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WEDNESDAY  
17 July 2019

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## STEVE'S RANT

## Members Well Done Not So Well Done



## School NEWS



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## NEW SHADOW MINISTRY FOR MEMBER FOR CESSNOCK

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, was today announced as part of Jodi McKay's new look Shadow Ministry. Mr Barr has been given the significant portfolios of Shadow Minister for Hunter, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education.

“I am looking forward to my new role advocating for the people of the Hunter and fighting to make sure regional communities are heard.” Said Mr Barr. NSW Opposition Leader Jodi McKay said the changes signalled major rejuvenation for NSW Labor.

“We have a fresh new team with responsibilities that really give us a chance to reconnect with NSW communities.”

“I am incredibly proud of the Shadow Cabinet because it brings on some of the real talent within our caucus and signals to people exactly where Labor's priorities lie - which is putting people first,” Ms McKay said.

State Member for the Cessnock Electorate said he would continue to work hard for the people in the Cessnock electorate and in his new responsibilities as part of the Shadow Cabinet.

Clayton Barr MP, has represented the Cessnock state electorate for the Labor Party since 2011. Prior to entering Parliament, Clayton was a teacher, having gained his Bachelor of Education at The University of Newcastle in 1993 and teaching at Mount View High School until 2003. He then worked with CanTeen – a children's cancer charity – until 2009,



Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP, who has been appointed Shadow Minister for Hunter, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education.

before a short stint in the office of Kerry Hickey, MP. From late 2009 until 2011, Barr was employed by the Port Stephens Council.



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# Improved visitor experience with Lake St Clair under new management



Singleton's Lake St Clair is on course for a new direction, with a boom gate, 24/7 on-site caretaker and EFTPOS facilities to be available at the recreation ground in the coming months under the new management contract. Singleton Council awarded the tender for the management of the Lake St Clair Recreation Ground to BelgraviaPRO earlier this year. Council's Interim Manager Infrastructure Services Damian Morris said the company has extensive experience managing holiday parks, and would see out changes to the recreation area that the community has been crying out for. "First item on the list is for the boom gate to be installed to better regulate access to the recreational area for campers and venue users with bookings," Mr Morris said. "The on-site manager will be located in the residence and operating from the office, and someone will be there 24/7 like a standard park. "There will also be the provision of EFTPOS for payments, which will be a positive addition for visitors."

But they're not the only changes touted for the boating, camping and fishing hot-spot. "Council has received grant funding to investigate sewage treatment upgrades, and new picnic shelters will be installed as detailed in the 2019/20 Capital Works Plan and the Lake St Clair Plan of Management (PoM) 2018," Mr Morris said. "Lake St Clair is a water playground for locals and visitors alike — whether it's to relax and enjoy in incredible scenery, or for adventurers looking to turn up the action. "It is a wonderful facility for Singleton, and Council is very excited about the future use of this facility and the opportunities it presents for the local community. "Our vision for the park has not changed — we want to preserve this unique Australian recreational and tourist experience with well-maintained and appropriate facilities, and are very excited to have BelgraviaPRO on board to work with us in improving the park's presentation, visitor experience and levels of service within the current parameters as a primitive camp site."

## 2019 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, has announced that the NSW Government will once again conduct the Community Building Partnership Program in 2019. The Program will open at 9am on Monday 2 September 2019 and applications will close at 5pm on Friday 27 September, 2019. Late applications will not be considered. "There will be funds available in each NSW electorate, including the Cessnock Electorate and the Program is open to local councils and not-for-profit groups to apply for the funds they need to deliver projects with social, environmental and recreational outcomes" Mr Barr said. "Local sports clubs, charities, school P & C associations, Men's Sheds and Scouts or Girl Guides are just some of the groups that can benefit from the program". The Community Building Partnership Program, first introduced by the Labor Government in 2009 has provided funding to thousands of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to build or upgrade local facilities. Applications can only be made via the Community Building Partnership website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/projects-and-initiatives/community-building-partnership/> where potential applicants must read the program guidelines to ensure their club or organisation and the proposed project are eligible. The 2019 program guidelines will be published on website in August 2019.

## Bulk Waste pickup returns in November

Singleton Council is encouraging residents to save the date, with the 2019 Bulk Waste Collection campaign locked in to take place from 11 November. The Bulk Waste Collection service offers residents who receive a domestic waste and recycling service a one-off opportunity each year to dispose of their bulkier waste items by placing them on the kerbside for collection free of charge. Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure Services Group Mark Ihlein said the collection process will be done a little differently this year, with Council's Rangers to conduct surveillance.



"As in previous years, two cubic metres of domestic waste, or in other words a trailer load, will be afforded to residents, with collections in urban areas from 11 November to 15 November and rural areas from 18 November - 22 November," he said. "This will be the first year Council's Rangers will conduct surveillance during and after collection to ensure compliance with requirements, as well as the safety of our community and staff completing the pickup. "Council's waste contractor, JR Richards will also submit daily reports of collections including any properties that fail to comply with the provisions so that our Rangers can follow up. "Residents will be required to place waste on the kerbside the weekend before collection — anything placed out earlier than the weekend before the pick-up in your zone or after pickup is considered illegal dumping and you could be fined. "And don't forget that your trash could be someone else's treasure with sites like Gumtree, eBay and Facebook's Buy Swap Sell pages perfect to sell on things like furniture, bikes, old toys and décor items." For more information about what will be accepted and what will not, guidelines for how your waste should be presented and to find out when your collection will take place, head to Council's website via <https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/bulkwastecollection>, Facebook page or call our Customer Service Team on 02 6578 7290.

## Community asked to provide feedback on local trails

Cessnock City Council are asking the community to provide information and feedback on local trails by undertaking a survey and attending a community workshop. The information collected during the community engagement will inform a Trails Strategy that will provide a strategic framework for the future development and management of trails within the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The Cessnock LGA is home to many trails, some of these are informal trails located in the Hunter Valley Wine District, national parks and other natural areas. The challenge is the trails are not formally mapped and their condition is unknown. Trails will now be audited and mapped. This will allow for these trails to be better utilised by not only locals but visitors to the region. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the strategy will assist in generating more opportunities for recreational enjoyment. "We have a beautiful natural environment that can be enjoyed from a walk, ride or run down a trail. It would be fantastic to see these trails better utilised and enjoyed." The survey closed on Monday 8 July 2019. The community workshop will be held at Council's Administration Building (the Ante Room) on Thursday 18 July 2019 from 6pm to 7.30pm. Please RSVP to [annie@tredwell.com.au](mailto:annie@tredwell.com.au) Council have engaged planning specialist Tredwell to assist with this project.



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Bishops Bdg	4015 0000	Hunter Water	
Nth R'bury....	4015 0000		1300 657 000
Rothbury.....	4015 0000	Ausgrid.....	131 388
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000	Gas Emergencies .	131 909
Rothbury.....	4991 1733	Lifeline.....	131 114
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000	Mental Health Line	
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### PICK OF What's Coming

#### My Brilliant Divorce

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#### The Class of '59: The Rock & Roll Circus Tour 2019

**31 August 2019**  
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The Rock & Roll Circus Tour rolls in to Australia in 2019!



