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WEDNESDAY
12 June 2019

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STEVE'S RANT



Members Well Done
say...
Not So Well Done



Lion's 2019 changeover dinner inducts 6 new members

Fitzgibbon returns to Shadow ministry

Branxton Lions Club had its annual 2019 changeover dinner at Greta Workers Club on the evening of the 6th June. Guests for the evening were past District Governor Ken Hallam and his wife, who inducted the new board members for the 2019/2020 year and also 6 new members:- Margaret Driscoll, Kevin Driscoll, Cathy Murray, Rod Taylor, Shirley Waters & Sue Williams.

Other special guests were the new District Governor Keith Stewart and Bob Pynsent, Mayor of Cessnock, and his wife who congratulated Branxton Lions Club for the great voluntary community work that we do. A special award was given to Tony Ernst by the new District Governor Keith Stewart for the many years of service he has given as treasurer for Branxton Lions.

Members of Singleton Lions were also in attendance. The new executive and board members are President ~ Brian Thomas, Secretary ~ Alan Beckley, Treasurer ~ Cathy Murray & Vice-President Ken Meany. First and second year directors are Rod Williams, Alan Becker, Tony Ernst, Ron

Hungerford, Bob Rhodes, Melanie Dagg & Enri Winter. Lion Tamer & Tail Twister John McGoldrick.

Dinner chairman is Brian Thomas . Event chairman Ken Meany. Publicity, Ken Meany.

Coordinator for Lions International, Brian Thomas. +Deputy Mayor & Lions Club member Melanie Dagg gave the vote of thanks. Membership Alan Humphreys. Any inquiries as to join Branxton Lion for friendship and voluntary service to the community Please contact Brian Thomas 0417282440 or Ken Meany 65747027



Federal Member for Hunter the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP has been appointed by Opposition leader Anthony Albanese as Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources on the new opposition front bench. The announcement was made on the 2nd June 2019.



Long term serving Branxton Lions Treasurer, Tony Ernst at left, was thanked for his service by District Governor Keith Stewart, centre & Lions President Brian Thomas, at right.



Branxton Lions Club members at the changeover dinner.

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FINALIST

Singleton **WINNER**
OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARDS 2018

SHINE BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND

New Keep Australia Beautiful NSW prizes offer \$5000 to Return and Earn sustainability champions



Entries now open for the 2019 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards and the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Awards
 \$5000 prizes for two Return and Earn Litter Prevention Awards winners
 Schools, community groups and sporting groups all over NSW urged to enter

Sustainability champions who have worked to reduce litter and encourage recycling through the NSW Return and Earn scheme could win one of two new \$5,000 prizes in the 2019 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Awards.

Return and Earn, the NSW container deposit scheme that refunds 10 cents for every eligible drink container returned, has teamed up with Keep Australia Beautiful NSW to sponsor two \$5,000 prizes for outstanding litter prevention work – with one prize for work in the state's cities and one for work in regional towns and communities.

This year is the first time the cash prizes have been offered to groups that have engaged with or worked to promote Return and Earn, the largest litter-reduction initiative ever undertaken in NSW.

Entries are now open and Peter Bruce, CEO of Return and Earn scheme coordinator Exchange for Change, urged eligible community, sporting and school groups to nominate for their chance to win.

“Return and Earn sees this partnership with Keep Australia Beautiful NSW as a natural fit because both organisations are working to reduce litter in the NSW environment,” Mr Bruce said.

“Return and Earn has been a great success, with almost 1.8 billion containers collected and a significant reduction in eligible container litter across the state over the past year.

“By nominating an environmental champion for a Keep Australia Beautiful NSW award you can recognise and thank them for their commitment to keeping our environment clean for the enjoyment of everyone.”

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW CEO Val Southam said each \$5000 prize is an addition to the awards presented each year by Keep Australia Beautiful NSW to groups working to help reach the goal of making NSW the least-littered state in Australia.

“You have to be in it to win it, so make sure your local school or community group enters their project and let us know how you have used Return and Earn to raise funds,” Ms Southam said.

The Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Communities-Tidy Towns awards have been running since 1995 and 1981 respectively to recognise and reward the hard work undertaken by individuals and groups in urban and rural communities across NSW.

“The awards enable these groups to share their experiences, ideas and results to continue to improve our vibrant metro areas and rural towns,” Ms Southam said.

Entries for all categories of the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards and Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Awards, including the Return and Earn Litter Prevention Awards, close on Monday, July 8.

For more information on eligibility and conditions and to enter the awards, visit kabnsw.org.au.

More visitors

Maitland City Council is pleased to announce its latest visitor economy campaign, Make it Maitland, developed in partnership with the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW. The campaign launches Make it Maitland, the city's new destination brand identity, which will incorporate the #mymaitland social media hashtag. Make it Maitland is a digital and public relations campaign that will focus on building awareness and showcasing the diverse appeal of Maitland as a holiday destination. The campaign is running until November 2019 and primarily targets singles and couples aged 35 to 55 years residing in Sydney, as well as those who live two to four hours' drive from Maitland. This campaign will build on the success of the recent #mymaitland visiting friends and relatives campaign and further build awareness of Maitland outside of the immediate area.



Maitland City Council's Mayor Loretta Baker says, 'Maitland has such a unique story to tell. With our rich history, engaging local characters, strong creative culture, quality food offering and fantastic events we should be telling a wider audience and this campaign is going to do that for us.'

'The Make it Maitland campaign is a great opportunity for local businesses and residents to get involved and share the word on social media about how vibrant our city really is.'

The NSW Government is contributing \$100,000 to the campaign, which has been matched dollar for dollar by Maitland City Council. The campaign is funded through the State Government's Regional Tourism Fund (RTF) which offers funding for marketing and product development support activities for local areas that have between \$100,000 and \$500,000 to invest, which is then matched dollar for dollar by Destination NSW.

Minister for Tourism Stuart Ayres said that Maitland is a vibrant, historic city, rich with experiences for all tastes.

Research shows that over 55s are significantly more aware of Maitland than others so we have a real opportunity through this campaign to grow awareness and destination appeal with a slightly younger audience.

'Being within such easy reach of Sydney makes Maitland a perfect weekend getaway and, for those living further afield, Newcastle Airport is only 25km from Central Maitland and offers direct flights to and from east coast cities and Adelaide.' Get involved in the conversation by following the My Maitland Facebook and Instagram channels.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000	Police	Electricity
FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE	Branxton..... 4938 1244	Energy Australia..... 131 388
It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.	Lochinvar... 4930 7209	Hospitals
When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct.	Ambulance... 131 233	Maitland... 4939 2000
ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	NSW Fire Brigade	Cessnock... 4991 0555
For non-life threatening calls.....	Branxton..... 4938 3396	Singleton... 6572 2799
Police Assistance Line (PAL)....	Rural Fire Brigades	SES132 500
131 444	Belford..... 6574 7149	Crime Stoppers
	Broke..... 6579 1491	1800 333 000
	Greta..... 4015 0000	Poisons Info 131 126
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Hunter Water
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1300 657 000
	Rothbury..... 4015 0000	Ausgrid 131 388
	Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
	Rothbury..... 4991 1733	Lifeline131 114
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Mental Health Line
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1800 011 511
	Rothbury..... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support
	Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	4990 9609
	Rothbury..... 4991 1733	Centrelink Self Service
	Scotts	136 240
	Flat..... 6575 1200	Medicare 132 011
	Central	Native Animal Rescue
	(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	0418 628 483

The FREE 8th Annual Hunter New England 2019 Male Health Forum

WHAT LIES BENEATH?
 – shining a light on factors at the root of male health issues
THURS 13 JUNE 2019 Royal Newcastle Centre, Lookout Rd, New Lambton Heights NSW 2305

LATEST INFO FROM BABIES TO SENIOR MEN

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PROGRAM

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Both male and female Managers, staff or volunteers from Community, Government or Non-Government Organisations or services with a working interest in the health of men, families, male youth and boys, including Medical, Allied Health, Nursing and Administration staff.

8.30am	Registration at the Royal Newcastle Centre Lecture Theatre on Level 3 (up the stairs and turn left)
9.00am	Welcome to Country Uncle Bill Smith
9.15am	Forum Welcome and Official Opening HNE Health Executive Director of Finance, Tony Gilbertson
9.25am	Key Note Speakers Michael Wearing, Maleny Men's House and The Rock, Men's Wellbeing
9.55am	Male Health in Hunter New England Ken McKenzie (HNE Men's Health Coordinator)
10.15am	Morning tea
10.40am	FORUM 1 MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING IN MALES - WHAT LIES BENEATH?
11.40am	FORUM 2 HEALTHY LIVING & PREVENTABLE CHRONIC DISEASES IN MALES - WHAT LIES BENEATH? Shining a light on key factors at the root of chronic diseases such as Diabetes, Obesity and Lung Disease.
12.40pm	Lunch & Networking Expo – please advise if wanting a display table
1.40pm	FORUM 3 PREVENTABLE CANCERS IN MALES - WHAT LIES BENEATH?
2.40pm	Break to change forums – grab some afternoon tea
2.50pm	FORUM 4A SEXUAL HEALTH & WELLBEING IN MALES - WHAT LIES BENEATH? Conference room. NO VC OR FORUM 4B EFFECTIVE FATHER ENGAGEMENT - WHAT LIES BENEATH? RNC lecture theatre
4.00pm	OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION Sharing creative ideas and planning for the next year.
4.30pm	FORUM CLOSE

REGISTRATION IS FREE To register, email: ken.mckenzie@health.nsw.gov.au
 Phone enquiries: (02) 49246317 / 04213 43626
 Video-Conference offered on request. Sessional attendance is OK.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which I work and live, and pay my respects to Elders of those lands, both past and present.

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PICK OF What's Coming

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15 June 2019
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.



Stars of the Hunter Valley

29 June 2019
 Cancer Council
Stars of the Hunter Valley will see eight local community stars dance off for the title of the inaugural STAR OF THE HUNTER VALLEY!



A-Plus receive Certificate of Gratitude



• Pictured (L-R) - Evie Dunn & Knox Blisst; Thorpe (Gold) Sport Captains| Amelia Slomka & Ryan Lawrence; Freemans (Red) Sport Captains| Brock Henderson & Crystal Furner; Bradman (Green) Sports Captains| Ruby Murray & Jesse Wright; Fearnley (Blue) Sports Captains; Natalie Samaras PF President; Andrew Hughes APLUS contracting; Mrs Hughes APLUS contracting and Sallyanne Stanbridge Principal Rosary Park Catholic School.

It was with great anticipation that Rosary Park Catholic School Sports Captains presented a Certificate of gratitude to Mr Andrew & Mrs Debbie Hughes from A-PLUS Contracting Branxton for

school community for such important sponsorship which has enabled small schools like Rosary Park Catholic School to achieve big things. The beautifully designed tents allow students to now

Australian Athletes; Red-FREEMAN honouring Cathy Freeman's Achievements; Green- BRADMAN honouring Don Bradman's achievements; Gold- THORPE Honouring

Ian Thorpe's Achievements and this year due to the schools growth saw another house added Blue- FEARNLEY honouring Kurt Fearnley's achievements.



• Pictured (L-R) Sallyanne Stanbridge Principal; Andrew Hughes- APLUS Contracting; Debbie Hughes APLUS-Contracting; Natalie Samaras P & F president with sports leaders from Rosary Park

the generous sponsorship of 6 New Sporting Marquees for the Annual Athletics Carnival at Miller Park on Friday 24th May 2019. Mrs Natalie Samaras; P&F President expressed sincere thanks from the entire

be protected from the elements, at all of the schools offsite events; promoting our strong sun safe message. Each Tent represents the house teams which are named after Famous

Community support for repairs to Sedgefield Cemetery after disgusting vandalism attack

The people of Singleton are banding together following the weekend's vandalism at Sedgefield Cemetery, with the Mayoral Fund now open to donations to assist with repair works. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said a committee has been formed to oversee the repairs as Council staff work with funeral directors to assess the extent of the damage. Families affected by the incident may contact Council's Customer Service Team on 02 6578 7290 or via email to council@singleton.nsw.gov.au to be included on a register as the repairs progress. "The vandalism we saw on Friday night has been very distressing for everyone in our community, and it is still very hard for people to come to terms with," Cr Moore said. "What we are focusing on is tangible actions we can do now to support people affected, and that is through the repairs to the monuments. "Following on from the outpouring of community support and requests to help, the Mayoral Fund is an ideal avenue to accept donations to assist with the works and we have acted as quickly as possible to make this happen. "I cannot express my disgust and disappointment with such a low act, and my sincere regret for the families affected. "But a positive we can take away from this incident is

the way our community has come together to support each other, and to send a clear message that these kinds of acts are not acceptable."

Donations may be made in person at Council's Administration Centre or the Visitor Information Centre during business hours, or via direct transfer to Singleton Council's Trust Fund.



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STEVE'S RANT

What is the measure of success?

It is, I believe, human nature to set goals for ourselves either in our daily endeavours or for longer term achievements. Take a weight loss goal or a fitness level that we might set ourselves. The two elements of this are the time frame and the level of achievement. It takes self-discipline and determination to see this through and depending on the priority we give the goal we generally get there even if we have to extend the time frame. Of course, it is too easy to abandon a goal just like *New Year Resolutions* but the only person disappointed is the self.

What about organizations such as business's or government departments. In each case there is a collective will to make a profit or deliver a service and although an individual may fail in their allotted task the entity as a whole will deliver.

The success of the business is judged by the profit margin. The government entity will be judged within the system by self-assessment and if all else fails public opinion will be the final judge at an election.

This situation we can all understand as being pretty simple. If the business makes a loss and cannot recover the business goes out the back door – *kaput*.

A government department, however, is a little different. Maybe the purpose for the department has been misunderstood or

it was given a task by the government which was pointless, for example the NBN roll-out.

When this happens, you would expect the government to dissolve the department or cancel the project and re assign or sack the employees.

So, as with individuals setting goals there is little point if an assessment is not made of the result.

The point I make now is why do the various state education systems shy away from any kind of assessment of student achievement? When NAPLAN was introduced it was grudgingly accepted by the teaching fraternity only because a Labor

government introduced it. We now have a plan for a national assessment of year one and year two student's ability to use phonetics to correctly pronounce words.

A very basic and necessary skill for students so that they can read, spell and comprehend. As you can

guess the teaching fraternity is up in arms about this and they are attempting to make the argument that they are professionals and don't need to be told how to teach by a bunch of apparatchiks in Canberra.

Trouble is the education outcomes in Australia are woefully inadequate for a nation of our, so-called, sophistication and we compare poorly even with nations that are generally regarded as third world.

This is an appalling situation but the teaching fraternity will not have a



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bar of it. They know best and will not accept any criticism from without their system. They are the only massively government funded organisation that believe external assessment or quality control does not apply; an unacceptable situation.

Some turkey in the NSW education system has made the analogy between the medical profession and the teaching professions by stating that we do not question the surgical or medical knowledge of our doctors. Why question the skills of teachers? Well excuse me, the medical profession is probably the most examined part of our society. Why do you think doctors need indemnity Insurance? Why do doctors have to submit to post graduate training and assessment to qualify for bulk billing? They have to

attend courses each year in order to stay accredited in order for their patients to get a medicare rebate. That big 'Pharma' companies run these courses in resort locations which is another fact of life.

Maybe the teachers federation should offer indemnity insurance so that their failures can seek compensation. It is now time for the teacher unions and state education departments to accept that teacher assessment and student testing are fundamental to the education system and they had better soon establish their own internal systems for this or the federal government will be implementing more external testing and may commence with holding federal funding if results are not forthcoming.

Cheers, Steve



with Mike Lowing

The second 'Police Community Information Forum-Branxton/Greta' for the year was held at the Branxton Golf Club on Tuesday 28th May. A relatively poor turnout compared with the first forum held at Greta Workers Club in late February.

There was a good reason for the poor attendance; cold evening & the meeting notice was, unfortunately, not disseminated throughout the whole community. As with the first forum the

meeting provided a great opportunity for open discussion between police, local residents and business owners.

The main issues identified by those in attendance related to contacting their local police and having phones diverted to Muswellbrook after hours, driving behaviour around Greta, Branxton, Leconfield, Huntlee, some victims had not received an update regarding the outcome of specific police investigations.

There was also some positive feedback regarding overall police response with limited resources, increase in general patrols of the area have been noticed and have a better of understanding of how to report incidents using Police Assistance Line. Some good news on

staffing levels; two new forensic experts have been assigned to the LAC & they will or have taken up residency in Branxton.

The Local Area Command also expect to have a couple of new probationary constables taking up positions in the LAC.

I guess the main message from the evening was that for police to best allocate resources they need to know what is happening & the best way to glean that information is through the public to report all incidents; for non-life threatening calls Police Assistance Line (PAL) 131 444 &, of course, 000 for all emergencies.

The Hunter Valley Police District also has a Facebook presence which is always up-to-date. These forums are to continue on a regular basis & is a great initiative so please keep an eye out for the next one & go along.

Cheers, Mike



Nuclear Energy & our country It is now time for Australia to get real about nuclear energy.

There are four aspects of the nuclear industry which we must be involved in urgently. The first we are already doing which is the mining and refinement to yellow cake of uranium mineral deposits.

For reasons that are today, basically a history of the fear of the power of nuclear chains reactions, whether fusion or fission. It started with the catastrophic events at

Hiroshima and Nagasaki and was reinforced by the atmospheric testing of nuclear explosions.

As a result of which background radiation became so alarmingly high that further testing is now confined to underground detonations. In parallel to these tests and of the investigation of nuclear chain reactions the fissions reactor was developed whereby the chain reaction of fissionable material was controlled to provide massive amounts of heat for power generation.

Since 1945 the progression in nuclear detonation has gone from the atom bomb (fission) to the hydrogen bomb (fusion) and the development of ever more compact bombs such as the then USSR produced brief case bombs (only 75% of which have ever been accounted for since the fall of the Soviet Union).

This whole sorry progression was accompanied by the Super Spy Saga dramatized by LaCarr novels and Flemings James Bond and countless films of the same genre.

So, the current 4 to 5 generations of literate human beings on earth are only too aware of the threat of nuclear war (MAD; mutually assured destruction) and we are very aware of the nuclear power station meltdowns which have occurred in Ukraine and Japan. It is little wonder that the population has no appetite for a nuclear industry in

Australia. However, the industry has been refined to the point where the current generation of nuclear reactors are the safest source of dispatchable power in the world today and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

The only drawback is the resultant accumulation of nuclear waste materials some of which have a half life of thousands of years (that is they remain radioactive and so dangerous to all animal life).

The French have developed nuclear waste facilities which convert spent uranium and plutonium rods into new radio active materials which are then used back in the reactors. Other nations also are doing this to extend the life of nuclear rods.

How far this goes I do not know but advances in nuclear research go on and by its nature is generally not made public.

What I consider to be urgent is the development of a full cycle nuclear industry in Australia to do the other three aspects. Enrichment, nuclear power generation and a recycling and dumping or storage capacity.

The conversation and detailed planning must start now for the selection of sites for each of these activities. A no-brainer is to locate an enrichment site at Roxby Downs in South Australis. Site for nuclear reactors need to have large volumes of water for cooling and steam productions and be located near to transmission infrastructures.

Sydney harbour would be just the ticket. The elegance of a well designed nuclear reactor would balance the Opera house.

Jokes aside, much research in this regard has been done and list of sites most likely exist. The same goes for waste treatment and storage.

