone is waiting on the sidelines. CoreLogic data suggests that in spite of the doomers and gloomers, first home buyers have been taking advantage of cooler market conditions, and heading to Sydney's Greater West to enjoy a decent serve of improved housing affordability. The surge in first home buyer activity is helping to

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300 M: 0412 566 041

NORTH ROTHBURY

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

Stylish, tasteful & smart all describe this wonderful 4 bedroom family home on over 1000sm. Features include 4 good sized bedrooms with built-ins, large living areas, spacious modern kitchen & bathroom, ducted air con, men's shed and carport. All this overlooking a community park.

ASKING \$485,000



BRANXTON GARDENS ~ SENIOR LIVING

Heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit with an ensuite to the main bedroom

Features include ~ heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit with an ensuite to the main bedroom, walk-in robe, a lock-up garage, natural gas & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also features security gating.

The unit is next to Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

ASKING \$315,000



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



 An old German Shepherd dog starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch. The old German Shepherd thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep shit now!" & noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder, if there are any more around here?" Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!", says the panther, "That was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!" Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes. The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther. The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!" Now, the old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?," but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says... "Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!" **Moral of this story...** Don't mess with the old dogs... age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery & BS and brilliance only come with age and experience!

Daily Thoughts

"I have stopped smoking now and then, for a few months at a time, but it was not on principle, it was only to show off; it was to pulverize those critics who said I was a slave to my habits and couldn't break my bonds." **Mark Twain**
"Asthma doesn't seem to bother me any more unless I'm around cigars or dogs. The thing that would bother me most would be a dog smoking a cigar." **Steve Allen**
"It is now proved beyond doubt that smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics." **Fletcher Knebel**

"Never forget that only dead fish swim with the stream." **Malcolm Muggeridge**
"Never argue at the dinner table, for the one who is not hungry gets the best of the argument." **Richard Whately**
"Conversation is the enemy of good wine and food." **Alfred Hitchcock**
"Constant complaint is the poorest sort of pay for all the comforts we enjoy." **Benjamin Franklin**
"Honesty pays, but it don't seem to pay enough to suit some people." **Kin Hubbard**
"I'm way overdue for a promotion. I've made so many lateral moves, I'm beside myself." **Gary Apple**
"Half of the world's misery comes from ignorance. The

other half comes from intelligence." **Bonar Thompson**
"Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." **Benny Hill**
"It isn't necessary to imagine the world ending in fire or ice -- there are two other possibilities: one is paperwork, and the other is nostalgia." **Frank Zappa**
"One thing a computer can do that most humans can't is be sealed up in a cardboard box and sit in a warehouse." **Jack Handey**
Enjoyment is not a goal. It is a feeling that accompanies important ongoing activity. **Paul Goodman**
Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We

do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but rather, we have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. **Aristotle**
How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. **Anne Frank**
My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that 'achievement' is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others and that's nice too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success." **Helen Hayes**

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

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

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

ASKING \$399,000



BRANXTON

EAST BRANXTON



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

ASKING \$349,000

East Branxton

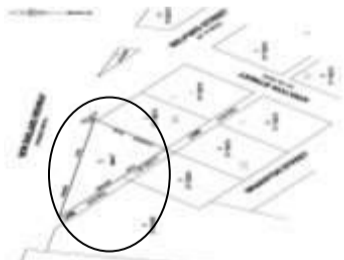


Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

ASKING \$275,000

BELFORD



Vacant Land 2559m²

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

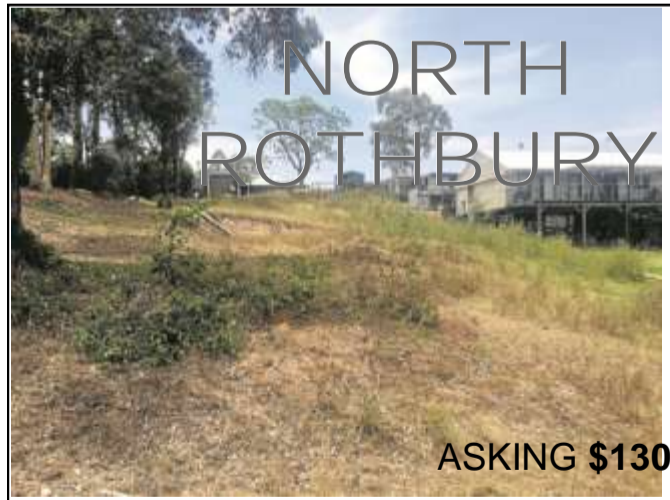
NORTH ROTHBURY



Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road, Vacant blocks

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

NORTH ROTHBURY



Vacant Land 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ONO

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

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



NSW Police and Crime Stoppers thank the community for their support during 'Dob in a Dealer' campaign

NSW Police and Crime Stoppers have thanked the community for their ongoing support during the recent 'Dob in a Dealer' campaign. The Commonwealth Government funded campaign was launched in January in the Tweed/Byron Police District before being rolled out in 13 other locations, to target Australia's supply of illicit drugs including methamphetamine (ice), cocaine, MDMA, heroin and cannabis. During each launch, police and Crime Stoppers conducted community-engagement activities to encourage members of the public to report information about prohibited drugs.

The campaign, which ran for two months, saw an 18% increase in drug-related information reports to Crime Stoppers, and of note, a 17% increase in amphetamine-related information reports. NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar thanked the community for getting behind the campaign. "Since the launch of 'Dob in a Dealer', police across the state have been working hard to educate the community on the dangers of prohibited drugs, which is why it was so positive to see the calls coming in from members of the public," Assistant Commissioner Cassar said.

"On behalf of all police, I thank each and every one of you for taking the time to provide that information and I can assure you that we will

continue to do everything we can to reduce the availability of prohibited drugs and minimise the harm it can cause.

"It is important to remember that prohibited drugs can impact on people from all socio-economic backgrounds and spans the entire geography of this state.

"That's why it is so important that people across NSW are doing their bit to help rid our communities of illicit substances, and I urge anyone with information to continue to come forward, as every piece of information can help solve crimes and reduce drug activity," Assistant Commissioner Cassar said. Crime Stoppers NSW CEO, Peter Price AM, said this is a great result for the people of NSW.

"The events were well received in all the locations we visited, and it seems we all share a common goal – to create safer communities for ourselves and our families," Mr Price said.

"While we are pleased with the initial success of the campaign, we would like to continue to see an ongoing increase in the reporting of drug-related crimes.

"Drug-related offences not only costs millions of dollars in healthcare and law enforcement, but tragically and unnecessarily it costs human lives," Mr Price said. Data from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commissioner's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program illustrates the ongoing 'ice' problem across the country. In the last year, cocaine consumption in NSW has increased, almost doubling in Sydney. In addition, NSW has the highest recorded heroin usage in Australia.

The Dob in a Dealer campaign has come to an end for 2019, however NSW Police and Crime Stoppers would like to reinforce the importance of reporting information on any and all crime in the community.

If you think you have information about someone who is manufacturing or supplying drugs, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 for a confidential conversation, or report securely online at www.crimestoppers.com.au.

Three Rebels OMCG members and an associate charged over home invasion and kidnapping

Wednesday, 08 May 2019
Strike Force Raptor North have charged three Rebels outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG) members and an associate over their alleged roles in a home invasion, where a man was seriously assaulted, and a kidnapping in the Hunter region.

As part of ongoing targeting of the illicit activities of OMCGs, the Criminal Groups Squad's Strike Force Raptor North investigators established Strike Force Koorool in December 2018 to investigate the activities of the Newcastle Rebels OMCG chapter. Police will allege in court that a group of men, three who are Rebels OMCG members and an associate, broke into a home in Cessnock and seriously assaulted one of the occupants, a 24-year-old man, on Wednesday 30 May 2018.

The man was treated at John Hunter Hospital for serious head and ear injuries and was later released. On Sunday 10 March 2019, police stopped a Ford Falcon sedan on Mount View Road, Cessnock, and spoke with the five male occupants, including an injured 22-year-old. It will be alleged in court that the 22-year-old man had been assaulted by the other men in the vehicle.

Following extensive inquiries, strike force investigators, with the assistance of specialist tactical officers, arrested four men – aged 24, 25, 27, and 37 – at homes in Cessnock, Edgeworth and Swansea, and at Cessnock Police Station yesterday (Tuesday 7 May 2019).

Shortly after, strike force investigators executed search warrants at the properties where they located several items, including Rebels OMCG colours, mobile phones, two Harley Davidson motorcycles, a car and a firearm. These items were seized to undergo forensic examination. The 25-year-old Cessnock man was charged with aggravated break and enter and commit serious indictable offence – inflict actual bodily harm, take/

detain person in company with intent to obtain advantage, knowingly direct activities of criminal group, and two counts of dishonestly obtain financial advantage by deception. He was refused bail and appeared at Cessnock Local Court yesterday, where he was formally refused bail to appear before the same court on Wednesday 10 July 2019. The 27-year-old Swansea man was charged with aggravated break and enter and commit serious indictable offence – inflict actual bodily harm, knowingly participate in criminal group assist crime, and dishonestly obtain financial advantage by deception.

The 37-year-old Edgeworth man was charged with aggravated break and enter and commit serious indictable offence – inflict actual bodily harm, take/detain person in company with intent to obtain advantage, dishonestly obtain financial advantage by deception, and knowingly participate in criminal group assist crime.

They were both refused bail to appear before Belmont Local Court today (Wednesday 8 May 2019).

The 24-year-old Cessnock man was charged with take/detain person in company with intent to obtain advantage and knowingly participate in criminal group assist crime. He was refused bail to appear at Cessnock Local Court today. Investigations are continuing. Strike Force Raptor was established in 2009 and conducts proactive investigations and intelligence-based, high-impact policing operations to prevent and disrupt conflicts, and dismantle any network engaged in serious organised criminal activity.

Anyone with information, including relevant photos and videos, that may assist Strike Force Raptor can report it directly to investigators via the Strike Force Raptor online reporting page: https://www1.police.nsw.gov.au/Default.aspx?id=49_00_333_000.

Woman charged following alleged stabbing-Cessnock

Friday, 10 May 2019 01:32:34 PM
A woman has been charged following an alleged stabbing

\$1,000,000 reward offered for information

- # \$1 million NSW Government reward announced for the return on William Tyrrell
- # \$1 million NSW Government reward announced for information into 1974 murder of Maria Smith
- # \$1 million reward announced for information into the 1973 murder of Lynette White
- # \$1 million reward announced for information over suspected murder of Raphael Joseph
- # \$1 million for information into death of Roxlyn Bowie
- # \$1 million reward announced on 35th anniversary of the Sydney racehorse trainer, George Brown, murder

in the state's Hunter region about 2 weeks ago.

About 1am on Sunday 5 May 2019, two women, aged 25 and 33, were at a licenced premises on Vincent Street, Cessnock, when an argument broke out. As a result, the 33-year-old woman was evicted.