## Advancing Cessnock City through business engagement



Council wants to know about individual business needs, capacity and optimism, as well as the potential pain points to running a small business in regional Australia. The Business Capability Study will determine how many businesses operate within the region, their size, employment capacity, export and import status, and also identify opportunities to encourage investment and jobs within the region. The study is focused on finding solutions and stimulating enterprise. The results will drive future economic development programs, and inform what can be done to support and nurture existing businesses. "The best part about this study is that any opportunities identified will be used

to assist businesses to grow and leverage more for the Cessnock Local Government Area," said Mayor Pynsent. The data provided in the study will enable the economic development team to contact businesses with ongoing opportunities, and provide more impactful training and development under the Advance Cessnock City partnership. Council's Acting Economic Development Manager, Rhiannon Stevens, says the survey will allow Council and other decision makers to better respond to the needs of businesses in the community. "We need the intel of our business owners and managers so governments at all levels can make smarter economic decisions for the future of regional Australia." "For successful economic development to occur, it is absolutely critical that there is a comprehensive

understanding of industry and businesses, along with their capacity and needs, which this study will provide. It is a credit to the economic development team who continue to excel in these initiatives," added Mayor Pynsent. Council secured matched funding for the study under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund Community Investment

All local business owners/operators are invited to participate in the survey. [Email](mailto:email) or phone council on 4993 4185 to receive your unique link to complete the survey online or access it direct via [advancecessnock.com.au/survey](http://advancecessnock.com.au/survey).  
 • Photo at left: Brad Sangster and Rhiannon Stevens of Council's Economic Development Unit assisting Darwin Corpuz at Darwin's on Vincent to complete his survey.

Council's Economic Development team is determined to make the region a better place to do business! Under the Advance Cessnock City

partnership, the team is rolling out a survey to better understand the capacity of local businesses. Cessnock City Mayor,

Councillor Bob Pynsent urged local businesses to participate by completing a short 8-10 minute survey that is part of the Business Capability Study.



Stream.

## 'Mini Vinnies' at Rosary Park Catholic School Branxton proactive in Winter Appeal 2019



Regional President of SVDP, Terry Winn far left, with RPCS Mini Vinnies members and some of the goods collected for the Winter Appeal and Michelle Kot from SVDP at far right.

Students, staff & members of Mini Vinnies at Rosary Park Catholic School Branxton have successfully completed a food drive for Saint Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal 2019. All goods collected have been given to Saint Vincent de Paul to distribute to those in need. On the 2nd July Regional

President of SVDP, Terry Win, arrived at the school to pick up the array of food and other donations & to thank those who organized the successful drive. "I would like to thank Rosary Park School Mini Vinnies, students & staff for what they have done. It will go to a very worthy cause," said Terry.

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# STEVE'S RANT

What, in the name of convenience are we doing to our children and what does this mean for our society? The conveniences I speak of are not public conveniences but what the blurb on TV tells us is a must have for our convenience... fast food, mobile telephones that do everything but wipe your whatsit, and come to think of it there is a large number of mobile phones which end up in the dunny. That's why they have to make them waterproof. Child minding services generally referred to as 'early learning centres'. Let's deal with fast food or as some would have it, convenience food. With children, who are invariably difficult to please, a very limited menu is available. When catered for by the purchase of fast food, it is unlikely that a nutritional or adequate diet is achieved. Too much sugar and other carbohydrates, not enough fibre and bugger all protein. This with no organised physical activity or outdoor play tend to a lethargic and overweight child. Once that pattern is established it is difficult to get out of and the result can be seen in the national obesity figures which have gone from bad to one of the highest in the world. In New York many apartments are built with no proper kitchen. It is understood that the occupant will either eat out or bring home take-away. That is OK for young adults with no children but fancy not being about to eat out without having ankle-biters with you every meal. OK, once or twice a month to educate the children in

table manners and social etiquette. But that can only happen when the child is able to feed itself. So, back to good old take-away or home delivered pap. Sitting down to dinner at home which used to be the anchor of family cohesion is now but a memory of past quaint pastimes. Not possible in the digital age when everybody must be constantly playing with their iPhone. Which brings us to the mobile telephone with its multitude of functions. Before the iPhone these functions were spread between different devices and required setting aside time for the different activities. Games with the X Box, talking to people from afar with the telephone, doing sums either in your head or with a calculator, taking photographs with a camera, storing images in an album, texting via snail mail and keeping notes and reminders with a pencil and notebook. Not to mention spying on the neighbours and using it as a remote for everything including the old man's pacemaker. What has the mobile (iPhone) got to do with harming children? This is not hard to see. The iPhone is the greatest time thief mankind has come up with. It distracts the user from everything else that is happening about them. What attention is paid to a child by the parent habitually gaming, texting, shopping or otherwise embroiled in their iPhone? Well, give the child its own device to keep it occupied and out of your hair, whilst it sits there in a dirty nappy with a snotty nose eating

## THE TRUTH:



smarties. Great stuff ay! I am not saying this happens with every family all the time, but time spent on the iPhone is not time spent with your child. Another aspect of the iPhone is that once a child has its own iPhone or tablet it is then distracted from its surroundings and other people. This is detrimental to its social development and its perception of the world around it. How often does your child make an observation about something in the garden, the street or in the sky? Does it amaze you when they do? I hope it does and you encourage it even if the observation that Mr Smith next door was picking his nose. Child minding and early learning is a sensitive issue.

Many families have little choice in this and fortunately there are government funds to assist in the cost of child minding. However, given a choice the majority of parents prefer the stay-at-home mother or father for the first two to three years. Every broad study agrees, that the best pre-school upbringing is at home with the child's mother. Here the family's beliefs, customs and values are imprinted in the most sensitive time of the child's development. Hence when the child is confronted at pre-school or kindergarten with different values and points of view from those learnt at home, it is armed to at least question them and or talk about it at home. The child does not then enter formal schooling with

a blank mind for the social conditioning of the education establishment. If the child is subjected to preschool or early learning then attempts to influence the child's thinking starts earlier and have far greater consequences for the child's sense of values and perception of reality. So, when a family is forced by circumstance or so chooses to have their children in day care, effort to counter balance the child's separation from its mother needs to be undertaken. Either by extra attention when the family is together, or by whatever means seem to aid the bonding of children to their parents. Maybe special attention and activities on weekends or RDO's can address the deprivation of parental contact.

If you think this is all nonsense let me assure you there are elements in society which are attempting to usurp family values and society as we know it. The agenda of the militant feminists, the greens, and the ultra-left socialist coalition has hijacked the Australian education system from preschool to tertiary level. Theirs is the ideology that refuses to debate any matter that is contrary to their beliefs... this includes the ideas that; All Men Are Rapists, The Science Is In On Global Warming, Western Civilization Is Discredited As A Basis For Modern Society, Democracy And The Westminster System Of Government Has Failed, The World Is

Overpopulated And Women Should Be Actively Discourage From Having Babies, Nuclear Energy Is Inherently Evil As Is All Energy Derived From Fossil Fuels, Eating Meat Is Tantalum To Cannibalism and Christianity Is Evil. This is the doctrine the social elites have successfully introduced in to every aspect of our education system. They do this by adopting the self-righteous high moral ground and casting every idea in the mould as discussed above. Please let me know if I have missed anything in their social engineering pocket book. Designers of mobile apps do not let their own children use them, because they are additive. If your child is addicted to their phone here is what to do; change the settings to greyscale. Designers make this difficult to do because it removes the "pokies" effect. On the iPhone go to \*Settings \*General \*Accessibility \*display \*accommodation \*colour filter "ON" \*greyscale. Cheers, Steve



overwhelmed. Review the history of the Incas, the Aztecs, the North American Indians, the Chinese during the "opium wars" and the whole of sub-Saharan Africa, and of course Australia if you want examples. In the modern world, the only credible defence capability is nuclear weapons and the capacity to deliver them to a hostile enemy.