As you know all current sites are subject to NIMBY pressures. But this can be overcome with detailed proposals which explains the pros and cons to people. Finally, if we are to remain a sovereign nation of free people, we must develop our own nuclear deterrent. Let's not have half-baked mongrel submarines but go for the nuclear powered and armed French Barracuda.

The man to lead Australia's Nuclear Corporation should Be Ziggy Switkowski. *****Zygmunt Edward "Ziggy" Switkowski, AO FAA FTSE (born 1948), is

a Polish Australian business executive and nuclear physicist. His most public role was as the chief executive officer of Australia's largest telecommunications company Telstra from 1999 to 2004.

For interest or to scare yourself: *****Animated map of nuclear explosions, 1945-1998 - YouTube Maureen Lind, North Rothbury NSW

Submit a letter to the editor

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

OR emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au



Maitland Park & Bellbird
In all they had 39 players who attended this very successful inaugural day playing 2 bowl triples. The day went off without a hitch & they

heard nothing but praise from the visiting clubs. Main event organiser Janet McGilvray said with the outstanding success of the day that they hope to hold it as an annual even. "It was a wonderful day & thank you to all concerned"



After Miller Park Lady Bowlers were invited to attend several Hunter Valley Bowling Clubs, last

year, for their Gala/ Invitation days, Miller Park Lady Bowlers decided that we would hold their own

Second 'Police Community Information Forum' held in Branxton



Inspector Joanne Schultz, Officer in Charge Singleton Police Station, Hunter Valley PD addresses the last Community Information Forum

The second Branxton Greta Police Community Forum was held at the Branxton Golf Club on the 28th May 2019.

The main message from the evening was that for police to best allocate resources they need to know what is happening & the best way to glean that information is through the public to report all incidents; for non-life threatening calls Police Assistance Line (PAL) 131 444 &, of course, 000 for all emergencies.

The Hunter Valley Police District also has a Facebook presence which is always up-to-date. These forums are to continue on a regular basis & is a great initiative so please keep an eye out for the next one & go along.



day. They sent out invitations to every club in the surrounding area and they had responses from Beresfield, Lorn Park, Kurri Kurri, Maitland City, Cessnock City, Singleton, East Cessnock, Paxton, Abermain,



Janet McGilvray, at right, with raffle prizes

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REFLECTIONS

"The Spirit of truth."

Jesus is returning to the Father, but He does not leave his disciples without a guide and companion. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, is sent to the disciples and all followers of Jesus ... past, present and future. What an extraordinary gift from God!

In John's Gospel, Jesus prepares His disciples for life after He returns to the Father by promising that the Holy Spirit will abide with them and "will declare to you the things that are to come." [John 16.13] Jesus' earthly ministry is complete, now it is the Holy Spirit, who will continue to guide the emerging and future church "into all the truth" [John16.13] ... including the church of today.

Who is the Spirit of truth and how do we believe in what cannot see? These are important questions that have been asked down through the ages.

We use our senses to obtain information and our intellect to understand the enormous amount of data that we collect. Understanding God is harder and easier than that. It's harder because this side of eternal life we cannot know everything there is to know about God and His nature ... easier, because to be a child of God, we do not have to have all the answers, what we need is faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. [Hebrews 11.1]

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday. There are many things about God that we cannot fully understand. God as Trinity ~ one God in three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit ~ is one of the mysteries of God, one that can be difficult to grasp. If we think about God in terms of relationship, a relationship that we are welcomed and drawn into, perhaps our understanding becomes one for our heart, rather than our head. To know God is to know love, because God is love. When our heart accepts that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we enter into relationship with God. We know the Father, because we know Jesus ... and because we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit abides with us, dwells within us.

So, I wonder, do we welcome God into our hearts and into our lives? Do we hear the promptings and invitations of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth? Whatever the answer is for each of us, let me assure you that God calls your name and loves you. If you answer God's call, the Holy Spirit will abide with you.

Every Blessing
Reverend Nicole

Words of wisdom from the younger set

1. Never trust a dog to watch your food - Patrick age 10
2. When your dad is cranky & asks you .. "Do I look stupid?" never answer - Michael, 14
3. Never tell your mum that her diet's not working - Michael, 14
4. Stay away from prunes - Randy, 9
5. Never pee on an electric fence - Robert, 13
6. Never squat with spurs on - Noronha, 13
7. Don't pull your dad's finger when he tells you to - Emily, 10
8. When you mum is mad at your dad don't let her brush your hair - Taylia, 11
9. Never allow your 3-year old brother in the same room as your school home-work - Traci, 14
10. Don't sneeze in front of your mum or dad when you're eating biscuits - Mitchell, 12
11. Puppies still have a bad breath even after eating a 'tic-tac' - Andrew, 9
12. Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time - Kyoyo, 9
13. You cannot hide broccoli in a glass of milk - Armir, 9
14. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts - Kellie, 11
15. If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a pony - Naomi, 15
16. Felt markers are not a good substitute for lipstick - Lauren, 9
17. Don't annoy your sister when she's holding a cricket bat - Joel, 10
18. When your school report is not too good show it to your mum when she's on the phone - Alysha, 13
19. Never try to baptise a cat - Eileen, 8

Members say



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR EMERGENCY SERVICES – WORKERS COMPENSATION – AND A 15% FEE COMING YOUR WAY

Late last year, literally the last day of Parliament, a new piece of Legislation was passed that will now recognise that firefighters actually do get cancer from the chemicals used in fighting fires. Disappointingly, NSW was the last state in Australia to do this – with the Commonwealth Government getting the ball rolling way back in 2011. It is suspected that in the 7 year delay between 2011 and 2018, hundreds of firefighters may have died from work related cancer and received no compensation.

The debate on this new Legislation was quite detailed and lengthy. Labor proposed some slight changes to the new rule that would allow those firefighters already diagnosed with cancer to be covered for compensation. The Liberal-National Government voted against the Labor changes in the NSW Lower House, but in the NSW Upper House the Labor changes were supported. This meant that the debate had to come back to the Lower House where the changes were again refused by the Government. The Government then sent the matter back to the Upper House for them to reconsider. On the second debate in the Upper House, the Rev Fred Nile changed his mind and deserted the Labor changes, choosing to vote with the Government instead (refusing access to firefighters already with cancer) and hence, the new Legislation went through in its original form.

Now in all of this backwards and forwards the Liberal-National Government had everyone believing that the changes to the Workers Compensation Scheme, to cover these firefighters, would all be funded by the existing scheme and/or the Government's own budget. In the lead up to the March 2019 State Election this was the ongoing message from the Government, by way of silence on the issue.

However, just weeks after the election the Liberal-National Government finally revealed that it would be hitting on local Councils as well as those that pay insurances on cars, homes or contents that would pay for this additional overdue coverage of our

firefighters by placing a 15% increase on the Emergency Services Levy. What this means in real terms is that Councils are scrambling to find thousands and thousands of dollars (each) by cutting staff or proposed projects. Those who take out insurance should also expect an increased Levy of approximately \$100 when they renew their policy. The Government has sent a bill for \$150M to we, the people. So, somehow, while the Liberal-National Government can find billions and billions of dollars to build a new tunnel or train or stadium, they can't find the money to properly look after our firefighters without hitting the pockets of taxpayers across the state. And somehow, after a lengthy debate and several months of time, the Government can't find the gumption to tell the people the truth...until after the State Election. I don't know about you folks, but I am getting to the point where I don't trust politicians.

* * * * *
For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers Clayton



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward

A Beautiful Banner

Recently I was asked by a visitor to Maitland "what is on the flag flying from Town Hall?" It occurred to me that a large number of people in our City might be unaware of the interesting history and meaning behind our flag. So in this week's column I thought I'd share that meaning with you. In July 2018, Councillors

adopted a new flag to replace the City's previous version which was widely viewed as lacking a certain charm. Maitland's new flag proudly boasts the crest of the City in the centre with a white background and a wavy band of blue running horizontally across the flag. Adopted in 1963 for the centenary of local government in Maitland, the crest was designed by a local artist Cecily Mitchell. A shield sits in the middle, with wavy blue lines representing the Hunter River, and a Hunter's bow placed inside. The shield rests atop brown soil representing the agricultural land surrounding the City. Sheaths of wheat represent agriculture, the bee-industry, and the open books around the boarder represent the Schools and Colleges of the City. The conception of wealth is provided through the golden boarders, and the supporters of the shield comprise two egrets, representing the birds of the lowlands surrounding the City. Around their necks hang a golden mural crown which indicates the official status of a City. These supporters hold shuttles in their beaks reflecting the textile industry. The crest itself consists of a cedar tree growing on a hill, indicative of the area before European settlement. A mitre - or Bishop's head-dress - on top alludes to the Diocese of Maitland which sits on another mural crown in gold, once again indicating the official status of the City. The motto at the base "Justitia et Fortitudo Invincibilia Sunt" translates to "Justice and Fortitude are Invincible" and is intended to reflect the spirit of the Maitland community rising above adversity and fostering progress.

In 1962 the Maitland Lions Club covered the £300 cost of having the new coat of arms submitted and accepted by the College of Heralds in London. The Lions club also commissioned a cedar and glass case, and in August 1963 a gold embossed velum document was presented to the City's Mayor. This beautiful document and its case still proudly hang on the wall inside the Council chamber today.

In selecting the new flag of the City of Maitland and incorporating the City's Coat of Arms, Council has brought our City's symbol into modern times whilst respecting our City's rich heritage. You can see the City's flag inside the Council chamber and it is flown from

Town Hall, Maitland Gaol and at many civic events. Next time you go past Town Hall, check it out.



Until next time,
Ben



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Behind the Mayors Desk

Our community has just celebrated National Reconciliation Week (NRW). It was wonderful to see so many young people at the screening of the film 'Connection to Country' at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. Thank you to Cessnock High's Junior Aboriginal Education Team President Sarah Sales, who did an insightful presentation on reconciliation. It is important we have young people in our community understanding and sharing their ideas on reconciliation. Council also held an afternoon tea to pay our respects to local elders. We had strong support from our schools, with students from Cessnock East Public School, Kearsley Public School, Mount View High and Paxton Public School. The ceremony was also an opportunity for us to acknowledge the work of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee. This committee have been driving important changes and projects at Council. Thank you to all involved in the committee and for your contribution to community. We are all now very much looking forward to NAIDOC Week 2019. The community has put together some great events. To view the program visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/naidoc>. Residents are being asked to provide feedback on the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre. Council is currently undertaking a service improvement project to review and make recommendations for the range and levels of services provided by the Centre. A number of surveys have been designed to get feedback from residents and businesses, as well as visitors to the Centre. To find out

more visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/news/HVVICsurvey. On Wednesday 29 May Council invited businesses to attend a session at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on procurement with Council. There was a great turn out with over 40 business representatives. It was an opportunity to take some of the confusion out of the procurement process. The workshop also marked the launch of a helpful guide on everything a business needs to know about procurement in local government. The guide is available online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/. Over 70 pets came along our microchip days that were held across the local government area in May. Our Ranger team enjoyed the opportunity to chat with residents and assist them with information about being a responsible pet owner. Council will be holding another microchipping day in September. Keep an eye on our website for more details. Last Friday Council facilitated a tour of the former Greta Army and Migrant Camp site. It was a sold out event with over 100 people signing up, coming from across the country to visit the place many of them called home when they first came to Australia. Well done to our library staff who did such an excellent job organising this wonderful event to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Camp and 70th anniversary of the founding of the Greta Migrant Camp. Congratulations to the Brantxton Lions Club on their successful changeover. The induction of five new members certainly supports the clubs outstanding community contribution. Good luck to Desley Pfeffer, Principal Mount View High School, as she embarks on a new training position. This a real loss to the students of Mount View. Under her leadership the school was able to attain many awards and significant positive outcomes for students in our community.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It's been a week of highs and lows for everyone in our community, punctuated most pertinently by the senseless vandalism attack on Sedgfield Cemetery. What motivated anyone to commit an act like this is simply beyond comprehension. What is understandable is the distress felt by those families affected by the attack, and disgust at the blatant disrespect for those laid to rest in our area and the people who grieve for them.

But if there is to be a silver lining to this deplorable incident, it's the way our community came together to support each other and to send a clear message that these kinds of acts are not acceptable.

Almost as soon as the NSW Police reported the incident, there were people in our community looking for ways to help – either by offering emotional support or practical assistance such as donations to help cover the costs of repairs. I thank everyone who has donated to the Mayoral Fund for their generosity and consideration of others, and hope the perpetrators of this act, and anyone who commits vandalism against our community, gets the message loud and clear that it is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

In a stark contrast, the annual Volunteers Luncheon was held in Singleton Library on Thursday to celebrate the people who give their time in support of their community, and who make Council's operations possible. Most visible are those in the Library, who do things such as pick out books for readers who can't make it in (male authors preferred with no swearing seem to be common requests) and be part of our Book Week programs, performing in front of school children for weeks on end.

Council said thank you with a special lunch cooked and served by Council's Library staff – including former Brantxton local Lee Croucher – to about 30 people who have assisted them over the past year. I also wish to add my appreciation for your hard work and dedication to helping make our community a better place, knowing that with people like you among us, no amount of vandalism can crush our community spirit.

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

It's hardly surprising that police raids on journalists and media outlets have so dominated the news over the course of the past week. It's a tricky subject. Freedom of the press is essential for the proper functioning and indeed, the very survival of any democracy. Throughout the course of history well-resourced journalists have exposed wrong-doing and corruption in both the private and public sectors and indeed, amongst politicians. History also tells us what happens when freedom of the press is denied. Nazi Germany springs to mind. On the other side of the argument, it is important for the proper functioning of government that the things that need to be secret are kept

a secret. Secrecy can be justified if it is essential to our national security. It can also be justified if the disclosure of a government decision or plan would only serve to inform criminals or spies of the intentions of the government and its law enforcement agencies. But keeping things secret can also be unjustified. So too can the exercise of the power governments give themselves to enforce secrecy, particularly if they begin to impinge on our rights as citizens and become a threat to our democracy.

The power to raid peoples' homes and to spy on our own people can too easily become a tool for intimidation and An over-zealous government actions which themselves, impinge on our individual rights and freedoms. In the hands of the wrong government, this can become serious stuff indeed.

Striking a balance which both maintains the health of our democracy and keeps us safe is not an easy task. But it's an easier exercise when the major political parties are both acting responsibly and not seeking to win votes at the expense of that balance. Sadly, that has not always been the case in recent decades.

There are three recent media reports which have become caught up in the controversy of the past week. Each of the stories were made possible due to the leaking of secret information. One was a story in which our troops were accused of atrocities in Afghanistan. The second was a report suggesting the current government was planning to further strengthen its powers to spy on its own people. The third was a story which claimed the Morrison Government was advised by its security agencies that a Private Members Bill to allow refugee detainees to receive medical treatment in Australia could pose a threat to national security. The first two stories were seen as bad publicity for the Government and have triggered an extraordinary response from the security agencies including the raids. The third was seen as good for the Government because it helped it with its opposition to the Private Members Bill. The investigation of the third media leak was both weak and short-lived when compared with the other two.

It's this inconsistency which has been fuelling the controversy of the past week. It is not lost on me that it always seems to fall to the Labor Party to be both protector of rights and protector of safety and security. It became farcical last week when the same press that demanded we support the recent strengthening of national security laws now accuses us of allowing them to happen. That's politics! Cheers, Joel



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News

P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice



Rubella is caused by infection with a virus. Infection is usually mild, but can cause serious damage to unborn babies. Immunisation is recommended for all children at 12 months and 18 months of age. All women planning pregnancy should check their immunity.

What is rubella?

- Rubella (or German measles) is an infectious viral disease of humans.
- Although in most people infection is mild, infection in early pregnancy can cause serious birth defects or miscarriage.

What is congenital rubella syndrome?

- Congenital rubella syndrome occurs in up to 90 per cent of babies born to women who are infected with rubella during the first ten weeks of their pregnancy.
- Congenital rubella syndrome can cause a miscarriage or birth defects including heart defects, deafness, brain damage, and eye problems including cataracts.

What are the symptoms?

- The symptoms of rubella may include a mild fever, rash, runny nose, conjunctivitis and often swollen lymph node. Aching joints are also common, especially in women.
- In rare cases, rubella infection can be complicated by lowering of the platelet count (thrombocytopenia) which can cause bleeding, or by encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

How is it spread?

- Rubella is spread from an infected person by droplets from the nose or mouth or by direct contact. Rubella is easily spread to people who have not been vaccinated or

previously infected.

- The time from exposure to onset of illness is usually 14 to 21 days. People with rubella are usually infectious from seven days before the rash occurs until four days later.

Who is at risk?

Anybody who is not immune (either from past infection or vaccination) is at risk of rubella.

How is it prevented?

- People with rubella should stay at home for at least four days after onset of rash, and avoid contact with non-immune people.

- The best protection against rubella is through vaccination with a rubella containing vaccine. In NSW this is provided as part of the Immunisation Schedule as MMR which protects against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), and MMRV which also protects against varicella (chickenpox).

- MMR vaccine should be given to children when they are 12 months and MMRV at 18 months of age.

- Rubella containing vaccines are safe and effective and have been used worldwide for many years.
- While many older adults are immune to rubella because they have been vaccinated or infected as children, young adults (especially men), may not be immunised. Vaccination against rubella is very important for women (and men) of child bearing age to reduce the chance of pregnant women coming into contact with, and contracting, rubella infection.

- People born during or after 1966 who have not received two doses of rubella containing vaccine can access free MMR vaccine through their GP. People who are unsure if they have received two doses of a rubella containing vaccine in the past can safely be given another dose.

- It is very important for all women planning a pregnancy, to know whether they are immune to rubella. Women planning a pregnancy should have a blood test, which can be done by their local doctor, to check that they are protected against rubella. **A rubella containing vaccine should not be given to pregnant women, and pregnancy should be avoided for one month following vaccination.**

How is it diagnosed?

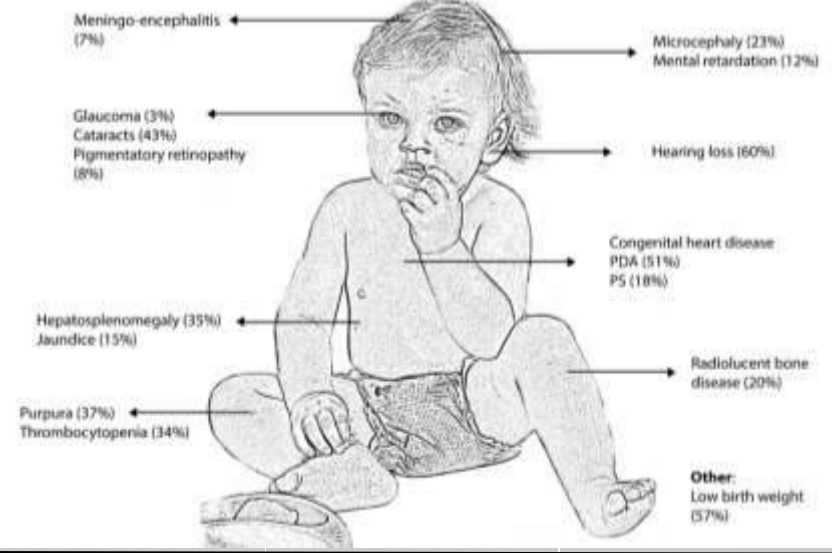
Rubella can be difficult to diagnose because there are many other viruses that cause similar illnesses with a fever and a rash. Definite diagnosis requires a blood test.