A short time later, she returned as the 25-year-old woman was leaving the building.

It's alleged the older woman then stabbed her several times in the back and face.

Bystanders flagged down a passing police vehicle, while the injured woman was taken to John Hunter Hospital for treatment,

she was released the following day. Following extensive inquiries, a 33-year-old woman attended Cessnock Police Station about 5pm yesterday (Thursday 9 May 2019), where she was arrested.

She's been charged with wound person with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

She was refused bail to appear at Maitland Local Court today (Friday 10 May 2019).

Anyone with information that may assist Strike Force Comboyne investigators is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages

INVITATION

Enjoy endless cuppa and fine food

Tuesday * 14th May 2019 *

At 10.00am

BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL

<p>Lucky Door Prizes</p>	<p>Entry is \$15pp</p> <p>For Bookings - Marie - 0402 015 850</p> <p>Due to strong demand, Table bookings are essential</p> <p>More than 120 guests expected</p> <p>RSVP 10th May 2019</p>	<p>Raffle Prizes</p>
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Dumping isn't giving campaign ramps up

Have you recently visited one of our local charity shops and received a "Give good or bin it" bag? Or maybe you have noticed the "Dumping isn't giving" posters in the bus stops around Cessnock?

In an effort to reduce illegal dumping on charity operations, Cessnock City Council has teamed up with local charities and launched an education and surveillance campaign. Under the campaign, surveillance cameras have been installed at local op shops and messaging about donating responsibly has been included on signs, posters and bags.

If you haven't heard already, Cessnock has a problem. Our local charities face illegal dumping on a daily basis with items left either outside premises or beside charity bins. Charities



also deal with "donations" that are undoubtedly not suitable for sale. The efforts needed to deal with the unusable "donations" takes away valuable time and resources from volunteers. Currently approximately 10% of the items left to charities are suitable for resale. The rest is

sent to impoverished communities overseas or is taken to landfill. This work is all at the expense of the charity shops and impacts funds that would otherwise help local families in need.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he

hopes the campaign will encourage people to think more carefully before donating. "If you are unsure about whether your donations are of saleable quality, please go into the op shops and ask if the item is wanted. A bit of extra care and effort from everyone in the community can make this issue a thing of the past."

This campaign was developed to start a conversation. Local charities play a vital role in our community helping people in need. As a community we have a responsibility to ensure they can continue their vital work by responsibly disposing of, donating or gifting the items we no longer want. To find out more about the impacts of illegal dumping and what you can do about it visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/illegal Dumping.

Open 7 days

8am - 8pm

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)

Author Talk and Masterclass with Jaye Ford and Fiona McArthur

Members say



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

We've all known for a long time about the scourge of drugs and in particular, ice. Currently, there is a State Government 'Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug Ice' and Council recently made a submission about the impacts here in our local area. Treatment and support services within our LGA are limited, and the assessment and counselling services which are available have significant waiting lists. In order to address the very sad implications of drug use in our region, we need a holistic approach that deals with treatment and rehabilitation, in addition to the law and order options available.

Unfortunately, it's not enough to just say no. People take drugs for a variety of reasons - some for fun, whereas for others it's

escapism and to self-medicate, but the consequences of its use affect more than just the user, it affects their family, friends and the wider community more generally. We all need to do our bit to understand the reasons behind its use and help those vulnerable to not only give up but to deal with the deeper issues driving them towards it. We need to surround them with the right mix of medical and emotional support to help them get back on track. Hopefully the results of the Commission of Inquiry will go a long way to providing direction as to how we can best achieve this.

Council's Draft Operational Plan is now on public exhibition so I'd encourage everyone to have a look and have your say. The Operational Plan is a snap shot of works and activities to be completed across the LGA over the 2019-20 financial year. It also includes the draft budget and proposed Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges. You can find the Draft Plan on Council's website, its administrative building and at the Cessnock & Kurri Kurri Libraries until 5 June

<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/2019-2020operationalplan>

Cheers, Mel

The lazy way to work; 'Park and Ride'

Promoted very disappointed with response & will give 1-week FREE for those who could use the service as a trial

With a federal election around the corner and just gone through a state election a key phrase that you're hearing about a lot is "the cost of living power prices." Fuel prices, day to day expenses of keeping a roof over your head, fuel in the car and food on the table. With this in mind, a local transport company and Huntlee have partnered together to reduce the cost and viability of a Park and Ride service from Huntlee Estate to the Newcastle CBD. Over 100 people are using the park and ride service that is available at McDonald Jones Stadium but unfortunately, Newcastle City Council has now put this service under review so it may have an uncertain future. We don't want that for the people of Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury or Huntlee Estate who work in the Newcastle CBD and have to make their way into town every day for work. So Huntlee Estate put forward a research and viability study on running its own service into town. The study concluded that due to the lack of train availability, especially in the afternoon when there are no trains at all, the trains were not a viable transport option. Cars also are a difficult solution for transport because of the difficulties of finding parking in Newcastle or paying \$8.50 per day plus fuel, maintenance and other costs of running private vehicles. The conclusion was to implement a specialised, localised bus service that delivers the people of Huntlee and surrounding areas an affordable, easy transport option. Huntlee Estate has partnered with Newcastle Connections to provide an affordable, hassle-free park and ride bus service to and from the Newcastle CBD. The Express Bus - Huntlee costs only \$20 per day return, departing at 7.30am every morning and returning at 5.15pm every afternoon. The owner of Newcastle Connections, David Harding, has said "I'm really excited about the new Park and Ride service for Huntlee. We're looking forward to offering a stress-free relaxed way of getting to work and home again every day. By all means please check the website that we have custom built for Huntlee that details the drop-off and pick up routes through the Newcastle CBD. www.expressbushuntlee.com I also look forward to speaking with any other people who require transport north south east or west."

So if you want to minimise the ongoing costs of living, rising fuel prices, and a stressful drive to work, check out the website and if it fits for you, make a booking.

The service commenced on Monday 6th May.

Readers and budding writers are in for a treat at Kurri Kurri Library on Saturday 18 May. Bestselling Australian authors Jaye Ford and Fiona McArthur will talk about their journey as writers and careers as authors. Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters is encouraging locals to come along and enjoy this fabulous and free author talk and Masterclass. "Jaye and Fiona are acclaimed multi-published Australian authors. Whether you are looking to send to publishers or just enjoy writing as a hobby, their author talk and Masterclass are a way of sharing the art of writing and love of the written word." Jaye Ford started a career in the media as a cadet journalist in radio, going on to work in print and television, in both news and sport. Jaye then left the media and ran her own public relations consultancy.

When Jaye isn't writing crime, she's penning women's fiction as Janette Paul. Her first novel under that name, 'Just Breathe', was released in 2013 after her second thriller ('Scared Yet?') became a bestselling digital title. In her other life from writing, as

a wife, Mum and Grand Mum, Fiona McArthur worked as a midwife hence the medical themes that recur in her books. Her focus in writing now is with contemporary medical drama, the wonderful friendships and the intergenerational rapport between her female lead characters.

Big rural fiction books are very dear to her heart because she admires our outback pioneers of the past and present and the emergency and medical staff

who care for them. "Crime, Romance and a Masterclass on Getting It Done" will follow the talk. This writing Masterclass with Jaye and Fiona will look at unlocking some of the techniques essential to all writers. Learn about creating characters, working up a plot, building tension, and how to start and finish your story. Using the experience of more than 50 books between them, Jaye and Fiona will also discuss tips and techniques for maintaining your

focus and getting to the end. 10.30-11.30am Author talk at Kurri Kurri Library then. 12.30-2.30pm Crime, Romance and a Masterclass on Getting it Done. Both the author talk and Masterclass are FREE events. Book online at libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au under 'Events & Bookings,' in the event listing on the Cessnock City Library Facebook page or by calling Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.

Free MICROCHIPPING DAY

- 8 MAY 9AM - 12PM**
Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre Car Park
- 13 MAY 1PM - 4PM**
North Rothbury Huntlee Fenced Dog Park
- 20 MAY 9AM - 12PM**
Cessnock Cessnock Sportsground Car Park
- 28 MAY 1PM - 4PM**
Weston Maybury Peace Park Car Park opposite

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WHAT'S ON



Friday 17th May

LOOSE CHANGE



Friday 24th May

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Friday 31st May

EARLY DAZE



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\$3.80 Schooners





heretofore unsuspected criminal operation that explains the Hawkins conviction and extends far beyond Burlington's sleepy city limits.

Amos Decker returns in this novel with all the various series conventions intact. A former football player, he's a "mountain of a man" at six five, 300 pounds, his diet is poor, his social skills are spotty at best, and the hyperthymesia and synesthesia resulting from the head injury that knocked him out of football still plague him.

Baldacci uses the hyperthymesia, a condition in which one has an ability to recall personal memories in exact detail, in two ways. When it occurs involuntarily, it destabilizes Decker and introduces tension and suspense. When Decker voluntarily reaches into his vast store hold of personal memories, it serves as a plot device allowing Decker to retrieve important case information from what he refers to as his personal "cloud."

While this condition makes Decker an interesting series protagonist (the synesthesia component being applied only in spots and for no apparent reason), Baldacci's other series characters need serious help. Alex Jamison is back, but she's quickly run off to Washington so that Decker can interact with Mary Lancaster, his old partner with the Burlington police.

Jamison's relationship with Decker continues to offer possibilities, but . . . Partway through the novel, former convicted murder Melvin Mars (*The Last Mile*, 2016) hits town to assist Decker in his investigation. As a sidekick, he's like something out of a bad '70s black-and-white-guy buddy film. His jive dips and fades, he dates and baits a primary female suspect while remaining emphatically faithful to the little woman back home, and the football stuff ends up being just a little too hokey to swallow.

The worst characterization sin, however, takes place

after the story has been chugging along nicely enough for the first hundred pages or so. With Jamison out of town and Lancaster alienated by Decker's poor social skills, Decker has been poking into things on his own when Baldacci suddenly decides his hero needs a new barrier and personal threat. Enter Detective Blake Natty and Superintendent Peter Childress.

This is the kind of fictional device that sends otherwise intelligent readers flying out to the woodshed in search of an ax to chop this offending 400-page outrage into tiny little pieces. Why do bestselling authors think it's cute to unexpectedly introduce characters who suddenly and unjustly attack our beloved hero and attempt to derail his intrepid efforts at every turn?

Natty and Childress are such outrageous cretins that it's not possible they could be arresting and humiliating Decker, is it? As readers we're supposed to feel upset and protective of our hero, but these characters are so blatantly flat and ludicrous that we end up enormously pissed that Baldacci would think we're stupid enough to play along with this kind of nonsense.