Australia has yet to learn the lessons of 1941 when it had no independent defence capability and was facing subjugation by a hostile Japan. Whatever one's opinion about the state of Israel, one thing is certain. Without independent nuclear capabilities they would have been overwhelmed by now. Mike McGregor, Narrabri NSW



THE final touches are almost in place for the up-coming 90th Anniversary Re-enactment of the Rothbury Riot at the old Ayrefield Colliery site in North Rothbury. North Rothbury Tidy Town is hosting & organising the day to mark the occasion. The actual anniversary date is Monday 16th December 2019 but the re-enactment will be held on-site on Saturday 14th December 2019 at 3pm. After the re-enactment North Rothbury Tidy Town will be holding the annual Twilight Markets from 4pm until 8pm.

NRTT have a lot of people to thank for their help with Steve Thompson from Huntlee (LWP) providing the venue, the Huntlee Academy cleaning & clearing the area & LWP providing public liability insurance, Cessnock City Council who are helping to prepare the site, the CFMMEU for their support, Phil Aughey for preparing the script for the re-enactment, both our State & Federal members for their great support & the local Business Chamber. Thank you all.

Contrary to the popular opinion Contrary to the popular opinion, development of nuclear weapons is the only safe bet for Australia in view of the declining influence of the US and the all pervasive pursuit of regional dominance by China. If there is one lesson of history which must be understood, it is that asymmetric capacity in terms of defence dooms you to slavery and serfdom. One only has to examine the history of the Americas, and the colonial domination of Africa and Asia, to realise that without an independent credible defence capability your community will be

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to the editor

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# Let's celebrate Local Government Week

Local Government Week is fast approaching and it's a great opportunity to showcase and celebrate the services Cessnock City Council provides to our community.

Running from 29 July to 4 August, Local Government Week aims to increase the community understanding of Council's roles and responsibilities.

This year's theme is "Your Council" and Council is excited to share a program of events for the community to enjoy and celebrate everything local government.

The much loved and anticipated School Leaders' Breakfast is on again this year. This is where over 200 students come along and hear from an inspiring person. This year's special

guest speaker, Damian Thomlinson will present to students. He'll be talking about his powerful story of strength, survival and life after the military. Damian starred in Hacksaw Ridge in 2016. The film was nominated for Best Picture at the 2017 Academy Awards. Thomlinson was also a member of the Australian team for the 2014 and 2016 Invictus Games. Our libraries are also getting involved with both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries holding many events including



Rhymetime, Storytime and Tech help. More information on these events is available at [libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au). Some exciting additions to our celebrations this year include a FREE e-SAFETY presentation on Thursday 1 August at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre from 9:30am to 11am and a panel with Council's Finance Team about all things rates and finance. For residents wanting to find out more about the Cessnock Waste Management Centre, a behind the scenes tour will be offered at 10am Monday 29 July and 2:30pm Tuesday 30 July. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this week is about moving the conversation from roads, rates and rubbish. "This week is about highlighting all we have to offer to our community. It's about promoting all the services we manage and the role we play in making this a wonderful place to call home." If you would like to see the program of events visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/lgw2019](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/lgw2019).



Branxton Lions have recently donated \$250.00 to the St Vincent de Paul winter appeal. Mr. Alan Humphreys received the cheque on behalf of St Vincent de Paul by Lions Treasurer Cathy Murray.

Branxton Lions Treasurer Cathy Murray also presented a cheque of \$250.00 to Johanna Brecard on the 'Gold for Goldie' day recently held at the Branxton Public school. Funds were raised for the Brecard family. Also a cheque of \$250.00 was given to the Anglican Church of Branxton |Greta | and Lochinvar. For their discretionary fund to help the needy in our district. Lions also had a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on the 20th June 2019 at Singleton with a difference; a drive through was also used for customers. Thank you Bunnings for their support.

Publicity officer, Ken Meany



The new drive-through Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Singleton



■ Branxton Lions treasurer Cathy Murray presenting a cheque to Alan Humphreys representing Saint Vincent de Paul Society (at left) & Cathy presenting a cheque to the Johanna Brecard for the 'Gold for Goldie' fundraiser.



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## Who's Minding the Farm? In this climate emergency

Cessnock City Library is hosting author Patrice Newell on Thursday 25 July for a Meet the Author event. Patrice will be discussing her book 'Who's Minding the Farm? In this climate emergency.

In 1987 Patrice Newell left her job to become an organic farmer in the Hunter Valley. At Elmswood, she grows garlic, makes olive oil and keeps bees. It's from this vantage point she sees many unsustainable processes. 'Who's Minding the Farm' is a detailed look at all aspects of the farming industry, and a call to action for every citizen to take responsibility.

Patrice examines some of the problems for Australian farming including:

- The neglect and abuse of land by farmers.
- Degradation of the soil over time, and its impact on the food we eat.
- The shrinking, unskilled labour force of short-term workers, and how this affects productivity on the farm.
- Depressive illnesses and isolation, suicides and tough times amongst farmers.



- How governments have misdirected drought funding.
- The chemical industry's stranglehold on farmers, and why we need to stop our chemical addiction. Part love song to a life on the farm, and part passionate appeal, 'Who's Minding the Farm' will make you think differently about what we consume and the damage it reaps on the land. "A heartwarming, informative and engaging account of sustainable farming down under"

- Tim Flannery.

**What:** Meet the Author: Patrice Newell  
Who's Minding the Farm? In this climate emergency.

**When:** Thursday 25 July 5.00-6.30pm

**Where:** Cessnock Library

This event is free with refreshments provided, but bookings are essential. Reserve your spot at [libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) under 'Events & Bookings' or by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399. [patricenewell.com.au](http://patricenewell.com.au)



If you require assistance please call

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## REFLECTIONS

### "The sisters ... Martha and Mary."

**Can you imagine** what it would be like for Jesus to knock at your door? How would you respond? Would you invite him in as soon as you opened the door or would you prefer a planned visit so that you can have your home ready for your important guest?

Jesus is travelling to Jerusalem and on the way, "Martha welcomed him into her home." [Luke 10.38] Her sister Mary "sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks." [Luke 10.39-40]

Sounds like our homes doesn't it? Some of us do the welcoming, prepare dinner, make sure that our guests have all that they need ... while some of us spend time with our guest, listening to and talking with them. So, there is no great surprise that these two sisters, Martha and Mary, respond in different ways when Jesus visits them in their home.