How is it treated?

Treatment for symptoms of rubella include, rest and plenty of fluids.

What is the public health response?

Pregnant women who have come in contact with a case of rubella should call their doctor for advice. Rubella is notifiable by laboratories in NSW under the Public Health Act. Statistics on the number of cases are tracked to monitor the impact of the immunisation program, and to identify outbreaks.



OPINION PIECE

**Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon
MP Shadow Minister
for Agriculture,
Fisheries
and Forestry and
Shadow Minister
for Rural and Regional Australia**



“You got to dance with the one that brought you, stay with the one that wants you, the one that’s gonna love you when all the others go home.” The Labor Party was born in working class Balmain. Or maybe in the shearing sheds of Queensland? That friendly debate rages on within the Party. Either way, it was born out of the struggle of the working class. Today we are a much more prosperous society. The Labor Party and the trade unionists that formed it can take much of the credit. More particularly, they can claim credit for ensuring our wealth is more evenly and fairly shared. Coal miners for example, enjoy good wages thanks to their capacity to bargain collectively and the leadership of their union representatives. They are but one of many examples of the benefits of strong Labor representation. Many of those same workers are now self-funded retirees or plan to

be. They’ve been astute enough to use their good earning years to build a nest egg for their years in retirement. These are the ones who we’ve danced with. Last Saturday (Federal Election 2019) they chose to leave the dance floor. In the polling booths of Hunter’s northern mining region, mineworkers pushed one another out of the way to vote One Nation. In the south, where they’ve retired to a lake-side lifestyle, they did something similar. Labor can’t and shouldn’t expect mineworkers, who have worked hard to get ahead, to thank us for their comfortable financial circumstances. It was just our job. What matters is whether our commitment to them remains strong. Yet more recently we gave them plenty of reasons to be sceptical. We did so in a number of ways. I have space for just three examples. First, Labor was unwilling to clearly articulate its appreciation for the great wealth mining brings to our economy and the well-paid jobs it provides. For them, the Party’s equivocation over the proposed Adani coal mine was emblematic. Second, while Labor took a necessary and light-touch climate change policy

to the election, we left ourselves exposed to a scare campaign by announcing it without the capacity to fully explain its impacts. If you leave yourself open to a scare campaign it’s what you can expect. We can only blame ourselves. The great shame is that the policy proposed was an orderly, incremental and market-based approach to both reducing emissions and providing others - particularly our farmers - with the opportunity to participate in the carbon economy. It also provided farmers with an effective tool for building resilience to drought. Third, when Labor said it would take from the rich and give to the poor, we failed to properly define who the rich are. Did they only live in Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs or Melbourne’s Toorak? Or did the “savings measures” extend to the miners of Cessnock and Central Queensland? No one seemed sure, so they took the safe option. In some regions the safe option became a Prime Minister who stood for nothing except a promise to change nothing. In our mining regions many couldn’t stomach the idea of voting for the “Nats” so they parked their protest vote with One Nation, a political party they know can’t win and therefore, can do limited harm. Few suburbs were immune from a growing sense of insecurity, both amongst those who may have been affected and those who never would have been affected. Not the aspirational tradie, not our retirees, not even our unaffected pensioners because when in doubt, they’ll leave it out. Each of them had a wife, husband, mother or son who shared their concerns. It started to add up! We wish it were otherwise but Labor is not the natural party of government in Australia at the national level. It’s a simple historical fact. The electorate comes to us when we present ourselves as a more compassionate version of the Coalition with a special care for working families. On that front we passed muster. But on polling day, our many positive policies were overwhelmed by other distractions. For many, we looked too different, too complex and too risky. For that we take collective responsibility. Last Saturday the music stopped for a bit, but we’ll be back. Better and stronger for the experience, and still committed to the same ideals and objectives we’ve always held; a more prosperous society in which every individual has an opportunity to participate and thrive.

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- Ingredients**
- 60g (1/4 cup) ghee
 - 1kg butterfly lamb leg, cut into 4cm pieces
 - 4 brown onions, finely chopped
 - 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 - 1 tablespoon finely grated fresh ginger
 - 1 tablespoon ground cumin
 - 1 tablespoon ground coriander
 - 1 tablespoon garam masala
 - 2 teaspoons sweet paprika
 - 1/4 teaspoon chilli powder
 - 500ml (2 cups) Massel chicken style liquid stock
 - 130g (1/2 cup) Greek-style yoghurt
 - 125ml (1/2 cup) pouring cream
 - Fresh coriander leaves, to serve
 - Bought roti bread, warmed, to serve

Lamb and yoghurt curry

Method

Step 1

- Melt two-thirds of the ghee in a large heavy-based saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook one-quarter of the lamb for 2 minutes, turning occasionally, or until browned. Transfer to a plate. Repeat, in 3 more batches, with remaining lamb, reheating the pan between batches.

Step 2

- Add the remaining ghee to the pan. Reduce heat to low. Add the onion and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes or until soft. Uncover and cook for 5 minutes or until golden. Add the garlic and ginger, and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until soft. Add the cumin, ground coriander, garam masala, paprika and chilli powder. Cook for 2 minutes or until aromatic.

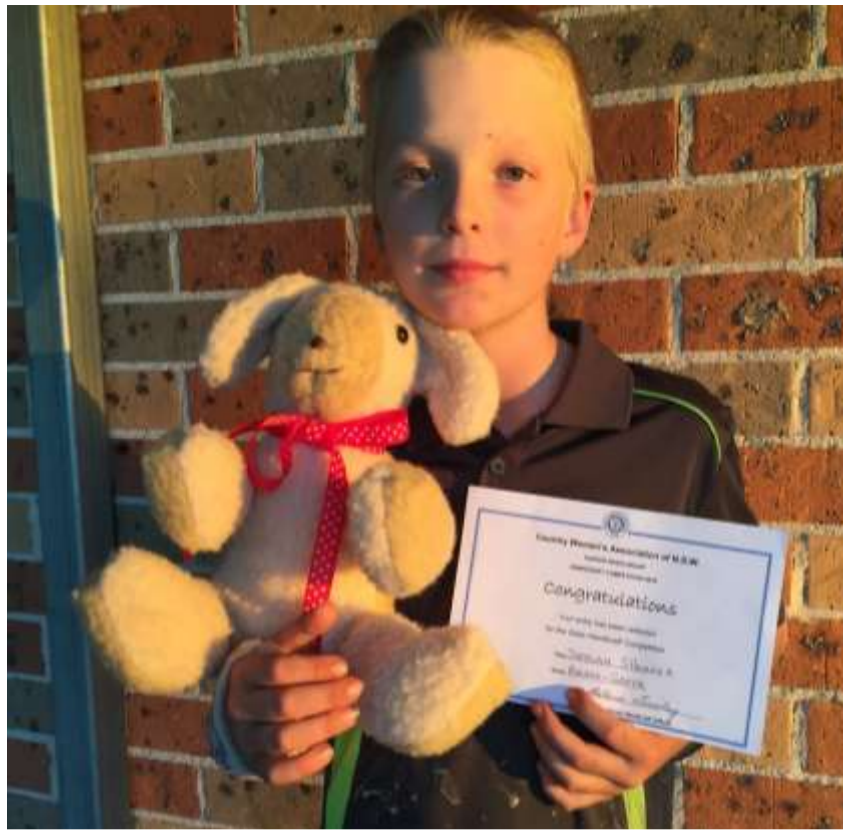
Step 3

- Add the lamb and stock. Cover and cook for 25 minutes. Uncover and cook for 35 minutes. Stir in the yoghurt and cream. Simmer for 30 minutes or until the lamb is very tender and the sauce thickens. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with fresh coriander and serve with roti.





As we start preparing for our All-in-One Day to be held at the Branxton Community Hall on Monday, 22nd July (more details below), it is with great pleasure that I update some wonderful news from the recent CWA State Conference which was held at Albury on 6th-10th May. Declan Shearer (Handicraft), Noeleen Bendeich (Handicraft and Cookery) and Roslyn Shearer (Cookery) all had wins from Hunter River Group and then represented the Branch at State Level. A very proud mum, Marie Shearer, and all members, congratulate Declan, for receiving 2nd place for all his hard work and a great achievement at such a young age (10 years). Even



Declan Shearer with certificate and Dog - 2nd place State level.

though Noeleen and Roslyn did not receive a 1/2/3rd place, we congratulate them for achieving State level also. Medical Research for 2019-20 will

be Endometriosis. The Royal Easter Show is over for another year and Robert and Leanne Bendeich show their Hillview Speckle Park stud

cattle and received a 3rd place for one of the Bulls. It is a very competitive show, so congratulations Robert and Leanne.

The next function on the calendar will be our All-in-One Day, consisting of our Birthday,

Handicraft, International (Papua New Guinea)/ Cultural and Agricultural/ Environment (Fauna – Koala, Flora – Kurrajong Tree, Foe – Carp), to be held at the Branxton Community Hall on Monday, 22nd July, at 10.00am for 10.30am. Hot Soup/Tea or Coffee will be a warm start to the day. Hot Lunch. Guest Speaker. All for \$15. Great value. **RSVP** Marie Shearer 0402015850 or Denise McGoldrick 0422896415 before 9th July for catering requirements (advising of any special dietary requests (gluten/dairy free etc) at the same time). We would happily welcome anyone interested in helping to raise money to help others in need, or assist in any other ways, and also making new friends.

Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or like any information, or attending any of our functions, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com Denise McGoldrick *Publicity Officer*.

Survey launched

Thousands of visitors walk through the doors of the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre every month. In April alone 12,588 visitors used the service provided by Cessnock Council. Council has recently commenced a service improvement project to review and make recommendations for the range and levels of services provided by the Centre, in line with community wants and industry benchmarks. As part of the review process, Council is asking for feedback from residents and businesses, as well as visitors to the Centre. Surveys are now open and will close on 24 June 2019. Cessnock City Council's Acting Economic Development Manager, Rhiannon Stevens said this is a great opportunity to share ideas and continue to build on this important service. "The Centre is the first stop for many visitors to the Hunter Valley as they explore our wonderful region. Whether it's visiting our website or coming into the Centre to chat with our friendly and knowledgeable staff, we want to ensure every visitor is inspired to experience more of our region and spend more dollars locally. We can support the growth of our

local businesses through this service" "Visitor Centres can also become hubs for local information, generate local pride and support attraction of new residents. Community feedback or ideas will help to identify ways in which the service may be able to evolve or improve, ultimately ensuring visitors maximise their travel experiences and contribute towards growing the economy in Cessnock City." Residents are invited to do the survey which will take no more than eight minutes to complete. All the information will be vital to assisting Council in better understanding the community's wants, expectations and suggestions for the Centre. Hearing from visitors who use the service has also been identified as a key part of the review. Centre staff will be asking visitors to share their experience and undertake a survey on site. It's an exciting time for the Centre which continues to experience positive growth, partnering with more businesses and assisting more visitors. The review is a great opportunity to build on this excellent service. To find out more about the Centre visit <https://huntervalleyvisitorcentre.com.au>



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CESSNOCK POOL MASTERPLAN & UPGRADE

Cessnock City Council has resolved to undertake an upgrade of Cessnock Pool that aims to improve the capacity of the Pool and offer more diverse uses to increase patronage. Proposed works include upgrading the leisure pool, heating, built structures and the installation of a splash pad.

Council needs your help with the development of the masterplan and proposed works at the Cessnock Pool including the design of the splash pad. Council wants to involve the community and collaborate to ensure a great result and a facility that people will want to visit time and time again.

The Splash pad design will be universal and strongly influenced by the community.

A community engagement session is scheduled to occur in the club room at Cessnock Pool, Cnr Wollombi & Allandale Rd, Cessnock on **Tuesday 4 June 2019 at 7pm.**

An online survey opening **Thursday 30 May** can also be completed by visiting www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au until **Sunday 16 June 2019**. Persons wishing to attend the community consultation session are asked to RSVP by **3pm on 4 June 2019** by emailing recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or calling 49934282

Greta Museum

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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)






WITH

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

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What is the Jurisdictional Limit of the District Court?

When acting for an injured plaintiff in common law proceedings, we must give consideration to which Court proceedings are to be filed in – a decision between the District Court or the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

A relevant factor to contemplate is the potential outcome of the proceedings and the monetary amount of damages that may be awarded. A Court's jurisdiction is the extent of the power they have to make legal decision and judgement. The District Court of New South Wales can determine matters up to a particular monetary limit and this limit often varies according to the nature of the proceedings.

For claims involving common law actions, the jurisdiction of the District Court is \$750,000.00: s 4(1) of the District Court Act 1973 (the "DCA").

In other words, the District Court is unable to and does not have the power to deal with matters whereby the Award or damages is in excess of \$750,000.00. If the award of damages is likely to be greater than \$750,000.00, proceedings will be filed in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

There are however some circumstances whereby a

defendant can provide their consent to the District Court having unlimited jurisdiction. A plaintiff can seek the defendants consent to the District Court hearing the matter irrespective of the monetary outcome. This is usually made known at the commencement of a hearing by the filing of a memorandum consenting to unlimited jurisdiction: s 51 (2)(a) of the DCA.

In some circumstances the extension is limited to an additional 50 per cent above the jurisdictional limit: s 51 (2)(b) of the DCA. Therefore the limit can increase from \$750,000.00 to a maximum of \$1,125,000.00.

Having a matter dealt with in the District Court can often be more efficient for a plaintiff in that the litigation tends to progress at a greater momentum and costs are often much less than proceedings filed in the District Court.

Indeed, this concept was ruminated by Her Honour Justice Monika Schmidt in the recent case of *Nightingale v Mt Arthur Coal Pty Ltd* [2019] NSWSC 434. In her recent decision, Justice Schmidt stated: "Keeping the matter in the District Court would certainly be quicker and cheaper".

The case involved an injured

contract truck driver who was employed to work in an open cut coal mine. He suffered spine and neck injuries, and subsequent psychological injuries, as a result of a workplace incident.

The plaintiff filed proceedings in the District Court at first instance and sought the mining company's consent to allow the District Court to hear the matter on the basis that both parties agreed to raise the jurisdictional limit beyond \$750,000.00. The defendant refused.

The defendant rigorously disputes the claim. The mining company challenges the evidence on injury and also the plaintiff's capacity to work which would preclude him for claiming substantial damages for future economic loss. The defendant therefore submitted that they could not conclude that the limit would be exceeded. The plaintiff was therefore required to make an application to transfer the proceedings to the Supreme Court and this application was ultimately granted.

In her judgement, Justice Schmidt was required to consider the potential value of the damages in the case and whether those damages were likely to exceed the jurisdictional limit of the District Court. She expressed a view that if the plaintiff is successful, his damages may exceed \$1.2 million. The plaintiff's claim will not proceed to listed for hearing in the Supreme Court.

Cheers, Gemma



Property developer who was awarded a \$1.7million Sydney home for FREE under a bizarre 'squatter's rights' law wins appeal to keep it

- **Bill Gertos was awarded a \$1.7m home for free under squatter's rights in 2018**
- **Mr Gertos has now won a Supreme Court appeal case to keep it**
- **He won after the last owner's descendants withdrew their appeal on Tuesday**

By Sahil Makkar For Daily Mail Australia

A property developer who was awarded a \$1.7million home for free under an obscure 'squatter's rights' law has won a Supreme

Court appeal case to keep it. Bill Gertos was granted rights to the home in Ashbury in Sydney's inner west after moving in and renting it out following the death of 'protected tenant' Phyllis Grimes. Ms Grimes had inherited the property from Henry Thompson Downie, who died in 1947 without leaving a will.

Mr Downie's descendants withdrew their appeal against the lower court decision on Tuesday just one

day before they were due to hear the outcome.

The legal battle stems back to November 2017, when the Downie family were informed one of their relatives owned the property.

By then, Mr Gertos had already had ownership of the home for nearly two decades. Having learned that the elderly woman who previously lived there had died, he decided to make it his own in 1998.

Mr Gertos claimed at the time the door was 'hanging off its hinges' and when he looked inside the house was in such bad shape it was 'uninhabitable'.

He told the court he spent \$35,000 fixing up the house and within weeks was paying rates, water levies and land tax.

He began renting out the home to tenants, which he has continued to do for 20 years - all without ever having his name legally on the property's papers. At the same time, he was declaring rental income on his taxes and in 2014 spent \$108,000 on further renovations, according to records he showed the court. By 2017, he was ready to press his claim under a law that states a squatter can be deemed the owner of a property if they live there for

more than 12 years.

The NSW Registrar-General notified Mr Downie's family that Mr Gertos was to be granted ownership of the house in October.

Mr Downie's 95-year-old daughter Joyce is the last surviving member of the previous owner's immediate family, and her nephew Graeme had said the decision to grant ownership to Mr Gertos should be overturned.

'This is the family home and it's lost, so it's pretty devastating really. We didn't know that our grandfather owned [the house] until a policeman knocked on our door in November 2017,' Graeme told A Current Affair in March.

The family claimed to be the rightful owners and applied for an injunction, arguing Mr Gertos' acquisition of the property was not 'open', a criteria stipulated in the conditions for squatters rights.

Mr Gertos said he offered the family \$300,000 to drop their claim of ownership over the house.

'I was flexible and I do wish this matter resolved, but unfortunately they did not see it that way,' he said. He said without his intervention the house would have become a 'rat-infested squalor'.

A judge later found Mr Gertos 'has made full use of the land in a way an owner would' and dismissed Mr Downie's family's application - giving him the house.

Mr Gertos's lawyer James Jordan told program on Tuesday that his client had been 'vindicated' by the law. 'He (Mr Gertos) offered the family a large amount of money to settle well prior to any court case and we, on behalf of Bill, told the family they had some legal problems, that the law was against them, and the family chose not to listen to us,' Mr Jordan said.

Mr Gertos has decided to not pursue Mr Downie's family for court costs.

WHAT ARE 'SQUATTER'S RIGHTS'?

The time period for how long a squatter must be living on a property before having rights to it differs across states and territories in Australia.

In South Australia squatting is illegal, but squatters can apply for ownership if they can prove they have lived in the property for 15 years without the consent of the owner.

In Victoria, squatters can apply for ownership after living in a house for 15 years, while in Queensland, NSW and Western Australia the time frame is 12 years. The law dates back to 1900 in NSW, and was originally aimed at communities where a large number of people were illiterate, law expert Cathy Sherry told the ABC.

New CoreLogic data shows the property market's downturn

The pace of the nation's property market decline slowed further in May, with expectations of a rate cut and reforms to mortgage serviceability requirements lifting sentiment. The monthly report card from data firm CoreLogic showed the drop in national dwelling values slowed from 0.5 per cent to 0.4 per cent in May, primarily driven by a slower rate of decline in Sydney and Melbourne.

CoreLogic head of research Tim Lawless said, while the housing market remained in a broadbased downturn, the outlook was more positive now than it was before the federal election.

The monthly decline in national prices has eased for five straight months since it was at 1.1 per cent in December, while auction clearance rates in Sydney and Melbourne have also begun

to climb.

Nonetheless, Mr Lawless said the sector still faced a variety of headwinds, especially in the credit space.

"Although interest rates and serviceability tests are set to reduce, lenders are continuing to scrutinise incomes and expenses much more intensely," Mr Lawless said.