Using characters this poor to introduce a plot twist is an indicator that Baldacci is a rather weak performer when it comes to plot in general. Decker repetitively orbits around main suspects Mitzi Gardiner, Susan Richards, and Rachel Katz like a moth around a porch light, making no progress, until we have to restrain ourselves a second time from going after that ax. But when Baldacci finally pops the bubble and reveals the actual crime underpinning the whole thing, it's so implausible it's a little numbing. Really? It's *that*? Where on earth did *that* come from?

In *Redemption* David



on *King & Maxwell*, a TNT television series based on his characters Sean King and Michelle Maxwell.

Jon Tenney and Rebecca Romijn starred. *The Christmas Train*, Baldacci's eighth novel, was adapted in 2017 by Hallmark Channel as a Hallmark Hall of Fame feature presentation. The TV movie starred Dermot Mulroney, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Danny Glover and Joan Cusack and was directed by Ron Oliver.

Baldacci's novels have been published in over 45 languages and in more than 80 countries, with over 130 million worldwide sales as of 2018.

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (5 May 2019)

1. New this week

REDEMPTION

by David Baldacci

The fifth book in the Memory Man series. The first man Amos Decker put behind bars asks to have his name cleared.

2. New this week

THE MISTER

by E. L. James

Maxim Trevelyan inherits several estates and beds his cleaner Alessia Demachi, an Albanian piano prodigy who has been trafficked into England.

3. 32 weeks on the list

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

by Delia Owens

In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.

4. New this week

NORMAL PEOPLE

by Sally Rooney

The connection between a high school star athlete and a loner ebbs and flows when they go to Trinity College in Dublin.

52 weeks on the list

5. A GAME OF THRONES

by George R.R. Martin

In the frozen wastes to the north of Winterfell, sinister and supernatural forces are mustering. Basis of the HBO series.

Baldacci maintains that basic consistency with his series protagonist, which makes the Memory Man so attractive to fans. Decker is an interesting character worthy of further exploration.

Unfortunately, the author's

control of other elements such as secondary characters and plotting is wildly uneven. At the end of the day, he's far from being the kind of author one could say has consistent command of his material.

Redemption is more Amos Decker for faithful fans who love their guy, but it's a long, long way from being worthy of anything more than faint praise.

Reviewed by:

Michael J. McCann

Redemption is more Amos Decker for faithful fans who love their guy, but it's a long, long way from being worthy of anything more than faint praise.

Professional baseball scouts love to make a distinction between "control" and "command" when evaluating pitchers. A prospect who can throw his various pitches for strikes is said to have control, while one who can locate his pitches anywhere he wants at any time is said to have that rarer commodity referred to as command. Applying this concept to the art of writing mystery novels within an ongoing series, one could say that an author has control over recurring characters and ongoing themes if they can maintain a basic consistency in how they're

deployed in each new novel. In rarer cases, they can exhibit command over their material by moving the various elements around to show readers new and exciting wrinkles each time out.

Redemption is David Baldacci's fifth mystery featuring Amos Decker, the Memory Man. In this installment he returns once more to Burlington, Ohio, to visit the graves of his murdered family. While at the cemetery he's unexpectedly confronted by Meryl Hawkins, a convicted killer from the very first homicide case Decker investigated as a young detective with the Burlington police.

Increasingly convinced that Hawkins was innocent after all, Decker revisits his various errors and oversights until he uncovers evidence of a stunning,

Virginia, with his family Baldacci and his wife, Michelle, are the co-founders of the Wish You Well Foundation, which works to combat illiteracy in the United States. Baldacci became involved with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society after his sister, author Sharon Baldacci, was diagnosed with MS.

Works

Baldacci's first novel, *Absolute Power*, tells the story of a fictional American president and his Secret Service agents who are willing to commit murder in order to cover up the accidental death of a woman with whom the President was having an affair. It was adapted as a film, *Absolute Power* (1997), starring Clint Eastwood and Gene Hackman. Baldacci wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of his novel *Wish You Well*; the movie was shot on location in southwest Virginia with Academy Award winner Ellen Burstyn, Josh Lucas, and Mackenzie Foy in the lead roles.

Baldacci was a consulting producer

About

Early life and education

David Baldacci was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Henrico High School and earned a B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, after which he practiced law for nine years in Washington, D.C. He is of Italian descent from Barga, in Tuscany

Career

Baldacci began writing stories as a child, when his mother gave him a notebook in which to record them. He wrote for more than two decades, penning short stories and later screenplays without much success. While practicing law, he turned to novel writing, taking three years to write *Absolute Power*. Published in 1996, it was an international best seller. To date, Baldacci has published 37 best-selling novels for adults as well as seven novels for younger readers.

Personal life and charities

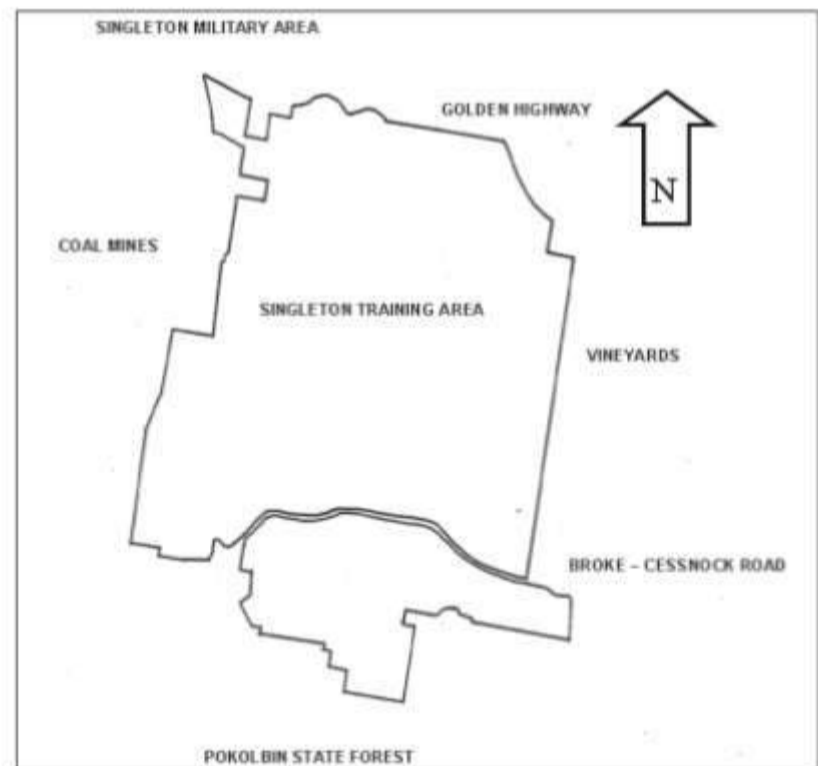
Baldacci resides in Fairfax County,



Australian Government

Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



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

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

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

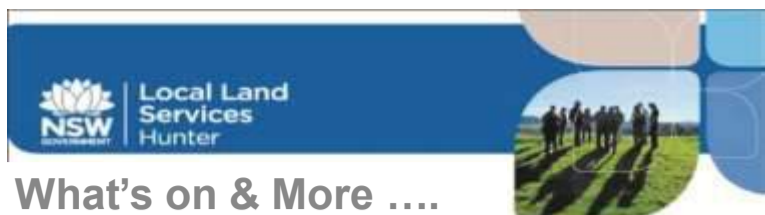
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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



What's on & More

COMING EVENTS....

Lambs Valley Wild Dog Information Day - Elderslie

When: 1 Jun 2019 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Elderslie Hall, 758 Elderslie Rd, Elderslie

Contact: Kyra O'Brien, Biosecurity Officer P 0427 492 958

Details: Come and find out about best practice wild dog management.

Join us for a free information day presented by Hunter Local Land Services

Biosecurity Team and wild dog wild dog expert Stuart Boyd-Law.

Talk about wild dog management options with your local community and other land

managers and learn how you can become involved in effective control programs.

This event will include:

- Hands on experience with best practice control techniques
- Learning how to identify signs of wild dog activity
- Evaluating the impacts of wild dogs
- How to become part of an effective wild dog program
- How to use Wild Dog Scan to map wild dog activity.

Please register via this link: <https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/z1bnjejy1i63b23/>

Introductory Course to Property Planning - Bulahdelah

When: 3 Jun 2019 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Details: Free two day course for landowners in the Myall, Crawford and Karuah

catchments

Join us for this introductory course, to develop your own farm plan. A farm plan will

help you to protect your asset, manage your riparian zones and protect water quality.

The course over two days will include practical in the field examples.

This course will:

- help you to understand the production capacity of your property
- demonstrate the biodiversity values of your riparian corridors
- show you how to use aerial photograph based mapping to analyse existing infrastructure and natural resources
- help you develop an adaptable farm action plan to meet your property management goals

Please register via this link: <https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/z1seovk6095fcs3/>

Places are strictly limited, please RSVP for catering purposes. Morning tea and

lunch included.

This program is funded by Hunter Local Land Services with support from the

Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Australian Thoroughbred

Compiled by Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

Racing solace for former Muswellbrook billionaire

Santa Ana Lane's imperious victory in the \$2.5million Aquis T J Smith Stakes over 1200m at Randwick on April 6, the 6-year-old Lope de Vega (Ire) gelding's fifth Group1 success, may have been some solace for his breeder, one of the most flamboyant figures in Australian breeding and racing for nearly a decade this century.

He is Nathan Tinkler, a former Muswellbrook High School student, burley Muswellbrook rugby league front rower and coal industry electrical tradesman. While still in his thirties, Tinkler made so much money from shrewd modest investments in coal mines, he was described as Australia's youngest billionaire. It was wealth that disappeared down the gurgler when the coal

industry had a serious recession about 2010-12 that saw him being made bankrupt, owing many millions. His bankruptcy has been discharged. When he was at the top, Tinkler indulged a passion for breeding and racing that saw him become one of the major players in the industry, one which under the banner of Patinack Farm had operations in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. Headquarters were Patinack Farm, an aggregate of farms along the Goulburn River, Sandy Hollow, west Hunter Valley. It embraced a well known stud farm which began its history when established in the 1970s by European horse lover Souran Vanian as Manado, a stud on which Rory's Jester began his sire career. Later Colin Hayes (Lindsay Park SA) operated it as Collingrove and then English Pools tycoon Robert Sangster used it under Swettenham. It became much bigger under Tinkler's Patinack and at the time of his financial collapse hosted four high grade racehorses as sires, Lope de Vega (only visitor; like his dad Shamardal (USA), a French Derby and Guineas winner), Husson (Arg) (an unbeaten