Martha has a lot to do as she welcomes Jesus. She has meals to prepare and hospitality to provide by doing things for Jesus; whilst her sister, Mary, chooses to welcome Jesus and show hospitality in a different way, by sitting at his feet and learning from him, by doing things with him. When Martha complains to Jesus about this, he hears her concern and offers a solution, though not the one that she was hoping for. Jesus tells Martha that she is worried about too many things and that Mary has chosen the better option.

Can you image how frustrated Martha must have felt? When we offer hospitality to each other, it is not so that our homes can be inspected, but so that we can spend time with the people we are offering hospitality to. Food needs to be prepared, guests need to be cared for and looked after, but they also need our attention and time. Jesus does not tell Martha that she is wrong to do the things that she is doing to offer him hospitality, but he does tell her that Mary has chosen the better option.

There is a little of Martha and a little of Mary in all of us. Our challenge is to find the balance that is right for each situation. If we are always like Martha, then I wonder why we would offer hospitality if we are not going to spend time with our guest ... and on the other hand if we are always like Mary, sitting at the feet of Jesus, our guest would go hungry!

Every Blessing, Reverend Nicole



# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

upgrade and is more accessible to community members utilising this important community asset. Council carried out the works after receiving funding of more than \$30,000 under the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program and a generous contribution from Ability Links NSW of \$30,000. Council also contributed funding to the project which enabled the important works to be undertaken focusing on improving access to the hall. Council thanked community groups for their patience during the works phase. To keep up to date on projects Council is working on visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/sport/currentprojects](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/sport/currentprojects).

It was great to attend the change over dinner for Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri. The hard working members distributed close to \$30,000 to the community. The recognition of Stephen Crane, Jordan Fallon, Paul Hughes and Frank Climanco was outstanding.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

With the one-time Member for Newcastle now at the helm of the NSW Labor Party and the appointment of a Shadow Minister for the Hunter in Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP, the Hunter Region has come into sharp focus in the past couple of weeks.

My aim as the Mayor of Singleton is to make sure Singleton isn't left out of the conversation, which is why I've already written to the Opposition Leader Jodi McKay and Mr Barr to remind them of Singleton's Advocacy Agenda, and to enlist their support and action for those issues pertinent to the people of our local government area.

Of course, Singleton is well represented in Macquarie Street by the Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnson MP, and we also saw in the past week the opening of the new Gowrie Gates in a partnership between the ARTC and RMS. Funding began for that project six years ago in the 2013 State Budget. And that's why, with a nominal amount in this year's Budget for the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway, we'll be looking for more support from all levels of government and all political

persuasions to meet Council's deadline for the road to be built by 2024. We are also standing by a promise by the Deputy Premier John Barilaro to review the Resources for Regions program, to deliver a fairer outcome for mining affected communities.

Policing is also high on our Advocacy Agenda. We saw this week the announcement of extra police for our region, including 11 additional jobs for the Hunter Valley command, and we hope some of those officers will make their way to Singleton. And with more police expected in the next 12 months, those numbers may be added in our region to achieve a 24-hour police station.

But the issue of an appropriate Singleton Police Station building remains. Labor pledged \$17 million for a new police station for Singleton ahead of the March State election, along with a promise for construction in the first term of a Labor government, to replace the heritage building it described as being "ill-equipped" for modern policing.

So far, the NSW Government has been eerily silent. I would hope the issue is still at the forefront for the Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for the Hunter, and we can work together to ensure the NSW Government takes note of what the people of Singleton need for a safe community.

Cheers, Sue



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council - West Ward

## A Great GG

Since my last column Australia has had a change in Governors General so I thought in this week's column I'd tell you a little about the man leaving Government House. Firstly, for those who aren't aware, the main role of the Governor General is to be the representative of the Australian Monarch. The governor-general has formal presidency over the Federal Executive Council and is commander-in-chief of the Australian Defence Force. The functions of the governor-general include appointing ministers, judges, and ambassadors, giving royal assent to legislation passed by parliament, issuing writs for election, and bestowing Australian honours.

In January 2014 General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), was named to succeed Dame Quentin Bryce as Governor General of Australia. He was

sworn in on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, and made a Knight of the Order of Australia on the same date.

Peter Cosgrove was born in Sydney in 1947. After finishing school he attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon, graduating in 1968.

In 1972, he served as Aide de Camp to Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck. He returned to regimental life as second in command of a Company, rising to Adjutant then Company Commander in the Army's 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR), then 5/7 RAR in Holsworthy, Sydney. Later appointments included a period as a tactics instructor at the Army's Infantry Centre in Singleton, a year's study at the United States Marine Corps Staff College, extended periods of duty in the United Kingdom and India, and command of 1 RAR. He was appointed a Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service in command in 1983-84.

The first consciousness most Australian's would have had of Sir Peter was in 1999 when, as Commander of the International Task Force East Timor (INTERFET), he was responsible for overseeing that country's transition to independence. For his leadership in this role he was promoted to Companion in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (AC). Promoted to Lieutenant General, he was appointed Chief of Army in 2000. After further promotion to General, he served as Chief of the Defence Force from 2002-2005. He retired from the military in 2005.

In "retirement" Sir Peter was appointed by the Queensland Government to lead the task-force rebuilding communities in the Innisfail region following the devastation caused by Cyclone Larry in 2006. From 2007 to 2012, he chaired the Council of the Australian War Memorial. Sir Peter finished up as the Governor General on the 1st of July. He and his wife Lynne were loved by Australians for his down to earth nature and the love and compassion they shared for Australia and Australians, particularly those who faced tough times or disadvantage. Sir Peter was a magnificent representative of us because he was one of us. He represented this country around the world with dignity and genuine respect. He has left big shoes to fill. General David Hurley and his wife Linda have now replaced Sir Peter in Yarralumla. General Hurley was previously the 38th Governor of New South Wales, serving from 2014 to 2019.

Until next time, Ben



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR HELPFUL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recent community notices recently placed on my Facebook page have been viewed positively judging by the great feedback I have received. Below is a list of some of the notices that might assist more members in our community:

**Did you know** all NSW school-enrolled children are eligible for an Active Kids voucher? You can apply for a \$100 Active Kids voucher which can be used with any approved provider to help cover costs towards the registration, participation or membership fees for sport or fitness.

**Voting for My Community Project** is now open. This program is designed to allow the community to choose from a list of finalists which local project/s should receive funding. Across the electorate there are a total of 27 projects up for public vote. The most popular project will be funded first and so on until no more projects can be fully funded. You can vote at any NSW Service Centre or at [www.mycommunityproject.service.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mycommunityproject.service.nsw.gov.au). You can only vote once for up to 5 finalists.

**An Ageing and Disability Commissioner** has been established to better protect older people and adults with a disability from abuse, neglect or exploitation caused by someone they know in their home, or in their community. You can learn about how to spot signs and symptoms of abuse, neglect and exploitation, and if this does raise concerns you can make an anonymous report. You can contact the helpline on 1800 628 221 or visit [www.ageinganddisabilitycommission.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ageinganddisabilitycommission.nsw.gov.au)

**You might remember** your parents talking to you about 'Stranger Danger' when you were a child. Today the message is 'Safe People, Safe Place' but it is still the same message. Talk to your kids about:

- Knowing where safe places are – a shop, service station, police station, library or school. If you are ever frightened, go to one of these places and ask them to call the police.
- Safe adults you can look for and talk to if you need help – police officers, teachers at school, adults you know and trust.
- Not talking to people you don't know and never getting into a car with someone you don't know.
- If a car stops on the side of the road and you don't know the person inside, do not stop. If you are scared and can use a phone, call 000 and tell them you are scared.
- If someone tries to grab you, yell out, 'Go away, I

don't know you,' – this lets other people know you have been approached by someone you don't know.