"Comprehensive credit reporting is providing lenders with greater visibility around borrower finances and overall debt levels, and progressively, lenders are reducing their exposure to borrowers with high debt levels relative to their income." The RBA is tipped to move rates for the first time since August 2016 tomorrow, with the market already pricing in a new record low of 1.25 per cent.

Mr Lawless said policy makers would no doubt keep an eye on the housing market amid increasing concerns over prospects for economic growth and stubbornly low inflation.

"If we see housing values surging higher on the back of increased stimulus measures, we may see macro-prudential or other policy levers being pulled in an effort to provide house price stability while at the same time supporting an improvement in economic activity," Mr Lawless said.

National property prices have slid 7.3 per cent nationally over the past 12 months, including homes in the major capital cities dropping by 8.4 per cent in value. AMP chief economist Shane Oliver says markets in capital cities would remain under pressure because of a tighter credit environment, record unit supply and reduced foreign demand in the months ahead.

But he says the looming rate cut, policy to support first homebuyers and the relaxation on the serviceability on mortgage rates will fast-track the recovery.

"The removal of the threat to negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount following the Coalition's federal election victory point to house prices bottoming out by year end and at higher levels than we had been previously expecting," he said in a note.

"In fact, Sydney property prices look to have bounced around 0.2 per cent since the election as they were down 0.7 per cent month-to-date up until May 17.

"So, after the election we cut our expected top-to-bottom fall for national capital city average home prices to 12 per cent (from 15 per cent) mainly due to upwards revisions to price forecasts for Sydney and Melbourne, which are now expected to have top-to-bottom falls of 19 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

"But given still high house price to income ratios and poor affordability, still very high debt levels, tighter lending standards and rising unemployment as economic growth remains soft and below potential a quick return to boom time conditions is unlikely.

"After bottoming later this year, which we expect to leave capital city average prices down 12 per cent from their 2017 high, we see broadly flat house prices for 2020."



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EVENTS FOR THE 80TH ARMY CAMP & 70TH MIGRANT CAMP

2019 ANNIVERSARIES

Happy
Anniversary

This year there will be a number of events in Greta, Cessnock and Newcastle to celebrate the anniversaries of the camps. To keep up-to-date of what is happening go to:

<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/greta-camp-anniversaries-2019>

Alternatively, the calendar of events is available in Greta Museum, 96 High Street, Greta, open Wednesdays & Saturdays 11am – 3pm.

Upcoming Greta events will also be advertised on the outside of the Greta Museum door and Greta Bakery noticeboard. Some events will need to be booked ahead, so don't miss out!

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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 \$485,000ono



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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**

North Rothbury



Vacant building block

A 809 square metre lot which is relatively flat; an easy build-on.

Wonderful views from the back to the north overlooking Huntlee & the mountains to the north. **ASKING \$135,000**



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Recent sales



SOLD
UNIT 2 **SOLD** UNIT 10 **SOLD** UNIT 12 **SOLD** UNIT 18

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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

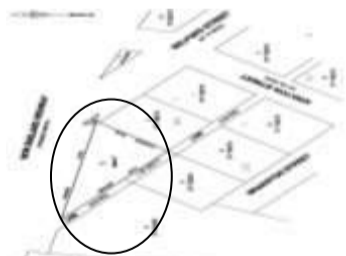


Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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Vacant Land 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved
Lot 1 DP 1205549
Well over half an acre of good level block.
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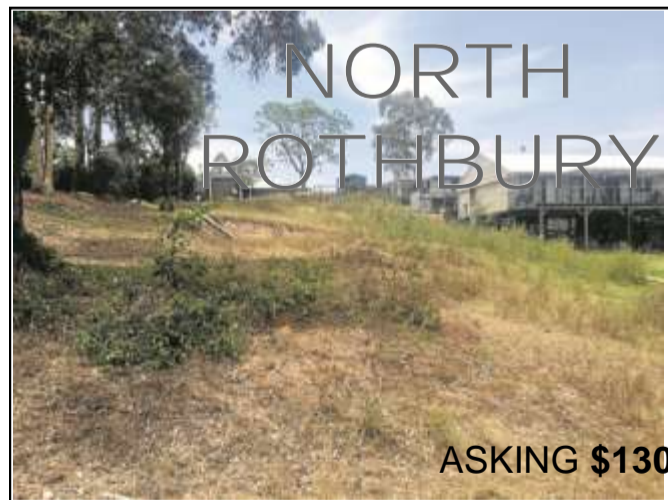
NORTH ROTHBURY



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

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SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

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

With the 90th Anniversary of the Rothbury Riots on the 16th December this year, I have republished an article by Norm Cruickshank written for the 70th Anniversary. He then put pen to paper and gave us his reminiscences of those times through the perspective of his childhood. The photo of (W.) Norman Brown is also courtesy of Norm.

To mark the 90th Anniversary North Rothbury Tidy Town will be hosting a re-enactment on Saturday 14th December 2019 (Ed. Note).

“Much has been written of 1929 when the worlds economy collapsed and fell into disrepair. The mines of Greta Rothbury on which both towns totally depended stopped stone dead, three at Greta alone employing hundreds were affected, much like others in the industry. With few customers worldwide and not many locally, one of the bleakest periods of the 20th century was off and running, plaguing millions of lives for over a decade or more.

Optimism following the 1914—1918 war had dissipated overnight. Even accustomed to all the vagaries of a stop start, strike ridden, poor pay and conditioned workplace, miners were stunned with the depth of the tragedy and to make matters worse, there general line of work offered little fall back skills on which to seek other scarce employment.

Miners were miners, and of their trade they were justly proud. Prowess with dynamite, reputations at the coalface, hard won abilities in the foulest unlit cramped space, locked in their own personal hell hole, deep in the bowels

of the earth, spawned fierce ‘matey’ loyalty amid the stress of collapsing tunnels and generated an abiding brotherhood, liberally spiced with their own remarkable sense of survivalist humour.

Entering a mine each & every day, this close dependency bred a tough unyielding single-mindedness. In reality they were glued like few other working fraternity, a cohesion of spirit that would determine the deep depths of the Rothbury affair, and result in one young miner dying from bullet wounds.

His funeral was to give vent to an unforgettable outpouring of emotional bonding on the grand scale.

Thousands dressed in sombre black from every mining community in the country, descended on Greta and marched many abreast along High Street, turning slowly up Wyndham’s long gravel climb to the town’s hilly cemetery service, there to mourn the loss of a good ‘mate’.

On family holidays at Tuncurry the telegram to dad spelt out the death of Norman Brown. Both were work and cricket mates in Greta’s team playing in the Maitland District Competition. Norman quiet and unassuming was the only son of Arthur Kidd of Lewis Street, Greta.

A team photo, looking pleased after a winning effort prior to Rothbury has a strong nostalgic twinge of sadness about it.

His death fostered an added heartache to the lives of this mining community, that brooded an ever festering distrust of mine management; many talked of revolution and the happenings in

Russia, starvation stalked many homes, lots of kids, bills to pay, rent, food, clothing, no money.

Adding to their disillusionment a few workmates were accepting non-union jobs in restarted pits where wages were non-negotiable very low, a take it or leave it option, and fuelled the fire of discontent.

Those breaking union ranks under these conditions found friends deserted them like rats from a sinking ship. Ostracised by all, these families moved out of town, for other more sympathetic places to live.

Those deciding to stay found the going unbearable. Unable to talk with friends and neighbours they lived an insulated existence on the very edge of normal life. Their claim for going down this path of action “it gave their families food on the table”, the very thing others wanted, but the conditions proved highly unpalatable.

As a small kid going to Greta’s Primary School pre 1929 everything appeared just normal like every other day, father working full time in the mine, money not a problem, each day with a few pennies spent at SOS Campbells fruit and lolly shop, mouth full of gum, stick of sugar cane filled this 6 year old wants.

With other mates from Whitburn Estate scalliwagging up the main street, playing on the dam perimeter near school, throwing sticks and sailing boats, all the world was a great place to live and play.

Gathering at one another’s place every day cemented a growing dependency on each other, rollicking, wrestling, chasing, cowboy hero worshipping, slabs of bread and jam from the kitchen, fruit from a backyard peach tree, swimming nude in Black Creek,



Above: The Memorial & inscription at North Rothbury.

At this site during the Northern Coal Lockout March 1st 1929 — June 3rd 1930 Miners and Police clashed on Monday, December 16th 1929, over the use of Non-Union (Scab) labour at Rothbury Colliery One Miner — Norman Brown — was killed An unknown number of miners and police were wounded.

This monument is dedicated by the Northern District Miners Womens Auxilliary to honour all of those who endured the lockout and who were at Rothbury Monday, December 16th, 1929

climbing trees for birds nests, wandering to the river, rolling stones down Mount Misery or who was the best shanghai shot at jam tins. Best of all harmony of mateship, arms around each other after a dam good wrestle on the grass at dusk under a street light, until parents yelled out “come on in now” and everyone left for home.

It was a childish innocent world, until one day mum quietly tells me “no more playing with.....?” **WHAT???** It’s not possible to feel as bad as never ever never ever “He’s my mate my friend mum, why can’t I?” **“That’s the way it is”** no further explanation.

Years on I grew to understand the rules men make to survive and live by, ones that fall mighty hard on small boys wanting to play with a best friend. A lifetime has not erased the hurt and

youthful tears that burned deep. A cold hand had touched this small gang of boys, who were never quite the same after, for as on each and every day we passed by his home on our way to school, I wanted so much to see him, talk with him, laugh with him, wrestle and play one more time.

Our void of longing burdened young hearts and too soon his family up stakes and left behind our playground world, never to be seen again. Sadly this most vivid memory has endured through long years of Rothburys legacy.

In the meantime Millers Mines produced cheap coal and Greta’s angry miners threatened all hell; loud explosions were heard into the night, followed by rumours a bridge had been blown up or rail lines destroyed, adding grist to many righteous feelings of retribution. CONT NEXT PAGE



Friday wrap with Joanne Schultz, Inspector, Officer in Charge, Singleton Police Station, Hunter Valley PD Police within the Hunter Valley Police District have seen an increase in the occurrences of steal from motor vehicles, especially around the Cessnock CBD. On all occasions, items including wallets, handbags, cash and other items have been visible to these offenders. Whilst Police on the ground are increasing patrols around the area, Police are requesting that you ensure all valuable items are not left in your vehicle to avoid these offenders targeting you. If you see anybody loitering around the streets or vehicles in your area, contact the Police Assistance Line, 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>.

About 1.30pm on 31st May 2019 Police attended Pokolbin Mountains Road, Pokolbin after calls the vehicle was acting suspiciously. Police located and stopped a red coloured Holden Commodore with an 18 year old female and a 36 year old

male on board. Due to the behaviour of the persons the vehicle was searched and Police located a number of items within the vehicle including 4 full leather horse saddles and strappings and a small amount of prohibited drugs. The 18 year old female was charged with possession of prohibited drug, a number of traffic related offences and being in possession of property believed to be stolen, being the horse saddles. Police are now attempting to identify the owner of these horse saddles and Police are requesting that if any person has information that may assist Police to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

About 2.30pm on 3rd June 2019 Police were called to a block of units in Hampden Street, Kurri Kurri in relation to a neighbour dispute. Police arrived and were met by a very aggressive 58 year old intoxicated male. Police were unable at this time to speak with the male and subsequently returned to the address approximately 2 hours later to arrest the male for a number of offences. During the arrest of the male he assaulted several Police and intentionally spat directly at them. He resisted arrest attempting to avoid apprehension. He was conveyed to Cessnock Police Station where he continued to be abusive, assault Police and spat saliva and blood within the charge cell at the Station. As a result of the incident the male was charged with Assault Police Officer in execution of duty, malicious damage and as a result of the initially incident charged with Stalk/ intimidate

and armed with intent to commit indictable offence. His bail was refused to attend court later in the month. **Cemetery vandalism attack** An investigation has been launched after more than 30 gravestones were desecrated at a cemetery in the Hunter Valley tonight. Police have been told, about 7pm (Friday 31 May 2019), a vehicle was seen parked in Sedgefield cemetery, near Singleton, and unknown persons have damaged a number of gravestones. In all, 36 gravestones were damaged during the incident; having been pushed over with a number of those being smashed. Officers attached to Hunter Valley Police District are now investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. As police continue their inquiries they’re asking for anyone who may have witnessed any suspicious activity in the area, or has any information that could assist investigators, to come forward. Anyone with information about fraudulent activity or other rural crime 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. The committee formed following a vandalism attack has had its initial meeting to determine the next steps for repairs. The Singleton community was united in outrage after 36 headstones were damaged in the incident last week. With support for a Mayoral Fund opened this week amounting to more than \$3,550 in less than

five days. Comprising representatives from Singleton Council, funeral directors and affected families, the committee has documented a register of damaged monuments that are eligible for financial assistance under the fund. Anthony Egan, Council’s Director Corporate and Community said he hoped the Fund would help to provide some comfort to the families affected by the incident. “This was a senseless attack that resulted not only in a significant amount of financial damage, but considerable distress for the families affected,” he said. “The Mayoral Fund was a channel for Council and the community to rally together to provide tangible support for those families, in order to repair the damaged monuments and hopefully some level of comfort.

“We now have a better understanding of the damage involved. “Council has a register of the affected monuments that are eligible for financial assistance for repairs, and will be in contact with those families in the near future.” Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the community’s outrage following the incident demonstrated there was zero tolerance for vandalism of any kind in the Singleton. “The vandalism we saw on Friday night has been distressing for everyone in our community, and it is still very hard for people to come to terms with,” she said. “But we can take heart from the level of community support and I thank everyone who has donated to the Mayoral Fund for their generosity and

consideration of others at what is a low point for our community. “I hope the perpetrators of this incident, and anyone who commits vandalism against our community, gets the message loud and clear that it is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.”



FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The Rothbury Legacy by Norm Cruickshank

Many families had difficulty paying power bills, overcoming some of the problem by deviously poking a straw into the meter and jamming up the works till the meter readers day of arrival.

reported to have marketed 50% of his planting, and boasted "one row for Greta and one row for me". Dairy farmers along the Hunter tried to overcome their losses by installing trip wired shot guns beside the crop, but hungry men were not deterred, even when a certain raider kept to his bed with bleeding piles and shotgun pellets in the rump. It was all part of how to stay alive for these families, law abiding and sympathetic to the farmers at other times, now pushed to the limits of survival by the circumstances that prevailed. Rothbury mines rolled on throughout the 30's and hatred simmered on as well. Buses loaded with miners from Maitland each and every week traversed Greta in the early mornings as her sleeping people's plight continued. Efforts to unionise them and be accepted into the mainstream coal scene eventually paid off after many long years, but the legacy of what happened that fateful day in '29 will survive onto the history pages of tomorrow, but the pain of those years still lingering in quiet hearts, will only die when the likes of many older minds pass on.



Apology letter - Hi Sweetheart, I am sorry about getting into an argument about putting up the Christmas lights. I guess that sometimes I feel like you are pushing me too hard when you want something. I realize that I was wrong and I am apologizing for being such a hard-headed guy. All I want is for you to be happy and be able to enjoy the holiday season. Nothing brightens the Christmas spirit like Christmas lights! I took the time to hang the lights for you today

and now I will be off to the football. Again, I am very sorry for the way I acted yesterday. I'll be home later.

Love you.....;

Her response -

Hi Honey,

Thank you for that heart-felt apology. I don't often get an apology from you, and I truly appreciate it. I, too, felt bad about the argument and wanted to apologize. I realize that I can sometimes be a little pushy. I will try to respect your feelings from now on.

Thank you for taking the time to hang the Christmas lights for me. It really means a lot. In the spirit of giving, I washed your truck for you and now I am off to the shops.

I love you too!



As one year followed another and work there wasn't, a dole type relief work filled in the bleak spaces. Men were consigned to dig gravel in a quarry and spread it on the town roads, concrete a drain through the town to Whitburn Dam, design and build river park walkways and shelters (now long vandalised) or wander the outlying hill country rabbit trapping for bunny hides, worth only a few shillings from Auckett the skin buyer. Eating through an endless number of rabbit fried, rabbit stewed, rabbit rabbit was nourishing, but the menu proved boring each and every day. As for the price of skins, best heavy pelted winter hides brought a shilling or two per pound, the rest weren't worth the effort of dragging dozens of traps on your back up and down mountain sides.

Auckett

would thumb his nose at them "only want the best winter skins mate".

There was another and more hazardous way to survive, rob someone and that happened to any number of farms within walking distance of Greta. If your crop was ready to pick, hungry eyes their were a plenty, and if the night was opportune and dark, it found its way into the mouths of others.

One cauliflower specialist is




Norman (W) Brown

A. Golder (Capt.), B. Palmer, C. Wright, W. Skillicorn, W. Cruickshank, W. Picken, A. Cruickshank, S. Ebrill, E. Eyers, G. Scott, F. Doyle, W. Brown (Norman) R. Blackwell, J. Johnstone.

Above: The 1928/29 "Greta United Cricket Club 'C' Grade Premiers HRDC Association" which included Norman Brown. Norman was shot and killed & upward of 40 other miners received serious bullet wounds. (Photo: courtesy of Norm Cruickshank)

Police reinforcements on trains added drama, and secret meetings of unemployed miners kept the township in a state of information frenzy. Stories true or otherwise appeared in the Labour Daily and Newcastle Herald, on the deepening depression with side issues of miners marching and calling for new beginnings and a better deal. Helpless politicians promised the world, but nothing of substance

ever came to alleviate the dire needs of Greta's growing desperation. Everyone languished in a 'no work mode'. With the closing down of Whitburn Mine in the centre of town, all street electricity was turned off and only when Maitland Electric Supply connected to Greta, did a single light once more glow on the War Memorial in High Street. All street lighting remained off and night time play was over.



New features of Fires Near Me NSW to benefit Hunter Valley residents

The Fires Near Me NSW mobile application has been upgraded, with users now able to receive notifications about fires and other important safety information in the Hunter Valley.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) District Manager, Inspector Paul Best said this is a significant step forward in communicating important bush and grass fire information to the community.

"Fires Near Me NSW gives users the ability to identify the location and size of bush fire activity in areas of concern for them," Inspector Best said.

"We've been listening to what residents have been asking for and the app now provides the ability for users to receive notifications applicable to our Local Government Area, or set up 'watch zones' to keep updated on specific areas of NSW.

"The new update now allows residents to receive push notifications for areas of interest, whether it be their home location, family properties or relatives far away.

"In a few short steps, users can set up Watch Zones for more specific information on areas they'd like to keep an eye on."

Inspector Best said this new functionality is an incredibly valuable tool when it comes to preparing for bush or grass fires and being aware of current incidents.

"With more and more people relying on their mobile phones for information, it's important that users download the latest version of the app, available on both Android and iOS devices," Inspector Best.

"Fires near Me complements the suite of information tools already available to the public, including the NSW RFS website and 1800 Bush Fire Information Line."

Users can search for the Fires Near Me NSW app in the AppStore or Google Play. There is also a national version, Fires Near Me Australia, which provides basic information from participating fire agencies interstate.

For more information and 'how-to' guides on setting up watch zones and other new functions of Fires Near Me NSW, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/apps

For more information contact the Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre on 65751200

For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licencee-in-Charge

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**WHAT'S
ON**

MARRIAH BAND



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MARRIAH BAND



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A Fortunate Life Book by Albert Facey

I first read this book just after it was published. I remember that during the initial days of its publication, he became a nationwide celebrity. Despite his renowned life, Facey considered his life to be simple and "had no idea what all the fuss was about". When asked on an interview, where the name of the book originated. He replied, "I called it 'A Fortunate Life' because I truly believe that is what I had".

