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26 June 2019

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Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan & DCP approved by Cessnock Council

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL at its last meeting has approved the implementation of its draft Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan & Development Control Plan.

The draft Public Domain Plan & Development Control Plan had been on Public Exhibition from 30 January 2019 until 20 March 2019.

Council resolved unanimously, which was moved by Councillor Melanie Dagg & Seconded by Councillor Burke that:-

1. That Council adopt the Branxton Centre Public Domain Plan.
2. That Council adopt the Branxton Town Centre Chapter of the Cessnock Development

Control Plan 2010.

3. That Council support the reallocation of \$279,000 Stronger Country Communities grant funding to works proposed by the Branxton Town Centre Public Domain for Branxton, instead of developing a proposed 'town square' on the corner of Maitland Street & Cessnock Road, Branxton.

4. That Council not pursue area specific s7.11 plan for the Branxton sub-region.

5. That Council notify in writing persons who made a submission with regard to the draft plan, of Councils decision.

6. That the General Manager bring back a report on the cost & time implications to develop a traffic & transport study for the

Branxton Town Centre to the next council meeting.

7. That council put forward the project of security cameras at the Branxton Rotunda for the next round of safer Communities Grants.

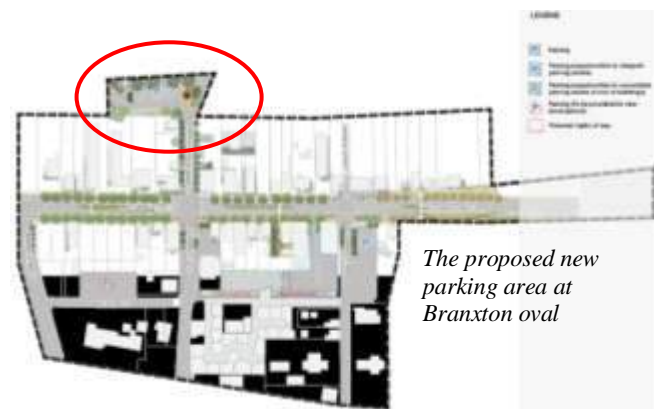
8. That the General Manager liaise with the Roads & Maritime Service for the removal of any barriers & signs that are leftover from the pre-Hunter Expressway days that are no longer necessary.

In August 2017 council held a public workshop to obtain initial input into the development of the public domain plan and development control plan for the town centre. One on the actions from that workshop was to return to the Branxton



• An artist impression of the future main street of Branxton

community with a draft of the public domain plan to obtain their feedback before it went on formal exhibition. Council then held a pre-exhibition consultation at Branxton Golf Club on the 25 October 2018 with approximately 40 residents attending. They provided comments and feedback on the draft proposal. From this minor amendments were made to the plans and at councils meeting on the 30 January 2019 the resolved to formally exhibit the plans for 50 days (30/1/19 to 20/3/19). A further public exhibition was held on 28/2/19 with about 60



The proposed new parking area at Branxton oval

attending. At the close of the exhibition council had received 18 submissions which council responded to .

You can download the entire plan from councils website which gives all the proposal in fine detail.
www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/resources/file/minutes

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SECTION 101 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 May 2019 to 31 May 2019.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000256/001	7-May-2019	118 Hillview RD	Swimming Pool
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000914/001	17-May-2019	10 Dalwood RD	Alterations and Additions to Existing Building Including Associated Car Parking to Create a Medical Centre Operating between 8am - 6pm Mondays to Fridays and 8am - 4pm Saturdays
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000269/001	17-May-2019	16 Yates ST	Shed
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000229/001	20-May-2019	4 Farmgate ROW	Shed And Carport
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000281/001	27-May-2019	6 Grape ST	Secondary Dwelling
GRETA	008/2019/00000258/001	2-May-2019	19 Evans ST	Inground Swimming Pool
GRETA	008/2019/00000241/001	7-May-2019	139 Talleyrand CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2019/00000246/001	8-May-2019	17 Oulta CL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2019/00000247/001	15-May-2019	41 Talleyrand CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2019/00000282/001	21-May-2019	25 Popham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2019/00000303/001	31-May-2019	41 Branxton ST	New Single Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000196/001	7-May-2019	6 Jolley RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000285/001	20-May-2019	7 Haverly AV	Inground Swimmig Pool
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000278/001	22-May-2019	4 Emerton RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000167/001	6-May-2019	60 Casuarina DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000232/001	13-May-2019	27 Barnhill PRIV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000283/001	13-May-2019	10 Casuarina DR	Swimming Pool
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000287/001	13-May-2019	74 Casuarina DR	Swimming Pool
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000178/001	21-May-2019	748 De Beyers RD	Port to Port Mountain Bike Race
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000245/001	23-May-2019	91 Casuarina DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage and Associated Retaining Walls
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000261/001	30-May-2019	76 Casuarina DR	New Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Wall
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000200/001	31-May-2019	93 Casuarina DR	Two Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000260/001	31-May-2019	5 Turpentine CL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000141/001	13-May-2019	1476 Wine Country DR	Alterations and Additions Comprising of Two (2) Amenities Buildings

Copies of development consents are available at Council's Customer Service Centre for public inspection, free of charge, during the Council's ordinary office hours

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au 62-75 Vincent St, Cessnock 02 4993 4100

General Manager Stephen Glen

Your town, your identity, your signage



FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON SUBURB ENTRY SIGNS

receiving funding under the NSW Government's Building Better Regions Fund. The funding was received to assist in the implementation of the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage Implementation Project. This project is about assisting visitors with wayfinding during their visit to the Cessnock Local Government Area. Council is asking residents to do a quick survey that will assist in the development of the emblem. Each suburb is different, some already have an existing logo or emblem that features on current

signage. You have probably seen "Neath, home of the miner's lamp" or "Ellalong, Jewel of the mountain". On each sign sits an emblem that identifies the area. For Kurri Kurri it's the Kookaburra and for Ellalong it's a pelican by the lagoon. We want you to tell us if the existing logos or emblems are representative of your suburb. This will be a first for some suburbs and we need your help. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this an opportunity to define each areas identity and show off the uniqueness of each suburb to visitors. "Our existing suburb signs have become aged, we are excited to be delivering this project and want the community to be involved in coming up with an emblem."

To help us and share your ideas visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/M9S3F96. The survey will be open until 4 July 2019. This project forms part of the Hunter Valley Wine Country

Tourism Signage Implementation Project and is partly funded by a NSW Government grant of \$1.2 million under the Building Better Regions Fund. Residents will notice not all suburbs have

been selected. The suburbs selected are based on the purpose of the grant, which is to assist tourists with wayfinding when visiting the local government area.

Cessnock City Council is seeking your assistance to help develop an emblem for your suburb. The emblem will feature on suburb entry signs that will be installed following Council receiving funding under the NSW Government's Building Better Regions Fund. The funding was received to assist in the implementation of the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage Implementation Project. This project is about assisting visitors with wayfinding during their visit to the Cessnock Local Government Area. Cessnock City Council is seeking your assistance to help develop an emblem for your suburb. The emblem will feature on suburb entry signs that will be installed following Council

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
It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.	Lochinvar..... 4930 7209	Australia..... 131 388
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	Hospitals
ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	NSW Fire Brigade	Maitland... 4939 2000
For non-life threatening calls.....	Branxton..... 4938 3396	Cessnock... 4991 0555
Police Assistance Line (PAL)..... 131 444	Rural Fire Brigades	Singleton... 6572 2799
	Belford..... 6574 7149	SES.....132 500
	Broke..... 6579 1491	Crime Stoppers
	Greta..... 4015 0000	1800 333 000
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Poisons Info 131 126
	Rothbury..... 4015 0000	Hunter Water
	Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	1300 657 000
	Rothbury..... 4991 1733	Ausgrid 131 388
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Lifeline131 114
	Rothbury..... 4015 0000	Mental Health Line
	Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	1800 011 511
	Rothbury..... 4991 1733	Domestic Violence Support
	Scotts	4990 9609
	Flat..... 6575 1200	Centrelink Self Service
	Central	136 240
	(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	Medicare 132 011
		Native Animal Rescue
		0418 628 483



Seussfest 3 July 2019

Hunter Drama return with a brand new show for their mid-year festival. "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book. The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Based on everyone's favourite Dr Seuss books, Hunter Drama's mid-year festival SEUSSFEST is sure to be a delightful collection of performances. Featuring every Hunter Drama student in from the Hunter region. Is the Cat wearing a hat? Does Horton hear a who? Does Sam like Green Eggs and Ham? You'll have to come along to find out!



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!



Mayor says Singleton misses out again in aftermath of State Budget

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore has challenged the State Government to make the Singleton Bypass project a priority after a mere \$2.7 million was included in yesterday's 2019/2020 State Budget.

Cr Moore said she had written to Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Treasurer Dominic Perrottet on Tuesday morning to highlight the needs of the Singleton community as outlined in the Singleton Advocacy Agenda 2019, with a view that Singleton was to be included in NSW's program for the upcoming financial year. "While yesterday's budget saw a commitment to the agriculture industry via improved drought support, eradication of mobile blackspots and a commitment to thousands of additional healthcare staff for regional NSW—all of which were items on

Council's Advocacy Agenda—the promise of \$2.7million towards the Singleton Bypass project is a mere drop in the ocean," she said.

"Singleton is an integral economic powerhouse for NSW as a centre for mining, agriculture and tourism, and our LGA featured in the budget as contributing approximately \$340million each year in mining royalties to allow the State Government to fund the delivery of infrastructure and services vital to maintaining NSW's status as the premier state. "But while the Berejiklian government boasted yesterday that the people of NSW can "have it all", it is clear that the people of Singleton, as well as the thousands of workers who travel in and out of our LGA each day, will not. "There should be no winners and losers when it comes to public safety on our roads, and we've seen

the benefits of a bypass of the New England Highway in Branxton as further evidence that heavily trafficked highways no longer belong in modern towns.

"While we are happy to see that planning will progress towards this major freight and commuter route, the \$6.4million committed by the State Government in the last two budgets is not nearly close enough to what we need to see this project fully constructed by 2024. "The Berejiklian Government is on notice, and we will be looking for a significantly increased commitment next time around to ensure communities like ours flourish into the future." Council has also contacted the Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnsen MP, to clarify how the \$170 million set aside in the Drought Stimulus Package will apply to Singleton residents.

Alison Davey to be named Freeman of the City

The Freeman of the City Award recognises an individual for outstanding achievement over his or her lifetime which advance the values we share in Local Government Area. This year the award will be presented to Alison Davey.

When you are asked to imagine a notable member of the community Alison Davey ticks all the boxes. Mrs Davey's dedication to the community through her many contributions have not gone unnoticed.

Mrs Davey has represented the Cessnock community interests through her work as a member of the Cessnock Chamber of Commerce for over 30 years. Mrs Davey was a founding and continuing member of the Cessnock Tidy Towns Committee from 1986, a committee that has seen Cessnock recognised as the 2018 NSW Tidy Town of the year and winner of the NSW Resource Recovery and Waste Management category this year. Mrs Davey's involvement with the Business Professional Women's Association in the establishment of the Australia day celebrations in Cessnock, was fundamental in the creation of one of Cessnock's most popular events. Mrs Davey's was central in the creation of the Cessnock family support service group in 1987 as well as the Cessnock Healthy Heart Beat program where she held a position in both groups as treasurer from 1988 until 2018.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated Mrs Davey.

"The distinction, honorary Freeman of the City, is the highest acclamation a City can bestow upon one of its citizens. Mrs Davey is a deserving recipient for her extensive and continued contributions to the Cessnock community."

"On behalf of the community thank you Alison Davey for your service to the Cessnock community." Council will shortly announce the details for the presentation ceremony



\$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card to be rolled out from January 2020

Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter and Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Resources, today announced that the Nationals in Government will ease the cost of travel for rural and regional seniors from January 2020, through the rollout of the \$250 Regional Seniors Transport Card.

Mr Johnsen said the \$250 Regional Seniors' Transport Card was announced during the 2019 NSW State Election campaign and will help thousands of seniors in the bush.

"Travel is one of the most significant household costs for residents living in regional NSW, and the Nationals in Government are committed to reducing that cost for our seniors," Mr Johnsen said. "This is why, during the 2019 State Election campaign, the NSW Nationals promised to implement the Regional Seniors Transport Card."

"I am proud to be a Member of a Government that is following through with our promise to rural

and regional NSW."

"This Card will provide eligible recipients with \$250 a year for the purchase of fuel and taxi services from participating providers in rural and regional NSW, as well as pre-booked NSW TrainLink services."

"As per our commitment, eligible seniors are those who reside in regional NSW, and are either aged pensioners or Commonwealth Senior Health Card holders, can take advantage of the Regional Seniors Transport Card from January 2020."

"The \$250 can be used for fuel and taxis from participating providers in rural and regional NSW, and, pre-booked NSW TrainLink services." Mr Johnsen continued, saying the initiative complemented a suite of cost of living measures already rolled out.

"We know it can be a bit challenging for country seniors to travel to medical appointments or to see loved ones," Mr Johnsen said.

"With further distances to

travel, they rely more heavily on private travel which can be a more expensive option.

"This initiative will ease the pressure on seniors to access our local essential services, and beyond, and help address cost of living pressures in the bush," Mr Johnsen concluded. The Regional Seniors' Transport Card policy

follows a recommendation from the 2016 NSW Parliamentary Committee on Community Services into the access to Transport for Seniors and Disadvantaged People in Rural and Regional NSW. Seniors must be living in Regional NSW, outside Newcastle and Wollongong City Council boundaries, and be either an aged pensioner or a Commonwealth Senior Health Cardholder. Further details about the



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

rollout of the \$250 Regional Seniors' Transport Cards will be made available later in the year.



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STEVE'S RANT

Customs, traditions and beliefs

Is there value in the customs, traditions and beliefs that are handed down to us by our ancestors or social grouping? The coming into law of voluntary euthanasia in Victoria is currently a hot topic and tests our belief in the sanctity of human life, or all life for that matter. The contest is simple. The rights of an individual to choose to end their own life, for whatever reason, against the norms or traditional view of society which in the Judaeo, Christian and Islamic world is an abomination, a taboo and not to be contemplated for any reason.

There are many other taboos that are held to be important in maintaining a civil society in peaceful co-existence. Take the Jewish and Islamic taboo on eating pork; what is so distasteful about eating pork? In our own area the Christian Israelites have a taboo on eating pork. Cannibalism has existed in societies at different times in history but generally it has been taboo. The exceptions being, either a desperate attempt to keep a group viable and alive in time of extreme hunger or as a way of dishonouring or paying back a rival tribe or group.

I have entertained former cannibals from the PNG Highlands at my dining room table in Wewak. They offered me 60,000 kinas, then about \$80,000 AU dollars for my wife, who fortunately was in South Australia. Whether she was to be status symbol or whether they wanted to eat her I don't know.

However, the Melanesian people who have been cannibals say white people taste like long pik (long pork).

I have eaten much pork but I have not, nor would I ever knowingly eat human flesh, so I cannot speak from experience but I dare say there are similarities in the look and taste of pork and human flesh. It is not hard to accept then the link made between pork and Cannibalism.

Cannibalism is a taboo in all societies and religious beliefs today. The Jewish religion goes back in history to times when eating your defeated enemy, if not common was certainly known about and abhorred by the majority of people. Hence the taboo of eating pork.

The Christian religion did not follow this practise due to the very practical reason that pork was a major source of protein for all of Europe and they liked to eat it. One does equate piggeries with desert regions where goats and sheep seem to thrive.

Hence the preferred sacrificial animal lamb, kid or the fatted calf. To do without pork was not a problem in the middle east. Other customs continued to be followed because the origins for them have great practical benefits for society or were fundamental to that societies belief system. The medical profession's doctrine that whatever a doctor does they must not cause harm pre dates Christianity. (Hypocritic Oath). Many of the customs of Rome were adopted by the Christian religion to give it ceremony



and pomp. The early spread of Christianity was aided by the flexibility adopted by the missionaries to adapt and align their teaching with local traditions customs and beliefs. Sometimes what had been customary or traditional became doctrinal and that's fine until advances in knowledge and science rendered the doctrine wrong. Such was the case when astronomers announced that the earth was not the centre of the solar system but the sun was. This is a process which is ongoing, but when long held customs or taboo are challenged by, what we call social science, great care and great debate are needed to ensure things are not trampled over needlessly.

Take the idea of gender fluidity which is a direct challenge to the accepted belief that a baby with a spout is a boy and a baby without a spout is a girl. The vote on same sex marriage has opened a 'Pandoras Box' in challenging the long-held belief of what a traditional family is and how the family is the basis of any functional society. The majority who voted YES to this did so in the belief of a fair go and did not anticipate the unforeseen screwball consequences. Together with the ongoing debate on voluntary euthanasia, the so-called progressives' ideas about how the organisation of society should be changed is a threat to traditional beliefs and customs. We value our beliefs,

customs and traditions because we know they are not just arbitrary rules to govern our behaviour but are based on thousands of years of lived experience. Whichever society is examined there are parallel or common customs and traditions in all of them. Now here is the twist; what have we done to our indigenous people's customs and traditions? I don't know but they do and they need a vehicle for expressing their wishes in this regard. The reconciliation process undertaken in the Uluru Statement from the heart is the framework for this. My suggestion is that in parallel to our current Federal Parliamentary system a Council Of Elders be established with an amendment to the constitution which provides

a second tranche to the Governor General's role. There are as many ways for this to be implemented and organised as there are undone bootlaces in Napoleon's Grande Armees. What I am saying here is that it is not for me to suggest how this is done but that something be done and done quickly. We need another referendum on the status of our indigenous people and to give it substance and a reason for being; a proposal for a Council of Elders is my suggestion.