Argentinian champion at two and three by Hussonet (USA), Casino Prince (Flying Spur multiple Group1 performer) and Murtajill (Rock of Gibraltar (Ire), a good 2yo and sprinter). All four horses suffered diminished opportunity when Patinack dispersed but three, Lope de Vega, Casino Prince, now at Vinery) and Husson (Aquis Queensland) have supplied winners up to Group1 level. Inbred 3x3 to the Mr. Prospector sire Machiavellian, the imposing looking chestnut Lope de Vega has five sires in his immediate pedigree who were used in both hemispheres, Shamardal and Giant's Causeway (USA), paternal sire and grandsire, his dam's sire Vettori (Ire) and her maternal grandsire Kendor (Fr) and his sire Kenmare (Fr). Lope de Vega visited Patinack four times, 2011-2014 for about 330 potential runners. So far his Australian foals have included 150 winners of over 425 races and \$27,600,000. Ten stakes winners have been headed by first crop produced Group1 stars Santa Ana



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 7th May 2019

There was enough rain across the area to slow the flow of cattle, numbers reduced. There was a good supply of yearlings and cows, while vealers and grown cattle were in limited supply. The quality of the offering was fair to very good. There were some high quality yearlings penned. The regular buyers attended, with demand from all sectors strong. Restockers in particular were active. Market trends through the young cattle were dearer, with quality improvements contributing to some strong price gains. At the other end of the spectrum, restockers looking to purchase light weight, lessor quality cattle competed strongly. This resulted in those cattle showing some of the greatest improvement. The better quality restocker steer vealers saw a dearer trend, up to 10c/kg, with the plainer light weights more. The heifer vealers to restock and feed followed a similar trend, the large increase in the heavier weights related to a vast improvement in quality. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers were up to 30c/kg dearer to restockers, with a smaller improvement for feeders. There were strong gains for yearling heifers in all weight classes, with the quality of the medium and heavy weights contributing to the significant price improvement. There was a single pen of well finished heavy grown steers offered. The quality of the grown heifers was not as great as the previous sale. There was little change in the market for medium weight cows, while the well finished heavy weights saw demand increase, a dearer trend of as much as 16c/kg resulting.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 7th May 2019

Even with the supply area receiving quiet good rainfall during the week, numbers lifted and the quality was fair to good. There was a limited supply of prime conditioned cattle suitable for the butchers, with the bulk of the younger drafts purchased by the restockers and feeder orders. There were 120 cows penned and the market trend was firm to dearer. The over 200kg vealer steers sold to the restockers gained 13c and made from 240c to 300c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers and backgrounders remained firm and sold from 220c to 290c/kg. Yearling steers were limited in supply and competition was solid throughout, with feeders and the restockers paying from 240c to 298c/kg to secure their selections. The yearling heifers improved 12c, receiving from 210c to 270c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers remained close to firm, with the best topping at 321c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, with the plainer 2 scores receiving from 155c to 189c, while the better finished medium weights averaged 189c, the best reaching 196c/kg. The 3 and 4 score heavy weight cows sold from 175c to 210c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 250c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 8th May 2019

The higher prices together with the oncoming colder weather lifted numbers by 60% for a mixed quality penning of mainly younger cattle. The prime conditioned pens were limited in supply, with the majority purchased by the lot feeders and restocker orders. There were approximately 120 cows offered. The market trend was firm for the cows, while the younger pens sold to a variable trend. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers eased 7c, making from 230c to 300c, with the heavier drafts receiving from 230c to 304c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers sold 10c cheaper, with fewer of the European breeds this week, making from 170c to 272c/kg. Yearling steers maintained close to firm prices, as the medium weights received from 260c to 298c/kg. The heifer portion decreased 2c, with the lot feeders paying from 200c to 262c/kg to secure their selections. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers showing high yield potential sold to solid competition, the better pens reaching 316c/kg. Heavy weight steers and bullocks to the processors remained firm and received from 230c to 248c, while the heifers also sold at similar prices to top at 248c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, with the plainer pens making from 140c to 185c, as the better covered heavy weights received from 185c to 215c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 6th May 2019

Despite the very good rainfall on the plains, there was an increase in numbers. There was a large supply of cattle from the Tablelands where the rainfall figures halved and temperatures head towards a frost. The quality of the offering was mostly good, with a lower percentage of plain quality cattle penned. Some categories showed a vast improvement in quality. All the usual buyers attended and demand was high from all sectors. The rainfall boosted confidence for restockers and created some supply concerns for feed lotters. Market trends through the young cattle were generally dearer. Medium and heavy weight vealer steers to restock and feed saw a dearer trend of as much as 30c/kg. The heifer portion posted stronger gains. Overall, the quality of the vealers improved and contributed to the strong price gains. Medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold to a dearer trend and saw prices vary due to breed and quality variation. Plainer quality and condition light weight yearling heifers attracted strong restocker competition to post a much dearer trend. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed sold to a dearer trend of as much as 18c/kg. There were some quality related negative price changes through the young cattle. Insufficient heavy grown steers to quote. Well finished grown heifers attracted good demand from processors, selling on a firm to slightly dearer market trend. There was another large offering of cows that included some improved quality heavy weights. Overall there was little change in the market trend, however the improvement in quality did account for some price change

Lane (33 outings, 10 wins, \$5,234,000) and Vega Magic (25 starts, 13 wins, \$3,966,550). A resident at the Ballylinch Stud in Ireland on a current fee equivalent of AU\$126,000, the 12-year-old Lope de Vega has world wide statistics of 400 winners (53 SWs, 7 G1) and over \$51 million. The highest earners among them have been the two Aussies Santa Ana Lane and Vega Magic. They each included in their wins the Group 1 Goodwood at Adelaide. Trained by Anthony Freedman, Mornington Vic for a group of members of Melbourne's Australia Club under William Street Syndicate (mgr: Michael Ramden), Santa Ana Lane challenges as the best of the Lope de Vega progeny, his Group1 wins being in the T J Smith (3.5 lens), VRC Classic

(0.3 lens), Doomben Stradbroke (1.75 lens), SAJC Goodwood (1.2 lens) and Caulfield Rupert Clarke (0.75 lens). Although, he was sired and foaled on Patinack, Santa Ana Lane was on his mother, the Fastnet Rock modestly performed Fast Fleet (10 starts, won a 1500m 6-runner maiden at Eagle Farm), when she was sold for \$60,000 at the stud's reduction sale at the Gold Coast in late October 2012. He went on to realise \$80,000 at the 2014 Melbourne Premier sale and Fast Fleet to be resold in foal to young Darley Victoria shuttler Frosted (USA) to Aquis Farm, Qld for \$200,000 at the 2018 Magic Millions National Mare sale at the Gold Coast. The foal which arrived on September 1 was Fast Fleet's

seventh and fifth successive filly. So far she has only had two race, Santa Anna Lane (her second) and The Black Tide, a Kuroshio (Exceed and Excel) 3yo filly trained at Eagle Farm by Stephen O'Dea whose three outings have included two good efforts at Ipswich in January, a debut win by 2.25 lens a quarter length second. The family that produced Santa Ana Lane is first class. Fast Fleet is a half-sister to two stakes winners and another stakes placed and one of eight winners from Fleet Marguerite (USA), a Gulch (Mr. Prprospector) sprint winner. The next dam, American Listed winner and Group1 placed Far Flying, was a half-sister to Sacahuista, Champion American 3YO

Filly 1987 and dam of Hussonet (USA), a seven times champion Chilean sire imported to Australia in 2003 where Group1 winning offspring have been Weekend Hussler (Horse of the Year 2008), Eagle Falls, Reaan and Gold Trail. In addition Hussonet is a half-brother to Ekraar, a son of Red Ransom (USA) who was a top notch performer in Italy and a NZ visiting sire whose Group1 offspring include three females who have been mated with Snitzel. They are Rising Romance (won ATC Australian Oaks, Snitzel matings 2017 - filly, 2018), Shez Sinsational (four G1 NZ inc. Auckland Cup, Snitzel 2016, filly) and Exceptionally (VRC St Leger, Snitzel 2015 - filly named Talented - and 2017). Cheers, Brian



THE HUSTLE

How to reinstall Windows 10

By Nick Peers

You need to know how to reinstall Windows 10, even if the operating system is pretty indestructible. This is especially true if anything goes wrong with Windows 10 and you need to get your PC back to its glory days.

Luckily, with the Windows 10 October 2018 Update, it's never been easier to reinstall Windows 10. The operating system comes with everything you need to take charge of the situation and fix Windows 10 problems, using a combination of different tools. And, if you don't know where to start, don't worry: we'll show you how to reinstall Windows 10 in a number of different ways. And, after we show you how to reinstall Windows 10, we'll dive into a bunch of utilities that can bring your device back to life – from a simple rollback of key system files and settings, to fully reinstalling Windows 10 itself. It could be that a simple restore could do the trick, too, rather than doing a full reinstall.

Take a backup of Windows 10: Before you reinstall Windows 10, you should take steps to protect your saved files. Just think about all the priceless photos, home movies, important work documents and other irreplaceable files that would be lost in the event of a disaster.

The good news is that backing up your files couldn't be easier, and the tools you need are provided in Windows 10 itself. When it comes to backing up your files, the File History tool is your first port of call. To access it, click Start > Settings > Update & security > Backup, then follow the step-by-step guide later on in this feature to set it up to work with your backup drive, whether that's an external USB drive, a network share or network attached drive.

By default, starting with the Windows 10 April 2018 Update, Timeline automatically backs up all the content from your libraries, contacts, favorites and more. You can also rely on the File History tool on older builds of Windows 10 – if you want to back anything up with that, add any files you want to back up in one of your libraries. You can then choose 'Exclude folders' from the 'More options' screen if you want to remove certain folders from the backup.

Earlier versions: Once you've got everything set up, click 'Turn on' (if it's not automatically done for you) and File History not only starts backing up your files, but backs up different versions of them, too, giving you the option to roll back through your files to earlier revisions, which can be really useful. There are two ways to recover your files. Firstly, if you want to restore lost or accidentally deleted files, click 'Restore files from a current backup' in the 'More options' section of File History. From here, you can browse your backups by loca-

tion or library, or search for specific content.

It's just as simple to restore an earlier version of a file.

Browse for it in an Explorer window, select the file in question and click the 'History' button on the Home tab of the ribbon to see a list of previous versions of the file, before restoring the one you want.

When it comes to backing up other key settings and files, the guide opposite has all the tips, tools and tricks to keep all aspects of your PC safe.

Back up your files online

As anyone who's experienced a hardware failure will know, you can never have too many backups. So even after using File History to back up your files, you should explore another option, just in case. We recommend using an online backup, because it means there's a copy of your files stored in a separate physical location for your extra protection.

The obvious choice for Windows 10 users is to use the free OneDrive desktop app, which enables you to sync up to 35GB of files to the cloud for absolutely nothing. You'll find it on your Start screen – just click (or tap) on the OneDrive tile to launch it. If you need more storage space, you can purchase additional gigabytes in the 'Manage storage > Upgrade' area of OneDrive online.