After its great reception it has become a classic piece of Australian literature and is one of Australia's most beloved books. Since its publication in 1981 it has sold over 800,000 copies and become a primary account of the Australian experience during World War I. It is also featured in many Australian primary and secondary schools as a reading book for young adults. It should be compulsory reading for all students. Ed

Bert Facey saw himself as an ordinary man, but his remarkable story reveals an extraordinary life lived to the full. Bert Facey was a battler, ever optimistic and hopeful despite the hardships of his life. A true classic of Australian literature, his simply written autobiography is an inspiration. This edition has been specially adapted for young readers.

PRaise FOR THE BOOK

'[A] plain, unembellished, utterly sincere and un self-pitying account of the privations of childhood and youth.' *Courier Mail*
'[An] extremely powerful description of Gallipoli.' *Australian Book Review*
'This is an autobiography that should be read by young people today. Albert Facey, a man who taught himself to read and write, writes it, and writes it well... There is so much to learn on every page about how to live a successful life, no matter how the deficits pile up.'

Queensland Reviewers Collective
'Facey is a natural storyteller ... The optimism and positivity that made him deem his life fortunate is evident throughout the narrative. Facey is often described as "an ordinary man" but his life story will be far from ordinary for contemporary children...' *Writing WA*

Essay by Geordie Williamson

The story has been told so often it has taken on an air of myth. One day in the early 1970s, a retired pig and poultry farmer from Western Australia sat down at his kitchen table. While his wife made jam and encouraging noises, he began filling exercise books with episodes from his past. These tales, polished verbally over decades, were intended for his children and grandchildren to read and pass along. That work was not completed for some years, by

which time the man was elderly, his beloved wife passed away. When the finished manuscript was sent off to Freemantle Arts Centre Press with a request that it be prepared for vanity publication – an edition of just twenty copies – the publishers saw potential in the book and produced a commercial run instead. *A Fortunate Life* by Albert Barnett Facey finally appeared in 1981.

'Bert' Facey was born in 1894, seven years before Federation and the birth of a modern Australian nation. His life closely mapped the drama of the early decades of the young country, in peacetime and in war. It was touched by adventure and tragedy, though it also contained moments of quietude, beauty and happiness. The manner of his telling combined rustic simplicity with stoic restraint. A sense of decency threaded through the narrative, just as a seam of precious metal folds through rock. Though it is not the work of an educated man, *A Fortunate Life* could easily have as its epigraph a line by the Roman Emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius: 'Misfortune nobly born is good fortune.'

The phenomenon which grew from these modest beginnings has become part of the book's history. By the time of Facey's death in 1982, *A Fortunate Life* had bought its author to national attention. He could scarcely have imagined, however, that three decades and three quarters of a million copies later the book would still be in print and regarded an Australian classic. If it remains fascinating today for its portrait of an ordinary bloke who lived through remarkable times, our enduring enthusiasm for it says something significant about us, too.

Because our responses to the book have grown complicated. Though it records one man's existence and a singular existence at that, Bert Facey's life has come to be read as a universal tale — an Everyman's progress through the peaks and troughs of a stormy century. Our idea of him has been cut to fit neatly with our current patriotic requirements, most potently those associated with the Anzac legend. Celebrated for the artless, yarn-like manner of its telling, *A Fortunate Life* is nonetheless a skillful and often sophisticated 'literary' artifact. Examination of Facey's manuscript has revealed that the published work, long once thought to have been reshaped by editorial intervention, was in fact mostly true to the author's original words. Facey the self-taught writer and reader had more tricks up his sleeve than we were willing to give him credit for.

And the life described in its pages? While we have come to automatically regard Facey's record as one that is archetypally 'Australian', the ongoing popularity of *A Fortunate Life* may actually be evidence of how far we have moved from the reality it outlines. To contemporary

readers – overwhelmingly urban-dwelling, oriented towards the wider world rather than the Australian inland, the digital future rather than the analog past – Facey's frontier upbringing seems impossibly exotic. He strikes us as the member of a tribe whose ceremonies and laws are revered in principle but no longer observed in practice.

It is confusions like these that should return us to the book, to rescue the text from misreadings that have grown up around it and to hear Bert Facey's testimony free from outside intervention. And what most of us will learn first on such an undertaking is the irony of the title: Facey's life was anything but fortunate. Indeed his childhood as a poor and uneducated farm labourer was Dickensian in every respect save its dusty outback setting.

Son of a father who died when he was a small boy and a mother who remarried and then vanished from his life, Bert was taken in by his doughty and dependable grandmother. And yet circumstances soon obliged her to send him off to work. At the age of eight, he moved to a nearby farm in the frontier districts of the Western Australian wheat-belt, and there he was effectively enslaved and physically abused by his employers. He eventually escaped, but even the improved employment he found in the following years consisted of hard physical labour in often hostile conditions, much of it done for a pittance.

It's worth noting how cleverly Facey's controls the flow of incident in these early chapters, pushing the comical up against the plainly violent, the sentimental against the stoical: furnishing all the picaresque twists, eccentric characters and narrative vigour of a Victorian-era novelist. It is only when the narrative is undressed of action that we get some sense of the shape of his sadness and isolation: On Sundays, when we didn't work much, I would often go into the bush and watch the birds and they were lovely. In some ways they were like me – they had to fend for themselves as soon as the mother bird thought that they were old enough. It is not the plain homily drawn from nature that catches the eye here; it is the word 'much' in relation to Sundays and work. That single syllable contains multitudes: all the other hours in his life which may not be devoted to family or education. The natural world is a kind of braille for the unlettered boy. Bert reads the landscape and its creatures as other children would read a book.

And this landscape is one that would seem alien to contemporary readers. Facey grows up at the very edge of settled agricultural country. It is his hands that fell the trees, burn the stumps, wire the fences, plough the earth and shoot the dingos that threaten livestock. It is a world in which the full dominion of white arrivals over the environment has yet

to be achieved. Indeed, there are times when the whole enterprise seems to hang in the balance. The subjugation of wilderness which we take for granted, indeed decay from a position of suburban comfort, is not just a matter of profit during these years; it is the difference between survival and starvation. Even Facey's love of birdlife is shaped by his knowledge of which species are a terror on the crops. Of course, that battle very much includes that landscape's original inhabitants. Though it goes unmentioned in the narrative, Facey is twelve years old when the Noongar people of his area are placed in a government reserve. The boy is raised on stories of black violence against whites and fears them. But when, in his mid-teens (having briefly moved back in with his mother and stepfather in Perth), Facey takes a job as a dogsbody on a droving run through Australia's top end, it is the tribesmen and women of the region who rescue him after he is separated from the droving party during a storm. That act of kindness forever alters the Facey's attitude.

And here, as in so many other aspects of his story, there is a sense of a moral compass having to find North by its own efforts. Facey has never attended school. What limited literacy he possessed has been cribbed from a few borrowed textbooks. It is hard to imagine a less 'mediated' understanding of the world, innocent of the political or ideological currents of the day. Whatever sense of justice he has is cobbled together from the harsh empiricism of his daily life: the work he undertakes, the animals he cares for or works beside, the men and women whose conduct decides their worth in his eyes.

There is one profound exception to this resolutely local education: World War I. Facey is in his early twenties at the outbreak of hostilities, working with a troupe of travelling boxers. He is quick on his feet but the fights are largely staged – acts of violence performed as light entertainment. What follows could not be more real. In January 1915 he enlists with the Australian Imperial Force and is soon shipped to the Middle East. There he serves at Gallipoli with the 11th Battalion until August, when he is diagnosed with 'heart trouble' and repatriated. This section, perhaps because it is the most dramatic in terms of incident, is the most devastating when relayed in Facey's resolutely understated style. As an explanation of Australian 'mateship' it is difficult to top:

I think it would be true to say that all the men who were at Gallipoli wanted to stay with their comrades. It wasn't that anyone wanted to be a hero, its just that we were very close after four months together under such terrible conditions. A sort of love and trust in one another developed in the trenches. It made us all very loyal to one

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (2 June 2019)

- 36 weeks on the list – WHERE THE CROWDADS 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.
- New this week – THE NIGHT WINDOW by Dean Koontz – The fifth book in the Jane Hawk series. The former F.B.I. agent pursues a slew of bad guys, including a Vegas mob boss.
- 3 weeks on the list – THE 18TH ABDUCTION by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro – The 18th book in the Women's Murder Club series. Lindsay Boxer investigates the disappearance of three female teachers.
- 5 weeks on the list – 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.
- 11 weeks on the list – PAST TENSE by Lee Child – Jack Reacher explores the New England town where his father was born and a Canadian couple now find themselves stranded.
- 5 weeks on the list – 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.
- 56 weeks on the list – 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.
- 2 weeks on the list – BLESSING IN DISGUISE by Danielle Steel – Isabelle McAvoy faces challenges as she raises three daughters from three separate fathers on her own.
- 4 weeks on the list – NEON PREY by John Sandford – The 29th book in the Prey series. Lucas Davenport goes after a serial killer.
- New this week – THE NEVER GAME by Jeffery Deaver – Colter Shaw, the son of a survivalist family, probes the underbelly of Silicon Valley to go after a kidnapper.

another. If there is a before and after in Facey's life, the line should be drawn here. He loses two older brothers at Gallipoli, along with his health. The formerly vigorous, athletic, knock-about bloke returns shattered by his experience, though natural optimism and grit make up much of the deficit in animal robustness. In its quietly outraged account of the difficulties faced by returned servicemen, of their mistreatment at the hands of those who stayed behind as well as those in positions of political power, *A Fortunate Life* should be read alongside those other critiques of the conflict's aftermath – George Johnston's *My Brother Jack* and Hal Porter's *Watcher on the Cast-Iron Balcony* – books whose questioning of the Anzac myth has been forgotten by a nation determined to celebrate the Great War's unfolding centenary.

Like many others, Facey is politicised by the war. As a tram driver in Perth in the years immediately afterward, he becomes involved with the trade union movement and develops a more sophisticated sense of the bifurcation between the haves and have-nots in Australian society. At a time when suspicions of unionism are greater than ever before, and their power to collectively bargain largely eroded, it is worth revisiting the early years of the movement. In it, we recognise a purer form of the egalitarian impulse we still claim to possess. Facey's subsequent biography is quieter but it can still flare up on occasion. He loses a first family farm to the Depression and his eldest son to the Pacific theatre of the Second World War. And yet, of all these Job-like afflictions visited upon him, it is only early abandonment by a grasping mother seems to have left any trace of bitterness in Facey. At the tail end of a period of unprecedented national prosperity, domestic peace and material comfort it must be hard for contemporary readers to imagine how a man who suffered so much could view his life as blessed. The relative weighting accorded to different parts of

Facey's life offers its own set of clues as to why this is the case. We know that the book's editors cut material relating to Facey's later years, however the author himself swiftly passes through the long decades following WWI, leaping family generations in a paragraph. And where his boyhood and youth during the early Twentieth century are recalled with photographic exactitude (a recall so unlikely that we must return to Facey's skills as a novelist to explain how he ordered memory into memoir) later periods seem to fade into sepia vagueness. Perhaps it is not only Gallipoli that should see as a line of biographical demarcation for Facey. The other signal moment in his life is the chance meeting with an attractive young domestic named Evelyn Gibson soon after his return to WA, in 1916. It was Evelyn who, in marrying

Bert soon after, helped return the damaged returned soldier to health. And even more importantly, it was Evelyn who rescued him from his orphan status.

It was the birthdays that no one remembered or even knew about that stuck in the young man's memory – it was the emotional privation of loneliness that etched those hard years so cleanly onto the page. But with his wife, mother of his children and dedicatee of *A Fortunate Life*, Albert Facey was finally able to dissolve his solitude in some broader domestic collective. It was not that he no longer remembered the past; it was

that he no longer needed to do so alone.

● Photo: A. B. Facey



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 Porokiri 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 in this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used.

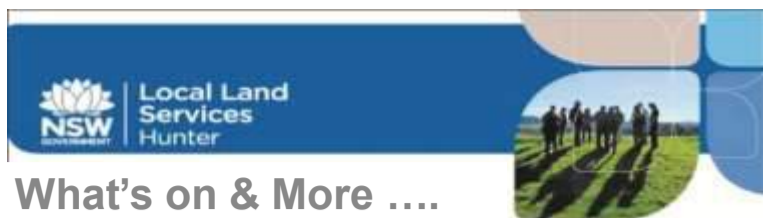
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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 a Defence Training Area 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 2335



What's on & More

COMING EVENTS....

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THREATENED SPECIES IN OUR REGION?

To mark World Environment Day, Hunter Local Land Services has released a series of brochures about threatened species living in our region.

The idea is to help build community awareness about these priority endangered species, and the roles they play in maintaining biodiversity and habitats in our region. The new brochures are on the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Eastern Curlew, Australasian Bittern – which are all priority species under the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Additional factsheets have also been developed for Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby, Spotted Tail Quoll, Manning River Helmeted Turtle and Koala.

Natural Resource Management Team Leader Lyndel Wilson said the brochures are helpful guides on how to identify and support local threatened species.

"We worked in partnership with the Office of Environment and Heritage, Landcare Networks, and Birdlife Australia among other local groups to ensure we covered important facts, such as species biology and regional sightings, as well as threats to their existence," said Lyndel Wilson, NRM Team Leader.

"Hunter Local Land Services has been funded as a provider under the Australian Government's National Landcare program to deliver key projects to protect and restore habitats for these species over the next five years.

"We want to work with interested landholders to enhance local landscapes and provide strong futures for these species in target areas of the Hunter and Mid Coast."

From 2018 to 2023 Hunter Local Land Services will deliver six projects focusing on threatened Box Gum Grassy Woodlands (White-Box Yellow-Box Blakelys Red Gum and Derived Grassy Woodlands), Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forests, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Eastern Curlew, Australasian Bittern and the internationally significant wetland Myall Ramsar wetlands.

We will also deliver a project with oyster and fishing industries adapt to climate change by optimising farming methods in the Wallis, Port Stephens and Manning estuaries.

Target areas include Cessnock and broader surrounds (including Quorrobolong, Mt Vincent and Kurri areas), upper Hunter (from Muswellbrook to Merriwa plateau, and the Upper Goulburn river), and areas in and around the Karuah, Hunter Estuary, Cattai, Woodberry and Myall catchments.

For more information on our priority areas under Hunter LLS programs, please go to the incentives web page and review the priority maps against your property location. Submit an EOI to receive further contact and support from our staff.

These projects are supported by Hunter LLS through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare program. You can download the new Threatened Species brochures for free at <https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/publications>

CHINESE VIOLET NOT WELCOME IN THE HUNTER

A first of its kind Control Order in NSW has just come into force for the invasive weed Chinese Violet, thanks to the perseverance of weed authorities in the Hunter region. Chinese Violet poses a serious threat to our environment and agricultural industries, as it can completely smother other vegetation, removing habitat and reducing biodiversity and productivity.

It is a rapidly growing perennial creeper that spreads by seed and plant fragments and can flower and fruit all year round. There are established infestations around Stockton, Anna Bay and Nelson Bay, but there are also known isolated incursions in Lake Macquarie and Maitland Council areas. Hunter Regional Weeds Committee recently applied for and successfully had the Control Order gazetted by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, to provide strengthened legal support for the weed's eradication. Hunter Local Land Services General Manager Brett Miners said it's a great success for the Committee and local weeds authorities.

"This is the first gazettal of its kind in NSW since the creation of the Biosecurity Act in 2015, and will provide additional clout in the fight against Chinese Violet," said Brett Miners.

"On top of the gazettal, Hunter Local Land Services is supporting local councils to implement a collaborative eradication plan for our region, investing \$85,000 this year in control activities and community awareness.

"Targeting priority weeds and working together across the community is the best chance we have at containing and eradicating invasive species such as Chinese Violet."

Hunter weeds authorities are also working closely with neighbouring regions, to stop the spread of this weed across the state.

"Today Weeds Officers from the North Coast are visiting our region, to learn more about Chinese Violet, to help in their identification and eradication planning for their region," said Mr Miners.

"Under the Biosecurity Act every landholder, large or small has a responsibility to control pest animals and weeds – and this has never been more important as we seek to contain and eradicate damaging invasive species such as Chinese Violet from our region."



Australian Thoroughbred

Compiled by Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

PASSING OF HENRY 'BOYD' GAGELER

Henry 'Boyd' Gageler died late April two months short of his 97th birthday. Raised on a dairy-horse farm at Sandy Hollow, he spent all his life in the Hunter Valley

and bred, owned and raced horses for over a half century. Silver Cape, the first horse he owned won 25 races, including an appearance in Sydney and the Cessnock Cup, Merriwa Cup and Grenfell Cup and

two horses he bred and sold as yearlings in Sydney, Stars and Stripes and Igna Ninja, contested Golden Slippers. Made a life member of the Muswellbrook Race Club on his ninetieth birthday,



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 4th June 2019

35% of the offering were cows in the increased penning. The balance of the offering were comprised of young cattle, with a few grown heifers and bulls. The quality of the offering was fair to good, with some very well bred young cattle penned. Condition was only fair, with limited numbers of well finished young cattle suitable to the trade. The regular buyers attended, along with some extra feedlot competition. Demand for the most part was stronger, while the increased supplies brought about some quality variation. Restocker demand for light weight steers improved, with the vealer portion selling to a dearer trend of 19c to 24c/kg. Light weight heifer vealers to restockers sold on a firm to slightly cheaper market trend, with demand weaker. Breed and quality were also factors in the cheaper prices. The better quality medium weight heifer vealers to restock saw a firm to slightly dearer market trend. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to feed sold to a dearer trend, however there was some quality related price change in the medium weights. Price improvements of 13c/kg and more in places were recorded. Yearling heifers to restock and feed sold to slightly dearer trends, with quality variations accounting for any negative price change. The limited supply of well finished young cattle suitable to the trade sold to dearer trends. Well finished grown heifers attracted strong processor competition to sell to a dearer trend of as much as 20c/kg. Both restockers and feed lotters competed strongly on the plainer condition cows, this resulted in a dearer market trend, with some strong price gains. The larger framed cows attracted the strongest competition. Well finished medium and heavy weight cows sold to a slightly cheaper trend. Heavy bulls sold to a slightly dearer trend, with some improvement in quality.