Cheers Steve



Thank you to all those readers who have in recent weeks taken the time to contact me & offer appreciation for what we put together on a fortnightly basis. "The News" has produced, with this edition, 501 issues & with my before mentioned 'thank you' I feel that we are getting it substantially right. I'm not discounting those who do not appreciate the paper but, of late, we do receive much, much more appreciative comments than other. Also, please don't forget that the publication would not be possible without the tremendous support we have from our local businesses as without them the paper would not be possible.

your local hair salon or barber? Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement. How about subscriptions to the local newspaper or a favourite magazine? What about a donation to the Cancer Council in honour of "Uncle Bob" and, a 40 minute yummy massage with a qualified local masseuse? Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, locally owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down an imported made flat -screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed or lawn mowed all summer long or the gutters cleaned or perhaps games at the local golf course. There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all

offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts/brunches at the local coffee joint. Remember, this isn't about big International/National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Australians with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open. How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the local Australian working guy? Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mum? Mum would love the services of a local cleaning lady for a day or two or that huge pile of ironing done. Our computers could use a tune-up, and I know I can find some young guy

who is struggling to get his repair business up and running. OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewellery, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes & there are local artists/painters who produce stunning works. And what about baking cookies or

jams or making crafts yourself? Talking of painters, if you are into giving expensive gifts, what about paying for a painter to freshen up the house or just a room or two? Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your local theatre. Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands. Honestly, people, do you really need to buy another ten thousand imported garden lights for the yard? You see, 'gift giving' is no longer about draining Australian pockets so that other countries can build another glittering city. 'Gift Giving' is now about caring about us, encouraging Australian small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Australians, we care about our communities, and the

Please support our local businesses for, if you do, in the end we will have a strong local business community who will continue to provide their services, etc. These businesses also employ from our community, sponsor many of our local sporting teams & generously give to worthwhile charitable causes.

Cheers, Mike



benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. Our front page has run the mantra 'Keep your business in town & you keep your town in business' for a long time &, it may sound trite, but it is the essence of what we once called Buy Australian.



The 'gift season' in Australia is never ending; Christmas, birthdays, Fathers Day, Mothers Day, anniversary's, Valentines day—the list goes on! To provide the requisite 'presents' the giant Asian factories have kicked into high gear to provide Australians with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods; merchandise that has been produced at the expense of our Australian labour. It could be a very different scenario - why not give a

gift of genuine concern for other Australians. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by Australian hands. But yes there is a way of 'Buy Australia'. It's time to think outside the box; who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Asian produced wrapping paper? Everyone - yes almost everyone gets their hair cut (I'm one exception). How about gift certificates from

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Rich note for Greta



■ The Ten Sappanos

Born and raised in Sydney, Jade Riordan began her music training over 25 years ago at the tender age of 8 years old after her mother felt she had a talent for music.

It soon became apparent music was in her blood. Over more than 2 decades she has performed on some of the biggest stages in Australia including The Opera House, Sydney

Town Hall, Acer Arena, Sydney Convention Centre and more, and has been a backing singer for; Kylie Minogue, Olivia Newton John, John Farnham, Vanessa Amorosi, Nikki Webster, Tina Arena, Anthony Callea, Iva Davies, Christine Anu, Guy Sebastian and Shannon Nole.

In 2000 she was selected to perform for the Sydney



Jade Riordan

Olympic Games Opening and Closing ceremony beginning her journey on the professional stage. She went on to perform in a number of musicals including Les Miserable, Jesus Christ Super Star, West Side Story, Phantom of the Opera and Pirates of Penzance.

While studying classical piano, completing her Associate and Licentiate of Music in Singing with Trinity College London and AMEB, and a Bachelor of Music in Music & Performance at UWS, Jade has been a Piano and Singing teacher as well as an Early Childhood group Music educator, ensuring children are given the opportunity to learn a skill that can last them a lifetime.

In 2015 Jade was honorably selected as member of "The Ten Sopranos" formed by

the world famous Opera singer Penny Pavlakis, and has been touring Australia for the past 4 years. The group begins the second season of their tour in September for 2019. Recently moving from Sydney, Jade is now bringing her skills and experience to the Hunter Valley and has opened a 'Music Studio' in Greta, her new home town.

Now taking enquiries! (P: 0401 464 084)

Footnote: The Ten Sopranos are a combination of classical and contemporary singers who deliver a varied repertoire of Operatic favourites and well chosen popular songs, in what many consider to be a spine-tingling fashion: This visually pleasing, artistically clever and vocally exciting and is underpinned by the meticulous detail spent on every note sung. They give a mesmerising vocal presentation unrivalled in today's world of entertainment and performed with a vocal delivery at once engaging, and uniquely fascinating.

Falling dam levels prompt mandatory water restrictions



Glennies Creek Dam

As water levels continue to fall at Glennies Creek Dam and with no significant rainfall in sight, Singleton Council has tonight resolved to move to Level 1 (low) water restrictions. The water restrictions will take effect from today, Wednesday 26 June 2019, with penalties to apply from 1 September 2019 to allow a period of amnesty for residents to take heed of how they can use water under the restrictions following a report to Council's ordinary meeting. The report said drought conditions continued to impact Glennies Creek Dam as the main source of water for the Singleton local government area, and water restrictions aimed to prolong the availability of water supply until conditions changed. Cr John Martin, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, said he was concerned about the availability of water into the future. "I've had a lot of experience one way or another with dam storage levels and it is very concerning to me to see the level at 53 per cent and falling," he said. "Considering Singleton is currently experiencing one

of the toughest droughts on record, we all need to be doing our bit to conserve what is an important resource.

"We know Singleton residents care about water with the latest billing information showing residential usage has reduced. However, we also know there has been a significant increase in usage in 2017/18 compared with 2015/2016 as a result of the drought conditions. "Council is hopeful the mandatory restrictions will encourage people to think about how they use water and where they can take actions to reduce their usage.

"This isn't designed to be a big stick measure, however penalties will apply from 1 September to customers found to be misusing water."

The draft Water Restrictions Enforcement Policy will also be on public exhibition from today, 26 June 2019.

For residential properties, level 1 (low) restrictions mean:

- Watering of lawns by watering systems, microsprays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers and hand-held hoses may only occur

between 6am to 10am and 4pm to 10pm daily in winter

Watering of residential gardens by watering systems, microsprays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers and hand-held hoses may only occur between 6am to 10am and 4pm to 10pm daily in winter

Topping up or filling of garden water features is permitted

Irrigation of new turf is permitted for one week after laying, which after level 1 restriction of watering lawns applies

Washing down of walls or paved surfaces is not permitted

Council has also adopted permanent water saving rules under its Water Supply Services Policy, which are applicable to all residents and businesses connected to Council's water supply.

The water saving rules are available on Council's website at

www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

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REFLECTIONS

"The Cost of Discipleship"

We are entering into the long period of growth, between Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit was given as a gift to the Church to be our guide and companion) and Advent (when we prepare to remember the birth of Christ). In Luke's Gospel, we are told that the days were drawing near for Jesus to be "taken up" and so "he set his face to go to Jerusalem." [Luke 9.51] Jesus is determined to make this journey, perhaps despite the strong temptation to do the opposite.

At the age of twelve, when his family visited the Temple in Jerusalem for the Festival, Jesus remained behind. When his parents, Mary and Joseph, came looking for him, he was surprised that they did not realise that he needed to be in his Father's house. It should be no surprise to us that Jesus returns to Jerusalem and his Father's house ... He is the Messiah, after all. The disciples have come to know this, but only in the context that Jesus is destined to be betrayed, to suffer and to die.

For much of the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus speaks to his disciples, the crowds or those who will be his adversaries. The message is different for each group: He warns the crowd and calls them to conversion; to those who believe, he gives positive instruction on discipleship; and to those who resist his prophetic call, he tells parables of rejection.

Jesus prepares his disciples for what discipleship will require of them. Discipleship must come first, it is a commitment to the Kingdom of God, where God has first place in our lives. Jesus invites us on that journey, and we too have the opportunity to respond. This is a gift of grace ... and it is a gift that the Church continues to offer to all people as we share the Good News of hope and salvation that we have found in Jesus. Continuing to deepen our relationship with God and to grow into the people that He created us to be is the priority of discipleship. It was the priority yesterday, it is the priority today and it will be the priority tomorrow. Discipleship is also about responding to people and being prepared to give a reason for the hope we have found.

May we respond to Jesus and the hope that he gives each one of us by deepening our relationship with God and with each other.

Every Blessing
 Reverend Nicole



FUNNY: If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and without thinking things through, you will love this! Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?" A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back." Feeling pretty good about himself the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?" From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's".

Proof that Men Have Better Friends....

Friendship among Women: A woman didn't come home one night. The next morning she told her husband that she had slept over at a friend's house. The man called his wife's 10 best friends. None of them knew anything about it.

Friendship among Men: A man didn't come home one night. The next morning he told his wife that he had slept over at a friend's house. The woman called her husband's 10 best friends. Eight confirmed that he had slept over, and two said he was still there

Members say



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR NSW Budget – WHAT YOU WON'T HEAR THE GOVERNMENT SAY

As you read this column you will have spent the past 24-48 hours hearing many stories from the NSW Budget that was handed down Tuesday, June 18. The truth is that the NSW Budget is in a terrible condition and destined to crash in the coming years, but the Government pretends that all is well.

At the very heart of the current NSW Government's Budget is the reality that the money coming in is less than the money needed to keep the state going.

In a very large part this is because all of the things that the State used to own, that made a profit and put money into the Budget, have been sold.

And on the flip side of this sale of things that the State used to own, this same State is now renting many of those same things back, like buildings in which we work and deliver services to the people of the State.

There is currently an addiction to selling assets that we, the people of NSW, have always owned – things like ports, electricity, land titles, transport, buildings, Crown Land and even foreshores.

Now, in 2019, as a result of 8 years of this 'sell off' mentality, if the assets sales stop, then the Budget crashes, services provided to the community stop and masses of public servants are sacked which would have the flow on effect of destroying local economies and towns right across the State.

This addiction to sell, sell, selling started as a choice of the Government, but sadly it has now become an addiction upon which our survival and existence is based.

To highlight how crazy our current Budget position is, in this coming financial year the Government plans to borrow some nine thousand million dollars so that, at year end, they will have one thousand million left over. That's right – borrow 9 so that they are left with 1 and then proclaim this as a great outcome, completely ignoring the borrowed \$9B.

Make no mistake that \$9B definitely does need to be repaid, but the Government are kicking that responsibility down the road for future generations.

And here is the really important thing that should make us all nervous; once

everything that makes a profit is sold, then the NSW Government will only have one source of income and that source being taxes from the pockets of you and I. Over these past few days and the coming weeks and years, I don't think that you will hear the Government talk about any of this.

So while the sell-off of everything nailed down and not nailed down continues, we all watch on as mega-millions are spent on rail, stadiums, tunnels, bridges and roads in Sydney. In contrast, we don't have enough ambulances and paramedics in our area to service our community; we don't have enough police in our community to respond to our calls; we don't have enough money to fix our schools and keep our TAFE's open; we don't have enough money spent on our local hospitals to make sure that they can look after the needs of our people and we don't have enough money to look after our homeless and mentally unwell.

I don't just think that the NSW Budget is doing poorly. In my view it is far worse than that – I believe that it is catastrophically and irreparably damaged.

A future Government will need to do something serious about the NSW Budget and when they do, please remember that the problem was brought to you by this current NSW Government.

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



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

Amongst other things, each Australian election creates stories about the public funding of elections and its merits.

Public funding is available for candidates and parties in federal elections who receive more than four per cent of the total vote in their electorate. In the case of House of Representatives contests, that's around 4,800

votes. The amount is CPI-indexed and calculated every six months. Currently the amount is \$2.74 per formal first preference vote (1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018). So in the recent election I received 33,331 primary votes. Wow you might say, Joel Fitzgibbon picked up a cool \$91,000. Sounds good but no, that's not right. The taxpayers' money attributed to my vote goes to the Australian Labor Party, it's part of the contract I signed when I agreed to be a Labor candidate. The Party in-turn uses the money to fund its messaging – advertisements et cetera - throughout the course of the campaign. I can't speak for other political parties as each has its own arrangements.

Public funding for elections is common around the world. It helps prevent the development of an electoral system available only to the wealthy and reduces a reliance on private donations. There is no shortage of literature on the strengths and weaknesses of public election funding but on balance, I believe it to be a good thing which strengthens our democracy by giving all citizens – regardless of their wealth or connections - a better chance to run if they so wish.

The Queensland Government has finally granted approval for the Adani coal mine. Never before has one mine project been so shrouded in controversy. This is despite the fact that there is nothing particularly remarkable about the proposed Central Queensland coal mine. Rather, environmental activists decided to make the proposed mine an iconic development in their campaign to bring coal mining in Australia to an end. That decision in-turn caused the approvals processes in both Canberra and Brisbane to become ridiculously protracted and messy. I hope lessons have been learned.

The global economy is increasingly one driven by consumer spending (consumption). Australia doesn't have 400 million consumers like the United States or the more than one billion consumers who call China or India home. With only 25 million people, Australia's customers have always lived elsewhere and the bulk of what we sell them comes from what lays under our ground.

Our coal won't always be valuable. Over time our overseas customers will switch to new sources of energy, some of which have not yet been invented or developed. So where we can do so without harm to our natural environment we should mine it and sell it while it has value and use the wealth it provides to ready ourselves for the time in the decades to come when it is no longer in demand. Ready ourselves means using the

income to build greater economic diversity so we are less dependent on mining by creating well paid and secure jobs in other sectors of the economy.

Cheers, Joel



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock
City Council

Behind the Mayors Desk

Last week the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly 2019 was held in Canberra. More than 870 representatives from councils across the states and territories attended. The theme for 2019 was Future Focused and it was fantastic as a sector to discuss the issues and policies impacting us all. This included an opportunity to discuss Federal Government policy following the recent election. It also enabled us to learn from experts on affordable housing, infrastructure and growth. There was also an insightful session on reducing harm into the community. Reducing the impact of drugs and alcohol on our community is a priority for our region. This presentation was extremely timely for our community as last week marked the Special Commission of Inquiry to the Drug 'Ice'. Last week a hearing was held at East Maitland Court House and I was disappointed I was declined the opportunity to speak at the hearing. Commissioner Howard SC noted the submission made by Council was fully considered in preparation of the Inquiry's findings and was part of the material tendered at the hearing. It is my sincere hope that the Special Commission achieves positive outcomes for our community.

Everyone is invited to participate in this year's NAIDOC celebrations which will be held across the LGA from 1-17 July. NAIDOC Week is a great opportunity to come together and support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture.

The community have been hard at work planning a wonderful program for 2019 with events and activities for all ages and interests. The 2019 theme for NAIDOC Week is 'Voice, Treaty, Truth. Let's work together for a shared future.' The theme is a call to action and acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have always wanted an enhanced role in decision-making in Australia's democracy. To view the program visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events->

ceremonies/naidoc.

Council is seeking assistance from the community to develop emblems to feature on suburb signage that will assist tourists finding their way when visiting the Cessnock Local Government Area. This project is funded under the NSW Government's Building Better Regions Fund. The funding was received to assist in the implementation of the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage Implementation Project. To help us and share your ideas visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/M9S3F96. The survey will be open until 4 July 2019.

The school holidays are fast approaching and once again Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries have a great range of exciting activities planned! Be sure to get in quick and book your place, as spots are limited! Bookings open on Sunday 16 of June. Book online at: libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au, or by calling Cessnock Library on 49934399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 49371638.

The Freeman of the City Award recognises an individual for outstanding achievement over his or her lifetime which advance the values we share as Australians. This year the award will be presented to Alison Davey.

Congratulations Alison, you have contributed a great deal to our community and Council looks forward to the formal celebrations.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton
Council

It was a chilly week in Canberra for the National General Assembly of Local Government last week, where I joined more than 800 delegates from local councils across Australia.

It's always an interesting conference, not just because it's the biggest local government event in Australia, but because it reinforces that all local councils are dealing with issues similar to our own.

A case in point is a motion by Forbes Shire Council, which I was very happy to second on behalf of the people of Singleton.

The motion was that the National General Assembly calls for the traffic control and insurance costs currently paid by RSL clubs/sub branches to be resourced by the Federal Government. We are well aware that Anzac Day is one of the nation's most significant commemorative days, with services dating back to the very first Anzac Day in 1916. In Braxton, hundreds of people turn out for the march

from the Old Braxton Inn to the Rotunda in what is easily one of the biggest days of the year for our community.

It is a credit to the Braxton RSL sub branch that the Anzac Day commemoration is the success that it is, year after year. Because in reality, the logistics of running these kinds of events fall to local sub branches across Australia with the support of local government.

To have the weight of the National General Assembly calling for the Federal Government to pick up the tab for things such as road closures and insurance costs is a great benefit to those organisations, and I hope to see positive results in the very near future.

Fittingly, given the theme for the conference was Future Focused, the NSW Government also handed down its first Budget in this new term last week. I would hazard a guess that all eyes in our local government area were on money for the New England Highway bypass of Singleton, and for support for our drought-affected farmers.