1. Back up your settings

If you log on to your Windows 10 PC using your Microsoft account, you can take advantage of Windows' built-in Sync Your Settings feature. Although this tool is designed to synchronise personal settings across your Windows devices, it also serves as a backup for key preferences so you don't have to set them up again should disaster strike. Make sure 'Sync Your Settings' is on and choose the settings you wish to back up – to do this open Settings from the Start menu, select 'Accounts' followed by 'Sync your settings'. You'll find switches to turn the feature on and off, and you can also exclude settings from the backup, such as passwords or browser settings.

2. Take a drive image

Having a backup of your entire system enables you to quickly restore your PC to exactly how it once was when you reinstall Windows 10. Windows 10 has a built-in drive image tool, but you can get better, more efficient results with Macrium Reflect Free.

There are two basic back-up options, but we're going to choose 'Create an image of the partition(s) required to backup and restore Windows'. Make sure the correct drives have been selected, then click the '...' button next to 'Folder' to select a location on your backup drive. Finally, click 'Finish > OK' and the backup will be cre-

ated. Once complete, check that the backup is not corrupt by switching to the Restore tab and clicking 'Verify image' next to it. Finally, select 'Other tasks > Create rescue media' to create a Macrium recovery disc or USB drive.

3. Create rescue media

A recovery USB flash drive lets you access essential repair and recovery options that can save the day if your PC or tablet fails to boot. If your Windows 10 device has a recovery partition, you can store that on the drive, too. A basic recovery drive without a recovery partition requires a 256MB USB flash drive, but you'll need a drive at least 4GB in size if you plan to make a backup of the recovery partition, too (which is recommended).

To create the drive, plug in your USB flash drive, then type the word recovery into the search box. Select the 'Create a recovery drive' option under 'Settings', then follow the prompts to create your recovery stick. After the process has finished, select the option to delete the recovery partition only if you're low on storage space.

So, you've run into a bunch of Windows 10 problems, and you've tried everything, but what are your options if you're not quite ready to reinstall Windows 10?

Well, the next step would be to try using the Windows 10 System Restore tool. System Restore works similarly to File History, only it affects system and program files instead of your personal data. Snapshots of these files, known as Restore Points, are taken at key moments during general use, and if you run into problems, you can try rolling back to a previous Restore Point to see if it fixes the problem.

System Restore

System Restore usually works best when your problem has been caused by a recent change to your computer, typically through installing or updating new hardware, software or if you reinstall Windows 10 itself. The step-by-step guide below reveals how to access and use System Restore, either from within Windows or via your computer's recovery menu.

If System Restore doesn't do enough to fix the problem, then you can perform a more radical step: go back to the previous build of Windows 10. When you perform a major update of Windows, or Windows 10 installs a major new version, it creates a backup of the previous build, just in case you run into any problems. This backup is stored in the 'Windows.old' folder – it can take up a fair bit of space, and can be removed using Disk Cleanup.

But if you have the spare capacity, leave it in place in case you ever need to use it to fix a problem.

Rolling back your system in this way works in a similar fashion to System Restore: your data is unaffected, but

any changes made since the new build was installed, like changes to settings or programs, newly installed apps and so on, will be undone.

If you need to use the rollback feature, and Windows is working well enough for you to access it normally, open Settings before selecting 'Update & security' followed by 'Go back to an earlier build'. If Windows won't boot, use your recovery drive or select 'Troubleshoot > Advanced options' to access the option. You'll see a message telling you Windows is getting things ready. You'll then be asked to give a reason for why you're rolling back Windows – this helps highlight issues that may require an urgent fix.

You'll then be given a brief summary of the changes being made (no specific details are available, unlike with System Restore, sadly), with a prompt to back up for safety's sake (if File History is turned on, you're probably covered). Click Next, make a note of the warning about your logon password and then click Next again, sit back and wait while your PC is restored.

If all goes well, you should have a working version of the OS again, without having to reinstall Windows 10, and with just a few maintenance tasks to perform (reinstalling programs, updating settings, and so on) before everything's back to normal.

Beyond a rollback

Unfortunately, rolling back your PC to the previous version of Windows 10 won't always cure all issues. You may find your device still doesn't function as it should after you've refreshed it, or the procedure might not work.

If Windows comes across a problem, it'll inform you of the fact, try to resolve it and then, if the fix fails, undo all the changes it's made, leaving you back where you started.

If all else fails, fixing your PC will involve something more drastic: a complete wipe and reinstall of Windows 10 itself in what is now termed a 'reset' of your PC. The good news is that you can perform this action without losing your data or by wiping the drive entirely. However the end result is the same: you'll lose all your settings and apps.

1. System Restore

If you can boot into Windows, access System Restore via the desktop. Type 'System Protection' into the search bar and click 'Create a restore point' followed by 'System Restore...'. If Windows won't start, you can use System Restore automatically.

Or, boot from your USB recovery disk, select 'Troubleshoot', 'Advanced options' and then 'System Restore'.

2. Restore Points

By default, Windows recommends you use the most recent Restore Point; in fact, you may even find it's the only Restore Point offered. Make a note of the time and date it was taken, and click 'Scan for affected programs' to see which programs and hard-

SYNOPSIS:

Anne Hathaway and Rebel Wilson star as female scam artists, one low rent and the other high class, who team up to take down the dirty rotten men who have wronged them.



like a sitcom crammed with visual gags that go nowhere, all strung together like blind dates gone wrong. I liked the trash dress running gag – when Wilson and her frock/s blend into the trash like a chameleon. Hathaway dons a grating fake English accent while Rebel Wilson assumes her usual screen

Review by Louise Keller:

The South of France looks fabulous – as do the Jimmy Choo stilettos that Anne Hathaway wears. The music bounces happily like a French farce. So far so good. But the film is a disappointment: a mix of contrivance, tawdry humour and patchy performances. I was underwhelmed. Audiences at the preview screening seemed to enjoy it though, with intermittent laughter rippling through the auditorium in fits and starts.

A misfire on every level, especially as the premise is a reworking of one of my favourite comedies – the wonderful Dirty Rotten

Scoundrels (1988) with Michael Caine and Steve Martin playing con artists working the Cote d'Azur. It did not matter that the premise was far-fetched and beyond credibility; performances were played straight and the result spectacularly funny. (Bedtime Story was the earlier film in 1964 in which David Niven was pitted against Marlon Brando in a similar tale.) Here, actor and TV director Chris Addison helms this reworking and it is played for laughs. Direction and script must take the blame. The fact that there are four credited screenwriters is no surprise. The film feels

persona: crass, loud, obnoxious. Wilson has the innate ability to unselfconsciously use her size as part of her arsenal; she plays gormless to a tee. The plot strands have been modified to suit with dubious results. The ideas are totally forgettable. Alex Sharp playing the mark (and looking like a handsome young Mark Zuckerberg) is not a match on Glenn Headly from the 1988 film, but the dramatic curve remains the same.

For the undemanding Rebel Wilson fan

ware drivers will be affected by rolling back your PC to this point.

You'll see the programs that will be removed if you choose it, and others that will be restored. This should help you decide whether to use it or not.

3. Send your PC back in time

To restore a recommended Restore Point, click 'Next' and follow the prompts to roll back your PC. If this doesn't work, or you want to try an earlier Restore Point, select 'Choose a different Restore Point' and click 'Next'. Browse through the available points, noting what would be affected by choosing each one. After restoring, you can undo the process if it doesn't have the desired effect.

There's no need to tear your hair out if nothing seems to help with the troubleshooting. You can go the whole hog, wipe your hard drive clean and completely reinstall Windows 10.

This approach will delete any personal data you have saved on the drive, so make sure it's fully backed up first, using our guidelines earlier. It's also a good idea to make a note of any programs you've installed on your PC, so you can download and restore them after Windows has been rein-

stalled. So, let's dive into how to reinstall Windows 10.

How to reinstall Windows 10

Microsoft knows how much of a pain it is to reinstall Windows 10, and that's why it's gone out of its way to make the way to make sure the process is easier than ever. The simplest way to reinstall Windows 10 is through Windows itself. Click 'Start > Settings > Update & security > Recovery' and then choose 'Get started' under 'Reset this PC'. A full reinstall wipes your entire drive, so select 'Remove everything' to ensure a clean reinstall is performed. If Windows fails to load, you should be shown the troubleshooting screen, which you can also access via your recovery drive if you created one. In these circumstances, select 'Troubleshoot' followed by 'Reset your PC'. One of the benefits of this new approach is that Windows attempts to recover from a previously created system image or – failing that – using a special series of install files that download the latest version of Windows during the reinstall process.

In practical terms this means you'll avoid a lengthy series of post-install updates to download and install in order to bring Windows itself back

up to date. The reset process is simple: your PC reboots, then after a pause while things are being prepared, you may be confronted by a screen asking you if you want to remove files from all of your drives, or just the drive that Windows is installed on.

Unless you're planning on disposing of the PC, select 'Only the drive where Windows is installed' to protect data files stored on other partitions or drives.

You'll also be given an option to 'clean the drive fully' – again, skip this unless you're selling on your PC. Finally, click 'Reset' and let your PC do the rest.

Post reinstall

Once you're done reinstalling Windows 10, you'll have a brand new system at your disposal and it's time to reinstall your apps, apply preferences and restore backed up data. The step-by-step walk-through reveals everything you need to know.

Of course, you'll need to reinstall your key desktop applications, too, after this has been done. Again, take the time to download the latest versions and set each one up.

1. Restore settings

No editor I worked for would publish the rubbish they now produce

News Corp Australia

"They were quality newspapers that cared for their employees and cared more for the product – concerned with breaking real news stories that were as accurate and true as could possibly be established."

About six weeks ago I cancelled my subscription for The Australian newspaper after getting it for more than 30 years. As soon as this election is over, I will do the same with the Courier-Mail. I worked as a journalist for some 30 years for those papers and loved every minute of it. They were quality newspapers that cared for their employees and cared more for the product – concerned with breaking real news stories that were as accurate and true as could possibly be established.

The Australian in particular was a big-impact paper which regularly set the news agenda for media throughout the country. But no longer. No editor I worked for would have put up with the biased anti-Labor rubbish that, shamefully, the papers now produce on a daily basis.

If it is not anti-Labor it is anti-Green or, quite ridiculously, anti-ABC. Anything except a story negative to the Liberal or National parties. Gone is the requirement for balance. One has only to look at the story selection and headlines on the front pages of the papers each day to see that an anti-Labor angle has been taken, however contorted had been the literary gymnastics required to finally arrive at that particular bit of stupidity.

How infantile is it of the management of these organisations to fool themselves into believing that what they are producing is being accepted by readers as quality product. I have many conservative friends who are as disgusted as I am at these newspapers because they know that what they are reading is either distorted or just plain wrong.