**Over the recent weeks** I have placed a call out to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and sporting organisations as I am updating my community database. This database will allow my office to send out helpful information on future grants and relevant information to organisations.

So your organisation doesn't miss out information that could be of importance, I ask that you send your organisation's name, postal address, best contact person and position, phone number and email address to [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au) to be included.

Cheers Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

## WHERE ARE OUR BYPASSES?

Upper Hunter leaders and residents will be disappointed by the Berejiklian Government's failure to fulfil its pre-election promises to fund the Muswellbrook and Singleton bypasses. On February 21 – in the middle of the NSW election campaign – Deputy Premier John Barilaro came to Muswellbrook, stood up next to Michael Johnsen and pledged \$266 million to build the Muswellbrook bypass.

In the recent NSW Budget we received no construction funding. The Singleton bypass was also ignored. During the Federal election Anthony Albanese committed to fast tracking the Singleton bypass by pledging a Labor Government in Canberra would invest \$250 million. Michael Johnsen's response was to criticise the announcement. We are still waiting.

The stoush in the Parliament last week was not a fight about whether people deserve an income tax cut. Rather, it was about when they will get one and for the next three years, whether they were big enough for those who need them most. Too many Australian workers will not receive any meaningful benefit from the tax package that was legislated until 2022, three years away.

Labor wanted the government to bring these 2022 cuts forward so that people receive the tax break earlier. We argued this not just because people need the tax cut but also because a very weak economy is desperately in need of the additional consumer spending the tax break would have provided. The other argument was about the tax cuts the

government's package will deliver in five years' time. Labor wanted more time to have a debate about their fairness - because they are weighted in favour of high income earners - and their affordability if the economy continues to deteriorate.

Given five years is such a long way off it made sense to decouple the stage 3 cuts (5 years away), to bring forward and pass stage 2 (3 years away) and pass stage 1 which will provide immediate tax relief. But, the government refused to do so. As a result, Labor allowed the whole package to pass because to do otherwise would have denied workers the stage 1 tax cuts which will range from \$255 a year for someone earning \$37,000 or less annually and a \$1,085 tax cut for someone on between \$48,000 and \$90,000. So there was no debate about whether the parliament should pass tax cuts. It was all about making them meaningful and worthwhile. Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

## PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

Businesses in the Upper Hunter are being encouraged to support disability inclusion and become a Companion Card affiliate. The program provides people with a significant and permanent disability access to a range of activities and events, by providing free entry to venues for their companion. People with disability should have every opportunity to participate in our community.

I urge all recreational businesses across our region to sign up to become an affiliate today and show their support to people with disability and their carers.

This is also about being a good corporate citizen and helping people with disabilities to live life to the fullest.

Across NSW there are more than 30,000 Companion Card holders and we want businesses to take advantage of a significant market.

The program has been helping people with life-long disability participate in their community for more than 10 years, by providing free entry to events and activities for family members, friends, volunteers or paid carers. Companion Card affiliates include entertainment venues, health and fitness facilities, transport organisations and more. Cheers, Michael

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# Pharmacist Advice

## CHRONIC PAIN



over-the-counter painkillers like acetaminophen, aspirin, and ibuprofen. While these drugs might help with mild or occasional pain, they're often not strong enough for serious nerve pain.

### What is the safest painkiller?

For most seniors, the safest over the counter painkiller is acetaminophen (like Tylenol). However, older adults must NOT take more than 3000 mg of acetaminophen in one day. In high doses, acetaminophen can cause serious or fatal liver damage

### Is chronic pain a disability?

Chronic pain is not a listed impairment in Social Security's blue book, the listing of impairments that may automatically qualify you for disability benefits. There are some diagnoses that are often related to chronic pain, however, including: inflammatory

## Managing your chronic pain

Pain is regarded as chronic when it does not go away and is experienced by a patient on most days of the week for at least 3 months.

About 1 in 5 Australians suffer from chronic pain. A slightly higher proportion of females report having chronic pain than males do.

Prevalence tends to be higher in older individuals. At least 1 in 4 women aged 50 years or over report having chronic pain.

The leading cause of chronic pain is reported to be injury, commonly from playing sport, car accidents, home accidents and work accidents.

Almost two-thirds of people with chronic pain report that their pain interferes with their daily activities.

It is common for a person with chronic pain to consult their GP about their pain, but patients also seek

advice from medical specialists (e.g. orthopaedic surgeons, rheumatologists, anaesthetists), and allied health professionals and alternative practitioners including physiotherapists, pharmacists, chiropractors, masseurs, acupuncturists, and naturopaths.

Use of oral analgesics by people with chronic pain is common. Paracetamol and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are the most frequently used, but a notable proportion of patients use vitamins, minerals and/or herbal and natural preparations.

### The impact of chronic pain

Chronic pain can have an enormous impact on people's quality of life. It may interfere with a person's sleep patterns, their sexual activity, their ability to work and conduct daily activities, and it can cause emotional distress and lead to serious mental health problems, including depression. The goals of pain

treatment are to enhance functioning and reduce suffering and distress, while minimising the risk of adverse effects. While it is rare to eliminate chronic pain completely, it should be possible to control pain to a manageable level and allow people to function at an acceptable level. While acute pain can usually be attributed to an identifiable disease or damage process, finding an identifiable process for chronic pain can be very difficult. Sometimes the cause of the pain cannot be



determined. This does not make the pain any less real to the patient.

### Some questions answered:-

#### What's the best treatment for chronic pain?

Tricyclic antidepressants used in the treatment of chronic pain include amitriptyline and nortriptyline (Pamelor). Serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) that may be prescribed to relieve chronic pain include duloxetine (Cymbalta), venlafaxine (Effexor XR) and milnacipran (Savella).

#### What chronic pain does to a person?

One's psychological state plays a huge role in the effect chronic pain has on your life. If you or someone you know has chronic pain, you may notice irritability, anger, depression, and difficulty concentrating. The psychological side effects of living with chronic pain can be as debilitating as the pain itself

What is the best painkiller for nerve pain? Painkilling medicines. Some people with neuropathic pain turn to familiar

arthritis (listing 14.09)

#### What is considered severe pain?

Moderate Pain – Interferes significantly with daily living activities. ... Severe Pain – Disabling; unable to perform daily living activities. 7 – Severe pain that dominates your senses and significantly limits your ability to perform normal daily activities or maintain social relationships. Interferes with sleep.

#### What is the most dangerous painkiller?

The most commonly abused opioid painkillers include oxycodone, hydrocodone, meperidine, hydro-morphone and propoxyphene. Oxycodone has the greatest potential for abuse and the greatest dangers. It is as powerful as heroin and affects the nervous system the same way.