There was \$2.7 million for the bypass, to continue studies and investigation works required to make way for construction. But there was no promise near enough the amount required to make the project a reality. The Government is on notice that the people across the Singleton local government area will be looking for more money in coming budgets to see shovels on the ground.

A total of \$170 million was also set aside in the budget papers for a Drought Stimulus Package, and Council has contacted the Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnsen MP to clarify whether people in the Singleton local government area can benefit from the package.

We also await news of the promised review of the Resources for Regions program.

With councils across Australia all looking to the future to best provide for their communities, both levels of government can expect to hear even more from the people of Singleton on a regular basis.

Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

DIGITAL DRIVER LICENCE COMING SOON

The 2019-20 NSW Budget will put technology front and centre with drivers able to opt-in to use a NSW Digital Driver Licence (DDL) in the coming months, as the technology is rolled out state-wide.

More than 14,000 drivers are already using the technology, available via the Service NSW app, with

successful trials underway in Dubbo, Albury and Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. Participants who opt-in can use their DDL, accessible on a mobile phone, for proof of identity and proof of age to gain entry into pubs and clubs as well for roadside Police checks in the trial areas.

Smartphones have become de facto wallets and we're using cutting edge technology so that drivers can use a digital licence in everyday scenarios. The DDL is hosted securely on the new Service NSW app, locks with a PIN and can be accessed offline. It will provide additional levels of security and protection against identity fraud, compared to the plastic driver licence.

To participate in the trials and a subsequent state-wide rollout, eligible licence holders will need to create a MyServiceNSW Account at

www.service.nsw.gov.au, download the Service NSW mobile app on their smartphone and opt-in for the DDL.

However, during the trials, drivers who opt-in will still need to carry their plastic driver licence with them.

The DDL will always be opt-in only. Further information is available at www.service.nsw.gov.au/digital-driver-licence.

BIG SAVINGS FOR SENIORS

Hard-working Seniors in the Hunter will soon be able to save hundreds of dollars a year through the NSW Government's new Seniors Savers Card. All people aged over 60 and working more than 20 hours a week will be eligible to receive discounts at more than 7000 businesses across the state including restaurants, cinema tickets and hairdressers.

Seniors who choose to stay in the workforce can benefit from the thousands of discounts and services under the NSW Seniors Card Program. Previously, only seniors over the age of 60 working less than 20 hours a week were able to access the Seniors Card.

I know many seniors in our community are feeling the growing pressure of everyday living costs so this new card means they can save money for the things that matter to them.

With people working longer and retiring later, fewer are qualifying for a Seniors Card at age 60, so the introduction of this new card means seniors across the state won't miss out on being part of the savings bonanza.

The Seniors Savers Card is one of more than 70 NSW Government rebates and savings available as part of the NSW Government's Cost of Living initiative.

For more information on the NSW Seniors Card, visit

www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au

Cheers, Michael

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News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Head lice

Pediculus humanus capitis

The head louse, or *Pediculus humanus capitis*, is a parasitic insect that can be found on the head, eyebrows, and eyelashes of people. Head lice feed on human blood several times a day and live close to the human scalp. Head lice are not known to spread disease.

Head lice are most common among primary school aged children and are spread by direct contact with the hair of the infested individual. Head lice are rarely transferred through clothing, hats, furniture or bedding.

Treatment

Head lice are only found on the human head or hair. Head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding, carpet or anywhere else in the environment. Treating anything other than the human head does not eradicate head lice.

There are two main treatment options to remove head lice:

- mechanical removal
- chemical removal.

Mechanical removal or 'comb and conditioner' method

What you need for this method

- Normal comb to detangle hair prior to using metal lice comb
- Fine toothed metal lice comb (available from your local chemist or online)

- Conditioner - buy a cheap brand as you will be needing a lot of it, and preferably one that is white to make spotting the lice easier

Mechanical removal involves applying conditioner to dry hair. Cover all of the hair with conditioner, detangle hair with normal comb and separate into sections. Then, using a fine long toothed metal lice comb, comb through the hair in sections. The conditioner does not kill lice but stuns them for about 20 minutes enabling easier removal. The long toothed metal comb will remove nits and the stunned head lice. Wipe the comb on a white tissue and check for any lice or nits. Keep combing until no more appear on the tissue. This method should be done every second or third day until no nits and lice remain, usually about 7 to 10 days. Please see the explanation below for more detailed guidance.

This method is the preferred way to detect and treat head lice because it is effective, does not contribute to insecticide

resistance in head lice and also presents a low risk of skin irritation.

This method also helps manage head lice before they become established on the head. Simply keep a good head lice comb in the shower and every time your family washes their hair use the fine comb through the hair. This will ensure lice are "caught" before they lay too many eggs. If your children are old enough to wash their own hair encourage them to use the comb themselves. Or keep a comb handy to where you wash your children's hair and use it every shampoo.

Chemical removal What you need for this method

- Normal comb to detangle hair prior to using metal lice comb
 - Chemical treatment containing synthetic or natural insecticides that kill head lice (talk to your local pharmacist to identify the treatments containing insecticides)
 - Fine toothed metal lice comb (available from your local chemist or online)
 - White paper towel
- If you choose to use a chemical treatment, remember to follow the instructions carefully. You will also need to comb through the hair to

dehydrate and die if removed from the head.

Choosing the right treatment for you or your child

Before you choose a treatment for head lice, consider:

- Mechanical removal is the preferred way to detect and treat head lice because it is effective, does not contribute to insecticide resistance in head lice and also presents a low risk of skin irritation.

- If you prefer to use chemical treatment, make sure that the heads you treat are infested with head lice.

- Registered chemical treatments that contain insecticides to kill lice are usually safe, but excessive use of other substances, such as home remedies and other insecticides, can cause irritation. Speak to your local pharmacist to identify the registered treatments that are safe for you and your child.

- Always read the product label before applying and use as directed.

- Natural products like tea tree oil are not recommended. If you don't want to use chemical treatment, use the mechanical removal described above.

- Do not use methylated spirits or kerosene on your child's head.

- Avoid treating babies with chemical treatment.

- Avoid chemical treatment on any scalp that is irritated or inflamed.

- Protect children's eyes when treating with any product.

- There is no preventative treatment available for head

lice. Treating the whole family with chemical treatment as a precaution contributes to head lice becoming resistant to the products used.

Remember that you can help to reduce transmission of head lice by tying hair back or braiding and by checking your children's hair regularly.

Head lice in schools
Head lice infestation is a common problem throughout the world in all socioeconomic groups. Considerable myth and misinformation surrounds head lice and their management. Studies have shown that around one in four primary school aged children in Australia have head lice. NSW Health does not recommend excluding children with head lice from school due to the following reasons:

- Head lice are not known to transmit diseases.
- Exclusion from school or childcare is not an effective way of breaking the cycle of head lice infestations.
- Head lice eradication is most effective if the whole school community works together to treat the infestation, for example running the Nitbuster program.

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- Head lice eradication is most effective if the whole school community works together to treat the infestation, for example running the Nitbuster program.

Cessnock LGA improves its swing to host Golf NSW regional qualifying tournament



Cessnock City Council is excited to partner with Golf NSW to grow the city's reputation as a great golfing destination. The Council is negotiating to host a NSW Open Golf Championship Regional Qualifying tournament over the next three years. Golf NSW is now engaging with golf

clubs in the Cessnock area that are interested in providing their course for the 2019 event. Council decided to partner with Golf NSW to showcase Cessnock and the Hunter Valley to many of NSW's amateur and elite golfers, and invigorate the region's reputation as a prime location to visit and

participate in golf. Tourism in the Hunter Valley continues to be an economic powerhouse, which welcomes around 1.5 million visitors every year who enjoy the wide range of tourism offerings that Wine Country has to offer.

More opportunities need to be embraced to continue building on the Hunter Valley as a destination for events and other diverse experiences which complement food and wine. Golf generates over \$3.6 billion every year in Australia with over 1.5 million golfing getaways taken each year. Cessnock playing host to the prestigious regional qualifying events can incrementally increase the profile of the Hunter Valley into prime golfing market segments. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encouraged local clubs to participate and reap the benefits of this opportunity.

"It's an exciting prospect to be recognised as a pinnacle destination for elite sports through the NSW

Open Regional Qualifying Event. We call all golfers to Cessnock in the second half of 2019 to vie for their place in the NSW Open."

Council has also allocated resources to producing up to date resources to promote the region's golfing assets to attract and excite more visitors through a golf experience.

For more information on the initiative, please contact Acting Economic Development Manager, Rhiannon Stevens on 4993 4257.

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THIS OUGHT TO MAKE ALL GRANDPAS FEEL WARM & FUZZY
A six year old goes to the hospital with her grandmother to visit her Grandpa. When they get to the hospital, she runs ahead of her Grandma and bursts into her Grandpa's room
"Grandpa, Grandpa," she says excitedly, "As soon as a s Grandma comes into the room, make a noise like a frog!"
"What?" said her Grandpa.
"Please, please, please make a noise like a frog - because Grandma said that as soon as you croak, we're all going to Disneyland!"



Spaghetti and ready-made meatballs get turned into a one-pot soup in this quick and easy dinner idea, on the table in under an hour.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 400g packet beef and lamb meatballs
- 1 small brown onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely chopped
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 cups salt-reduced chicken stock
- 500g jar tomato pasta sauce
- 150g spaghetti, broken in half
- 1/3 cup grated mozzarella
- Small fresh basil leaves, to serve
- Finely grated parmesan, to serve
- Garlic bread, to serve

METHOD

Step 1 ~ Heat oil in a large, heavy-based saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook meat-

One-pot spaghetti and meatball soup



balls, turning occasionally, for 5 minutes or until browned all over. Transfer to a plate.
Step 2 ~ Add onion to pan. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until softened. Add carrot, celery and garlic. Cook for 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
Step 3 ~ Return meatballs to pan with stock and pasta sauce. Bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes. Add spaghetti. Cook for 8 minutes or until spaghetti and meatballs are cooked through. Season with salt and pepper.
Step 4 ~ Sprinkle with mozzarella, basil leaves and parmesan. Serve with garlic bread.



DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL: Temporary Event - Winery Running Festival Saturday 20 July – Sunday 21 July 2019

LAND: LOT: 2402 DP: 1250045 107 Vintage Drive POKOLBIN

APPLICANT: Humphreys Events Pty Ltd

APPLICATION NO.: 8/2019/351/1

CONSENT AUTHORITY: Cessnock City Council

PROPOSAL: Section 4.55(1A) Application proposing to modify Development Consent No. 8/2016/667/1 which granted approval for Demolition of an Existing Dwelling & Construction of a Two (2) Storey Child Care Centre (With Basement Carpark) to Accommodate 70 Children. Application Seeks to Increase the Capacity of the Centre to 78 Children, Along with Internal and External Layout Buildings Changes, Including to the Basement Parking, One (1) Additional Car Parking Space is Proposed and A Total of Nineteen (19) car, Six (6) Bicycle and Four (4) Motorcycle Parking Spaces.

LAND: LOT: 13 SEC: 30 DP: 758590 119 Rawson Street KURRI KURRI

APPLICANT: Artmade Architects

APPLICATION NO.: 8/2016/667/2

CONSENT AUTHORITY: Cessnock City Council

Council is in receipt of Applications for the above mentioned properties. For your convenience a locality map and details of the development proposals, as specified above, can be viewed utilising Council's online enquiry system, called 'Application Tracker'.

'Application Tracker' can be accessed through Council's website on <http://datracker.cessnock.nsw.gov.au> and using the above application number and then clicking on the "Documents" view link; or alternatively:

- utilising free internet at either Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries to view electronic documents; or
- inspecting hardcopy documents at Council's Customer Service Counter, between **9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.**

Before determining the Applications, Council is inviting the public to make a submission in relation to the proposals. **The notification period commences on 12 June 2019 will conclude 26 June 2019.**

Where a submission is made by way of an objection, the objection must be in writing and the grounds for objection must be clearly specified. The views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a determination is made.

All comments or objections should be made by utilising Council's 'Application Tracker' "Make a Submission" link which is located under the "Exhibition Details/Make a Submission" Tab. Once you have submitted your submission you will automatically receive a confirmation and copy of your submission via reply email.

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

Should you intend to make a submission to Council your attention is drawn to your statutory obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 regarding disclosure of political donations and gifts. You are required to complete a Political Donation and Gifts Declaration if you or an associate made any political donations or gifts to a Councillor or Council Employee during the two (2) years prior to the submission.

Please also note that should you make a donation or gift to a Councillor or Council Employee in the period between the date of your submission and the determination of the Applications, you are required to submit a Declaration within seven (7) days of the donation.

Further information regarding Political Donation and Gift Declarations including the Declaration Form can be obtained from Council's website or from Council's Customer Service Centre.

If you have any enquiries in relation to Development Application 8/2019/351/1 please contact Mrs Kerry Porter of Council's Planning and Environment on (02) 4993 4115.

If you have any enquiries in relation to Development Application 8/2016/667/2 please contact Mrs Holly Taylor of Council's Planning and Environment on (02) 4993 4117.

**REGULATION OF TRAFFIC
"WINERY RUNNING FESTIVAL"
DEASYS ROAD, McDONALDS ROAD, VINTAGE DRIVE, CLARET ASH DRIVE, CASUARINA DRIVE
& MISSION DRIVE, ROTHBURY
SATURDAY 20 & SUNDAY 21 JULY 2019 – 5.30AM TO 1.30PM**

Council advises that it has received an application from H Events to conduct the Winery Running Festival on Deasys Road, McDonalds Road, Vintage Drive, Claret Ash Drive, Casuarina Drive & Mission Drive Rothbury, scheduled for 20 & 21 July 2019. Council intends to seek consent from Roads and Maritime Services, pursuant to Division 2 of Part 8, of the Roads Act 1993, for the regulation of traffic, by means of temporary road closures as follows:

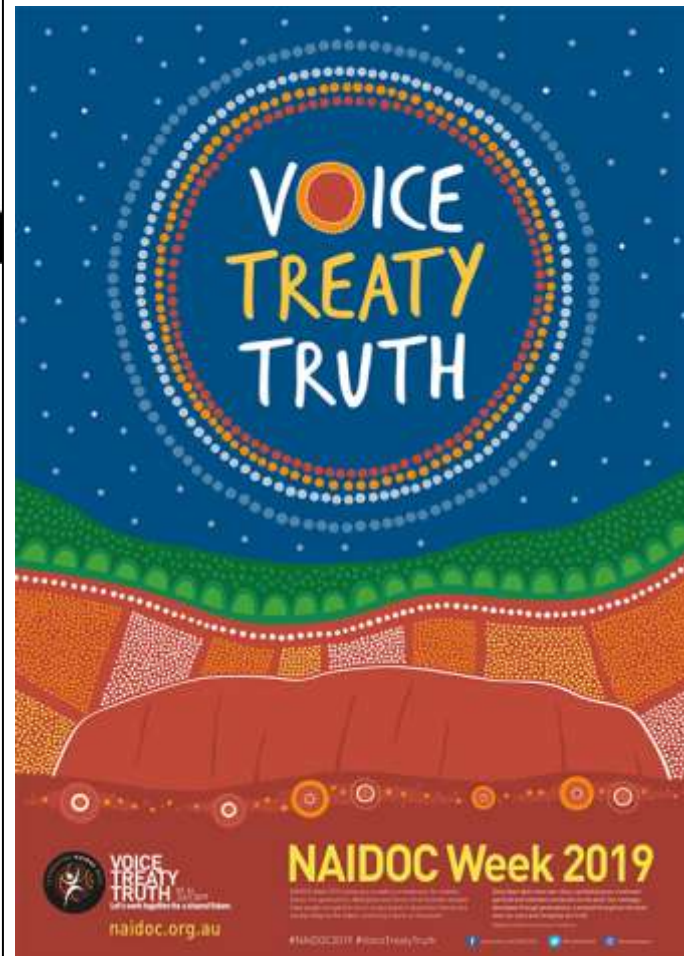
Saturday 20 July 2019 – 5.30am To 1.30pm

Sunday 21 July 2019 – 5.30am To 1.30pm

Council appreciates that the regulation of traffic may affect road users within the immediate and surrounding areas.

Written submissions relating to the Regulation of Traffic should be forwarded to the General Manager, Cessnock City Council, PO Box 152 Cessnock 2325, endorsed "Regulation of Traffic – Winery Running Festival". The closing date for submissions is **4.00pm on Wednesday 10 July 2019.**

You are invited to NAIDOC Week 2019



Everyone is invited to participate in this year's NAIDOC celebrations which will be held across the LGA from 1-17 July. NAIDOC Week is a great opportunity to come together and support **local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture.**

The community have been hard at work planning a wonderful program for 2019 with events and activities for all ages and interests. The 2019 theme for NAIDOC Week is 'Voice, Treaty, Truth. Let's work together for a shared future.' The theme is a call to action and acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have always wanted an enhanced role in decision-making in Australia's democracy.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encourage residents to get come along to the festivities.

"Getting involved in NAIDOC week is a great way to connect with and learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture."

"I encourage everyone to check out the program and get involved."

The program includes workshops, art exhibitions, films, talks and the highlights of the week, the two family Fun Days held in Cessnock and Sawyers Gully. These are great days for the whole family with cultural performances, entertainment, workshops, stalls and food. The Kiray Putjung NAIDOC Family Fun Day will be held at TAFE Park, Cessnock on Saturday 6 July, and the Barkuma's Family Fun Day will be their beautiful bushland site at 1075 Old Maitland Road on Tuesday 9 July.