It is a particularly pathetic attitude given the difficulty print media has competing with the digital era. Why would anybody want to alienate any significant proportion of their potential readership – in this case Labor supporters, Greens supporters, Indigenous people, women, ABC supporters – the list goes on. Anybody but LNP people – and then only a portion of them. I am asked if I think this is as a result of directions from Rupert Murdoch. I have no knowledge of that except to note it is ridiculous to suggest that Rupert rolls out of bed in the morning, grabs his laptop and checks out the political angles taken by the Courier and The Australian. More likely the current management feels the need to second-guess what he wants and they think they are providing that with their unbalanced rubbish.

These newspapers are, in my opinion, avoiding their prime responsibility to be a fearless watchdog on government and society, and to work to ensure that wrongs are exposed and fairness is invoked for all. I cannot see that they are anything other than misguided lapdogs – and toothless ones at that.

It grieves me to hear that The Australian has become little more than a laughing stock. That was not the case in past years. I must say that I was never in my years instructed to write an article, or not write an article, because it suited a political bent of a particular editor.

The journalists are not to blame. Many have been friends of mine for decades and they share my disgust. Probably the most blatant example of bias and low-grade coverage is the employment of most of the columnists who appear weekly. Their observations are, in the main, predictable, weak, unresearched and juvenile.

I understand how circulation numbers have plummeted when readers are expected to digest the undergraduate efforts of most of these opinion writers. Really, they are appalling.

I do not know even one person under the age of 40 who buys a newspaper or subscribes now to

one online. They depend for their news on radio, television and mostly the much-criticised social media.

Has there been a more shameful article than the appalling story concerning Bill Shorten's mother's work and published in the Courier-Mail and the Daily Telegraph? That effort will forever be the rotting albatross hanging around the neck of its author.

I have never been a member of a political party, but this time I was so disgusted with what News Corp was shoving down the neck of my fellow Australians that I volunteered in my local electorate of Dickson to assist the Labor candidate. I did it because the candidate is Ali France who was a cadet at the Courier-Mail when I was there 25 years ago, and her ability and honesty are well-known. She does not deserve to be discriminated against by any media bent on ensuring she does not get a fair go.

And that has certainly happened.

ABOUT Tony Koch

By CHRIS MITCHELL

The crowd seemed a little unsure of the big burly man from Queensland who had just won the prestigious 2006 Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award, named after the legendary former editor of *The Age*. Who is Tony Koch, wondered Victoria's journalistic grandees gathered at the Melbourne Press Club dinner.

In his usual, laconic Queensland country way, Koch – the best-known print journalist in Queensland in the past three decades – won the crowd over with a joke. He wondered if someone had told him that morning, on 27 March 2007, that in the evening he would put his hand in his pocket and pull out a cheque for \$20,000, then added: "I would have thought I must have accidentally pulled on Santo Santoro's pants." Santoro, Queensland right-wing Liberal Party power broker, Howard government Senator and junior minister had earlier that month admitted failing to declare share trading profits on his pecuniary interest register.

The Perkin award – for reporting on indigenous affairs – was an extraordinary pinnacle in a career that started at 15 and was never intended to include journalism. It was a journalism career that began in country newspapers when Koch was in his early 20s and finished on the national daily, *The Australian*, where he retired in 2012 as Queensland chief reporter.

Along the way Koch received three national Dalgety awards for rural journalism, five national Walkley Awards, News Corp's highest honour, the Sir Keith Murdoch Award, and an unprecedented 48 state media awards including Journalist of the Year. Born in the country northern NSW town of Casino, Tony grew up in Mungallala in western Queensland near Charleville. He had three brothers and two sisters. His father was a country policeman and so was one of his brothers. His mother worked in the local TAB.

After starting work at the local sawmill, Koch moved to a job with the State Department of Justice in the local Mitchell courthouse as a 15-year-old. The department advertised positions for court shorthand reporters. Koch was given one and went to Brisbane to be trained in the Parliament House building. He became a qualified court reporter at age 20.

It was in his new job that Koch met his bride-to-be, his boss Clare Healey. Court reporters were required to be away on the road for regional court assignments 100 days a year and Clare and Tony decided that would make their life almost impossible. Koch resolved that as the junior of the two he would find another job.

"I looked in the paper the following Saturday and there was a job as a minutes secretary for the United Graziers Association. They did not get many court reporters applying for that so I got the job. I used to go around to graziers' meetings in the bush and take verbatim notes. The association also owned the *Queensland Country Life* newspaper and at these meetings I was often told good stories that I passed on to *Country Life* reporters. Eventually they just told me to write these stories myself. So I became a journalist by accident."

He started writing pieces for the paper and then expanded into commentary and guest spots on ABC radio. He learned to fly, as all reporters did at *Country Life*.



WELL DONE and **NOT SO WELL DONE**

Sadly a resident(s) of Rusty Lane area is/are throwing their empty bottles of Melbourne Bitter and Jack Daniels mixers on the roadside on a daily basis presumably on their way home from work. Seems they are too ashamed to let loved ones know they drink and drive?? Please stop littering our lane way.

Shame on the new management of Greta Public School for banning families from attending the P&C colour run and school cross country day!! Even locking the gates to stop families cheering on the kids! If this is public education, we're off to Rosary Park!

To the local resident who walks his big dog every day, rain, hail or shine.

To the same resident who lets the dog defecate on the sides of the road & the foot-paths & leaves his calling card there. You caught me twice in one week. Please clean up after him/her.

To all those people who walk their dogs at a very early hour of the day or, more precisely, before the sun has had a chance to rise ~ you unfortunately wake every dog in the neighbourhood & they then bark constantly until every dog in the area is also at it. Not very neighbourly!

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

- Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908
- reairs.** Contronics P: 4991 1128
- Drum lessons:** Learn how to drive your neighbours & family insane – call Josh on 0458 611 362 (\$25.00/hour my place or \$30.00/hour at yours)
- For Rent:** Braxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
- For Sale:** B1700 Kubota 4x4 tractor, 3-cylinder diesel, 60" cutting deck, grader blade bucket & carryall, 3-point linkage. Reasonable condition for age \$6000 ono P: 4938 6055
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- For Sale:** Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077
- For Sale:** Dining set 6xchairs, glass top. In very good condition. Moving sale \$250 P: 0428 057 253
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- Work Wanted:** HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989
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- Work Wanted:** Home maintenance. Building repairs, painting, tiling and more. Fully insured. Ph: 0418 982 657. Prompt service to local areas.
- 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 >**
- TUE 14 May — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigid's Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- SAT 18 May — Inaugural Hunter Valley Gourmet Market @ First Creek Wines. 9am ~ 3pm & then every 3rd Saturday of the month.
- MON 20 May — FREE pet Microchipping at Cessnock Sportsground. Sponsored by Cessnock City Council. The microchipping days are open to all dog owners who are residents of the Cessnock LGA. However due to the locations not being suitable microchipping cats, cat owners are encouraged to contact Council to arrange an appointment on 02 4993 4100
- TUE 21 May — Branxton Community Hall 11am ~ 1pm ~ Cessnock City Council sponsored public meeting "Don't Waste Your Opinion". Help plan waste services for the next 5 years. They want your thoughts & ideas.
- TUE 21 May — Kurri Public Library 4pm ~ 6pm ~ Cessnock City Council sponsored public meeting "Don't Waste Your Opinion". Help plan waste services for the next 5 years. They want your thoughts & ideas.
- THUR 23 May — Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meeting. 3pm Cessnock Leagues Club. Topic- Playing a DVD presentation about advanced stages of Prostate Cancer. All welcome- Cost FREE. Contact Barry 49904554 Rose 0457073852.
- FRI 24 May — Singleton Library 5:30 to 7; Best Selling Author Amanda Hampson to give an insight into her work as well as the challenges and joys of writing. Sixty Summers is the latest work by the author of The Olive Sisters, Two for the Road, The French Perfumer and The Yellow Villa, focusing on three friends about to turn 60 and their reflection on their lives.
- TUE 28 May — FREE pet Microchipping at Weston Maybury Peace Park. Sponsored by Cessnock City Council. The microchipping days are open to all dog owners who are residents of the Cessnock LGA. However due to the locations not being suitable microchipping cats, cat owners are encouraged to contact Council to arrange an appointment on 02 4993 4100
- 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., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- TUE 9 JULY — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- TUES 13 AUG — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- SUN 1 Sept — Fathers day
- TUES 10 SEP — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- TUES 8 OCT — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- TUES 12 NOV — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg ~ Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- SAT 7 DEC — North Rothbury Tidy Town Twilight Markets 4pm ~ 8pm
- TUES 10 DEC — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg ~ Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

..GRETA, Branxton & surrounds

What the Greta Army Camp and the Greta Migrant Camp Have in Common

While the 80th Anniversary of the Greta Migrant Camp and the 70th Anniversary of the Greta Migrant camp do not appear to have anything in common, other than their site, it must be remembered they both came about because of the Second World War.

World War II was vital when you consider what our locally trained Australian soldiers were fighting for, and against. And although most of the migrants' children have won-

derful memories of their time at Greta Camp, they eventually grew up to learn what their parents had been through and what they had left behind. Suddenly the children's stories are not as happy as first thought.

When Nazi Germany, who were also allies of Communist Russia, invaded Poland the Second World War began. The future parents/parents in the Greta Camp, as Polish (and other country's) young adults, were made to go to Germany to work for the Nazis on their farms and in their factories. Some of the future mothers/mothers of the Greta Camp children who were eventually freed from these monsters continued to remember the horror of themselves being raped by Rus-

sian soldiers, and at times suffered so terribly that their minds were damaged in an effort to block it out. The men were equally mistreated by being bashed in the forced labour camps, being used as slave labour, while trying to fight for their country. Many men and women nearly died of starvation. Tiny children were taken from their mothers and experimented on by Nazi doctors and nurses not fit to be called part of the medical profession. Terese Dron, in her book, 'Scent of an Orange', describes her early life as one of those little children and it is heart wrenching to read. While everyone knows about the horrific treatment inflicted on the Jews, most people don't realise what happened to so many of the other conquered peoples. This is why Australians go to war. This is why the men trained at the Greta Camp. Soldiers fought, and still fight, to stop these bad things happening, in the desire for peace, not war. The soldiers, like the migrants, also suffered from the war. They were damaged in



☰ The current entrance to the Greta Army Camp and the Greta Migrant Camp site

much the same way, many losing their physical or mental health from the need to defend responsible behaviour and fight for the right to live without fear of being taken over. Compassionate, decent people are on the same side in the world no matter what country they come from, how rich or poor they are and so on, because they all can ask themselves the question - how could a human treat another human

in such a way? Even animals don't behave so cruelly to one another. Australia, as a country, is so lucky to have helped win the Second World War and be able to extend a helping hand to those who came out of it worse off. Imagine what life would be like if it hadn't happened that way? We can be doubly grateful for the Greta Camp - first to have trained some of the soldiers who fought for freedom without

dominance, and second to have received some of the many deserving migrants that helped Australia 'populate or perish' and in turn helped make it a better country because they came here. So celebrate the anniversaries with the joy of at least knowing that particular grim part of our history is behind us and that we are lucky enough to be able to move forward. See

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/greta-camp-anniversaries-2019 for the events that are still to happen. To honour both Army and Migrant Camps come into the Greta Museum to see our permanent displays and learn more of the past. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 11am-3pm. Email gretamuseum@gmail.com or call Neridah on 0427657150 for enquiries.