#### What's the most painful thing?

Here Are The Most Painful Things A Human Can Experience. Childbirth is, of course, high on the list, but don't sleep on bullet ant stings or trigeminal neuralgia, a disease that is known as "the worst pain humans can suffer."

## Branxton's Corey Lamb 2019 NSW Junior Championship just one week after landing the Queensland title.



Seventeen-year-old Branxton amateur junior golfer has added another title to his amazing junior golfing career.

Competing in the 2019 NSW Junior Championship at Belmont Golf Course last week he led the field from pillar-to-post to record his

second state title in the space of 2 weeks.

His four-over-par performance at the Belmont Golf Course last Friday, in the final round, was a minor blemish on an otherwise dominant campaign; holding off Queenslander Samuel Slater (runner up) by four shots overall. Starting the final round with a six-shot lead was enough to land the title.

He finished at nine-under, four strokes clear of Queenslander Sam Slater (73,67,69,74). The Australian's Jeffery Guan (70,69,75,72) was third at two under. Newcastle's Josh Robards (70,71,71,77) was next at even par.

"That was my last major event as a junior so it was nice to win," Lamb said.

The wins earned him a start at the Queensland Open and NSW Open, which are both in November.

Corey made a hard decision earlier this year by giving away school to concentrate of his golfing career.

"I'm probably in as good a form as I ever have been," Lamb said. "I have been practicing really hard so it's good to see the results coming," Corey said.

Lamb, who hopes to graduate into the senior NSW team next year, plans to follow in the footsteps of Charlestown 21-year-old Blake Windred and play in some of the major world amateur events.

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- Ingredients**
- 8 brushed potatoes, washed, thinly sliced
  - 100g thickly sliced ham, chopped
  - 2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
  - 1 brown onion, thinly sliced
  - 1 leek, pale section only, thinly sliced
  - 1 tbs thyme sprigs
  - 1 cup (120g) coarsely grated cheddar
  - 1/2 cup (125ml) thickened cream
  - 1/3 cup (80g) sour cream
  - 1/4 cup (60ml) chicken stock

**Method**

• Step 1  
 Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a 6-cup (1.5L) ovenproof dish. Arrange one-third of

## Ham and leek potato gratin

the potato in the prepared dish. Top with half the ham, garlic, onion, leek and thyme. Sprinkle with one-third of the cheddar. Continue layering with remaining potato, ham, garlic, onion, leek, thyme and cheddar, finishing with the potato and cheddar.



- Step 2  
 Combine the cream, sour cream and stock in a jug. Season. Carefully pour the cream mixture over the potato mixture in the dish.
  - Step 3  
 Bake for 1 hour or until the sauce thickens and the potato is golden brown and tender.
  - Step 4  
 Set the potato gratin aside for 10 mins to rest before serving.
- Yum!



# Residents warned about rates scam

Residents are being warned about a new phone scam that involves the caller claiming to be from Cessnock City Council and asking for payment details to pay for overdue rates.

Council was alerted to the scam by a concerned Hunter local after they received a phone call, the caller seeking payment details to pay rates for a property in Cessnock. The resident was immediately suspicious as they did not own property in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). Ratepayers need to be

particularly careful as the first rates notices for this financial year are being issued across the Cessnock LGA next week. It should be noted Council will only call residents seeking payment details if the resident has initiated contact with Council regarding a payment.

Council's Director of Corporate and Community Services, Robert Maginnity said we need residents to be on high alert and requested that a cautious approach is best.

"If you receive a call that is unsolicited, seems suspicious and the caller claims to be from Cessnock City Council you should hang up immediately and contact Council."

Even if you're unsure about the call, the advice is to terminate the call and contact Council's Customer Service team on 4993 4100. Council have notified Telstra and Scamwatch about the incident. If you receive a phone call you can report it at [www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam).



# Stronger Country Communities Fund 2019



Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP, Shadow Minister for Hunter, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education.

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP is encouraging eligible applicants to apply for round three of the Stronger Country Communities Fund 2019. Round three will provide \$100 million for community projects in regional NSW, with \$50 million for youth-related

infrastructure and programs and \$50 million for local community infrastructure and programs. The Stronger Country Community Fund will cover programs and events as well as Infrastructure and is open to local councils, eligible not-for-profit and community organisations. Councils must consult with their communities to ensure the submitted projects have a high level of community support.

Projects must seek grant funding of \$50,000 or more.

Youth-related projects must be for:

- Development of new or upgrades to existing infrastructure for young people; or
- Delivering programs for young people.

Youth-related projects must be aligned to the areas of community, wellbeing,

connectivity and work readiness. General community amenity projects must be for:

- construction of new, or upgrades to existing, local community infrastructure
- construction of new, or upgrades to existing, local sporting infrastructure
- capital works related to street beautification and other public places that promote the health, happiness and wellbeing of the community
- delivering programs that benefit the local community
- infrastructure to assist the delivery of general community programs.

Round three is now open and will close at 5pm on Friday 27 September 2019.

For more information and eligibility criteria please visit: [www.nsw.gov.au/strongercountrycommunities](http://www.nsw.gov.au/strongercountrycommunities)



### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

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**Changes to Superannuation That You Must Know About**



Insurance and TPD cover, unless they have contacted their super fund. The Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA) anticipates that more than three million Australian's may be affected as a result of the changes.

For many Australian's, if the worst was to happen in life, they were often covered by insurance policies attached to their superannuation fund, most commonly coverage for Life Insurance and Total and Permanent Disability claims. Moreover, a person may have an income protection policy attached to their fund. These policies often prove invaluable for people if they have unfortunately events occur in life. From 1 July 2019, anyone who has an 'inactive' super account and in particular, a super account that has received no contributions for 16 months or more, are likely to lose their default

insurance cover. In other words, if your superannuation account has not had any contributions either by you or your employer for a continuous period of 16 months then your default insurance coverage will be cancelled. This will occur irrespective of the balance in your super account. The changes flow from the Government's 'Protection Your Super' package and is designed to protect Australian's retirement saving by preventing members from paying unnecessary fees and insurance premiums. On the other hand, there is a concern that people holding these accounts could potentially lose their insurances, including Life

Take the time to contact your super fund/s today to see whether your insurance policies will be impacted by the changes. If so, you should speak to your fund about electing to opt-in to the default insurance irrespective of your account being 'inactive'. You may also wish to consider putting in your own contribution which will re-activate the account for a further 16 months. It is important that you understand what insurances you have in place. If you need to discuss your level of insurance, contact your super fund, a financial advisor or insurance broker to discuss your personal insurances. You can find further information at: <https://timetochek.com.au/>



**Housing market: Low numbers of investors in Australia dragging on the property market**

**A dramatic fall in one particular section of the property market has dragged down house prices and led to losses not seen since the GFC.**

The sharp drop-off in investors purchasing properties dragged the national housing market to its heaviest losses this side of the Global Financial Crisis, experts say. The falls were exacerbated by policies that limited access for overseas investors, including the percentage of dwellings in new apartment buildings allowed to be bought off shore

as well as a stamp duty hike. The value of lending to investors was down 45.4 per cent in April from its peak in April 2015, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Four years ago, investors were borrowing \$12.5 billion but that fell back to \$6.8 billion. "We are now looking at a very different property market to what it was like during the boom," realestate.com.au chief economist Nerida Conisbee said.