A copy of the program is available online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/NAIDOC or pick up a copy from Council's Administration Building, Cessnock City Libraries or participating venues.

(Ed., NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians)



A 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital.

While on the operating table she had a near death experience.

Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?"

God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more

time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it.


After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded,

"I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?"

(You'll love this)

God replied: "I didn't bloody recognize you."




WITH

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

SHAW & BUNNER
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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!

Assisted dying is now legal in Victoria

Terminally ill Victorians can now legally ask their doctor for lethal drugs under the nation's only euthanasia laws. Under the scheme, terminally-ill Victorian adults in intolerable pain and with less than six months to live, or 12 months for neurodegenerative diseases, and who meet 68 safeguards can request their doctor's help in dying. Voluntary assisted dying means a person in the late stages of advanced disease can take a medication prescribed by a doctor that will bring about their death at a time they choose. Only people who meet the requirements and follow the steps set out in the law can access voluntary assisted dying. In 2015, in response to the issue of how to improve people's experience at the end of their lives, a Parliamentary Committee was established to consider issues about palliative care, advance care planning and voluntary assisted dying. The Committee undertook extensive consultation with people in the community as well as medical bodies, consumer and carer groups, disability advocacy groups,

legal organisations, mental health providers and health administrators. As a result of its findings, the Committee recommended that voluntary assisted dying should be made law. An expert panel then consulted on what the law should look like before a Bill was brought into the parliament. Many people said they wanted genuine choices at the end of life. They wanted to make decisions about the treatment and care they needed. They also wanted to choose where they died. Some people also wanted to decide the timing and manner of their death. In 2017, legislation was passed to allow voluntary assisted dying in Victoria. Following this a taskforce was placed in charge of establishing how the system will work. Eighteen months after the legislation passed it came into effect on 19 June 2019. The law states that people can only access voluntary assisted dying if they meet all of the following conditions:

1. They must have an advanced disease that will cause their death and that

is likely to cause their death within six months (or within 12 months for neurodegenerative diseases like motor neurone disease) and causing the person suffering that is unacceptable to them.

2. They must have the ability to make and communicate a decision about voluntary assisted dying throughout the formal request process.
3. They must also:
 - be an adult 18 years or over; and
 - have been living in Victoria for at least 12 months; and
 - be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Victoria's assisted dying laws will allow eligible patients to ask a doctor for access to a lethal substance. Two doctors have to approve the patient's eligibility, and a patient must ask three separate times. The scheme is opt-in for GPs, with around 100 Victorian doctors already signing up to be trained to assist terminally ill patients to die. Others have chosen to be conscientious objectors. There is no obligation to participate, but doctors are not allowed to impede a patient's access to assisted dying. An independent review board and the coroner will keep track and monitor all deaths under the scheme.

debt-to-income ratio standing at 189 per cent, Moody's is expecting a jump in mortgage delinquencies, where borrowers have missed at least one monthly repayment. 'Over coming quarters, we expect Australia's record-high household debt, which amounts to almost 200 per cent of annual gross disposable income, will contribute to a moderate increase in delinquencies,' it said. The 30-day delinquency rate for Australian residential mortgage-backed securities rose from 1.54 per cent in the December quarter of last

large number of interest-only mortgages to principal and interest loans and declining house prices,' it said. Since peaking in July 2017, Sydney's median house price has dived by a record 17 per cent while Melbourne's equivalent values have plunged by 15 per cent during the past 18 months, CoreLogic data showed. In 2019 alone 900,000 borrowers will be hit as their interest-only mortgages turned into principal and interest home loans - with these stricken loans collectively worth \$295billion. Finder.com.au's insights

Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull's Hunter Valley farm fails to sell at online auction

wethers. It is well watered, with creeks, springs and surface dams, complementing the rainfall. The farm improvements include the three-bedroom manager's home, two sets of cattle yards, a six-stand wool shed, two sets of sheep yards and two machinery sheds. Another farm, East Rossgole at Aberdeen — inherited from Turnbull's father Bruce who died in 1982 — will be retained by



Malcolm Turnbull and wife Lucy failed to find a buyer for their Hunter Valley property at its midweek online auction. Former prime minister Malcolm and his wife Lucy Turnbull didn't find a buyer during their midweek online auction of their Hunter Valley property, Scotts Creek. It ended on a \$6 million vendor bid. Meares & Associates agent Chris Meares had expected the two-day auction to attract several bids of between \$6.5 million to \$6.75 million. The 2000ha farm, 330km from Sydney, has had a history of running merino sheep and breeding quality beef cattle. The Murrurundi property is in the foothills of the Liverpool Ranges just north of Scone. In recent years it has carried 500 to 600 breeding cows along with 1000 to 1500 merino ewes and

the Point Piper-based family. The Turnbulls recently offloaded their redundant Canberra penthouse for \$2.06 million, given his departure from parliament.

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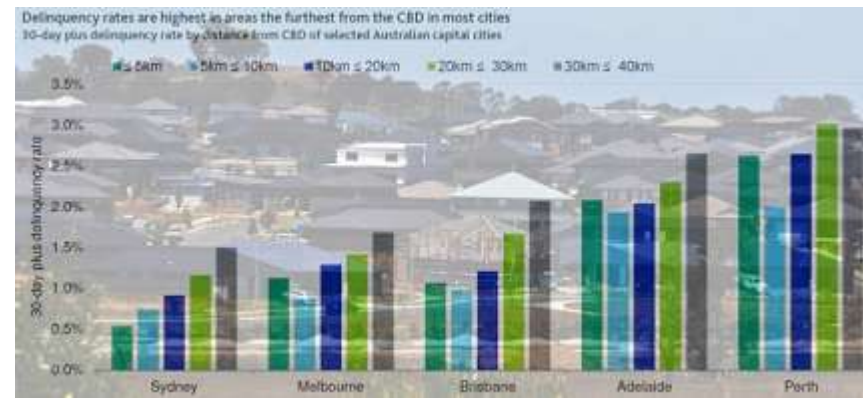
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With Australia's household debt-to-income ratio standing at 189 per cent, American credit ratings agency Moody's is expecting a jump in mortgage delinquencies, where borrowers have missed at least one monthly repayment

Australia's 'mortgage time bomb' is set to explode in 2019 as house prices continue to decline and monthly repayments skyrocket

- Credit ratings agency Moody's is expecting more home borrowers to struggle
 - The proportion of them who have missed a repayment rose in the March quarter
 - Those who took out interest-only loans in 2014 will be paying principal too, soon
- A mortgage time bomb is expected to explode in 2019 and

2020 as house prices continue to decline and monthly repayment levels jump by more than a third. The number of struggling borrowers has increased this year, new figures from American credit ratings agency Moody's Investors Service shows. Australia's major banks approved a large volume of interest-only loans five years ago when house prices in Sydney and Melbourne were approaching record highs.

Borrowers who took out these loans will soon be made to pay off both principal and interest just as real estate values continue to plunge in Australia's biggest cities, leading to a 37 per cent jump in average repayment levels. With Australia's household

year to 1.58 per cent in the March quarter of 2019, Moody's data released on Monday showed. Moody's pointed out 'a large number' of interest-only mortgages were due to convert to principal and interest loans by the end of 2020, with home borrowers more likely to struggle the farther away they lived from a capital city centre. 'Delinquencies will continue to increase over coming quarters, because of high debt levels, the conversion of a

manager Graham Cooke said many of the borrowers who took out interest-only loans five years ago would have trouble keeping up with repayments. 'They need to factor the extra cost in,' he told Daily Mail Australia on Monday. 'The options are limited because they can't continue on with another interest-free loan so there will be some people struggling to pay it.' House prices in Australia's biggest cities have fallen since 2017, when the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority tightened the rules on interest-only and investors loans. Former prime minister

A TALE OF EIGHT CITIES

Sydney, down 11.6% to \$869,579
Melbourne, down 12.6% to \$708,523
Brisbane, down 2.3% to \$531,047
Adelaide, up 0.2% to \$465,625
Perth, down 8.7% to \$459,823
Hobart, up 3.8% to \$478,485
Darwin, down 6.4% to \$462,984
Canberra, up 3.4% to \$658,407
Source: CoreLogic median house values in the year to May 31, 2019

“You’d never know all this used to be a mine.”

Australian miners and farmers are working together towards a common goal. Mining land is being rehabilitated to graze cattle and grow crops. When the mining is gone, the rehabilitated land will be here to stay – preserving it for future generations.

There’s more to Australian mining.



Authorised by Tania Constable, Minerals Council of Australia, 44 Sydney Avenue, Forrest, ACT, 2603.

www.minerals.org.au



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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

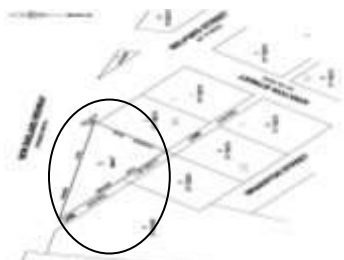


Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

ASKING \$275,000

BELFORD



Vacant Land 2559m²

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

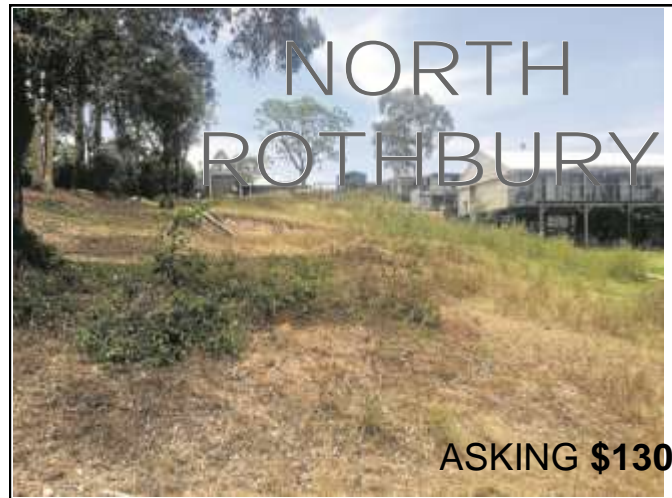
NORTH ROTHBURY



Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road,
Vacant blocks

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

NORTH ROTHBURY



Vacant Land 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ONO

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

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA, BRANXTON & SURROUNDS

What Happened to the Buildings from the Greta Army and Migrant Camps? When the time came for the Greta Migrant Camp to close in 1960, and the land was sold by auction to one of its earlier inhabitants, Otti Windt, who has since passed it on to his son Uri, the problem of the buildings was the other concern. The following story by Andrew Bamforth, who was heavily involved with moving these buildings to their new sites after they were sold, helps to solve the question of what happened to them.

'As a 19 year old in 1960 I was given special preference at this young age to get a Class 5 licence, now known as H.C. - Heavy Combination. It was a steep learning curve to take the long/wide loads over the Greta Rail Bridge, around the 'S' bend and through the side rails of the Anvil Creek Bridge on Nelson Street, but then the rest was simple. A lot of glory on the day of driving the loads but the hard yakka of the before and after of the process is now felt at 78 years old.'

'When the big auction came about in 1960 of approximately 200 Greta Camp buildings, the equipment was already available.' This was because of the 1955 flood and the following drying out

period a year later, which saw a new business arrive in the district - "Houses Removed Bodily", when people decided they needed to move their homes to higher ground. There were seven firms that had started businesses

which 'required men, heavy prime movers, girders, bogey wheels, escort vehicles, concrete pier makers' (it took 44 piers to support a normal 60 foot camp hut), timbers for jacking, 'carpenters, police escorts, electricians to ride the roof lifting power lines, hydraulic jacks, wallaby jacks and much more.'

Some of the firms engaged in this work included R M Frazer (house movers in Newcastle), Independent House Movers (Maitland), M R Cox (house mover in East Maitland), Tony Randall Earth Moving (East Maitland), Moore's Earth Moving (Branxton), Chop Suey (Hunter Valley), and South Sydney House Movers (Sydney).

How was it done?

'The girders used to move town houses were only 50 feet long and had to be butt welded to make them 75 feet long to accommodate the huts that were mainly 60 feet long by 18 feet wide. To get the girders under the house it required a person to crawl under the house pulling a winch rope that was fixed to one end of the girder and winched under the building ready to be jacked up to a height to fit the bogey wheels, about 20 feet from the end. The two girders that protruded at the front end were attached to a turn-table

girder that connected to the prime mover. The planned route to the destination of the new site had to be surveyed for bridge widths and overhead wires. A police permit for the day of removal had to be obtained as well as an escort by a police motor cycle or Mini Minor. On the new site the 60 feet long buildings had four rows of eleven piers cemented under the hut and, when they were set, the building was jacked down onto the piers and the girders removed. The process was begun and completed again another fifty more times over the next three years.'

The building buyers comprised of 'home builders, church groups, motel owners, holiday makers, farmers, skin & hide merchants, food storage, produce

storage, machinery sheds' and more. The buildings were transported to in excess of 36 towns 'in the Hunter Valley, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Newcastle and the Liverpool Plains.' Buildings as a complete unit were moved from Chocolate City and Silver City to: Greta Township, Branxton, Lochinvar, Rutherford, Maitland, East Maitland, Morpeth, Hinton, Largs,

Thornton, Clarence Town, Dungog, Kurri, Kurri, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Scone, Merriwa, Glendon Brook, Tighs Hill in Newcastle, Wangi Wangi, Catherine Hill Bay, Wyee, Paterson, Farley, Nelson Bay, Fingal Bay, Tambar Springs, Cessnock, Buttai, Black Hill, Pelaw Main, Bishops Bridge, Sawyers Gully, Mulbring, Beresfield and Tarro.'

With many thanks to Andrew for this great story.

For more information about the Greta Army and Migrant Camps call into Greta Museum, at 96 High Street (in the former Greta Council Chambers, between the Greta Bakery and the former Greta Courthouse) on Wednesdays and Saturday, 11am - 3pm.



mobile device

■ **INSTALL** reliable anti-virus protection for all your computers and mobile devices.
■ **UPDATE** your anti-virus protection regularly.

■ **DISABLE** unwanted applications - if you don't use it, lose it.

Protect your identification online

■ **DON'T** let anybody else access your personal information or your devices.

■ **DON'T** give anyone remote access to your devices.

■ **DON'T** access emails senders you don't know.

■ **DON'T** share your personal or financial information online such as driver's licence details, date of birth, etc.

If you believe you have been a victim to a cyber related offence - report it immediately on www.acorn.gov.au

For more crime prevention information visit us on www.police.nsw.gov

More than 400 charges laid by specialist highway patrol strike force in its first year

Wednesday, 19 June 2019 08:27:26 AM

More than 400 charges have been laid over the past year by a specialist highway patrol strike force targeting high-risk driving behaviour.

Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy, said in its first year, Strike Force Puma personnel had charged 260 people with a range of offences.

"The strike force was formed to target high-risk drivers and high-risk driving behaviour," Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

"In this time, the charges have included drink driving, DUI

offences, driver licence offences (disqualified, suspended, unlicensed, cancelled or refused), performing aggravated burnouts, film and promote aggravated burnouts, goods in custody and the supply and possession of prohibited drugs. "The bulk of the strike force work has centred in the Sydney Metropolitan region and there has also been deployments to the Hunter Valley, Central Coast, Newcastle, Nowra, Queanbeyan, Wagga Wagga, Nyngan and Dubbo."

Strike Force Puma has assisted investigators from agencies such as ICAC, RMS, Revenue NSW and provided support and resources to operations conducted by other specialist areas within the NSW Police Force.

Assistant Commissioner Corboy said the strike force has conducted numerous operations to target known high-risk drivers and has actively engaged with numerous car clubs to encourage and bring about changes in driving behaviours and attitude. Some of Strike Force Puma's noteworthy arrests have included:

- Investigations into numerous wedding and genders reveal burnout offences that have led to the arrest and charge of offending drivers and those who have either filmed or promoted the activities,

- Investigation, arrest and charge of an Indian national, in Australia on a student visa, who had amassed more than \$20,000 in fines and was wanted on domestic violence-related warrants.

- Investigation, arrest, extradition from Queensland and charge of disqualified driver, who rammed a police vehicle to avoid apprehension.

Fatal two-vehicle crash near Singleton
Friday, 21 June 2019

A man has died following a two-vehicle crash at Singleton. About 5.45pm (Thursday 20 June 2019), emergency services were called to the intersection of the New England Highway and Racecourse Lane at Whittingham, after reports a Ford Falcon and a Mitsubishi Triton utility had crashed. The Ford driver, a 75-year-old Singleton man, died at the scene. The Mitsubishi driver, a 42-year-old man, was treated by paramedics and taken to John Hunter Hospital in a stable condition. He has also undergone mandatory testing. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District are investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash.

A report will be prepared for the information of the Coroner. Anyone with information about this incident 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.

Police reappeal for information following gravestone damage - Hunter Valley

Friday, 14 June 2019

Police are reappealing for public assistance following a malicious damage incident at a cemetery near Singleton.

Police have been told between 7pm and 7.15pm on 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 attended

and established a crime scene.

Hunter Valley detectives are continuing to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Police are appealing for anyone who witnessed the incident, or who may have noticed any suspicious activity in the area at the time, to contact police.

Hunter Valley Police District Commander, Superintendent Chad Gillies said he hopes people will come forward with the information police need to find those responsible.