Detailed Cattle report for Score

Last reported 4th June 2019

Numbers lifted by 200 head, with the quality and finish fair to good, the majority younger cattle suitable for the restockers and lot feeder orders. There was a good selection of prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers. Cow numbers increased for over 100 yarded and yield and quality improved compared to the small consignments penned at the previous market. The market trend was dearer throughout. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers improved 16c, making from 240c to 290c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the restockers trended up to 40c dearer, making from 236c to 270c/kg. Yearling steers sold dearer by 14c, with the medium weights purchased by the lot feeders making from 248c to 320c/kg. There was a better selection of yearling heifers and prices trended 5c dearer, with lot feeders paying from 210c to 266c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers were higher yielding this week and prices topped at 326c/kg. The better selection of cows increased 15c, with the plainer 2 scores making from 171c to 178c/kg. The better finished medium weights made from 169c to 192c, as the heavy weights received from 178c to 206c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 226c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 5th June 2019

Consignments increased and the quality was mixed. The majority of the younger drafts were suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders, with some prime high yielding pens also available. Cows increased in number, with over 100 in the penning. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers averaged 5c cheaper, however the top price recorded was higher than last week and varied from 216c to 296c/kg. The heifer portion also to the restockers improved 8c and sold from 190c to 258c/kg. The yearling steers remained close to firm, with those to the restockers and lot feeders receiving from 242c to 282c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed lifted 8c, making from 218c to 264c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers sold to strong competition, with the best topping at 334c/kg. The older steers to feed received from 206c to 260c/kg, depending on age and quality. Cows increased by 6c to 12c in value, with the plainer 2 scores making from 164c to 180c, while the better finished heavy weights sold from 178c to 190c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 3rd June 2019

Numbers increased with the inclusion of large numbers of very plain condition light weight weaners. There was a good supply of quality yearlings and vealers suitable to restock and feed. Overall, the condition of the offering was fair to good. The usual processors attended, along with increased feedlot and restocker competition. Locally there were reports of between 8 and 70mm of unforecast rain. This boosted confidence for local restockers. Market trends through the young cattle were generally dearer, with some significant improvements recorded. There were however, some breed and quality related negative price changes. Those very light weight weaners sold to restockers, and with nothing from the previous week to compare, they sold very well when compared to the better quality cattle. The good quality vealers to restock and feed sold to dearer trends, up 10c to 15c/kg and more in places. Light weight yearling steers to restockers attracted keen demand from restockers, with crop to record strong gains. The medium and heavy weight feeder steers sold to a dearer trend of 22c to 35c/kg, with increased competition and demand. Light weight yearling heifers to feed sold to a dearer trend of 14c/kg, while those returning to the paddock saw lessor improvement. Medium weights to feed were also 12c to 14c/kg dearer. A small number of well finished trade heifers sold to a similar dearer trend. The few well finished heavy grown steers sold to a slightly dearer trend, as did the well finished grown heifers. The plainer condition 1 and 2 score cows sold on a firm to dearer market trend, although the improvement was not significant. Well finished cows met weaker demand to sell to a cheaper trend of 8c to 12c/kg. Heavy bulls were firm to slightly dearer in places.

Boyd, as he was widely known, is survived by his wife, Muswellbrook born Francis, of 65 years and son Ron and his family. The funeral was held on May 2 and a following a service at St Albans Anglican Church interment took place at Muswellbrook cemetery.

Son of High Chaparral's world record for jump race wins

Altior, a 9-year-old Ireland bred gelding by the dual hemisphere used Sadler's Wells sire High Chaparral (Ire) set a new world record for successive wins in jumps races on April 27 when he galloped away with the Celebration Chase at England's Sandown. Recording his nineteenth victory in succession, he is from Monte Solario, a mare by Key of Luck (USA), a son of the Danzig American champion Chief's Crown, a

sire who shuttled briefly to the Arrowfield Stud. **Winx unlikely to attain Eight Carat breeding record**

Commonsense suggests that golden racemare Winx will never distinguish herself as a broodmare to the extent of the low grade English racemare Eight Carat, a producer of ten foals, one in England and the balance in New Zealand, for six winners, five of them successful at Group1 level, and ancestress of over sixty stakes winners.

Almond Eye headlines the Cox Plate value list

The Moonee Valley Racing Club (MVRC) has announced the 11 international superstars the club has invited to contest the \$5 million Cox Plate at The Valley in October. The 11 invitees from Japan, England, Ireland and Dubai

are headlined by Japanese superstar Almond Eye, last year's winner of the Japan Cup. The five-time Group I winner is one of five Japanese gallopers invited to contest the 99th running of Australia's weight-for-age championship. Three of the other four Japanese invitees are Group I winners - Aerolithe, Indy Champ and Kiseki while Kluger, the horse that finished second to Winx in her farewell race in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick in April, round out the Japanese representation.

"Winx has undoubtedly helped elevate the status of our legendary race overseas and without her presence this year the invitations will be made even more attractive to connections of these star international horses," MVRC CEO

Michael Browell said. "The W.S. Cox Plate has long been renowned as 'The Race Where Legends Are Made' and with \$5 million in prizemoney elevating the race to the world's richest Group I 2000 metre turf race, we're working to assemble a race for the ages and to write a new chapter in the history books." Benbatl, last year's runner-up in Winx's historic fourth Cox Plate victory, and his Saeed Bin Suroor-trained stablemate Best Solution, last year's Caulfield Cup winner, have also been invited as well as Group II-winning Ghaiyyath from the rival Godolphin stable of Charlie Appleby. International Cox Plate-winning trainer Aidan O'Brien puts the polish on Ireland's sole invitee, Group I Tattersalls gold Cup winner Magical.



The Threat Isn't Coming, It's Here: Security Dangers Imminent If China Controls 5G

Steven Bucci 24 April 2019



● The implications go far beyond China's stealing military and business secrets, since Huawei represents a threat to basic democracy. Pictured: Chaobin Yang, president of Huawei's 5G product line, speaks April 16 during the telecom giant's Global Analyst Summit in Shenzhen, China. (Photo: Billy H.C. Kwok/Getty Images)

Anyone concerned with protecting our wireless communications systems from state-sponsored Chinese surveillance should take note of several important, and troubling, developments. Last year, China's state-sponsored Huawei Technologies, which a 2012 bipartisan congressional report labeled a national security risk, surpassed Sweden's Ericsson to become the world's largest telecom equipment provider. Both Huawei and the Chinese government are working furiously to integrate Huawei's proprietary technology into emerging 5G networks throughout the world. Their efforts are a business model and an intel-gathering strategy. This activity poses serious security risks for America and its allies. The liberal Left continue to push their radical agenda against American values. The good news is there is a solution. Six former top Pentagon leaders, including former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, earlier this month warned of "near persistent data transfer back to China" if the U.S. were to incorporate Huawei or other Chinese telecom equipment in our 5G networks. This warning parallels the one given a few years ago to British businesses by the then head of the security agency MI5, that every major business in the U.K. was being surveilled by China. Thankfully, it seems unlikely that a U.S.-based 5G network incorporating Huawei tech will become a reality.

Unfortunately, Huawei's presence abroad is already huge and growing. The same risks raised by Clapper remain imminent in our allies' wireless networks. For years, Huawei worked to integrate its telecommunications equipment into the networks of countries across Europe and Africa—often offering its services at lower costs than its competitors. Today, Huawei's proprietary equipment is integrated in 4G wireless networks throughout the world. The equipment, available at below market cost (subsidized by the Chinese government), is the entry drug of choice into Huawei's domain, and now large parts of the world are addicted and locked into Huawei. This presents an enormous risk, as Huawei's 4G equipment does not interoperate with another vendor's equipment. Meaning that for now, if you chose Huawei to build your 4G network, then your only choice for 5G is Huawei. The security concerns associated with Huawei are clear and well documented, and while an outright ban may not be feasible, it's long past time for our allies to consider their options and to act. Among the many dangers cited by the generals, most concerning is China's 2017 National Intelligence Law, which requires "any organization and citizen [to] support, provide assistance, and cooperate in national intelligence work." While the U.S. has worked tirelessly to sound public alarm, reactions around the

world from our allies have been mixed. Some of the laziness of their reaction could be because everyone already knew that the telecom giant and Chinese intel were in bed. Consider that China was willing to make this previously unspoken fact a public declaration; the Chinese don't care because they are pretty sure no one can stop them. Last summer, Australia announced that it would block Huawei and China's ZTE Corp. from building its 5G networks. But last month, the European Union flinched. The EU stopped short of banning Huawei equipment in future networks. While the EU acknowledged security concerns about Huawei, it put forth only a half-measure that requires EU nations to share data on 5G cybersecurity and suggest ways to thwart surveillance. This insufficient level of concern is one of the reasons the U.K. is willing to make a go of it outside the EU. To understand the enormity of Chinese penetration of the wireless supply chain and the diverse ways Chinese officials are trying to accomplish this, just look at a recent Wall Street Journal report on Huawei's short-lived coup to provide free Wi-Fi at the Washington Redskins' home games. Since these games are a magnet for members of Congress and high-ranking federal officials, the prospect that Huawei would regularly process sensitive mobile connections was seriously unnerving. Fortunately, the deal unraveled after inquiries from a U.S. intelligence

official. It is a prime example of how unaware many people, even many decision-makers, are of the threat China poses. Although this was a small win against Chinese state-sponsored surveillance, the bigger conflict unfortunately continues, and it has far higher stakes. Think of it this way: Instead of a Chinese state-sponsored surveillance company handling mobile data at a sporting event once a week, the company could become a nation's 24/7 provider. There would be no way to avoid it. Huawei would be in a position to access emails, important files, and other data flowing through its hardware. Even though secure communications are encrypted, emerging quantum computing technology (in which China plays a leading role) eventually will break those codes instantly. As Pentagon leaders note, the implications go far beyond stealing military and business secrets. Huawei represents a threat to basic democracy throughout the world. Our allies shouldn't allow a repressive government with the capability of surveilling its citizens to manage their 5G networks. Although it may seem clear that the U.S. is in a position to ban Huawei technology, our national security community now must prepare to address a reality that our European allies do not. If a full ban is off the table, President Donald Trump and his administration must work with our allies using Huawei 4G technology to push for interoperability, ending the technology-induced monopoly addiction that Huawei has created. The threat is real, and it is here now.

MOVIE REVIEW

ROCKETMAN



ROCKETMAN is an epic musical fantasy about the incredible human story of Elton John's breakthrough years. The film follows the fantastical journey of transformation from shy piano prodigy Reginald Dwight into international superstar Elton John. This inspirational story -- set to Elton John's most beloved songs and performed by star Taron Egerton -- tells the universally relatable story of how a small-town boy became one of the most iconic figures in pop culture. ROCKETMAN also stars Jamie Bell as Elton's longtime lyricist and writing partner Bernie Taupin, Richard Madden as Elton's first manager, John Reid,

The new bio-pic of Elton John, "Rocketman," is directed by Dexter Fletcher. Last year, he assumed command of the Freddie Mercury film, "Bohemian Rhapsody," and steered it to a safe harbor, after the previous director walked the plank. If you need somebody to recount the rise of a British rock god from pallid suburbia to the baroque extremes of fame, and to create a stir without causing too much of a fuss, Fletcher is your man. He is the helmsman of the acceptably outrageous. David Bowie fans, watch out. "Rocketman" is framed as a therapeutic exercise. We first encounter the adult Elton John (Taron Egerton) as he stomps down a corridor in a tangerine catsuit, tricked out with wings and horns. He looks like Hell-boy, only shorter and angrier. Bursting through a door, Elton finds himself in group therapy, and immediately reveals his addictions: sex, drink, and drugs—the usual suspects—plus bags and bags of shopping. "I was actually a very happy child," he adds, and, with that, we are spirited back to his youth, and thence through his personal past. We get the early gigs in pubs; the meeting with his lifelong lyricist, Bernie Taupin (Jamie Bell); the doomy arrival of John Reid (Richard Madden), who became Elton's lover and manager; the globe-straddling glory; and the statutory crackup, without which no rock fable is complete. The whole thing winds up where it began, with the star, efficiently cured of his miseries, embracing his younger self, and carolling "I'm Still Standing." Job done. There is a famous boyhood photograph of Elton—or, as he then was, Reggie Dwight—seated at the piano, his hands on the keys, turning to the camera with a smile. His hair is neatly brushed, as befits a polite scion of Pinner, an uneventful town northwest of London. The youngest actor who plays him in "Rocketman," Matthew Illesley, is a perfect match for that photo, and, when he's required to belt out "The Bitch Is Back" in a ringing treble, outside the Dwight family home, with local residents pitching in, Illesley gives it everything. He thereby sets a pattern for the movie, in which the songs are delivered not by Elton John but by the actors, with varying degrees of success. Reggie, his mother (Bryce Dallas Howard), his



grandmother (Gemma Jones), and even his father (Steven Mackintosh), as stiff as a brush, all contribute to "I Want Love," for instance, as they wander around the house. Compare this scene with the music video of the same song, from 2001, when it was lip-synched by Robert Downey, Jr., as *he* wandered around a house. It was eerie to hear the familiar tones of Elton John—the long and winding vowels, the dying falls, the salty Englishness pepped up with a transatlantic twang—emerge from someone else's mouth, and there are times, during "Rocketman," when you yearn for a snatch of that unmistakable sound. Egerton is busy and fizzy in the leading role, but there's a curious blankness in his impersonation, and a shortage of charm. Hard to tell whether viewers will flock to him as they did to Rami Malek, who gave such electric life to "Bohemian Rhapsody." Yet "Rocketman" is the better film. Not by much, but just enough. Fletcher and his screenwriter, Lee Hall (who joined forces with Elton John on "Billy Elliot the Musical"), allow themselves all sorts of latitude. Elton's bad behavior, for one thing, gets a proper airing; we see him falling into bed with Reid, quenching his thirsty soul with vodka, and surfing atop a mob of orgiasts. (Mind you, as even Stanley Kubrick proved with "Eyes Wide Shut," in 1999, orgies may be fun to try but they're grindingly boring to behold.) Then, there are factual tweaks. In 1970, for example, when the singer took his first trip to Los Angeles, he did indeed raise the roof at the Troubadour, as the movie suggests—but not with the song we hear, "Crocodile Rock," for the simple reason that it was not written until 1972. From that white lie, though, comes the highlight of the film. As the song hits its stride, Elton dispenses with his piano stool and—keeping his hands on the

keys, like little Reggie—lofts his legs into the air. And there he stays. So hot is the thrill that the action freezes. And such is the uplift that the revellers at the Troubadour, too, begin to levitate; we watch their feet leave the ground. The joint is jumpin', and that jump, as every pop star knows, and as all fans feel in their bones, matters more than the life, however staid or fraught, from which the music sprang. Forget therapy. Screw gravity. For a few minutes, exultant and exalted, "Rocketman" takes off. In many respects, Godzilla is hard to distinguish from Elton John. Terrible temper? Check. Professional longevity? Check. Tireless vocal vigor? Check. They even share a fondness for baseball parks as suitable arenas for their skills: "Rocketman" re-creates Elton's triumphant appearance at Dodger Stadium, in 1975, while "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," a new addition to the franchise, shows the title character slugging a rival predator at Fenway Park. For years, it's true, the singer has beaten the beast in the costume stakes, since Godzilla prefers to function au naturel, with his dark-green skin, all wrinkled and ridged, lending him the look of a furious avocado. For the latest film, however, he grows more fashion-conscious, arranging for his dorsal plates to flash bright blue whenever he's totally stoked. Once Elton John sees this movie, he will *have* to get himself a set of those. The film is a sequel to "Godzilla" (2014), and we start with a reminder of the chaos that was wrought therein—"a historic tragedy that changed the world forever as we know it." I'm embarrassed to admit that I'd forgotten all about it. Odd how often that happens. What we now learn is that Godzilla, far from being a solo act, is the front man for the Titans: supersized creatures, dormant beneath the earth, and half as old as time.

The raid on the ABC shows we need a law to protect journalists and their sources

by Peter Greste

The Guardian



Two AFP officers walk out of the ABC headquarters in Sydney. Raids on the ABC and News Corp have raised concerns about media freedom in Australia. Photograph: David Gray/AAP

Parliament has passed a slew of national security laws that limit and even criminalise the fundamental work of the press

Recent raids by the Australian federal police on the News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst and the ABC are a serious threat to the most fundamental role that the media plays in a democracy.

By definition, democracy is government by the people. Politicians act on behalf of those who employ them; that is, us Australian voters and taxpayers.

As their employers we have both a right and a responsibility to know what is being done in our names. The means by which that is done is through good journalism.

Of course, there are things that governments need to keep secret. Whether they are the financial or health records of private citizens, or the operational details of our security services, there are places that nobody outside of the agencies involved should have access to. But what happens when things go wrong? What happens when someone

abuses the power or authority that we, the voters, have invested in them? What happens when the internal mechanisms of accountability and transparency break down? Or when government officials use the cloak of "national security" to cover up something that we all ought to know about and debate in public?

The prime minister is right when he says that the police were simply following the law. "Australians believe strongly in the freedom of the press, we have clear rules and protections for freedom of the press and there are also clear rules protecting Australia's national security," he said on Tuesday. "And everyone should operate in accordance with all those laws passed by our parliament."

But in recent years, parliament has passed a slew of national security laws that in some way limit and even criminalise the legitimate work of journalists. The effect might not be deliberate – it may be too much to suggest there is a clear conspiracy to silence the press – but the effect is still deeply damaging to the very foundations of the way our democracy works. Whether it is section 35p of the Asio Act, or the foreign fighters legislation, the Data Retention Act, or the Foreign Interference and Espionage Act (to name a few), all in some way make it dangerous for journalists or their sources to expose and report on issues within government that you and I ought to know about.

That is why my organisation, the Alliance for Journalists' Freedom, has just published a white paper on the subject. We are not suggesting that those laws be repealed – clearly, we need to update our national security framework to deal with evolving threats – but if in the process of trying to make us safer, we undermine the very system that has made us one of the safest countries on the planet in the first place, something has gone

terribly wrong.

Many of those laws include a "public interest" defence, allowing journalists to argue in court that their work was legitimate, but that is not enough. It doesn't resolve the chilling effect that the AFP raids will inevitably have on future reporting, intimidating both potential sources and journalists who may balk at stories that will put them at risk of imprisonment or at best, facing lengthy court cases and hefty legal bills.

In the white paper, we argue that there is a better way.

The tool we recommend is a media freedom act that positively puts the role of the press in the middle of our legal system. At the moment, there is *nothing* in Australian law that explicitly protects press freedom in the way that the first amendment does in the US constitution.

Such an act would recognise the fundamental importance of national security and the protection of certain commonwealth activities and the identities of key employees, while still providing a basis for journalists to investigate and report on government misconduct.

'The tool we recommend is a media freedom act that positively puts the role of the press in the middle of our legal system'.

More than simply making reporting "in the public interest" a defence, it would make it an exception from prosecution. That isn't to suggest that journalists would be immune, but the onus would be on the security agencies to

show that the exception of "public interest reporting" does not apply, *before* charges are laid. In effect, it restores the assumption of innocence which the current legislation has overturned. There is no evidence that the journalists that the AFP targeted over the past few days did anything that genuinely damaged national security. Rather, those journalists exposed issues that we needed to know about, needed to debate and in some cases needed to change.

To be clear, this is not simply about protecting the rights of journalists to stick their noses into the inner workings of government. This is about ensuring the kind of transparency and accountability that has helped make Australia one of the most stable, prosperous and peaceful places on the planet.



Prof Peter Greste is Unesco chair in journalism and communication at the University of Queensland, and a founding director of the Alliance for Journalists' Freedom

Daily Thoughts

"Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger." ~ Franklin P. Jones

"Whenever I see an old lady slip and fall on a wet sidewalk, my first instinct is to laugh. But then I think, what if I was an ant, and she fell on me. Then it wouldn't seem quite so funny." ~ Jack Handey

"Never tell your mom her diet's not working." ~ Joel, age 14 from "Advice from Kids"
My formula for success is rise early, work late, and strike oil ~ Paul Getty

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

Hey folks Al Gore has come from America to tell us about climate change. HA HA HA HA HA. This the bloke who told us last century that the polar ice caps would be melted by 2009.???? HA HA. Whaaaait a minute - we taxpayers are paying for this joker's trip. HUH?? Who's stupid? us or him? Whoever invited him should pay his way.