She said investor lending is unlikely to get back to where it was any time soon. "Buyers from Asia, a key market for new development, have dropped dramatically," Ms Conisbee said. "Over the past 12 months alone, property seekers from China have dropped by over 60 per cent to the lowest level we have ever recorded. "And confidence in the new apartment sector is low following some high-profile structural issues." CoreLogic head of research Cameron Kusher said investors abandoning the sector could be attributed to property policy as well as an oversupply of dwellings. Mr Kusher said investors being charged a premium on top of the higher rate for interest-only loans — typically used for investment properties — was a disincentive. "There's also been a large volume of new stock in the apartment segment hitting the market at a time when values have started to fall and it highlights that a lot of investors chase the capital growth not necessarily the rental return," he told news.com.au.

**EVENTS FOR THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ARMY CAMP & 70<sup>TH</sup> 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!

"Once values started to fall, there was less inclination from an investor to purchase a property because the value wasn't increasing." Mr Kusher said investors account for about one-third of the market, therefore a dramatic pull back in purchases was always going to drag prices lower. "And now we're also seeing the owner-occupier segment drop off as well," he said. "That's a key contributor to why dwelling values are falling, when a third of the market starts to slow pretty rapidly, it does have an impact."

Brisbane was the only capital city where the median house price increased in value in the three months to June, according to the latest figures from realestate.com.au. The Queensland capital was up 0.1 per cent in the quarter to \$490,000, weathering the national downturn despite risks its over supply of apartments threatened to derail financial stability, Ms Conisbee said. "The upswing is also extending to regional areas, with Mackay seeing the strongest price growth of any region in Australia over the past 12 months, and many smaller mining towns are roaring ahead," she said. Sydney and Melbourne both lost 0.4 per cent in the quarter to \$805,000 and \$650,000 respectively. "If this downturn has now ended, the price fall from peak to trough ended up being 11 per cent, far less than what most commentators predicted," Ms Conisbee said of Sydney. "Melbourne prices may have flat lined in June, but it is still too early to tell whether this means the worst is behind us." Adelaide, Hobart and Perth

**APRA loosens home loan serviceability restrictions**



The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has announced that it has loosened the serviceability restrictions on home loan mortgage assessments. It will allow borrowers to lift the size of their loans as lenders will be allowed to provide mortgages up to 14 per cent larger. In a letter to lenders issued Friday, APRA confirmed its updated guidance on residential mortgage lending. They will no longer expect them to assess home loan applications using a minimum interest rate of at least 7 per cent or 7.25 per cent which has been the common industry practice. Lenders will use a revised

interest rate buffer of at least 2.5 per cent over the loan's interest rate. AMP Capital chief economist Shane Oliver noted the prudential changes were yet to have a real impact, although they would have helped sentiment at auctions. "The interest rates cuts and the election result are the main factors," he said. Federal Housing Minister Mich-ael Sukkar said yesterday there was renewed confidence and "tentative green shoots" in the housing market. "With the dark clouds of Labor's housing taxes — abolishing negative gearing and doubling capital gains tax —

The worst may soon be over in the Sydney and Melbourne property markets but the rest of Australia may not be so lucky. Since peaking in 2017, Sydney's median house price has plummeted by a record 17.4 per cent while Melbourne's corresponding values have dived by 14.8 per cent. Real estate data group CoreLogic's head of research Tim Lawless, however, said better news on the auction clearance front was a sign the worst was nearly over in Australia's biggest cities. 'In Sydney and Melbourne, we're probably just around the corner of seeing those markets have bottomed out,' he told the ABC's 7.30 program on Monday night. Sydney's weekend auction clearance rate surged to 78.2 per cent, up from 50 per cent a year ago, with Melbourne not far behind on 70.3 per cent, marking the first sign of good news for sellers in almost two years. In June, real estate values in Sydney and Melbourne also rose for the first time since they had peaked in 2017. 'We would like to see more than one month where values have edged a little bit higher, but the trend, absolutely, in those two cities has been one of progressively smaller declines, culminating in a smaller or a small rise in values over the month of June,' Mr Lawless said. 'If we see the July data coming through with another positive result in those two cities, we can safely call the bottom of the market has passed.' The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's crackdown on interest-only and investor loans sparked the record downturn in those housing markets. As of last week, APRA removed a requirement for lenders to model a .....

**'The worst is over for some': Why the Sydney and Melbourne property markets will recover — but?**



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

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

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### BRANXTON

#### 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**

#### Large modern family home

This charming home is situated in a sought after street in Branxton; handy to schools, shops, golf club and Hunter expressway.

This charming house has all the modern conveniences of today's living; good size bedrooms, office, timber floors, lovely spacious kitchen to die for, modern bathroom and all this opens onto fantastic entertainment area which could cater for over 100 people. Extra unit at rear with own shower and toilet. Still plenty of room for the kids to play or park the van.

Must inspect to see all ....

**ASKING \$550,000**



### 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

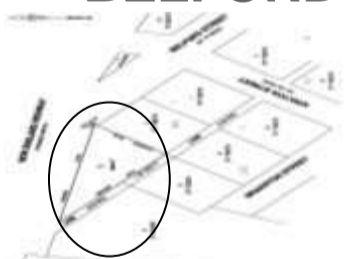


#### Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

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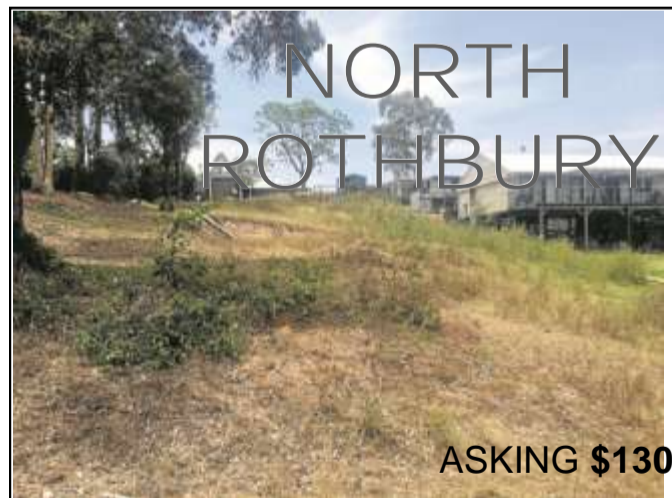
### NORTH ROTHBURY



#### Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road, Vacant blocks

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

### NORTH ROTHBURY



#### Vacant Land 809m<sup>2</sup>

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**





## Operation Blitz

Hunter Valley Police District have commenced Operation Blitz; a high visibility operation, designed to address a number of issues in selected towns and villages across the Hunter Valley Police District.

The first deployment was conducted on the afternoon and evening of Thursday 27 June 2019, focusing in the Branxton area.

Police deployed included general duties, Target Action Group, licensing police, Domestic Violence Arrest Team, Traffic and Highway Patrol and the Trail Bike Squad.