"We want to find answers for the families affected by this. They have already experienced immeasurable grief, and this sort of incident stirs up those emotions all over again, "Someone knows something, and

we urge anyone with any information to speak up," Superintendent Gillies said. Anyone with information is urged to contact Singleton Police Station on 02 6578 7499 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Anyone with information about this incident 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.



Did you know?

It is an offence to smoke in a vehicle with a child under the age of 16 years present. This even includes E-cigarettes.

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Scammers

We are seeing a spike in scammers trying all sorts of things to get YOUR MONEY!!! Don't answer your phone from a phone number in a foreign country. It is more than likely they are scammers.

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■ **DON'T** use names or words easily linked to you (eg: family, pet or school names) in your password.

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Nicole attended Church youth groups and she felt at home in the church atmosphere, reflecting that "God is always there" and graduated in America. A 3 day Casilo course on Christian women led to a 4 year course in Ministry for Lay People then University study 1st Semester on Introduction to the Old and New Testament. An interesting path whilst working full time as a banker and feeling the need to get in touch with friends and family members. Reverend Nicole spoke of the tapestry of life, knowing who we are and how our lives intermingle with those of the community. She feels privileged to be "a country girl in a country parish". Eighteen months as a priest in Cessnock parish and now in the Anglican parish of Branxton, Greta and Lochinvar.

Branxton VIEW Club members were captivated with the exceptional presentation by our guest speaker, Reverend Nicole Baldwin. A most interesting talk about "What makes me a priest today". Memories as the eldest daughter growing up in the Mid north coast with Mum, Dad, sister and a wonderful story telling grandfather. As a student exchange student, Nicole spent time overseas in the deep south of Louisiana, America. The host family consisted of a mother who happened to be a church catechist and three brothers, aged 15, 11, and 5.



■ Judy Groves thanking Reverend Nicole



■ President Helen Rix presenting badges to new members, Del Cruikshanks and Jennifer Power.

Thank you, Reverend Nicole. We also felt privileged that you shared your memories with us.

President Helen Rix presented new members Jennifer Power and Del Cruikshanks with their membership badges. Congratulations ! Planning has begun for our 31st Birthday celebration on Thursday, 8th August. Super entertainment planned - more details next month so mark this one in your diaries. Your support for these functions means that we can send money to support the five disadvantaged schoolchildren and their family whom we sponsor through the **Smith Family Learning for Life program**.

Our secretary, Bethany 0419 429 364 is happy to answer any of your queries and we sincerely welcome anyone who would

like to know more about our VIEW club and attend a meeting.

*Peace and love to everyone
Judy Spillard*

They said it.....
Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school. *Albert Einstein*
Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern but impossible to enslave. *Henry Peter Brougham, Baron*
Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance. *Will Durant*

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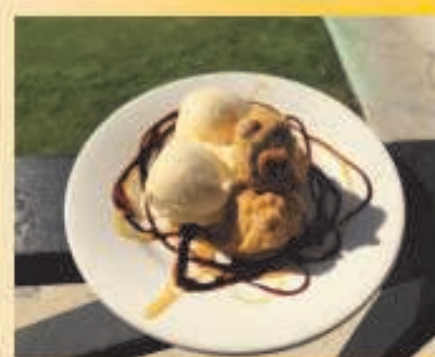
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Branxton Engineering now trade & shows the late Ted Meyn on the left, with a much younger, now Lochinvar resident, Keith Edwards.

"I woke up that morning and wondered outside, spoke with my neighbour Stan Jacobs who asked me what I was doing. I told him I was off to work. He suggested that I have a look at the golf course first. It was a lake. I got the shock of my life as it had come up so quickly," Keith said.



Keith Edwards today. Keith had a photo of the 1930 flood reproduced below. The picture is taken opposite the Branxton Inn. Hats were popular then!

Keith was the proud owner of the small raft that he used for fishing. Police Officer Ted Meyn, who wasn't stationed in Branxton at the time, rounded up Keith and his raft to check the area & see if there was anybody in need of help or evacuation. For those that knew Ted it would not come as a surprise that he would take it upon himself to do this. "We spent all morning rowing around and we did move some people. About mid morning we received a report that somebody was stuck on their roof at Black Creek. We rowed out & found that someone had put an overcoat on a chimney. That photo sure bought back some memories", Keith said.

The men in the boat



Ted Meyn & Keith Edwards in 1955



Last issue I published some photos of Branxton taken at the height of the 1955 flood. The photos were well received & caused some comment as they haven't

been shown before. They photos, a private collection, were provided by a long term Branxton resident. Without giving a name, thank you sir.

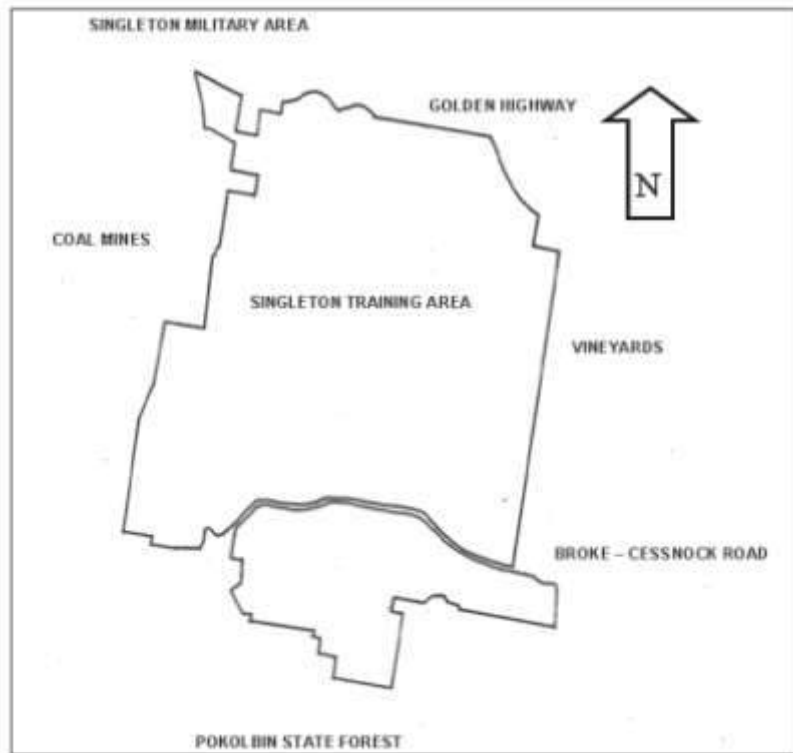
Of particular interest to a Lochinvar resident was the photo reproduced above of the two gentlemen rowing a small raft. The photo was taken in front of where

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WARNING NOTICE
DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



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

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

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

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

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

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

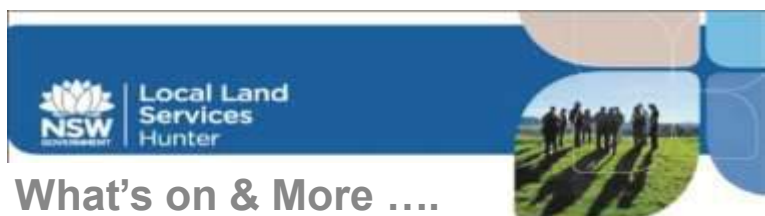
The Range Control Officer
Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
Range Control Centre
Range Road
Singleton Training Area
Singleton NSW 2331

Tatts Hotel June Fishing Club report

Nice weather for the June Long weekend resulted in a few good weigh ins at the Tattersalls Hotel. We have a new leader as Mark Dever overtook Secretary Steve Nevin with a massive catch of Bream and Tarwhine. He recorded a season high 142.7 points with his 10.37kg of fish from Hawks Nest. The biggest of his 18 Bream (pictured at right) was a massive 46cm (1.63kg cleaned). Anthony "Salami" Fields recorded his first catch of the year with 4 bream (37.6 points) and brother Troy recorded 3 Bream (25.6 points). As mentioned above "Nevo" lost his lead after only weighing in 1 Bream.

Another good news story was to see that Fiona Jacobs outfished Hubby Andrew (Jakey) down the river at Tomago with 3 flatty (21.6 points). Fi also is in the lead now with the biggest Flatty for 2019 which rubs salt into the wound to Jakey who lost a good one at the side of the boat. He claims it was her fault but we all know it was just bad fishing.





What's on & More

Horse events should continue as planned

Hunter Local Land Services is advising the Upper Hunter community that all local horse events should continue as planned.

A confirmed case of Hendra virus in one horse near Scone is an isolated incident, and any equestrian or human sporting or community events in the district are fine to proceed.

Hunter Local Land Services has worked closely with the DPI and NSW Health to ensure the property owners and people involved with the confirmed case of Hendra virus have been well supported.

They have undertaken a series of specific biosecurity protocols, and are closely monitoring remaining horses on the property.

District Vet Jane Bennett said there are no further transport restrictions in place, outside of the property involved.

"There are no transport restrictions on the movement of horses in our region," said Dr Bennett.

"The property involved has cooperated with a biosecurity direction restricting their horse movements, but this does not and will not impact other properties or events in the Upper Hunter.

"We understand the level of community interest, however there is no cause to be further alarmed."

Horse owners are free to continue participating in local events, as long as they maintain their usual good biosecurity practices and always obey the instructions of organisers. Humans have only become infected with Hendra virus via horses and not through direct contact with bats. Community or sporting events should continue to be safe.

More information about Hendra virus can be found at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/horses/health-and-disease/hendra-virus>

Kreative Koalas sharing our sustainable school stories



Students from 10 Hunter primary schools have signed up to an innovative program, to help them design and create a brighter future for themselves and the planet.

Supported by Hunter Local Land Services, the Kreative Koalas program provides students and teachers with opportunities to engage with the environment they live in, while gaining important knowledge and new skills.

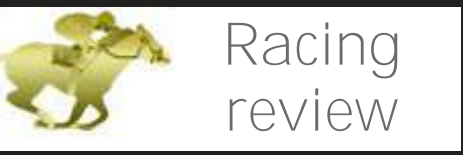
Currently Australia has one of the highest species extinction rates in the world, as well as experiencing increased pressures on biodiversity and natural resources due to climate change and land-use pressures. In September 2015 World Leaders committed to 17 goals to achieve sustainability on a global scale by 2030.

The Kreative Koalas program invites schools to research a Sustainable Development Goal and, with the assistance of community experts and Young Farming Champions, establish and deliver a local project, as well as interpreting their findings artistically on a giant fibreglass koala. The koala is a highly recognisable and charismatic species known across the world and serves as a great talking point to encourage a broader understanding of the issues that are affecting environmental sustainability in Australia.

"The Kreative Koalas program is an extremely positive and unique way to empower young people to think how they can help solve real-world problems," said Hunter Local Land Services School Engagement Officer, Jane Lloyd-Jones.

"The program gives young people the skills to collaborate, communicate and connect with local community groups and government organisations and work towards a common goal - sustainability."

Schools participating in the program are Gresford Public School, Raymond Terrace Public School, Cessnock Primary School, Lochinvar Public School, Bob's Farm Public School, Vacy Public School, St Michael's Primary School, Medowie Christian School, Thornton Public School and Bellbird Public School.



Racing review

Corey Brown: It's amazing what runs through your mind

Injured Melbourne Cup-winning rider Corey Brown described the

moments following the fall that has him sidelined indefinitely as the "darkest and loneliest moment" of his life.

Brown suffered a fractured

T7 vertebrae, fractured ribs, a cracked sternum and punctured lung when his mount Lord Arthur crashed to the turn in the Queensland Derby.

"It's amazing in that short space of time what runs through your mind," Brown said.

"The first time I hit the ground there was no dramas at all but when I hit

the ground the second time I knew there was something wrong.

"When Scrivo (Shane Scriven) came over he wanted to ring Kylie and I said to him I could definitely feel my arms and legs but there was something wrong with my back.

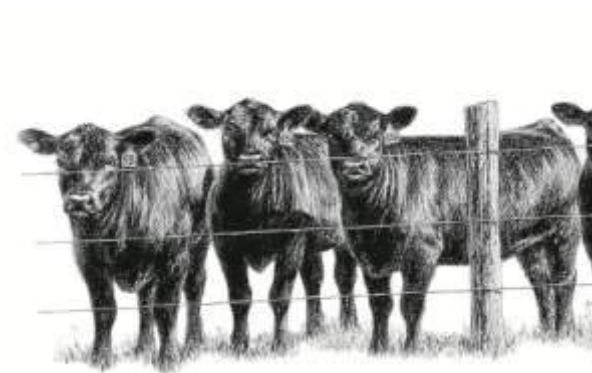
"I knew straight away. It was a different sort of pain, a totally different feel. It was a weird

feeling."

Brown underwent surgery the day after the fall when surgeons at Royal Brisbane Hospital inserted a clamp, which supports Brown's spinal cord and is screwed into either side of the jockey's unstable vertebrae.

"The clamp in my back is quite heavy," he said.

"It's a strange feeling, just



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 18th June 2019

There was a small reduction in numbers, with the supply of vealers well down. Yearlings, plain condition grown heifers and cows were well supplied. The quality of the offering varying from plain through to very good. The condition of the offering also showed a great variation. The full field of regular buyers attended, along with a little extra competition on well finished cows. Market trends through the young cattle were firm to dearer for the most part. Restockers with access to grass and crop were active on the light weight cattle, while the market for vealer steers and heifers remained firm with some quality related price change. Light weight yearling steers to restockers also showed little but breed and quality related price change. Strong demand for cattle suitable to feed saw the medium and heavy-weight yearling steers sell to a dearer trend of 25c/kg and more in places. Both breed and quality improvements were factors in the strong gains. Yearling heifers suitable to feed sold to a dearer trend of 9c to 19c/kg, with the medium weights over 330kg showing the best of the gains. Well finished heavy grown steers in limited supply attracted strong demand from processors. The large line up of plain condition grown heifers attracted breed related premiums on a dearer market trend, where both restockers and feed lotters competed strongly. Strong gains posted on heifers showing good frame but little weight. The cow market saw plain condition cows to restock and feed sell to a slightly cheaper trend, with those to process up to 18c/kg cheaper. There were some high quality supplementary fed cows penned in the heavy weights. Despite the extra competition, the market for well finished heavy weights was firm to slightly cheaper, taking quality improvements into account.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 18th June 2019

Numbers increased, with the colder weather the contributing factor, as the majority in the penning entered the younger categories. Quality was fair to good, with percentages in prime condition and suitable for the butcher orders. There were approximately 90 cows offered. The younger cattle trended firm to cheaper, while the cows sold to a dearer trend. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers eased 25c, with breed contributing in places, as prices were from 200c to 260c/kg. The heavier weights trended cheaper by 14c/kg. The over 200kg heifer portion to the restockers maintained firm prices and sold from 156c to 248c/kg. Yearling steers to the lot feeder orders eased 6c, making from 262c to 280c/kg. The lighter yearling heifers to feed trended cheaper by 20c, however the heavier end increased 8c and received from 240c to 265c/kg. The best of the prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 308c/kg. The older heifers to the processors maintained firm prices, receiving from 190c to 230c/kg. The plainer cows improved in price by 6c to make from 158c to 190c, while the better finished medium and heavy weights sold firm to 8c dearer and received from 167c to 198c/kg. There was a good quality penning of heavy weight bulls and these topped at 260c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 12th June 2019

Consignments increased by 20% and the quality was mixed. The majority of the younger drafts were suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders, with fair numbers of the high yielding prime conditioned younger cattle also penned. Cows numbers decreased marginally and the full complement of buyers were operating. The over 200kg vealer steers and heifers to the restockers remained close to firm, with the steers varying from 190c to 290c, while the heifer portion sold from 194c to 262c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to the lot feeders reached 292c, which was dearer than the previous market, however averaged close to firm, making from 248c to 292c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed lifted 6c and made from 220c to 258c/kg. The best vealers to the trade reached 318c, with the majority of the prime yearlings receiving approximately from 220c to 280c/kg. The older steers to feed received from 240c to 260c/kg, with the majority showing fewer teeth compared to the last market. The cows sold 5c dearer, with the plainer pens making from 150c to 186c, while the better covered heavy weights made from 178c to 215c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 210c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 17th June 2019

There was only a small increase in numbers despite the week off due to the public holiday. The penning comprised a good supply of vealers and yearlings, mostly suited to restocker and feed lotters. There were very few good quality grown cattle apart from cows, and they were fewer than the previous sale. Overall, the quality of the offering was fair to good. Condition-wise there were a limited number of well finished young cattle to suit processors and butchers. Restocker and feedlot activity was high, while there was one less major export processor due to a breakdown.

Comparing the market trends to a fortnight ago, vealer steers to restockers sold to cheaper trends, with some quality related price change also. Heifer vealers to restockers followed a similar trend. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers sold on a firm to slightly cheaper market trend, with the better quality steer showing little change. There were quality related price changes in a firm to slightly dearer market trend for yearling heifers over 280kg suitable to restock and feed. The plainer quality heifers not deemed suitable for a grain ration sold to cheaper trends. There were insufficient well finished grown steers or heifers for a quote. Plain quality and condition grown heifers were well supplied. They attracted strong competition from both restockers and feed lotters to sell on a dearer market trend, with some strong breed related premiums. Plain condition cows sold to dearer trends, with those to feed showing strong gains. Well finished heavy weight cows sold firm to slightly dearer despite the reduced competition. Heavy bulls remained firm.



annoying really but that's a small price to pay to have the legs working.