To the person/resident in East Branxton who has a very large, angry & short tempered German Shepherd which looks like a breeding cross with a large Shetland pony. One day the gate will fail & somebody, maybe a small child, will be badly injured if not killed. Your restraining call from the back of the house may not work.

For when cars, buses, motor bikes & trucks recognize the speed limit on Dalwood Road, Branxton ~ it's 50KPM not 120KPM.

To the owners of two dogs that were left in a vehicle at the Branxton Supermarket car park last week. Surely you must realise just how hot it can get in a vehicle in a very short time; thankfully it was a mild 23° but hot enough over a longer period to do significant damage to your dogs. Why don't you look yourself in a car in the same conditions & find out!

FREE Classifieds Classified's 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
repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
For Sale: PRICES REDUCED! Timber bedroom set, brand new, new mattress, 2xside tables, 1xchest draws, 2xbed lamps, 1xsummer sheets & 1xpair winter sheets, dooner and dooner cover also pillows. Moving sale \$900 P: 0428 057 253
For Sale: Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077
For Sale: Dining set 6xchairs, glass top. In very good condition. Moving sale \$250 P: 0428 057 253
For Sale: Aviary bred Rainbow & Scaly Lorikeets. \$20ea or \$45ea with new cage P: 0421 102 711
For Sale: Alpacas Ph 4930 6291
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st170 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something

moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Home maintenance. Building repairs, painting, tiling and more. Fully insured. Ph: 0418 982 657. Prompt service to local areas.
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3607
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 >

WED 12 JUN — Branxton Public School - Choose Maths Family Night 6:00-7:30pm
THUR 13 JUN — Branxton VIEW Club welcomes Reverend Nicole as our guest speaker at 1pm. Everyone welcome to attend Join us for lunch Greta Workers Club Enquiries Bethany 0419 429 364
SUN 16 JUN — Free Community Event Social Tennis and Hot Soup. Sunday afternoons 5:30-7:30pm (fortnightly). Miller Park Tennis Courts, Branxton. Family fun and meet some locals. Hosted by Gospel Church - Central Hunter. Contact Darren 0407 490 646.
Mon 17 JUNE — Branxton Public School P&C Meeting 6pm in the library
Fri 21 JUNE — Branx. Public School Primary Athletics Carnival
Wed 26 JUNE — Branxton Public School Visiting Science Show
FRI 28 JUNE — 8am—5pm @ Huntlee - We are encouraging the children to come dressed in their red attire to celebrate Red Nose Day
SUN 30 JUNE — Free Community Event Social Tennis and Hot Soup. Sunday afternoons 5:30-7:30pm (fortnightly). Miller Park Tennis Courts, Branxton. Family fun and meet some locals. Hosted by Gospel Church - Central Hunter. Contact Darren 0407 490 646.
TUE 2 JULY — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
MON 8 JUL to SUN 14 JUL — NAIDOC Week
TUE 9 JULY — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
FRI 26 JULY — School Tree Day
TUE 6 AUG — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
TUES 6 AUG — North Rothbury Tidy Town bi-monthly meeting. 6:30pm start @ 24 Mayne Street, North Rothbury
TUES 13 AUG — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following.

Dates for your diary >

Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
SUN 1 SEPT — Fathers Day
TUE 3 SEPT — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
TUES 10 SEP — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
TUE 1 Oct — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
TUE 5 Nov — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
MON 7 OCT — Labour Day public holiday
TUES 8 OCT — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
SAT 9 & 10 NOV — Silky Oak Festival GRETA: SAVE THIS DATE - we are celebrating the birthdays for Greta Army Camp and Greta Migrant Camp hosted by the Central Hunter Business Chamber (Branxton & Greta). This is a public event over two days with military parade, market stalls, ethnic dancing and music, food vans and etc
TUE 3 DEC — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
TUES 12 NOV — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
TUES 10 DEC — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
SAT 14 DEC — North Rothbury Tidy Town Twilight Markets & 90 year Rothbury Riot re-enactment.3pm - 8pm. Call Mike Lowing on 0414 757 826 or mark Stanford on 0419 296 635 for further details.



In The Garden

vegetables and fruits grow in which months, and when to harvest depending on where you live. Succession planting, or staggering the sowing of your seeds, will ensure a continuous supply of vegetables (instead of them all coming in at once!).

Tips for choosing cost-effective fruit and vegetables

- Grow plants that give multiple crops and are high yielding. For example, a bean seed will give you many crops over a season, whereas planting a cauliflower will just give you one pick and can take four months to mature.

- Choose crops that grow quickly such as radishes, lettuces and spinach. It means you can turn over what you're growing very quickly.

- Grow plants with long yields such as green leafy vegetables like perpetual spinach and silver beet. Heirloom varieties of fruit and vegetables also tend to have longer yields, maximising your harvest.

- Choose crops that aren't too resource-intensive to grow (for example use a lot of water) and that are less susceptible to pests, such as an heirloom variety.

- Choose vegetables that you like to eat, that can be easily stored or preserved, and that are expensive to buy at the shop.

Some of our picks for the most cost-effective vegetables to grow are:



- **Herbs** last longer on the plant. Having them on hand is a great way to save on buying a fresh bunch every time you need just a small amount.

- **Lettuce** can be expensive to buy and it doesn't take long for it to go bad. Cut-and-come-again varieties will save you from wasting food, as well as make your salads more nutritious and delicious. Sprouts are

also easy to grow indoors.

- **Cherry heirloom tomatoes** can be as much as \$7 at the supermarket so growing your own is a good option. Cherry tomatoes also grow quicker than the larger varieties so there is less time for them to be eaten by bugs. Heirloom varieties will also have longer yields.

- **Climbing beans** are great for small spaces and give multiple crops.

Composting

Composting is a way of recycling your organic waste – such as vegetable scraps and leaves – by mixing them in a compost bin and leaving them to break down naturally. The end product is a brown-black substance that looks like soil and is rich in nitrogen.

It's a great way to improve your soil, as it helps build structure and retain moisture and provides nutrients for all types of soils. Local councils often run free composting workshops, which are good for getting started.

Composting tips

- If your compost bin smells, add more dry material such as newspapers or leaf litter.

- Avoid meat scraps, as they attract vermin.

- To accelerate the composting process, add air by turning it over with a fork.

For those who are space-poor but still want to take advantage of the fertiliser available to you in your food scraps, try a worm farm or bokashi bucket.

Worm farms

Worms decompose organic matter into worm castings which gives soil a nutrient surge. You can make a farm by using polystyrene boxes (instructions are on the internet or check with your local council) or buy one from your local council or hardware store.

Keep the farm in a cool, dry space. You can add everything, from banana peel to eggshells, but not citrus and onions as they're too acidic for the worms, and do not add meat or twigs.

Bokashi buckets

By placing your kitchen scraps into these airtight containers and using a bokashi mix that contains micro-organisms, the food waste ferments. Food waste reduces in volume and bokashi juice, or fertiliser, is produced. The remaining food waste can then be buried in garden beds. Bokashi buckets can be kept indoors.

Chickens

If you're really keen and have the space, keeping chickens is a way of getting fresh eggs every morning as well as using up food scraps.

If you keep chooks, leave their manure out to dry or put it into a compost bin along with kitchen scraps and leaf litter, so it breaks down into organic, nutrient-rich matter. You'll need to check with your local council if you can keep chooks in your area.

If you're not sure chickens are right for you, try renting them. See www.rentachook.com.au in NSW. You will get the whole package – a coop, two hens, organic feed, a waterer, food and straw – but will be given a deadline to decide if it's right for you.

Organic pest control

Companion planting, or growing complementary plants near each other, acts as a natural pest control.

- * Planting tomatoes and basil together is said to help protect the tomatoes as the basil's powerful scent repels aphids.

- * Grow climbing beans at the base of a sweet corn stalk. The corn's stalk will support the climbing beans while the beans' roots will transfer nitrogen from the air into the soil where it's needed by the sweet corn.

- * Onions and carrots boost the productivity of the soil beds as the roots of both plants use the nutrients at different soil levels. The pungent smell of onions is said to confuse pests drawn to carrots.

- * Crop rotation, or rotating what you grow in your garden bed, also helps break the breeding cycles of pests and soil diseases.

Persistent garden pests can be controlled with homemade organic pesticides, such as ground chilli, garlic or coffee mixed with soap water. For snails, beer traps, sawdust or crushed egg shells are helpful, but often the best remedy is simply to pull them off yourself.

Pyrethrum is a natural insecticide that comes from the flower of the pyrethrum plants (related to the chrysanthemum) and is commonly used to kill aphids. Be careful if you're making your own pyrethrum pesticide: it can cause allergic reactions until it breaks down under sunlight. You can also make your own white oil – for getting rid of scale and aphids – by mixing sunflower oil in diluted dishwashing liquid.

Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS Issue No 138 3rd July 2003 page 43

Well done team

On Friday 13th June The Colt's Under 9's went down to Energy Australia Stadium to play an exhibition match against Kurri, in front of a crowd of over 18,000 people, and before the Knights V St George match. The boys were over the moon to be asked and performed well running in about 4 tries over Kurri.



The team shot before they played.



In action!!!



(L-R) ~ Elodie Dagg, Hannah Withedin & Alysha Barrett ~ Year 1, St Marys, Greta who competed at the recent athletic carnival at Miller Park on the 19th June, 2003. Unfortunately for Elodie, Hannah & Alysha Red House won the day.

School News



Branxton Public School

Mr Jerome Brecard, who teaches the 5/6 Koala class, has suddenly become gravely ill. He is a highly valued member of the BPS community and our heartfelt thoughts are with his family and friends. We appreciate the support our parents and broader school community have been able to give at this difficult time as our primary focus is on supporting our students. A member of Mr Brecard's family has set up a fundraising page to help Jerome and his family <https://www.facebook.com/donate/328397497853019>. He is in good spirits and sent thanks to the school community last week for their messages of love and support.



STEM

In Week 7 & 8 we will be having visits by a presenter from the "Just Like You" disability education and awareness program. This program has been sponsored by Variety – the Children's Charity. This program has been educating primary school students on the acceptance and inclusion of people living with a disability. The program helps them learn that people with disability are the same as everyone else – they are "Just Like You".



Gardening

Our Week 5 PBL Rewards afternoon was lots of fun. The students had many options including gardening, STEM, robotics, sport, art and quiet library activities. Something for all! Mrs Maier also had a story time where she read her favourite childhood book.



Cross Country

ChooseMaths are hosting a family night at school on Wednesday 12th June at 6pm. It's a great opportunity to find out how you can help your child at home with their maths. Parents who attend will be provided with digital resources and notes on how to further help their children at home. It should be quite an informative night. We are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2020. If you have or know of someone that has a child starting Kindergarten next year, ask them 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 12th June – Choose Maths Family Night 6:00-7:30pm
 Monday 17th June – P&C Meeting 6pm in the library
 Friday 21st June – Primary Athletics Carnival
 Wednesday 26th June – Visiting Science Show



StarStruck



PBL Reward afternoon

Congratulations to our students who competed at regional Cross country recently. Lachlan, Aden, Oliver, Lucy, Natasha and Ella all did their personal best and should be very proud of their efforts. Congratulations Ella who came 5th and is now off to the State Cross Country. Good luck or 'break a leg' to our Starstruck dancers and Mrs Morrow, who will be performing this week at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Stay warm and have fun!

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

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
 P: 4938 3300

GATE DETAIL

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton

Recent sales

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

UNIT 2
UNIT 10
UNIT 12
UNIT 18

Three generations of 'Wildcats'



• Photo above: Stewart, Luke and Easton Thrift cutting the cake at the Wildcats' 50th Anniversary celebrations in August 2018.

As Greta Branxton Football Club enters its 51st year, the Thrift family are proud to celebrate their long time involvement with a rare achievement. Four generations of the family have been involved with the club over the years, and now, three generations are registered and playing in the same year. Stewart, Luke, Easton & Colton Thrift are all registered players with the Wildcats. Stewart has been involved with the club since its beginning, having played at least 45 of the club's 51 years, and is playing again this year with the Over 35's team. He is also a coach and committee member. Luke, Stewart's elder son, has played with the club

since he was five years old, only missing a couple of years during his early teens when there was no team for his age group. He has been a committee member for 13 years, and is now in his eleventh year as Club President. He has also been heavily involved with coaching both the men's and women's teams. Some of his proudest moments were his All-Age team winning the Grand Final in 2016 after several years of being runners-up, topped off with an A-Grade All Age win in 2018, the Club's 50th Anniversary Year. Luke's sons Easton, 5 and Colton, 3, are excited to be a new generation of Wildcats, with Easton playing in Under 6's, and Colton participating in the Aldi Kick Off training

programme. This is an innovate programme aimed at encouraging and developing junior players from an early age. Club involvement has truly been a family affair for the Thrifts. Stewart's father Dan, was also involved with the club during its early times, serving as treasurer for a number of years. Luke's wife Anna played in the women's team in 2017, and both Anna and Stewart's wife, Wendy, have been involved at committee level at various times over the years. Stewart's younger son Matt, also played many years with the club, as did Stewart's brothers. As the new generation takes to the field, the family is looking forward to many more years with the Wildcats.

Award winning author to visit Cessnock Library



Andrew Patterson will be visiting Cessnock Library to discuss his new outstanding mystery



WA Police working in vice, and later was a Chief Investigator with the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption. Cessnock City Council's Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters encourages crime novel fans to come along. "This is an author visit not to be missed. Andrew will also talk about the influence of his extensive and colourful professional experiences on his fiction writing." "As an author I want to entertain you with vices aplenty, and a few virtues in the fray!," said Andrew. "All these salacious facets of human life are part of

our everyday, for better or for worse, and they should be put on the record. As a writer I want to give you stories you will love reading. "Crime writing and the detective genre are well-established forms. What I want to bring to the genre is the distillation of all my life experiences in the form of entertaining fiction. "As a former police officer, former detective, and former corruption investigator, observing the most colourful manifestations of human vice and desire has given me a unique and rich source of inspiration. We humans have always loved a good story, so join me and read on."

Calling all lovers of crime fiction! Andrew Patterson will be visiting Cessnock Library to discuss his new outstanding mystery, 'Harry's Quest,' the sizzling sequel to the international award-winning 'Harry's World.' Patterson's fictional hero in

the hard-boiled and noir traditions, Harry Kenmare, made his debut in 2015. Now Harry returns. Andrew Patterson is a 30-year veteran investigator and writer who knows first-hand about corruption, power, crime and vice. He was previously a Detective Sergeant in the

Bookings are essential and can be made online under 'Events and Bookings' at libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399. When: Thursday 13 June 2019 10.30-noon Where: Cessnock Library Cost: Free (light refreshments provided)

Do you **REMEMBER** when....

THE NEWS Issue No 317 21st June 2011 Page 34

Netball Season off to a flying start

The Branxton Netball Club have had a great start to the 2011 season. The club has fielded 17 teams in the Maitland competition and is having great success with many of its teams on the top half of the ladder. The club has been grateful to the ongoing support of our sponsor Greta Workers Club over many years, and welcomes a new sponsor this year, with PIDON Electrical providing netballs to all playing members of the club at the beginning of the season. There are many new young coaches and umpires who are doing a great job with the girls and gaining some wonderful experience. Good luck to all teams for the remainder of the season. We look forward to a few grand final games!



• Photo above: Team 'Roxy Chix' from Division 11-2 who are currently on top of their ladder

FROM PAGE 18 Movie Review "Rocketman"

... They include Rodan, a volcano-based dragonoid whose wings are fretted with fire; Mothra, a flying insect of rare beauty, which, like all moths, should be kept well away from your cashmere sweaters; and a mammoth-flavored enormity whose name I didn't catch. Also present is King Ghidorah, a real piece of work. Stealing his style from the Hydra of Greek mythology, he has

three screeching heads, which occasionally squabble among themselves but, when on form, can trounce the competition. Fighting Ghidorah is like doing battle with the Bee Gees. Stayin' alive, amidst the chaos, is a handful of negligible humans. The joke is that many of them are played by actors who, given half a chance, can be as wondrous to behold as any monster; what slays the joke is that the movie, directed by Michael Dougherty, gives them, at best, a quarter of a chance, or a sixteenth. Sally

Hawkins, whose knack for befriending the bestial was demonstrated in "The Shape of Water" (2017), is wasted here as a scientist. Ditto David Strathairn as an admiral. Vera Farmiga plays Emma Russell, who has invented an acoustic device, the Orca, that can tune in to Titans. (The film probably cost around two hundred million dollars, so it's touching to note that the Orca seems to be made from an old oscilloscope found on eBay for thirty-five bucks.) Emma's daughter, Madison, aged fourteen, is played by

Millie Bobby Brown, the prodigy from the TV series "Stranger Things," who has one moment—enshrined in the trailer—when she turns not to scream but to smile, with a kind of knowing relief, at Godzilla's approach. That moment makes the movie. It has long been a boast of monster flicks that they glow with metaphorical intent. The original "Godzilla" came out in Japan less than a decade after Hiroshima, and a recent contribution to the legend, "Shin Godzilla" (2016), was received, and praised, as a scalding comment on the

Japanese government's response to real-life calamities—the earthquake and tsunami of 2011, and the subsequent meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. What's sad about "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" is its attempt, both earnest and lily-livered, to maintain that moral tradition; Dougherty isn't quite sure whether to wow us with the hulking immensity of the action scenes or to wag his finger at us for the environmental hubris of our species. While some of the characters want to live in peace with

Godzilla and the gang, others want to kick the bejesus out of them, which is easier said than done. But wait. There is a third way, represented by Jonah Alan, "a former British army colonel turned eco-terrorist." That's not the most obvious of career moves, but it gets results; Alan basically nips around the world, hauls lazy Titans out of bed, and tells them to start monsterring. He believes that the planet is rightfully theirs, that we are mere undeserving tenants who have trashed the place, and that the sooner we are

mown down and composted the better. Alan is supposed to be the villain of the piece, but many viewers will instinctively side with him, not least because he's played by Charles Dance, who is fresh from "Game of Thrones," and whose dry, unhurried wit makes him terribly hard to argue with. Need instant help from Godzilla with your downsizing? Feel like selling your car and flying everywhere by Mothra? Not a problem. Let the rewinding begin.

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 27-5-19

Stableford

“Away Day at Kurri Kurri”

1st A McGregor 36 pts

2nd D Fletcher 33 pts

3rd M Ryan 31 pts

4th J Flynn 30 pts (c/b)

5th B Algie 30 pts

“Against the Wind” -

Well!! our long spell of

pleasant Autumn weather

came to an abrupt end

to-day, with around 20

degree temperature and

gusting winds sufficient to

blow buggies over, cause

swirls of leaves and dust

flurries across the course.

Not a good day for golfing.

However, we did beat the

rain. Congratulations to

Angus McGregor, being our

“Against the Wind” winner,

with a very respectable score

given the weather

conditions. And a well done

to the placegetters. Also we

wish to thank our Kurri Golf

Club members for preparing

and supplying lunch for the

visiting players.

30th May 2019

Guy Cornwall Memorial

Day.

Winner-- D Fletcher 36 Pts

r/u -- I Harris 32 pts

NTPs Ladies R Friis

Gents K Anderson

Members Draw – not won

Our appreciation to the many

players who participated in

today’s event, making it a

most successful occasion,

paying respect to a departed

member. Congratulations to

Darryl Fletcher on winning

the trophy and a well done to

runner up, Ivan Har-

ris. President, John Atton,

thanked the Branxton Lady

golfers for the ‘Certificate of

Appreciation’ presentation,

to Veteran Members

assisting with Ladies Open

Days.