FROM PAGE 18



How to reinstall Windows 10

1. Restore settings
You'll need to log into your Microsoft account in order to restore your synced settings and previously installed apps. Before these are all restored, you'll need to verify your account on this device: click 'Start > Settings > Accounts > Your account' and click the 'Verify' link to get the code required to add your PC back into the trusted list.

2. Restore apps
Open the Windows Store ('Start > All Apps > Store'), click your user photo and choose 'My Library' to access all previously installed apps (and your settings). Click 'Show all' and then click the download button next to each app you wish to restore. Once done, click your user photo again, but this time choose 'Downloads' to update the built-in apps.

3. Restore files
Finally, restore your files using File History. With your back-up device plugged in, click 'Start > Settings > Update & security > Backup'. Click 'Add a drive' to select your back-up device, then click 'More Options' followed by 'Restore files from a current backup'. Click the Settings cog and choose 'Restore' to recover your data. This can take a little time, so be patient.

Speed up future Windows reinstalls
Reinstalling and setting up Windows again can be a chore, so speed up future reinstalls by creating a perfect recovery image. After reinstalling Windows and apps, reinstall your key programs and set them up as you like them. Then, before you restore your File History backup, launch Macrium Reflect Free and take a new drive image. Create a recovery CD or USB stick following the prompts, and next time you need to reinstall Windows, make sure your File History backup is up to date, then boot from your recovery media before restoring this drive image. All you'll need to do is bring Windows and your apps up to date, and reinstall new programs. Before restoring your File History backup, create a new drive image to use the next time you need to reinstall Windows.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ABOUT Tony Koch

By CHRIS MITCHELL

Koch moved to Brisbane in 1982 when News Corp launched the *Daily Sun*. Many reporters had left *The Courier-Mail* for the new morning daily and *Courier* editor Kev Kavanagh and editor-in-chief Harry Gordon rang Koch to offer him a job on the state broadsheet as deputy to political editor Peter Morley.

Koch describes political reporting in the days of Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen as incredibly frustrating: "It was the Joh government that introduced press secretaries and the first real news manipulation. They would also use the Speaker to declare controversial *subjects sub judice* to prevent Opposition questioning in the House. Because we did not have a rival newspaper here for most of my time as a political reporter there was not the competition between journalists for state stories that there was in Sydney or Melbourne." Reporters who tried to break their own stories or did not toe the government line got no co-operation, while those who did were spoon fed stories - Sir Joh's legendary "feeding the chooks". It was in the mid-1990s at the *Courier* and later at *The Australian*, when he turned his attention to Indigenous relations, that Koch did his most remarkable work. He rates his long campaign over the death of young Aboriginal man Mulrunji (Cameron) Doomadgee, 36, in November 2004 at the hands of police Senior Sergeant Chris Hurley, as his best work.

"Hurley was the first policeman or prison officer in the history of Australian settlement to be charged over the death of an inmate. He was not convicted but at least he was charged," Koch said. Koch brought to light the plight of hundreds of Aboriginal children and women. He used his friendship with Cape York aboriginal leader Noel Pearson to campaign for dry communities and education reform.

He also dug relentlessly into the issue of corruption within the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and specifically its deputy, Sugar Ray Robinson. Overwhelmingly Koch was concerned for victims whose plight could be ameliorated.

"I came to the conclusion that I needed to focus on victims when Di McCauley was the Member for Callide in the mid-1990s and got up in Parliament one day to reveal that the widows of the 12 miners killed in the first Moura mine disaster in 1986 had not received a cent of compensation," Koch said. "I resolved not to go down the path of other journalists who were always trying to uncover the causes of such events, but to try to look after the victims. I decided this was the best thing I could do as a journalist."

Chris Mitchell is a media commentator, and a former editor-in-chief of *Queensland Newspapers* and *The Australian*.



Local Polling Booths

(Disclaimer ~ The AEC website is very difficult to navigate; it also says under postcode 2335 East Branxton, Leconfield & Lambs Valley) **OPEN 8am & close at 6pm**

Belford, Branxton
Community Hall, Dalwood,
Elderslie, Stanhope, North
Rothbury Rural Fire Services
Shed, Lower Belford
(Kirkton Public school),
Pokolbin Rural Fire Service
Shed & Greta Multi Purpose
Centre



Federal Election 2019 House of Representatives candidates HUNTER

Candidates (8) in ballot paper order

- BONDS, Stuart**
Pauline Hanson's One Nation
- ANGUS, Josh**
The Nationals
- MURPHY, James**
Animal Justice Party
- DAVIES, Paul**
United Australia Party
- MURRAY, Janet**
The Greens
- STRETTON, Richard**
Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)
- FITZGIBBON, Joel**
Labor
- BODDY, Max**
Socialist Equality Party

Senate candidates

Candidates (105) in ballot paper order

DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No 135 8th May 2003 page 24

Where's Carl

The following snippet was published in the Wollombi "Our Own News" local newspaper in April. The editor Peter McCloy does have a well tuned sense of humour & I thought it worth reprinting with apologies to all concerned!

Where's Carl?

"He's called Carl Scully, MP. He should be called Carl Scully, MIA," complained John Brogden, referring to alleged efforts to keep the less than tactful Minister for Transport out of the public eye during the recent run-up to the State election. Carl, of course, was hidden away in Cessnock, campaigning for our local member.

I've heard from two usually reliable witnesses that he expressed the following opinion while speaking with some of our wine-growers: "You'd have to be crazy to think we're going to spend money on roads up here, so that those toffs from the North Shore can swan around in their Mercedes sipping wine."

Aren't these the same toffs who are paying for our roads through the extra tax on users of the Harbour Bridge? Anyway, he's obviously a very effective campaigner, because Kerry scraped in again, and has picked up a ministry in the new Carr government. Congratulations Kerry, and we look forward to more government largesse benefiting our area.





Branxton Public School



Starstruck

We have hit the ground running for Term 2 at Branxton Public School. On Tuesday morning Mrs Khan (NSW Mathematics Advisor K-6), Mrs Chambers (District Curriculum Advisor) and Mr Garrett (School's Outreach Officer, ChooseMaths) visited our school to see for themselves some of the amazing strategies that the teachers put in place for the students at Branxton PS. The comment was made that at BPS we teach maths how it is meant to be taught! It reminds us that we ARE making a difference. Well done teachers!

ChooseMaths are hosting a family night at school to show parents the kind of things we do in Maths at school and how families can help build confidence and skills in their children. Mark this on your calendar! It will be a fun family event.

Our ANZAC Service at school, organised by Mr Tattis and led by our school leaders, was a time of reflection on what the ANZAC tradition is and how we can honour it in the future. Soldiers from the Singleton base took part in the service and visited our K-2 classes in full uniform and armed with plenty on interesting information about themselves and the army. We are grateful to them for



ANZAC Service

spending time answering our many and varied questions.

In sporting news, our Senior Rugby League team competed in the state PSSA Knockout competition in Singleton. They won their first game 14-12 against Dungog PS but lost the semi-final match to Bellbird PS 30-6. They also competed in the Knights Knockout. With many first time players, they did well to have one win and three close losses. Well done to all and to Mr Brecard for all his organisation. Mrs Morrow and our sixteen keen Starstruck participants went to their first big rehearsal in Week 2. It is a busy time for them all as they prepare their dance and costumes for the performances in June. Year 6 completed their Peer Support training so now the whole school is participating in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week. Two Year 6 Peer Support Leaders facilitate a small group of 10 - 12 younger students, who work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2 groups in their class. We are working on a module called 'Keeping Friends' helping us explore the concept of friendship, build relationships and develop skills in empathy and critical thinking.

Walk Safely to School Day is Friday 17th May. Two groups will be walking safely to school; one will depart from Miller Park on the corner opposite the pool and the other will meet at the corner of Thomas Street and Wine Country Drive in North Rothbury. Both groups will be escorted by teachers and will begin walking at 8am. Mrs Baker will have some warm toast in the canteen for the walkers when they arrive at school.

We are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2020. If you have or know of someone that has a child starting Kindergarten next year we are requesting parents and carers to contact the school office to register their children. Information letters will be sent out at the beginning of Term 3.

Dates for the Calendar

Wednesday 22nd May – National Simultaneous Storytime 11am

Wednesday 12th June – Choose Maths Family Night 6:00-7:30pm

Friday 31st May – PBL Assemblies 9:20 and 9:50am

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

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The news Issue No 53 7th October 1999 Page 8

Happy 50th Birthday Denise Bridge



Denise Bridge, of Branxton, recently celebrated her 50th Birthday with a surprise party at 'The Drovers Camp Restaurant', Branxton. The night was attended by about 100 family, friends & relations & a good night was had by all.

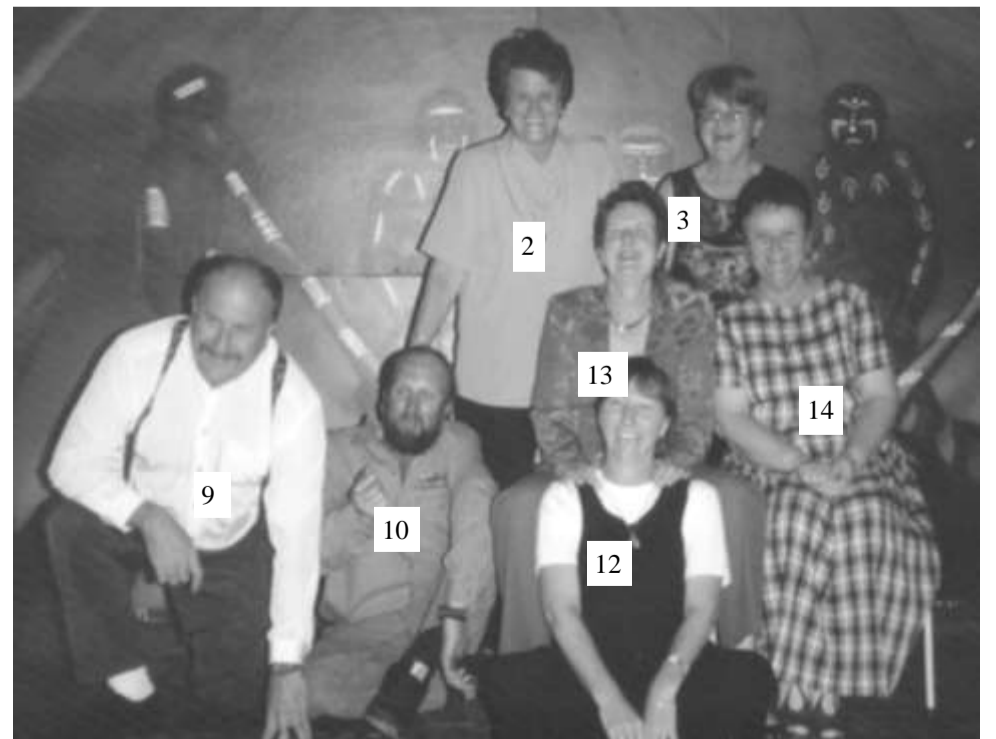
The above photo was taken about forty years ago on the occasion of Kel Bendeichs' eighth birthday. The photo below was taken on the night of Denise's' surprise party at 'The Drovers Camp Restaurant'. Seven of the original fifteen in the above photo are pictured below standing in the original positions they took forty years ago. In the original photo we have, by number:-

- 1) Alan Dever
- 2) Marea Hartcher
- 3) Melita Watson
- 4) Richie Heffernan
- 5) Christopher Collins

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- 6) Keith Gollan
- 7) Jimmy McNamara
- 8) Tony Collins
- 9) Kel Bendeich
- 10) Peter Bridge
- 11) Annette McNamara
- 12) Suzanne Stafa
- 13) Denise Bridge
- 14) Jeanette Henderson
- 15) Christine Collins

The photo below is as they were on Denise's' 50th.