"I got to see a specialist on Friday. His name is Andrew Creed and he's the guy that looked after Tye (England) when he returned to Australia.

"I'm sure he will be able to tell me more but right now I'm not worrying about when, it's more about how. I'm just focused on letting my back do it's thing and letting it mend. It will tell me when I'm ready."

Brown, 42, said the thought of ending his career is something that hasn't crossed his mind and he's using Damien Oliver's experience when he fractured two vertebrae in a 2005 fall at Moonee Valley. "Shit yeah, I definitely want to ride again," Brown said.

"I'm not done yet. I'll be riding again for sure."

"I've been running off Damien Oliver's experience. He had the plates and stuff in for about 10 months and then he was about six more months after they took them out before he was back.

"That's not to say that's my outcome, I'm just using it as a guide.

"There's been a few dates and times thrown around as to how long it's going to take but I don't really know. What I do know is I want to come back and it can be done.

"I've never enjoyed my racing more than last few years and I'm not ready to throw in the towel just yet."

● Photo above: The clamp inserted into Corey Brown's back to stabilise his injury.



Typing Tricks

Paste the plain text of what was copied When you copy text from any source, programs will usually include any formatting that comes with it. To paste this as plain text, press Ctrl + Shift + V instead of the standard Ctrl + V, and the system will paste unformatted text. This also works on Mac: Cmd + Shift + V.

Note that many but not all programs follow this parameter, particularly Microsoft programs like Word or Outlook don't, which is annoying. There are a few alternatives that go beyond copying and pasting in Notepad: **1)** Ctrl + Alt + V will show a 'paste special' dialog box. **2)** Ctrl + Spacebar will remove formatting in already pasted text. **3)** Download Puretext and choose a hotkey to always paste plain text with it.

Delete an entire word Instead of deleting a single letter, pressing Ctrl + Backspace will delete the entire word behind the cursor. This makes deleting text quicker if you screw up a

whole word.

Move cursor to beginning of the next or previous word Moving the cursor around manually while typing is a great way to make your work take longer than it needs to. To speed up the process, move the cursor around with keyboard shortcuts. To move it to the beginning of the previous word, use Ctrl + Left Arrow. To move it to the beginning of the next word, use Ctrl + Right Arrow. In macOS you can accomplish the same using the Option key. To select words/paragraphs as you're going, hold Shift + Ctrl + Arrow (up or down will select entire bodies of text).

Emoji keyboard If you're addicted to using emoji, know desktop OS support them natively just like mobiles do. On Windows press the Windows Key + . (period) and on macOS Cmd + Control + Spacebar. An Emoji panel will appear so you can carry on as usual using all the expressions you want.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Open the task manager directly If you want to bypass the interrupt that happens when pressing Ctrl + Alt + Del and jump right to the task manager, hitting Ctrl + Shift + Esc will launch it directly.

Use Spotlight Windows built-in search is not useless, but it certainly is unreliable and slow. macOS' Spotlight on the other hand is brilliant. Hit Cmd + Spacebar to open an app by typing just the first 2-3 letters of its name, search for files, or even do calculations.

Interrupt all processes Ctrl + Alt + Delete used to be a common PC shortcut, and one almost all power users are familiar with. The important thing to note is that it interrupts all processes, including the one that is bogging down your system, which can mean the difference between needing to restart or not. In macOS, you can also summon the Force Quit dialog box by using Cmd + Shift + Esc.

Cycle through open windows Pressing Alt + Tab allows you to cycle through currently open

windows (Alt + Shift + Tab will cycle backwards). This makes switching back and forth between running processes quick and painless. In macOS the shortcut is Cmd + Tab.

Launch programs with your own hotkeys Right click the shortcut to any application in Windows, head into the properties and in the shortcut tab you should see a "shortcut key" field where you can type your preferred launch combo. Also of note, if you click the "advanced" options in the shortcut tab, you can set it to run as an Administrator, which is particularly useful for creating a shortcut to an elevated Command Prompt. This could be set to launch with the keys Ctrl + Alt + Numpad 1 for example.

Making sub and superscript text If you need to make sub or superscript text (think exponents for superscript), press Ctrl + = for subscript and Ctrl + Shift + = for superscript.

Use Windows' character map to identify and create foreign symbols Search the Start menu for "character map" and you should find a utility that lets you copy every character imaginable and even provides an Alt + Numpad code for later use. For example, the euro sign (€) can be made with Alt + 0128.

MOVIE REVIEW

TOY STORY 4



Review: 'Toy Story 4' spins its wheels but does the job

Adam Graham, Detroit News Film Critic Published June 20, 2019 | Updated June 21 2019

Latest chapter in beloved franchise not up to previous installments but still better than most of its contemporaries

Finding your purpose, embracing your destiny and accepting your mortality are mature themes for a children's film, but "Toy Story 4" handles them nimbly while still managing to be a colourful family adventure. If it feels flabby in its midsection, well, that is a "4" in its title. And Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the gang, nearly 25 years after "Toy Story" laid the groundwork and set the bar for the computer animation genre, are beginning to collect a few dust bunnies, a joke "Toy Story 4" makes before anyone else can at its expense.

But the "Toy Story" movies — and Pixar movies across the board — come with different sets of expectations than other computer animated films, and compared to the "Secret Life of Pets" of the world, it's a shining beacon of originality. Against the series' own high bar, however, "Toy Story 4" doesn't measure up. There's nothing here that compares to the slow conveyor belt ride toward the incinerator in 2010's "Toy Story 3," as haunting and striking a sequence as the series has ever managed, which dealt honestly with death in a way that most modern children's films avoid. "Toy Story 4" does contemplate the nature of existence in frank ways, but it spends a lot of time spinning its wheels with a narrative that leans heavily on new characters and forsakes the camaraderie of the original "Toy Story" gang. Chief among these new characters is Forky, a plastic spork with a pipe cleaner for arms, a broken popsicle stick for legs and a set of mismatched googly eyes for peepers. Forky is created by Bonnie, the incoming kindergartner who has been passed down the box full of toys we've come to know and love, and this janky new creation — assembled from spare parts found in the trash — comes to be her new chosen favourite.

Forky, like the rest of the toys, becomes sentient when he meets Woody, again warmly and compassionately voiced by Tom Hanks. Except Forky



longs to return to the garbage bin from whence he came, and has no concept of life or desire to live a life outside of a trash can. It's up to trusty ol' Woody to convince Forky, voiced with constant fret and worry by "Veep's" Tony Hale, of not only his own value, but his value to Bonnie. It's a rocky road to acceptance, as Forky longs to, essentially, commit suicide. So here we have a discussion of what it means to exist and be alive, heady fare for a movie co-starring Slinky Dog. (Who is underused, as usual.)

It's unfortunate, then, that "Toy Story 4" winds up spending a good portion of its running time in an antiques shop where a doll named Gabby Gabby (Christina Hendricks), aided by an army of creepy ventriloquist dolls, looks to take Woody's voice box to make it her own. She longs to become complete so she can find purpose, and hopefully love, in a human owner.

A rescue mission is launched, aided by Bo Peep (Annie Potts), who has become a well-travelled independent soul since being separated from the remainder of her pals. (Think of her as a less hardened version of Charlize Theron's character from "Mad Max: Fury Road.") She enlists the help of a confidence-challenged Canadian daredevil action toy, Duke Caboom, voiced with one too many "whoa's" by Keanu

Reeves. Meanwhile, the rest of the gang is holed up in an RV at a carnival, where Bonnie and her parents are visiting during a summertime road trip. Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen), saddled with little to do in Andrew Stanton and Stephany Folsom's busy script, meets up with a pair of tough-talking plush carnival prizes, Ducky and Bunny (Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele, respectively), whose delusions of grandeur lead to fantasy sequences that eat up a lot of screen time. The final third of the movie becomes an extended action sequence, its constantly moving parts overcompensating for the soul that typically makes the "Toy Story" films worth the journey. First time feature director Josh Cooley, a co-writer on the Oscar-nominated "Inside Out" script, keeps things from getting dull, and cleverly invokes horror movie tropes with the dolls inside the antiques store. Yet for a series that once took us to infinity and beyond, "Toy Story 4" lacks rocket fuel, and feels more like a side adventure than a full-fledged "Toy Story" journey. Is it time to leave the gang behind? "Toy Story 4" gives a pretty good out to the series. Everyone grows up and moves on from their favorite toys. It's a part of life and the lesson the "Toy Story" movies have taught us all along. Now would be a good time to put it into practice.



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Joe Hildebrand reveals the most shocking part of Vinnies CEO Sleepout

News Corp



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 Fax: 4938 3301 or
 E-mail: thenews@holkey.net.au
 All contributions welcome



■ Joe Hildebrand

by God Vinnies would give them a way to do so — and lighten their wallets along the way.
 That first night in 2006 just 10 “CEOs” took part. By midnight last Thursday that idea had raised almost \$50 million — money that has provided shelter for street kids, protection for women fleeing violence and housing for old men who once slept in parks. Thousands upon thousands of lives not just changed but saved.
 In fact, the CEO Sleepout isn’t really about getting rich or powerful people to sleep out, it’s about getting them to listen — that’s where the shock really

comes in. Because in an age that is drowning in fashionable causes and trending hashtags and simple slogans, it is perhaps harder than ever to get people to understand the brutal complexities that are both caused by poverty and lead to it. In the movies, a crisis is a single event with a simple cause. In the real world, crisis is a cluster.
 It’s the single mum in public housing whose partner has abandoned her. Who moves to a house with her two daughters but gets evicted and no other landlord will take her. Who ends up living in a car with her youngest daughter, then has to care for her dying father, then gets kicked out of her parents’ home by a manipulative sister, falls into an abusive relationship and then can’t stay with her daughter because the housemates don’t want her around.
 Or it’s the successful middle-class woman who gets progressively isolated by a controlling husband who berates her and seizes her pay cheques, who then turns to drink to numb the pain and gets done DUI while picking the kids up and ends up kicked out of her own home and deemed by the state to be an unfit mother.
 Or it’s the bloke who drank himself to destitution because his father died or his wife left him or he lost his job. Or the innumerable cases of people who are already struggling to get by when a missed rental payment or an unpaid bill or a called-in debt takes them from poverty to invisibility. Or a drug psychosis or a cancer diagnosis or a bipolar breakdown.
 If you’re doing well in life it might take a bunch of these things to bring you down. If you’re already just managing to stay afloat it only takes one more to do you in.

There is a primal perversity about leaving a cosy home on the coldest day of the year to go and sleep outside in the rain. It violates every animal instinct you have for shelter, warmth, security. It is wholly unnatural. And that is the first thing you need to know about the CEO Sleepout. It is wholly unnatural. It is utterly, utterly fake.
 No one is pretending it comes close to simulating real homelessness, least of all the people who run it; people who deal with real homelessness every single day.
 The point of it is to shock rich and influential people into doing something about real homelessness and here’s the second thing you need to know about the CEO Sleepout — it’s not the sleeping out that’s the shocking part. So anyway, here I am.
 The morning of the Sleepout is the coldest in Sydney so far this year but that hardly bothers me. For one thing, I’m from Melbourne. Sydney doesn’t even know what cold is.
 Besides, it’s not the cold you have to worry about anyway: it’s the wet. And for days and days it has been forecast that it will bucket down all night.
 The Sleepout is also on a concrete dock on the fringe of Sydney Harbour, so it will be wide open too. I’ve never cared so much about the weather.
 But then 24 hours out, the clouds part — the all-knowing weather app declares it will be a bright and clear night, and I thank the heavens for small mercies.
 And so I arrive at the “sleeping zone” of the dock with a spring in my step and a thin piece of cardboard in my hand. It is only then that I notice that the concrete is wet. The rain is back.
 Now I’m nervous. I had thought of waterproofing my sleeping bag but didn’t because apparently it’s better just to stick it inside a garbage bag. And of course I hadn’t brought a garbage bag.
 That was the thought trailing through my head as the organisers announced that there was something like a 100 per cent chance of rain between 10pm and 2am. And then they added: “So we’re going to move the sleeping zone undercover.”
 So sure, it’s fake. It’s fake, it’s feel-good, it’s a placebo for middle-class guilt. Whatever its critics want to call it, fine. The only real question is, who cares?
 The CEO Sleepout is, no pun intended, a strange bedfellow for the Society of St Vincent de Paul — a century-and-a-half-old organisation devoted to quietly helping the low and the lowly, people who have fallen so far through the cracks that few others even noticed them.
 This was a movement devoted to the bottom end of town, not the top.
 But 14 years ago, a Western Sydney finance executive who was sick of putting on fancy dinners that cost a lot and didn’t raise that much had an idea. What if instead of spending money on three course meals and hotel ballrooms they gave the same businessmen a sausage on a bun and told them to spend the night outside?
 He thrashed it with a forward-thinking fundraiser at Vinnies and they soon had it: A real life version of *Trading Places*. If businesspeople wanted to assuage their middle-class guilt, then

The beauty of Vinnies is that these are people who aren’t fixated on single issues or single causes. These are people who deal with crisis in all its forms.
 The woman with the sociopathic husband couldn’t get help from domestic violence services because the abuse wasn’t extreme enough and no doubt if you were solely a DV service, it wouldn’t fall into the worst category.
 But when you actually listen to the full story of her descent into the most unimaginable sorrow and loss, her accumulation of pain upon pain, then the depth of her crisis could not be clearer. Complex and crippling, but incredibly clear.
 And the Vinnies worker who heard that story gave her more help in five minutes than anyone else had given her in five years.
 That is what makes these people so extraordinary: They don’t decide to tackle one particular thing or another, they just tackle the worst things, whatever they may be and however they may come.
 Whatever it takes to make a human being feel human again.
 And so we get to the last little secret of the Sleepout: It’s not true that money can’t make you feel warm at night. The only trick is you have to give it away.
 If you want to be part of Vinnies’ extraordinary work you can donate.

Joe Hildebrand co-hosts *Studio 10*, 8.30am weekdays, on *Network Ten* and is editor-at-large for *news.com.au*. @Joe_Hildebrand

A beautiful black male Labrador is roaming loose around McMullins Road/Sutton Grove East Braxnton. He’s jumping in and out of properties & is an accident waiting to happen. To the owners of this beautiful dog could you please ensure his safety, have him de-sexed & fence him in.

To the people walking of a morning in the dark with your dogs. You are doing it in a very unsafe, inconsiderate manner and one day you will cause an accident which will leave the poor driver living with it for the rest of their lives. Stay off the roads please ~ you scramble in all directions when traffic nears you. Use your head to watch the road not to discuss the daily gossip.

To the mob of young bike & scooter riders who are using the Braxnton Memorial Rounda to practice their jumping & riding skills; can you please desist as you are doing considerable damage to the brick work & leaving your rubbish for others to clean up after you. You should be also reminded that it is a memorial & desecration of a memorial is an offence. We do have photos & if you do not desist we will be forced to hand over to the police.

To the two North Rothbury Tidy Towns members who removed the body of ‘George’, the local village kangaroo killed outside my house last Saturday night. To the busybody in the pink dressing gown in Washery lane, busy reporting their vehicle number after they disposed of the body mind your own business. You are just like the woman a couple of years ago who ruined our night vision on Old North Road in the small hours by shining her torch in our faces while we were observing the planets configuration.

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: Braxnton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
For Sale: Walk behind slasher/ mower, unused for a long time but was working. Free. 4 x Roll down security shutters, white, 1800,1860,1760 and 1650 wide with most fittings. Free. Painted block board solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, good workshop bench top. \$20. New Humes Prime coat, SCX1,solid core door, 2040 x 820 x 35, \$60, Chain wire, as new 1.2m x 6m, \$15. Edmonds whirlybird roof ventilator, woodland Grey, new in box, \$60 P: 0437312905.
For Sale: Small, almost new, Guinea Pig cage. \$25 P: 0404 499 849
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 c170 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 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

Dates for your diary
 The “For your Diary” section of The News is a FREE community service.

FRI 28 JUNE — 8am—5pm @ Huntlee - We are encouraging the children to come dressed in their red attire to celebrate Red Nose Day
 FRI 28 JUNE - Braxnton Public School - Gold for Goldie fundraiser day for the Brecards
 SAT 29 JUNE - Braxnton Public School - P&C Bunnings BBO
 SUN 30 JUNE - Free Community Event Social Tennis and Hot Soup. Sunday afternoons 5:30-7:30pm (fortnightly). Miller Park Tennis Courts, Braxnton. Family fun and meet some locals. Hosted by Gospel Church - Central Hunter. Contact Darren 0407 490 646.
 TUE 2 JULY - Braxnton Lions Club meeting at Braxnton Golf Club @ 4 pm
 WED 3 JUL - Braxnton Public School - Pie Drive Pick-up
 MON 8 JUL to SUN 14 JUL - NAIDOC Week
 TUE 9 JULY - B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxnton, 9.30am, morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
 THUR 11 JULY - VIEW Club meeting @GWClub 0419429364
 MON 22 JUL - Braxnton Public School - Students return
 MON 22 JULY - B/G CWA All-in-One Day (B'day, H'craft, I'national, Cultural, Ag/Env., Braxnton Community Hall, 10am for 10.30am. M/T. Hot Lunch. Guest Speaker. Raffle/Lucky Door prizes. \$15. RSVP 09/07 for catering purposes (advising of any dietary Requests, ie. Gluten/Dairy free etc) at the same time to Marie Shearer 0402015850 or Denise McGoldrick 0422896415 or email braxntonongretacwa@hotmail.com.au
 FRI 26 JULY - School Tree Day
 MON 5 AUG - Braxnton Public School - P&C Meeting 6pm in Library
 TUE 6 AUG - Braxnton Lions Club meeting at Braxnton 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., Braxnton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

SUN 18 AUG - Braxnton/Greta Vietnam Vets Day Memorial Service @ Braxnton Memorial Rotunda John Rose drive Braxnton Time: 1030am
 SUN 1 SEPT - Fathers Day
 TUE 3 SEPT - Braxnton Lions Club meeting at Braxnton Golf Club @ 4 pm
 TUES 10 SEP - B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxnton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
 TUE 1 Oct - Braxnton Lions Club meeting at Braxnton Golf Club @ 4 pm
 TUE 5 Nov - Braxnton Lions Club meeting at Braxnton 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., Braxnton, 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 (Braxnton & 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 - Braxnton Lions Club meeting at Braxnton Golf Club @ 4 pm
 TUES 12 NOV - B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxnton, 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., Braxnton, 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 for further details.