6th June 2019

Individual Stableford

Div1-1 M. Barrett 31

pts

r/u J Sheedy 30 pts

3rd R Yandle 27 C/B

Div 2 – 1st SOD J Flynn 31

Pts C/B r/u G Scobie 31

pts C/B 3rd S Dunker 31 pts

C/B

Ladies – 1st J Scobie 28 pts

r/u R Friis 23 pts

3rd R McCarthy 20 pts

Members draw \$380 - not

won

NTPs Ladies – M Hunt

Mens - J Flynn

Members Draw – Not won

A good field of golfers

braved the early chill and

battled the fast greens with

the scores reflecting the

difficult conditions.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 26th May

The Weekly Challenge has

been won by Alex Lascelles

with 40 points from Brant

Job with 39 on countback to

Robert Logue in 3rd place.

Tuesday 28th May

The American Stableford

field were greeted with a

touch of winter with the cool

morning and brisk wind

giving most starters a test,

Wayne Burgess continued

his great form to claim the

day with 57 points from inform Robert Logue 56 and Rod Williams taking 3rd with 54 points. Ball winners were: Dan Olsen 52, Victor Joseph 52, Garry Clarke 52, Toby George 52, Paul Hyslop v52, Julie Van Den Berg 51, Mitch Attewell 51, Col Bradley 51, Ken Wright 51, Ryan Wilson 51, Peter Atte-well 51, Phil Small 51, Greg Harder 50, Richard Craft 50, Rex Talbot 50, Tim Dunn 50, James Hogg 50, Garry Arnold 50, Brian Rooney 49, Ken Scott McKenzie 49, Jason Bear 48, Craig Rhodes 48, Wayne Barber 48, Dean Morison 48, Sue Williams 48, Rick Turnchini 47, Greg Ireland 47, Peter Wilson 47, David Peel 47 and Geoff Boyd 46 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to James Hogg (3rd & 10th) Phil Small (4th) Rod Williams (8th) and Peter Wilson (17th)

Wednesday 29th May
Sue Williams showed the benefit of an extra round this week to claim the Ladies Stableford with 37 points from Brenda Mannix with 34 and Jenny chambers in 3rd with 32 points. Ball winners were: Dale Hamilton 31, Melita Watson 29 and Sharon Blackett 29. Next week the Ladies will play the 2019 Foursome Championship

Thursday 30th May
Lindsay Meyn has won the Vets Medley Stableford with a solid 42 point round from William Davey on 40 and Ron Findlay 3rd with 39. Ball winners were: James Hogg 38, Steve Clark 37, Graham Morris 37, Mark Green 37, David Archibald 37, Richard Craft 36, James Scofield 36, Steve Piggott 36, John Hogg 36, Phil Small 35, Barney Wheki 35, Peter McIntyre 35, Greg Harder 35, John Harrison 35, Col Bradley 34, Rod Williams 34, David Peel 34, Ken Harris 34, Evan Powell 34, Garry Marsden 34, Phil Marks 34, Chris Norman 33, David Gellwiler 33, Mick Barrett 33, Ken Roe 33, Julie Van Den Berg 32, Doug Wand 32, Victor Joseph 32, Paul Ireland 31, Ray Newton 31, Geoff Boyd 31, Trevor Collins 31, Darrell Preston 31, Geoff Sweetman 30 and Ryan Wilson 30 c/b. Nearest -the-Pins went to Mark Barrow (3rd) David Peel (4th) John Hogg (8th) and Col Bradley (10th & 17th). The raffle has been won by Ken Springbett and Bruce Chambers, John Harrison in 2nd place. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 1st June
Andrew Zok has won the June Medal and A Grade with an outstanding 64 net, Robert Logue took runner up with 68 net, B Grade to Peter Huckfelt with 70 on countback to Brian Connolly and C Grade to Geoff Boyd with 65 net from William Davey 66. Ball winners were: Ron Higginbottom 67, William Mitchell 68, Mathew Merlo 68, Harrison Preece 69, Craig Sharp 69, Dan Stoneman v70, Bruce Chambers 70, Peter Puerta 70, David Peel 71, John McLoughney 71, Dean Freebairn 71, Adrian Kent 71, Jeraya Thakun v71, Don Bradley 72, Alan Connolly

v72 and Jeremy Holden 73 c/ b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Tania Hutchins (3rd) Andrew Zok (4th) Peter McIntyre (8th) and Craig Sharp (17th) Alan Connolly from Mollymook GC and Jeraya Thakun from SGA GC have won the 2BBB run in conjunction with the Stroke Medal rounds with 59 net on countback to Peter McIntyre and Mathew Merlo. Next week's event will be The Opening Round of the 2019 Cessnock Cup with a Medley Stableford available for members and visitors.

Sunday 2nd June
The Weekly Challenge has gone to Lloyd Barrett with 37 points from Alan Connolly with 36 on count-back to Wayne Thompson also on countback. Ball winners were: Jeremy Hoslin 36, Leigh O'Connell 36, Graham Ward 35, Shawn Parish 35, Richard Craft 34, Scott Conti 34, Phousang Sihapanya 33, Scott Ling 33, Joshua Crampton 33 and Robert Logue 32 c/b

Tuesday 4th June
A weather change on Tuesday morning resulting in most of the field going indoors with only the very hardy continuing in tough conditions with Paul Neuss producing an amazing 40 point round and Nick Wheeler from Branxton GC collecting 2nd place with 30 points.

Wednesday 5th June
Dale Hamilton and Jenny Chambers have claimed the 2019 - 27 hole Foursomes Championship with a 2 shot win from Melita and Peree Watson, the Net winners were Jill Ramsden and Kerrie-Anne Skinner with Melita and Peree also in the runner up spot. The 18 hole Foursome event of the day has gone to Jill and Kerrie Anne with 77 1/2 from Sue Peel and Lorraine Clack who returned 80 1/2. The Club extends congratulations to all winners and thanks to the Pro shop, Dale and Karen for their assistance for the event.

Thursday 6th June
A frosty start greeted the Vets early field with the freeze taking the edge from the recent scoring. Bruce Chambers handled things the best with 38 points, Steve Clark claimed 2nd spot on countback after storming home on the back nine to card 37 points, Ray Boyd also survived a countback for 3rd place. Ball winners were: Gary Johns 37, Graham Donaldson 37, Don Bradley 37, John Stewart 36, Phil Small 36, Michael Gilbert 36, Dave Fury 36, Dave Archibald 36, Norm Barry 35, David Peel 35, Kerry Porter 35, Bindi Manderson 35, John McLoughney 35, Steve Piggott 34, Danny Schofield 34, Graham Morris 34, Evan Powell 34, Wayne Drayton 34, John Hogg 34, Robert Hannah 34, Noel Ellenor 33, Mark Barrow 33, Peter Threadgold 33, Geoff Sweetman 33, Wayne Berry 32, Ken Morris 32, Wayne Burgess 32, Ken Springbett 32, Greg Burke 31, Robert Logue 31, Murray Flannagan 31, Grry Marsden 31, Brian Rooney 31 and Barney Wheki 31 c/b. Nearest-the-pins went to David Peel (3rd) Richard Craft (8th) Stephen

Clark (10th) and Ray Boyd (17th). The raffle has been won by Steve Clark with Ken Harris 2nd. Next week's event will be 2 Person Stabrose. The Misty Glen Wines Outstanding Performance of April has gone to Robert Logue and May to Rex Talbot, many thanks to the ongoing support from Misty Glen Winery.

Saturday, Sunday 8th & 9th June
Hunter Valley Golf Club have hosted the 2019 Cessnock Cup over the weekend with final results unknown at time of writing. Next week's event will be a Medley Blue Tee Stableford

Branxton Golf Club
Date: Saturday, 8 June
Event: MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE

Field: 36
Winners A Mick Barrett 66
Grades A Steve Eccles 69
Grades A Lee Heuston 72
Grades B Lee Hunt 70
Grades B MicK Martin 70
Grades C Benjamin Bridge 68
Grades C Steven Primmer 72
NTP 2/11 A 2nd David Hollis 117cm
NTP 9/18 B 9th Ed Garland 3cm
NTP 13 A 3th Mick Barrett 285cm

Balls 11 Distributed down to score: 77
The cold winter's day proved to be a real challenge for most of the field on Saturday with a nett 77 enough to win a ball. Mick Barrett showed how it was done winning A Grade and overall monthly medal with an excellent 66

nett , 3 clear of Steve Eccles with his 69 and Lee Heuston, maintaining his solid form third with a nett 70 from his low handicap. Veterans Pennants Captain Lee Hunt won B Grade with a very

pleasing nett 70, on a countback from Mick Martin , whilst Benjamin Bridge won C Grade with his 68 nett, well clear of Steve Primmer's 72 . The shot of the day undoubtedly

belonged to Eddie Garland's near hole in one on the 9th, only 3 cms from the pin—oh so close! Dave Hollis and Mick Barrett won the other two nearest the pins.

Do you REMEMBER when....

ISSUE 175 THURSDAY Feb 24, 2005

Tommy storms into town

EX-RUGBY League International Tom Raudonikis visited Branxton last Saturday night to attend the Branxton Pre-School Fundraiser at the Branxton Golf Club. The night was a huge success and although numbers are still being finalised it is anticipated that in excess of \$7000 was raised. The evening attracted more than 100 people and was hosted by Gary Harley who generously donated his time. Tommy was all that people think he is. A man of the people who enjoys life and particularly country people. His stand-up cabaret was well received and he stayed to answer a variety of questions from the audience. He remarked how delighted he was with the large attendance and how the community had rallied to support the local community based pre-school which he had visited in the afternoon. He was amazed that the school had been voluntarily built by the community, for the community. Later in the afternoon he visited the Golf Club to get to know the locals (and the TAB) and was pleasantly surprised at his reception and the hospitality of the Branxton people. I'm sure that all who met him would remember him for his unassuming attitude. There will always be a welcome for Tommy in Branxton.



• Tommy, at the PreSchool, with two young beneficiaries of his largesse.

GBFC Wildcat's Match Reports

Round Six - Under 15s

A close win in Round Six against the Singleton Strikers sees the Greta Branxton Wildcats Under 15's maintain their place at the top of the leaderboard. Goals to Jesse and Angus backed up by strong performances by Riley and the rest of the team got them home 2 - 1. We are now looking forward to our next game against Dora Creek in Round Eight.

Teams Update

Greta Branxton Football Club Junior Teams have kicked off to a great start for 2019.

The Under 3 & 4 s Kick Off Program has little players gaining some great skill already. They have played fun ball games as sharks, race cars & rocket ships and next week will head on down dressed as their favourite super hero for some super hero ball kicks.

Under 6- Under 11s Aldi Mini Roos are learning some great skills, having fun with their team mates and improving their games every week. Parents of Under 6 & 7s are enjoying every game of the season being at played at Miller Park and not having to travel. Many of the Under 8 to 10s are now used to their new size fields, extra players on the field and goal keeper duties that are usually shared amongst the team.

Our Under 10 & 11s Development Squads are doing some serious skill training sessions. These teams travel to Newcastle & Lake Macquarie and play against the top teams in the district. We are seeing some tough competition at this level and yet have our Under 11s team walking away with 6- & 7-nil wins for some games.

Our inter-district competition junior teams from Under 12 through to Under 16s are having a great season. Our previous season's development squad have stepped up into the **B Grade Under 12s** competition and are sitting 5th on the ladder. This is an amazing effort and shows coach commitment by our club Coaching

Co-Ordinator Peter Stanbridge, to have

them playing well at this B grade level that has never been achieved before at the Wildcats.

Our second **Under 12s** team are improving week to week and are building on their skill levels well with coach Trent Fuller. The team are enjoying playing together and having a lot of fun this season. They enjoyed their winning game and are looking forward to another shortly.

The **Under 13s** team have been training hard with coach Grant Hamilton. They currently have 5 wins & 1 draw under their belt and are narrowly hanging on to top point score on the ladder with 16 points and Raymond Terrace only one point behind.

Wildcats **Under 15s** started the season with a very rough start with not enough players registered. The club appointed two new coaches Dylan Siddens & Kane Koosmen, both All Age mens players, and have gained a great rapport with the team quickly with extra players then flowing in nicely. This team also has had 5 wins & 1 draw, also sitting on 16 points, with their nearest competitor Belswans on only 10 points. After the work the club has done to keep this team up and running and playing well with great coaches it would be amazing to see these boys continue their season to the top as premiers.

The **Under 16s** team is stepping up their skills level and also sticking with the magic numbers of the year for the Wildcats with 5 wins & 1 loss. They too are currently at the top of the ladder, however coaches Stewart Thrift & Lauren Fairfull have said the team will need to work hard to stay there, with 3 or 4 teams really fighting it out in a close competition for the top spot.

In the senior realms of the club the **All Age Mens Friday** night team are sitting 5th on the ladder, however are very close & ready to move their way

up to 4th position.

This year the Wildcats have two Over 35s Mens Teams with **Over 35-1s** just holding on to the top of the ladder with Swansea sitting on the same amount of wins.

The **Over 35-2** team have a few wins under their belt and have quiet a few new players to the game who are enjoying their first season to football after a good few seasons off, whilst others it is their first season ever after a taster stint of Summer 6s football. The two **Womens teams** this year have swapped over to an all new Friday night competition this year. The competition is fierce in this grade and with many new players to both teams the women are enjoying their new teams & gaining skills week to week. Next Friday night will be a Clash of the Cats game with our 2 women's teams playing against each other at Miller park at 6.30pm. Head on down to watch the Wildcat Gold vs Wildcat Brown teams in action.

The Mens major competition, **Zone League** Teams are having a super season and we could not ask for a much better start to their jump from standard inter-district competition into Zone League. A standard competition is 14 rounds for inter-district football however Zone League step into 21 rounds/ games this year.

Nine rounds in already, First Grade are sitting in second spot on the ladder with Minimi sitting on the highest points. Reserve Grade are fifth on the ladder with a washed out game about to be played, with a win that could bump them into third spot. There is no rest for these boys at this level of football, with games even due to be played throughout the long weekend. Club president Luke Thrift said this is a great season all round for Greta Branxton Football Club. With teams working hard at training sessions with their coaches we are excited to see where all teams will sit on their ladders at the end of the season. We could end up with more teams in grand finals than ever before.



BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

2019 Branxton Open scratch winner & the '36 hole scratch and Cessnock Cup' winner is Corey Lamb



• Amy Olsen's wonderful Nearest the Pin

This years Branxton Open was played on the 2nd June with Corey Lamb claiming the title with a scratch score of 69.

Runner up was Joshua Tracey with an impressive 73.

Full results for the two days are:-

Saturday, 1st June 2BBB Medley Stableford plus singles

Winners: Darren Maskell

and Vanessa Keeley 51 pts
Runners Up: Neil Jordan and Eddie Garland 46 pts
3rd: Murray and Cameron Johanson 45 pts
4th: Dave Heather and Paul Buttifant 44 pts c/b
5th: Mick Martin and Chris Webster 44 pts
6th: Dave Hollis and Mick Barrett 44 pts
Singles:
Winner: Darren Maskell 27 pts

Runner Up: Richard Turnbull 39 pts
3rd: Mick Barrett 38 pts
4th: Murray Johanson 37 pts
5th: Lenny Porter 37 pts
6th: Steve Eccles 36 pts
Nearest the Pins:

A Grade: 2/11- E. Van Zyl 333 cms; 4/13:C.Johanson 120 cms 9/18: T.Seamer 289 cms
B Grade: 2/11: W.Bartlett 710 cms 4/13: E.Garland 107 cms 9/18 R.Crooks 161 cms

C Grade: 2/11: L.Porter 127 cms 4/13: P.Feasey 316 cms 9/18 L.Porter 177 cms
Ladies: 9/18: A.Olsen 30 cms

Longest Drives:
A Grade: Corey Lamb
B Grade: Eddie Garland
C Grade: G.Scobie
Ladies: V.Keeley
Ball Competition: All players who didn't win a voucher

The team of Vanessa Keeley and Darren Maskell won Saturday's 2BBB Medley Stableford with an outstanding 51 pts, a score

which included Darren's amazing round of 47 pts in the individual event. With the inclusion of Vanessa winning the Ladies Longest Drive, it is easy to see how this pair scored so well. Eddie Garland and Neil Jordan combined well once again to finish runner up with their 45 pts, with Club Captain Murray Johanson joining his son, the current club champion, to finish third with their 44 pts.

Murray had 37 pts to finish 4th in the singles event. 44 pts was needed to win the major prizes with all other players winning a golf ball—not bad for such a small club! As mentioned, Darren Maskell's 47 pts won the singles event, with Richard Turnbull turning back time to finish runner up with his 39 pts, with 36 pts needed to win a voucher. The shot of the day certainly belonged to Amy Olsen on the last, with her tee shot finishing only 30 cms from the cup—what

a great effort! Saturday's event was a prelude to the Branxton Open on Sunday, with Corey Lamb warming up beautifully by winning the A Grade Longest Drive.

Sunday, 2nd June- Branxton Open

Branxton Open Scratch Winner: Corey Lamb 69
Runner Up: Joshua Tracey 73

Hunter Valley Golf Club have hosted the 2019 Cessnock Cup over Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend with a large field of elite golfers entered. Saturday turned on a bleak overcast day which had little effect on some superb scoring with several players returning sub Par rounds. Sunday turned on a 'special' for the concluding 18 holes with improved scoring across the field.

The 36 hole Scratch and Cessnock Cup winner is Corey Lamb of Concord GC with rounds of 69 & 67 with Adam Kasa from

Mullumbimby GC runner up with rounds of 71 & 68 and Mark Hale from Mudgee GC 3rd with rounds of 74 & 68

A Grade Nett winner was David McMillan of Twin Creeks GC with 137 Nett from Will Denniss of the Toukley GC with 139 Nett. The B Grade Scratch winner was Brent Thomas of Koohindah Waters GC with 167 for the 36 holes. B Grade Nett winner went to John Parish of HVGC with 137 Nett for the 36 holes.

The C Grade Scratch winner was Greg Harder of HVGC with 189 for the 36 holes. C Grade Nett winner was Nic Bates of HVGC with 154 Nett for the 36 holes.

The Junior winner was Lachlan Charnock of Maitland GC

Saturday winners were: A Grade Scratch Andrew Auld from the Vintage GC with 68, A Grade Nett Joshua Crampton Cessnock

GC 66 Nett, B Grade Scratch Brent Thomas Koohindah Waters GC 80, B Grade Nett Wayne Drayton HVGC 68 Nett, C Grade Scratch Ray Newton HVGC 92, C Grade Nett Greg Harder HVGC 67 Nett Ladies Nett Melita Watson HVGC 73 Nett 2BBB winners were Peter McIntyre and Greg Harder with 52 points with Murray Flannagan and Ron Findlay runner up with 49 points Sunday Winners were: Over the Files Scratch Corey Lamb 136, Over the Field Nett John Parish 137.

A Grade Scratch Adam Kasa Mullumbimby GC 68, A Grade Nett Will Denniss Toukley GC 66 Nett, B Grade Scratch Steven Hall Cessnock GC 84, B Grade Nett Brenden McLeod Cessnock GC 67 Nett, C Grade Scratch Nic Bates HVGC 93 and C Grade Nett Damien Frize from Maitland GC

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