In The Garden

Top 10 Vegetables to Grow Over Winter

Don't let your vegetable plot stand empty and neglected over winter. There are plenty of winter vegetables to grow throughout the coldest months

Winter vegetable growing allows you to extend the season and many vegetables that can be grown in winter will produce earlier crops than spring plantings.

If you were really organised in late spring/ early summer then you will have already grown some winter vegetable plants such as **Winter Cabbage**,

Kale and Brussels Sprouts. These will be well under way by autumn and you will already have started planting your winter vegetables outdoors.

But don't worry if it slipped your mind - there are lots of tasty vegetables to grow in winter that can be still sown this autumn.

Vegetables to grow outdoors in winter

Most winter vegetable plants are fully hardy and will cope well with cold winter weather, but if hard frosts threaten then you can always throw some fleece across them to provide some extra protection. Most can be planted or sown directly outdoors to ensure that your winter vegetable garden is fully stocked.

1. Onions and Shallots

Autumn planting onion sets are easy to grow and will virtually look after themselves over winter. Onions have a long growing season and won't be ready for harvesting until next summer, so you will need to plan carefully as they will still be in the ground when you start planting other crops in spring. **Onion 'First Early'** is a popular and reliable variety or for a brightly coloured red onion try **Onion 'Electric'**. In recent years Shallots have become more popular with the trendy gardener. **Autumn planting 'Echalote Grise'** is a particularly choice variety for its intense and concentrated flavour.

2. Garlic



Growing garlic couldn't be easier and there are lots of varieties to choose from for autumn planting. Like onions, they have a long growing season and won't be ready to harvest until next summer, but it is well worth the wait! **'Wight Cristo'** is well suited to most culinary dishes, but if you enjoy the fuller flavour of baked garlic, then try the attractive variety **'Chesnok Red'** for its delicious creamy texture. For true garlic fans (and customers with vampire problems) T&M offers a **full collection** that will provide you with bumper crops of garlic.

3. Spring Onions



Winter hardy varieties of Spring onion make a tasty accompaniment to winter salads. They are a fairly quick growing crop and early autumn sowings should be ready to harvest by early spring. **Spring Onion 'White Lisbon'**

is a popular and reliable winter hardy variety.

4. Perpetual Spinach

Perpetual spinach makes an excellent 'cut and come again' crop that will produce huge yields of tasty leaves. Early autumn sowings will keep you supplied with tender young leaves throughout winter and with regular harvesting it will continue to crop well into summer! Be sure to remove the flowers to prevent it running to seed.

5. Broad Beans

Autumn sown broad beans can be harvested in spring up to a month earlier than spring sown plants. **Broad Bean 'Aquadulce Claudia'** is one of the best for autumn sowings, being particularly quick to establish. Once the plants are well grown you can even use the plant tips - they are delicious wilted with a little butter.

6. Peas

Enjoy an early crop of peas next spring. Autumn sowings of rounded varieties such as Pea **'Kelvedon Wonder'** and Pea **'Meteor'** are particularly hardy and will give you a head start next season. You will be the envy of the allotment when you start harvesting peas 3 or 4 weeks earlier than other growers!

7. Asparagus

If you have plenty of space then why not plant a permanent asparagus bed this autumn. Choose an autumn planting variety such as **Asparagus 'Pacific 2000'** or the colourful variety **'Pacific Purple'**. Although asparagus beds take several years to establish, each asparagus crown can produce up to 25 spears per year and will continue cropping for 25 years. You will need to be patient with this crop as it will be 2 years before you can harvest them properly - but the promise of tender, home grown asparagus spears is well worth the wait.

Vegetables to grow in the greenhouse in winter

Growing winter vegetables outdoors will make good use of your plot, but there are some crops that will need a little protection from the cold. These vegetables to grow over winter can be sown into cells and transplanted later into the soil borders of an unheated greenhouse, or grown under **polytunnels, cloches** and cold frames.

8. Winter Salads

Salads are not just for summer! Sow tasty 'cut and come again' mixes such as **'The Good Life Mix'** under cover for harvesting throughout the winter months. Plant rows of **Lambs Lettuce**, **Land Cress** and **Mustard** alongside to add a spicy, peppery flavour to your winter salads. For tasty, crisp heads of Lettuce you can also try **Lettuce 'Winter Gem'**.



9. Carrots

For an exceptionally early crop of carrots in spring try growing **Adelaide**. This fast-maturing variety can be sown as early as November in the greenhouse and as late as July outdoors.

10. Pak Choi



This dual purpose oriental vegetable can be harvested young throughout the winter as individual salad leaves, or let the heads mature and add the succulent stems to stir fries. **Pak Choi** is quick to mature and packed full of healthy vitamins A and C as well as Calcium, Iron and Folic Acid. Although it is often grown as a summer crop, Pak Choi can still be sown in late summer for transplanting under cover in autumn.

Written by: Sue Sanderson



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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

Exciting times for the Wildcats!



2019 is shaping up to be a big year for Greta Braxton Football Club. Now in its 51st year, the club has achieved a number of

significant milestones. President Luke Thrift says the club is going from strength to strength, with a record number of registrations in both junior and senior age groups. There are currently over 400 players registered across 38 teams – the most ever fielded by the club.

The club is also running a Mini-Roos Kick-Off initiative for 3-4 year olds, with a further 50 aspiring Wildcats taking part in a 10 week programme aimed at teaching young players basic soccer skills in a fun-filled, non-competitive environment. Our club was one of the first to run this last year as a pilot concept, and now Greta-Braxton is actually at the forefront with our programme being the largest in the Northern NSW Football Federation area.

One of the club's core values is the development of our talented juniors, and the retention of these players as they move towards senior football. To this end, the club is very proud to be again nurturing our talented young players through our 10 and 11 years Development Squads.

The greatest advancement for the Wildcats this year is the entrance of our senior men's teams to Zone League 3. Our senior teams had previously played in the Hunter Valley – Newcastle – Macquarie

Interdistrict All Age competition, steadily moving through the grades, winning the A Grade Premiership last year. Following this achievement, the decision was made to move into the higher level of competition offered in Zone League. The club engaged a new coach, Jeff Robinson, who brings to the club a wealth of experience both as a player and coach. It is very pleasing to report that after four rounds both the First and Reserve Grade teams are undefeated, in what has proven to be a much more competitive and highly entertaining level of play. The club has a total of seven senior teams this year – equalling the most we have ever fielded. This includes the two Zone League teams, an All-Age Men's team, two Over 35's teams, and two Women's teams.

Another first for the club was participation in this year's FFA Cup – a prestigious national knockout competition involving clubs at all levels, including National Premier League and A-League Clubs. Greta-Braxton was fortunate to host the game between our club and Hunter Simba. In extremely wet and trying conditions, our club was defeated 5-4 in a very entertaining game.

The club is also proud to be working towards improvements of our facilities. We have just completed concreting the area between the car park and club house, as well as across the front of the club house to the main ground. This was undertaken at significant cost to the club, but has already proven to be a huge benefit, especially on wet days. President Luke says the club has plans for further improvements, including a covered area and seating.

It is important to the club to develop a good relationship with our community and we would love to invite everyone to come along to watch some entertaining football, and enjoy our club facilities. We have a great canteen with extensive menu choices, and a licenced bar operating during senior games.

With all the exciting things happening in our club, the future of football in the local area is looking good!

GAME REPORTS

Under 8-2s vs Lochinvar Rovers 27th April 2019

The Greta Braxton Under 8-2s

The NewsSPORT



• 3-4years Wildcats Kick-off

were excited to kick off the first game of the season against Lochinvar Rovers. The game started evenly with a lot of energy from both teams and end-to-end action. We did well to keep up the intensity and create a lot of attacking opportunities throughout the game which meant Leo had a quiet 2nd half as goalkeeper. Jude showed his versatility by playing goalkeeper in the first half and scoring a great goal in the second half. Leyton was voted best and fairest for his good dribbling skills and a number of well taken goals. We're proud of the effort of all the boys and look forward to seeing them improve with each game.

Over 35-1s vs Nelson Bay 26th April 2019

It was a long away trip to Nelson Bay for our first game of the season. The Wildcats took the lead in the first half after a perfectly floated corner kick from Shannon was headed home at the far post. DJ came close to making it 2-0 with a blistering long-range free kick that was well saved by the keeper. Nelson Bay came out strong in the second half, making good use of their interchange bench which was something the Wildcats lacked. The equaliser came after a goal mouth scrap to make the score 1-1. From then on we dominated possession - limiting Nelson Bay to the occasional counter attack. Unlucky not to get the winner - a draw was still a

good result in the end. Todd was solid today in defence and contributed well in attack, while Swany showed his versatility as goalkeeper and later bringing a spark of energy to the side. A special thanks to Stuart for stepping up and ensuring we had enough players to make a complete team.

Match report 3/5 Over 35-1s vs Rutherford 3.05.19

A good crowd turned up for our first home game of the season despite the drizzling rain. The Wildcats started strong and had the better of the play early on. Rutherford conceded an early penalty and went down to 10 men for a handball that stopped a certain goal. Giuseppe converted the spot kick to make it 1-0. A second goal came soon after and the game was all but over as a competition. The Wildcats did well keeping possession and creating many chances while Rutherford should be commended on their effort fighting for every ball. In the end the extra man advantage made all the difference and the Wildcats ran away with an 8-0 victory. Daggy had a strong game scoring 2 goals and Adam from the Zone squad joined us and contributed a penalty kick. Special mentions to Peely and Victor for making their first appearances of the season.



• Mini Roos



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