In The Garden

parts, as they handle the cold much better.

The roots of these grasses grow best in autumn and spring when soil temperatures are about 10 to 19°C, with some growth in winter.

Warm-season grasses slow down or stop growing altogether until the soil temperature is above about 23°C.

We asked the experts how to keep the lawn healthy in winter for a lush carpet of grass in spring.

Mow it less

'Most of the grasses we grow for lawns are warm-season varieties,' says garden writer and TV presenter Adam Woodhams.

'The onset of the cooler weather means your lawn's growth slows dramatically, and it has to tolerate cold conditions as well as reduced light and increased shade,' he says.

'The lawn uses up its stored energy as it struggles to make do with limited sunlight, making it more susceptible to some diseases and weed invasion. 'Switch your mower from mulch to catch mode, as you need to get as much sunlight to the grass as possible, and don't mow too often as growth decreases quite substantially. Every three or four weeks should be enough.

'Also, raise the height of your mower to help the

Give the lawn a bit of care during the cold season for a lush green carpet of grass in spring

Lawn maintenance is never-ending and every season requires different types of care

Turf grasses are divided into two main types, cool season and warm season.

Cool-season turfs, like Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and creeping bent, come from temperate to cold areas where the highest rainfall is in winter or spring.

Warm-season varieties, including couch, buffalo, kikuyu and zoysia, come from subtropical or tropical areas where the highest level of rainfall is in the warm months.

At this time of year cool-season grasses are looking better than their warm-season counter-



grass cope with wear as its growth slows down,' says Adam.

Aerate the soil

Meredith Kirton, award-winning author

and ambassador for Turf Australia (turfaustralia.com.au), adds her advice for keeping lawns healthy.

'Neighbours who share mowers or garden contractors should wash mower blades between jobs to stop the spread of weeds,' she says.

'In very cold areas you can use spray-on frost protection to help increase the lawn's season and let your grass grow very long as this keeps it alive, much like a doona.

'Work a pitchfork or garden fork into the soil a few centimetres, leaving holes where water and fertiliser can penetrate to aerate your lawn. For large areas it's worthwhile hiring a lawn coring machine,' says Meredith.

Do the maintenance

A little regular work through winter can reduce your list of lawn problems come spring, so survey the yard now and make a list of essential tasks.

RAKE UP any autumn leaves left on the lawn as they shade and ultimately kill off the grass below.

DEHATCH by running a metal rake over turf areas to remove older grass and mulch build-up, to encourage new and thick growth in spring.

CONSIDER PRUNING or thinning large trees to allow light to reach the grass underneath the canopies, helping the lawn to grow.

AVOID WATERING unless it is very dry, as wet lawns in winter are more susceptible to fungal problems. Water in the morning, if necessary.

EDGE THE BORDERS of the lawn or remodel beds now when the weather is cool, making heavy jobs easier.

REMOVE WINTER GRASS by hand, as it will stand out as bright green against the duller colour of the lawn.

APPLY SEAWEED TONIC each month to boost the lawn's resistance to fungal problems and cold weather.

USE A HERBICIDE formulated for bindiis and other broadleaf weeds if this has been a problem in summer, treating the lawn before spring.

CONTROL WEEDS regularly as they still thrive during winter, removing them by hand or spraying.

CHECK ALL EQUIPMENT is in good working order and do a mower service, focusing on blades, spark plugs, oil, air filters and fuel levels.



LOWER
BELFORD



NEWS

Recently CWA lower Belford held a cake stall at Bunnings Singleton outside the Kiosk/ Garden furniture section. It was well received by the customers and the staff. We would like to thank Bunnings Singleton to ask us to hold our cake stall it had to do with the month of May for Mother's day. The members at lower Belford are always busy doing craft work, cooking, we discuss all things and solve the problems of the world [we think]. We discuss the environment, gardening. We are

at present in the process of getting our Wambo room ready so we can have our official opening, the Wambo room was donated to us from the Wanbo coal mine. We are only a small country Branch in the middle of cow paddocks we are a great bunch of ladies and have a lot of fun and laughs. This year the money raised is for drought relief, Lucky Lower Belford sits on the Edge of the Hunter River most properties have irrigation so they can survive. If anyone has just moved into our lovely area or just retired come to our meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the Month at 10 a m and meet us, or call President Jill on 49304824 or Secretary Agnes 65747027. Publicity Officer Agnes Meany



On the 22 June Lions Branxton held a raffle in Branxton at the IGA store raising money for the local charities. The raffle was drawn by local hair-dresser Tanya. The winners from the raffle were 1st Lesley Fisher, 2nd Polly Thomson. Prizes were donated by IGA Branxton and Tanya's hair-dressing services. Branxton Lions club would like to thank IGA Branxton and Tanya's hair dressing services of Hunter hair Art our sponsors and IGA for making their premises available to conduct our raffle and to the community for buying our tickets many thanks to everyone.

Ken Meany publicity officer

Photo at left. Winner of the IGA voucher Polly Thomson and Ken Meany



After getting all of the Pope's luggage loaded into the limo on a recent trip to the USA, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb.

'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

'Who's going to tell' says the Pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kms.

'Please slow down, Your Holiness,' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

'Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my license -- and my job!' moans the driver.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher.

The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 205 kph.

'So bust him,' says the Chief.

'I don't think we want to do that. He's really important,' said the cop.

The Chief exclaimed, 'All the more reason!'

'No, I mean really important,' said the cop with a bit of persistence.

The Chief then asked, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'A senator?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'The President?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

'Well,' said the Chief, 'who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God!'

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's God?' Cop: 'His chauffeur is the Pope!'

School News



Branxton Public School



The Primary had a cool but sunny Winter's day for the Athletics Carnival. It was a successful event with much appreciated help from Branxton Greta Little Athletics and many parents. Thank you to all the P&C helpers who provided a warm lunch and to the teachers who organised the events on the day, especially Mrs Mungoven who coordinated the entire day.

Next Friday 28th June we are holding a Gold for Goldie day at school to raise funds for the BreCARD family. Students and teachers have been working towards personal challenges and collecting sponsorship dollars for their efforts. Some teachers and many students will be shaving their hair off during the event as their challenge. Family and community members are welcome to join us for the morning activities which will include our Performance Assembly starting at 9:20. There will be a cake stall run by Year 6 and hot drinks available from Forage Espresso from 8:45am. The P&C have organised coloured hairspray for the students and Mrs Baker is offering a special Goldie lunch through Flexischools.



StarStrucker's

The Starstruck dancers and Mrs Morrow had a busy but exciting time at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Although weary, the students and Mrs Morrow had a fantastic time and by all accounts the show was awesome! A huge thank you to Mrs Morrow for the endless hours of organising, sewing, shopping for accessories, rehearsing and traveling to and from Newcastle. These opportunities are wonderful, but it takes a lot of effort behind the scenes too.



Choose Maths

Congratulations to the Soccer teams who recently played at Miller Park. Both teams were a credit to the school and the girl's team will be competing in the next round.

It was great to see so many parents at the ChooseMaths evening. Marcus had some interesting ways to help our children become more confident with Maths and then the parents were able to enjoy playing some fun maths games with their children. Well done to the students who led the games.

The P&C have some big events in the last few weeks of Term 2. First up the P&C Bunnings BBQ is on Saturday 29th June. Please let the P&C know if you are able to help on the day. Thompson's Pie Drive orders will be delivered to the school on Wednesday, 3rd July for pick up at the end of the day. Unwanted Entertainment Books should be returned to school as soon as possible.

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 26th June – Visiting Science Show
- Friday 28th June – Gold for Goldie fundraiser day for the BreCards
- Saturday 29th June – P&C Bunnings BBQ
- Wednesday 3rd July – Pie Drive Pick-up
- Monday 22nd July – Students return for Term 3
- Monday 5th August – P&C Meeting 6pm in Library
- Monday 19th August – Staff Development Day (no students)



Boys Soccer



Girls Soccer

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



Choose Maths

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

UNIT 2

UNIT 10

UNIT 12

UNIT 18

Funding available through Youth Opportunities Program & Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships; applications are now open



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP has said that applications are open through the Youth Opportunities program to provide one-off time-limited grants between \$10,000 to \$50,000 to non-government organisations and local government to fund new projects that enable young people to participate in community development activities. He is also encouraging hardworking first-year apprentices who are experiencing financial or other personal hardship to apply for up to \$15,000 funding with the Bert

Evans Scholarship. Projects funded under the Youth Opportunities program are expected to involve young people in all aspects of the project (initiating, leading, managing and participating). Projects which are genuinely youth-led and youth-driven are those initiated by young people in response to what they have said they need. Successful projects must address issues that are important to young people, project themes suggested include community inclusion and participation, cultural identity and connection, cyber safety and awareness, domestic and family violence, financial literacy (budgeting, rent, phone, contracts), health and wellbeing, homelessness/housing, young people impacted by drought. All applicants are advised to read the **Program Guidelines** carefully prior to completing an application for funding.

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on **Tuesday 16 July, 2019**. Applications submitted after the closing date will not be accepted. **Further information regarding the Program can be found on the website at <http://youth.nsw.gov.au/youth-opportunities> or by email to youth@fac.nsw.gov.au** The Bert Evans Scholarships are worth \$5,000 a year over three years and are open to both female and male apprentices and trainees to help young people succeed in their career and make a positive contribution to their families and communities. The scholarships help recipients who are dealing with hardship in their financial circumstances or family situations by providing extra support to help them successfully complete their training. As well as hardship, recipients must also show aptitude and a positive attitude towards their work and

training to be eligible for a scholarship. Mr Barr said "I encourage local training providers, schools and employers to urge their apprentices who meet the criteria to apply for a Bert Evans scholarship". Apprentices who started their training between 1 March 2018 and 19 July 2019 are eligible to apply for this year's scholarships. There are approximately 90 scholarships to be awarded in 2019. Scholarships are open to NSW registered apprentices in both city and country areas, including school-based apprentices. The Bert Evans Scholarships have been named after Bert Evans, AO who was a passionate advocate of the VET sector for over 30 years. Applications for the scholarship close on Friday 19 July, 2019.

For further information visit www.training.nsw.gov.au/bert_evans_scholarships



Centenary Medal recipient found



Last issue we had the list of local recipients of the Federal Governments' Centenary Medal. Every recipient was known to me with the exception of a Heathcote Clifford Mallam of Lambs Valley. His citation read... 'for services to parliament'. As a good editor would do I checked my internet search engine & came up with one listing which indicated he had been a member of Macquarie

the Arnotts biscuit factory at Homebush. He joined the Australian Labor Party in 1927 and is now a Life Member.

Cliff was first elected to the NSW Parliament in 1953 as the Member for Dulwich Hill. This electorate was abolished in 1968 and he stood unsuccessfully for the Federal seat of Cook in 1969. He was re-elected to the State Parliament in 1971 as the Member for Campbelltown but had to retire in 1981 as he was over 70 years old.

Cliff was a founding director of the Dulwich Hill Building Society, the first building society formed in NSW after World War II. He was also a director of the Century Newspaper under former NSW Premier J. T. "Jack" Lang.

He was for six months in charge of transport in NSW when the Transport Minister Bill Sheehan was ill and was

formerly the patron of the NSW Greyhound Association and several NSW RSL clubs.

Cliff was a licensed diary farmer at Picton and he and his wife Alice moved to their daughter's farm at Lambs Valley when her husband passed away a few years ago. Mrs. Mallam passed away in 2000.

Cliff is now 93 and spends his retirement mostly helping around the farm with a particular liking for bulldozer driving.

With 25 years service in the State parliament 'bear-pit' you would probably expect a gentlemanly retirement but not for Cliff as he loves the work & the land.

A belated welcome to the area Cliff & again congratulations on your award.

Footnote: Cliff passed away on the 18 February 2006 (2006-02-18) (aged 96) at Camden, New South Wales

University Council (1976-1980); that was it. The next day I was on radio 2NC & mentioned the elusive medal recipient. That morning I had a phone call from his son Bill who was at Lambs Valley visiting his dad & happened to be listening. He gave me a quick biography.

Cliff, as he is known, was born at Backwater NSW (near Guyra) in a slab hut in 1909. He left school at age 13 and worked for a drover for 9 months. His mother helped him obtain a Qualifying Certificate to enable him to attend high school. He moved to Sydney in 1927, just before the depression started.

His first city job was sweeping the floor at

COMFORTABLE AND CHIC

\$25

28 & 29th June

The Wildcats are hosting a Mark Hughes Foundation Fundraiser Event on game day Buy your beanie at Miller Park

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)

NOTICE

Branxton Greta Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service

Sunday 18 August 2019

Branxton Memorial Rotunda

1030pm

The Branxton & Greta RSL Sub Branches respectfully invite Vietnam Veterans, their families & members of the communities to join them for a memorial service for Vietnam Veterans Day & the 53rd Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 13-6-19
Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Anderson 29 pts R/u E Barrett 28 pts 3rd T Seamer 27 pts
Div 2 Winner A Hackett 33 pts R/u B Turner 30 pts (c/b) 3rd R Brooks 30 pts
Ladies Winner T Martin 33 pts (SOD)(c/b) R/u R Friis 28 pts 3rd J Harris 23 pts
NTPs Ladies T Martin Gents R Chalmers Members draw - Not won
A pleasing number of players took advantage of the pleasant weather to participate in a round of golf, on the "Ultimate 9" Golf course at Branxton. Congratulations to Toy Martin on winning her division and achieving the "Score of the Day", and a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

Results 20-6-19
Stableford
"Pairs Aggregate"

1st J Sheedy & E Munzenberger 55 pts
2nd E Barrett & R McMillan 54 pts (c/b)
3rd C Caldwell & L Bootes 54 pts
4th R Moylan & T Martin 51 pts
5th S Dunker & Beeton 50 pts
NTPs Ladies C Caldwell Gents G Anderson
Members draw - Not won

Well Winter has arrived! with a light covering of frost which dissipated fairly soon after play began and the day became pleasant for the round of golf. Again a pleasing number of players participated
Congratulations to Jim Sheedy and Errol Munzenberger on winning the event and a well done to all other placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

Branxton Golf Club

Saturday Competition 15th June
Stableford

Field: 51
Grades A Adrian Chomiszak 40

Grades A Steve Eccles 35
Grades A David Matt 32
Grades B Roger Yandle 38
Grades B Neil Jordan 36
Grades B Robert Hale 34
Grades C Lennard Porter 39
Grades C Col Hughes 38
Grades C Kelvin Mather 35
NTP 2/11 C 2nd Col Hughes 67cm

NTP 4 B 4th Troy Mc Caw 279cm
NTP 9/18 C 9th Scott Duncan 127cm
NTP 13 B 3th Troy Mc Caw 189cm

Balls 15 Distributed down to score: 30

Adrian Chomiszak has made a welcome return to golf after a 6 year absence. This once 3 marker displayed real potential as a teenager so it is good to see him back displaying his talent, as was seen on Saturday in winning the A Grade Stableford competition with a wonderful 40 pts on a day where only 30 pts was needed to win a ball and the DSR was 70. Steve

Eccles was runner up with his 35 pts with Dave Matt third with 32 pts. Local veteran Roger Yandle won B Grade with a very pleasing 38 pts, with Neil Jordan and Bobby Hale filling the minor placings. Local legend Lennard Porter had an enjoyable day out winning C Grade with his 39 pts. One of his playing partners was Roger Yandle so this playing group was in good form. Col Hughes' 38 pts was good enough for second with Kel Mather third with 35 pts. The sharp shooter of the day belonged to Troy McCaw who won two nearest the pins on the 4th and 13th—he certainly liked this part of the course. Col Hughes' shot to the 2nd, which finished only 67 cms from the pin, proved to be the best shot of the day. On Sunday the club held an excellent fundraiser, the Las Vegas 4 Person Ambrose Competition, an event which assisted the club raise some more money for the planned irrigation down the 7th fairway. It was a very successful day with enough raised to continue this project. The club's facebook page has some excellent photos of volunteers installing the irrigation pipes up the 6th fairway—there was some wonderful work done by some very enthusiastic workers—well done team.

Sat. Comp
22nd June 2019
2-man Ambrose
Championships

68 Players
Scratch Winners ~ Josh Tracey/ Mick Tracey 62
Scratch Runners up ~ John Lawler/ Adrian Chomizak 65

Nett Winners ~ Graham Bull/ Douglas Elphick 60.25 nett c/b
Nett 2nd ~ Richard Crooks/ Christopher Webster 60.25 nett c/b
Nett 3rd ~ Paul Bush/ Nick Wheeler 63.5 nett c/b
Nett 4th ~ Garry Walsh/ Steve Eccles 63.5 nett c/b
Nett 5th ~ Malcolm Crossley/ John Bowen 63.5 nett

Ball Comp: 71.25 nett
Ntp
2nd/11th ~ B Turner 67cm
9th/18th ~ J Tracey 3cm
4TH ~ J Lawler 169cm
13TH ~ J Lawler 116cm

A good field of 68 players competed in Saturday's 2 Man Ambrose Championships. The father and son team of Mick and Joshua Tracey played an outstanding round of golf, winning the title with an amazing 8 under par score of 62. The round was culminated with Joshua's shot to the last, finishing only 3 cms from the cup—so unlucky not to be a hole in one. Their playing partners, Adrian Chomizak and John Lawler played beautifully themselves, recording a 5 under par 65 to finish runners up. John's iron play must have been in sync as he won two nearest the pins on the 4th and 13th—his shot to the long, difficult 13th finished only 116 cms from the cup. This would have been a great group to watch all day! The nett winners were Graham Bull and Douglas Elphick with a nett score of 60.25, only winning on a countback from the unlucky pair of Club President

Richard Crooks and Chris Webster with the same score. Scores of 63.5 filled the minor placings. The ball competition went down to 71.25, showing the winners were well clear of most of the field. Barry Turner's nearest the pin on the 2nd is worthy of mention as it finished only 67 cms away—a great shot.

Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 9th June

Craig Sharp has won the Weekly Challenge with a great round of 44 points from Stephen Zok 38 and Brad Petherbridge 3rd with 37 points. Ball winners were: Andrew Zok 36, Stephen Gittoes V36, Rob Slomka v34, Mathew Wadsworth v34, Mike Carter 33, Jason McBeath v33, Jason Capararo v33, Glenda Williams 33, Steve Wright v32 and Dianne Davies 31

Tuesday 11th June

Solid rounds featured in the Tuesday Stableford with Barney Wheki leading the way with 41 points from Geoff Boyd 40 and Julie Van Den Berg 3rd with 39 pn countback. Ball winners were: Ryan Wilson 39, Brian Rooney 38, Peter Payne 38, Phousang ihapanya 38, Bob Prentice 37, Bill Freeman 36, John Stewart 36, Scott Ling 36, Victor Joseph 36, Damien Porter 36, Ian Smith 36, Robert Hannah 35, Robert Logue 35, Michael Watson 35, Wayne Oliver 35, Tom Bell 35, Garry Clarke 35, Chris Taggart 34, Greg Ireland 34 and David Peel 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Garry Clarke (3rd) Phil Small (4th) Bob Prentice (8th) Wayne Barber (10th) and Mark Barrow (17th)

Wednesday 12th June

The Ladies contested the 4th Round of Golf NSW Medal and Putting with Dale Hamilton winning both sections after returning a fine 69 Nett, Christine Tancred was runner up with 70 on countback to Di Atton in 3rd. Ball winners were: Melita Watson, Lees Robinson and Sue Peel.

Thursday 13th June

The Vets 2 Person Stabrose event has been won by Garry Marsden & Greg Ireland with 55 points from Murray Flannagan & Ryan Wilson 54 c/b with Graham Morris & David Gellwiler 54 c/b in 3rd place. Ball Comp: Paul Adams & Ken Springbett 54, Ken Wright & Wayne Burgess 53, Ron Findlay & Bill Mitchell 53, Col Somerville & Mick Gilbert 53, Bill Freeman & Phil Small 52, Trevor Collins & Peter Threadgold 51, Alan Kendall & Alec Bender 51, Wayne Drayton & Kevin Gibson 50, Kevin Dick & Mark Barrow 50, Rex Talbot & John Stewart 50, John Carmody & Robert Logue 50, Tony Neale & Mark Green 50, Brian Rooney & Bill Williams 49, John Pascoe & Dave Blackburn 49, Rod Williams & Evan Powell 49, Greg Burke & William Edwards 49, John Hogg & Ron Stewart 49, Gary Hedges & Wayne Cowan 49, David Peel & Kevin Smith 48, Kerry Bartlett & Bill Davey 48 and Dale Macklinshaw & Ray Newton 48 c/b

Nearest-the-Pins went to Phil Small (3rd) Bill Freeman

(4th) Wayne Barber (8th) Wayne Berry (10th) and John Pascoe (17th). The raffle has been won by Col Somerville, Curly Tomlinson won 2nd prize.

Saturday 15th June

The Blue Tee Challenge along with a heavy frost has led to only one player in the entire field beating Par with A Grade going to Andrew Zok with 36 points from Justin Preece with 35 on countback, B Grade was decided by countback after Ken Springbett, Tom Bell and Gary Thompson had recorded 35 points each, Ken received the judges nod from Tom in 2nd and C Grade went to John Barbour with the only sub Par score of 37 points from Spot Mitchell with 34 points. Ball winners were: Gary Thompson 35, Stephen Applebee 35, David Peel 34, Michael Tsakissiris 34, Dan Olsen 33, Murray Flannigan 33, Wayne Barber 33, Stephen Zok 33, Greg Amlöh 33, Alex Pitsch 32, Jill Ramsden 32, Steven Piggott 32, Dean Freebairn 32, Katrina Kendall 32 and Michael Gilbert 32 c/b.

Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) and Julie Van Den Berg (17th).

Sunday 16th June

Joshua Udbinac of the Kurri GC has won the Weekly Challenge with a great round of 42 points, Bobby Logue 2nd with 41 on countback to Richard Craft in 3rd. Ball winners were: Scott Conti 40, Shawn Parish 40, Brad Hoolahan 38, Tony Atley 38 and Grahame Mankelov 37 c/b

Monday 17th June

The HRDGA held the Ladies District Tournament at HVGC on Monday with some success going to Hunter Valley Ladies with Sue Peel winning the Division 2 Nett with 71 and Jeanette Irwin winning the Division 3 Scratch Stableford, congratulations to both Ladies and to the large field who participated.

Tuesday 18th June

Tom Bell has produced one of his 'best' to claim the Tuesday Stableford with 44 points along with Nearest-the-Pins on 4th,8th & 17th.

Runner up Merewether visitor Alan Holmes with 42 points and Dan Taylor 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners were: John Stewart 38, Matt Lorenz 38, Rick Turnchini 38, Graeme Flynn 38, Lloyd Barrett 37, Ryan Wilson 37, Scott Armstrong 36, Victor Joseph 36, Bill Freeman 35, Ken Scott MacKenzie 35, David Peel 34, Robert Logue 34, Paul Smith 33, Barney Wheki 33, Bob Prentice 33, Lindsay Self 32, Brian Rooney 32, Steven Kane 31, Phil Small 31, Terry Webb 31, Ken Wright 31, Joshua McPaul v31, Ryan McGregor 30 and Wayne Barber 30 c/b. Remaining NTP's went to Graeme Flynn (3rd) and Phil Small (10th)

Wednesday 19th June

The Match Play Challenge between the HDRGA and Central Coast was held at HVGC with the Central Coast coming away with the win in a tightly contested day 9 matched to 7, congratulations to both teams for their efforts and the spirit displayed by all who took part.

Thursday 20th June

Bill Williams took a trip down memory lane returning 63 Nett to win the Vets Stroke event from the informant Tom Bell with 64 and Anthony Neale 3rd with 65 Nett. Ball winners were: Peter McIntyre 68, Stephen Clarke 69, Bill Mitchell 69, Barney Wheki 69, Graham Morris 69, Richard craft 70, Noel Ellenor 70, Steve Rawlings 70, Robert Hannah 70, David Peel 71, Wayne Barber 72, Dale Macklingshaw 72, Neil Peterson 72, Ken Blackett 72, Wayne Berry 73, Alan Kendall 73, Rod Williams 73, Ken Wright 73, Kerry Porter 73, Bobby Logue 74, John Pascoe 74, John Harrison 74, Mark Green 74, John Stewart 74, Ken Harris 74, Gary Johns 74, Kevin Dick 74, Bill Freeman 75, Geoff Sweetman 75, Chris Norman 75, Murray Flannigan 75, Joel Fitzgibbon 75, Bruce Chambers 75 and Ray Newton 75 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) Kerry Bartlett (8th) and Tom Bell (17th). The 2BBB played in conjunction went to Bill Williams and Kevin Dick with 49 points from Tom Bell and Robert Hannah with 47 on countback. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Bisque Par.

Saturday 22nd June

Solid scoring featured in today's American Stableford with Shawn Parish leading the way across the field and in A Grade with 60 points from Steve Piggott with 53 on countback, B Grade to Stephen Zok with 58 from Geoff Boyd 56 on countback and C Grade to Paul Neuss with 60 from Ron Findlay with 55 on countback. Ball winners were: Bruce Chambers 56, Dean Freebairn 55, John Barbour 55, Matt Stafford 55, Dan Olsen 54, Mar- ray Flannigan 54, Scott Jones 54, Paul Adams 53, William Harden 53, Peter Milas 53, Andrew Zok 53, Wayne Barber 52, Adrian Kent 52, Max Hindmarsh 51 and Jeremy Holden 51 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber, Tracy Morison x 2 and Terry Roughan. Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford

Under 8-2s vs Cessnock PCYC

1st June 2019
It was another dominant display by the boys as they took on Cessnock PCYC. After a slow start they took control of the game in the middle of the first half.

Carter was impressive with his passing and setting up teammates with chances while Xander made a number of great saves as goalkeeper, which earned him man of the match. Leyton and Harlan had good games in attack, and Joel and Jude stood out with their defending. It's good to see everyone so keen to play and giving 100%. Keep up the good work boys.

Over 35-1s vs Warners Bay

31st May 2019
It was a second 5-1 win in a row for the team with a strong performance against

Warners Bay on a cold Friday night. The result never looked in doubt with goals from Shannon, Grant and Daggy sealing a comfortable victory. It was a busy night for super coach Steve as he worked the interchange bench well to manage a number of injured players and ensure everyone had a decent run. Tim and Sull had solid games at fullback and both managed to contribute to attacks going forward. Swany didn't have much to do as goalkeeper, but did save a penalty in the dying stages of the match to deny Warners Bay a second goal. A big thank you to all the spectators, canteen staff and the guys from the Over 35-2s that braved the cold to support us.

Under 8-2s vs Maitland 15th June 2019

We had a full squad of players available today for the match and it's encouraging that everyone is eager for game time. Maitland had some strong players but we were able to play together as a team to break them down on a number of occasions. Harlan played well and was given the best and fairest award as he helped out a lot in defence and was also able to get forward when we won the ball and contribute in attack. Ashton had his best game of the season and it's good to see his confidence rising with each game. Will was involved in a lot of the action today and scored a couple of goals with spectacular goal celebrations to match. After the game it was nice to hear the Maitland coach praising the boys as to how well they were playing as a team. Well done and keep up the effort at training.

Over 35-1s vs Kahibah 14th June 2019

We were almost back to a full squad for the away game against Kahibah, with a number of injured players benefiting from having the previous week off. With coach Steve and his tactical nous absent, it was up to the players to organise themselves on the pitch. This proved challenging in the first half as we struggled to keep possession and allowed Kahibah to take control of the game. The home team went ahead and added a second soon after to take a 2-0 lead into the break. Peely took control of the half time chat, rallying the team on, and the Wildcats came out in the second half and controlled the game. It was soon 2-1 after a good free kick was only half cleared by the defence and Peely finished clinically. A second came soon after and it looked like the team would complete an amazing comeback. However it wasn't to be as Kahibah added a third with ten minutes to go to make the final score 3-2. Despite a number of chances the Wildcats just fell short. It was a good finish to the game, but the slow start really cost us today.



Match Report: Reds versus

Southern Lakes

The Pokolbin Reds returned to their home ground at St Philips last Saturday to play Southern Lakes Rugby Union who were second on the ladder and are always a tough game. The game started at a frenetic pace and Lakes showed their intent to play a quick game and use their big boys to crash through our line. However the Reds showed great defence, which was improved over our last hit-out, backing themselves and each other with tackles which were straight from the text books. With this great defence, the Reds started to put together some excellent offensive runs and Dan Thomas crossed over for a try which was converted by Shane Doyle. Southern Lakes scored the next try which was converted as well. The Reds had a good chat amongst themselves behind the goalposts and came up to the restart and played as if Lakes hadn't scored a try. The rest of the first half was a grind with both teams having runs of possession. Score at half time was 7-7. Michael Doody was his usual animated self at the half time break and reminded the team that they were there to play for each other, to back themselves and their team mates. The second half started much the same as the first with Reds maintaining their defence but Southern Lakes continued to probe and crossed in the corner for an unconverted try making the score 7-12. After a scrum in the 40 minute and a couple of rucks and mauls the Reds had themselves in a position to attack the Lakes try line, Murray Clarke was having a break out on the wing and received the ball and pushed over the line in the corner for a well-deserved try, putting the score at 12-12. The Reds lifted and with great defence held out Southern Lakes from a number attacks on their line. A scrum was called for a knock-on and a couple of phases later, Dan Thomas broke Lakes line but was chased down by the Hammerheads winger and with a beautiful pass to Jack Kirkham as he went to ground, Jack scored in the corner breaking two tackles in the process. The score was 17-12. With 10 minutes to go it could have been anyone's game. The Hammerheads picked up the pace and were bashing away at the Reds try line but the Reds held firm with terrific defence. Finally, the Reds received an opportunity with a penalty goal 48 metres out towards the sideline. Specialist long distance kicker, Stu Garrett, was called up and he nailed it. Score 20-12 with 7 minutes to go. Southern Lakes then lifted the tempo and through good team play crossed the line putting the scores at 20-17. The Reds held out a resurgent Lakes for the final minutes and the score at the final whistle was 20-17. A win to the Reds! A great game to watch and a testament to the number of players coach, Michael Doody, has been getting to training and the Reds putting in for each other. Coach's points went to; Jack Kirkham 3 points, Sam Boyd 2 points and Jacob Meredith 1 point.

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT



Mark Hughes Foundation Fund

Raising Weekend

The Wildcats are hosting a Mark Hughes Foundation fundraising weekend this Friday and Saturday, 28-29 June, with all money raised going to the Mark Hughes Foundation. We will have beanies for sale, and there will be lots of fun activities happening over the weekend. There will be pledge boards on display around the clubhouse, where players and spectators can pledge donations - eg. for goals scored, games won, players achievements etc. In the past this has created lots of fun and banter around the club! We will also have kids activities, coloured hair spray, and a Brain Train - donate a gold coin to help build a giant brain on our new concrete area!

On Friday night, we have two women's games, and the Friday night All Age men's team playing, with the first game kicking off at 6.30pm. The bar will be open, and the burgers will be hot!

On Saturday, we will start the day with lots of Mini Roos and Junior teams, followed by all of our junior Inter District teams playing at home. Zone League Reserve grade kicks off at 12.45pm against Charletstown, followed by First grade at 2.30pm. Once again, the bar will be open and the bbq fired up!

Come on down and join in a fun weekend while raising funds for a very worthy cause.



3-4 years Kick Off Programme

15 June 2019 - "Superheroes"



Our little 3 and 4 year old are really enjoying their Saturday mornings, learning football skills in a fun environments. This week saw our little Wildcats dress up as their favourite Superheroes as they chased, tackled and scored goals. The Game Leaders also had lots of fun revisiting their childhood!

The WILDCATS are hosting a Mark Hughes Foundation Fundraiser event on game day Buy your beanie at Miller Park Branxton



Men's Zone League

Update By Trent Fuller

Greta Branxton's Zone League Football squad have now reached the half way mark of their 2019 season in their return to the Zone League setup.

Ten years ago the Greta Branxton Football Club left the First /Reserve grade setup after struggling to compete at the higher level of Inter District competition. Since then the club's men's teams have rebuilt and steadily risen through the ranks of Hunter Valley Newcastle Macquarie Football All Age Competition. The 2018 season saw the men's top team reach the pinnacle of the All Age ranks by taking out the A grade premiership, prompting the club's committee to make the decision to nominate into the Zone League 3 competition.

Zone League comprises a first and reserve grade side and is seen by the club as a great platform for the club's junior players to strive for. The setup also provides an opportunity for high performing clubs to be promoted into Zone League 2, Zone League 1 or the Zone Premier League competition.

The 2019 season has already proven to be highly successful for the Zone League squad with First Grade only losing 2 games in the first 12 rounds to be sitting second on the competition ladder. Reserve Grade is currently sitting in the top 4 with 5 wins and 4 draws in their first 12 rounds, and with a very closely fought competition, have the chance to rise higher on the ladder with wins in the next few weeks.

Entering into Zone League also gave the club the opportunity to enter into the FFA cup for the first time in the club's history and we were very close to pulling off a big upset against a higher graded side, narrowly going down 5 goals to 4 against Hunter Simba in an extremely entertaining game.

The recent success of the club saw the Zone League squad attract the highly regarded Jeff Robinson to coach the squad. Jeff has brought many years of coaching experience to the club. Jeff previously coached at the Thornton Redbacks and has been instrumental in the squad's early success.

Jeff has brought several promising young players with him from Thornton, and with a few other players joining from other local clubs along with the majority of players who took out the All Age A Grade premiership last season, the squad is seen as a real threat to both the first and reserve grade competitions.

The club would like to encourage all local football enthusiasts to come down and watch a game and get behind the boys in their quest for competition glory.

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