Commander of Hunter Valley Police District, Superintendent Chad Gillies indicates such operations will be conducted regularly across the entire district. "The main feedback I have received from local communities, is the desire to have a visible policing presence in their towns. The smaller towns throughout our district deserve to see their local police as often as possible. These operations are but one way we can deploy our district resources and not only address issues across the wide spectrum of domestic violence compliance, traffic and road trauma, volume crime and anti-social behaviour; but it will hopefully reassure the community that we have such resources to deploy as required. I want everyone in their communities, houses and businesses to feel safer through the timely roll-out of similar operations. Our operations team, led by Chief

Inspector Dave Robinson, have a plan to implement similar and regular operations focusing on the towns and villages throughout the Hunter Valley Police District."

Results from the first operation:

**19 police deployed.**  
**39 x vehicle stopped / RBT.**  
**8 x person searches.**  
**23 x traffic infringements.**  
**5 x vehicle defects.**  
**3 x male persons arrested for 2 x aggravated break, enter and steals and supply prohibited drug (one included alleged theft of firearms).**  
**17 x Licensing Breaches.**  
**7 x Licensed Premises Inspected.**  
**1 x female arrested for a stolen motor cycle.**  
**2 x Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) compliance checks.**

## Serious two-vehicle crash near Singleton

Friday, 12 July 2019 12:35:16 PM

Emergency services are at the scene of a serious two-vehicle crash in the state's Hunter region.

Just before 11.15am today (Friday 12 July 2019), emergency services were called to the New England Highway at Whittingham, 500m north of Range Road, after reports a car and a 4WD had crashed head-on.

The female driver of the car and a child passenger are in a critical condition and are being treated at the scene. Two other children are also being treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

The male driver and sole occupant of the 4WD has been taken to John Hunter Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District have established a crime scene as they investigate the circumstances surrounding the crash.

The road is expected to be closed for some time, with local traffic diversions in place. Heavy vehicles are advised to look at alternative routes.

No further information is available at this time.

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.

## Drugs, weapons and counterfeit money seized; man charged – Maitland

Friday, 05 July 2019 12:10:12 PM

A man will appear in court today after being charged with numerous offences, including drug supply, in the state's Hunter region.

In May 2019, officers from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District established Strike Force Dunwell to investigate the supply of illicit substances in the local area.

Following inquiries, detectives and officers attached to the Drug Unit executed a search warrant at a house on Narang Street, East Maitland, about 11.40am yesterday (Thursday 4 July 2019).

During the search, a number of items were located and seized including 115 grams of methylamphetamine hydrochloride (Ice), 33 grams of cannabis, a replica prohibited firearm, an extendable baton, over \$4000 in counterfeit Australian \$50 notes, documentation and electronic devices, believed to be stolen.

A 26-year-old man was arrested at the scene and taken to Maitland Police Station.

He was charged with supply prohibited drug, three counts of possess prohibited drug, possess prohibited weapon, receive stolen property, unlicensed driving and goods in custody.

The man was refused bail to appear before Maitland Local Court.

## Children in Domestic Violence

It is not only adults who are affected by domestic violence. Children who live in homes where domestic and family violence occurs are at risk of harm and actual injury. Whether a child witnesses domestic and family violence, is in another room when an

assault occurs, or attempts to intervene to protect their parent, the impact upon children exposed to violence in the home is serious.

Parents who stay in an abusive relationship with a perpetrator need to understand the significant impact of abuse and violence on their children. Children can be directly affected by being present or indirectly when they witness an assault occurring (pushing, hitting or twisting and arm); destroying property, seeing or hearing ongoing harassment and intimidation or witnessing the victim parent constantly crying from the trauma.

Some children are brave and try to stop the perpetrator and often get physically hurt themselves. Other children may react by copying the perpetrator and begin hitting the victim parent or their brothers and sisters

When police attend a domestic and family violence incident and children are present, then the attending police officer(s) will use their professional judgement to make an assessment to determine whether the child or young person is at 'risk of significant harm' and requires an immediate report to the Family and Community Services (FACS) **Child Protection Helpline**.

All police officers have a legal responsibility under section 24 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* to report children at risk of significant harm as outlined in section 23 of the Act.

Members of the community and mandatory reporters who suspect that a child or young person is at "risk of significant harm" (the statutory threshold) should report their concerns to the **Child Protection Helpline 132 111**.

A child or young person is at risk of significant harm if the circumstances that are causing concern for the safety, welfare or wellbeing of the child or young person are present to a significant extent.

Police Officers of the NSW Police Force are **mandatory reporters**. In the course of their duties, police officers, if they suspect a child or young person is at imminent risk of significant harm,

are required to immediately phone the Child Protection Helpline

If there are only children listed in an AVO application, police are the only authority who can make the application under section 48(3) *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act*.

It is encouraged to include children in AVOs where children are involved in domestic and family violence incidences. The courts, or officers of the court, are required to place children considered in need of protection on an AVO, unless the defendant can justify the exclusion of the children from the order.

An AVO is a civil matter and does not result in a criminal offence unless the AVO is breached by the defendant.

This means that when police attend a domestic and family violence incident involving children, and they take out an AVO to protect the victim, the children of the person in need of protection will be included on the order. The conditions that apply to the person in need of protection, also apply to the children.

If a defendant **breaches an AVO** protecting a child, then police will consider whether this breach places the **child at risk of significant harm** in which case they will be required to make a report to the Child Protection Helpline). A breach of an AVO is a criminal offence, and as such, may place the child at greater risk of harm if the defendant has no respect for court orders, or the safety and wellbeing of the victim or children.



FROM PAGE 10

## 'The worst is over for some': Why the Sydney and Melbourne property markets will recover – but?

borrower's ability to repay a loan with a 7.25 per cent standard variable mortgage rate.

The Reserve Bank of Australia has also cut interest rates to a new record low of one per cent.

Mr Lawless said Sydney and Melbourne were more likely than other parts of Australia to benefit from looser monetary policy.

'These are also the markets where unemployment is the lowest, so even though they are also the most unaffordable markets, they are also the regions where labour markets tend to be the tightest,' he said.

'That's probably why we are seeing Sydney and Melbourne responding to lower interest rates, some improvements in confidence following the federal election.

'It's not really flowing into other markets where economic conditions tend to be weaker.'

Mr Lawless was less upbeat about Perth, where house prices have plunged by nine per cent during the past year, in a market that has been in decline since 2014.

Darwin's median house price fell by 9.4 per cent in the year to the end of June.

In outback Queensland, real estate values have plummeted by a whopping annual pace of 37.2 per cent, with rural areas in southern Western Australia diving by 19.2 per cent.

'Outside of Sydney and Melbourne, generally values are still falling across most of the capital cities as well as the regional markets in Australia,' Mr Lawless said.

'This is really a story about Sydney and Melbourne levelling out.'



The Branxton Greta Community Men's Shed has completed another successful (financial) year.

Together with a few new members who joined this year we have completed various personal projects as well as a number of community projects.

Dog Bowls for the local café, Street library for Huntlee, a refurbishment for the Greta Catholic church, some jobs for Huntlee Academy as well as numerous small jobs for our local

community.

We installed another wood lathe this year, replaced our old scroll saw, acquired a new ride-on mower to keep the premises tidy and have almost completed the restoration of the old Kelpie.

**Why not come and visit us or even better join us. Contact our Public officer Jim Cahill on 0455 990 169**

**or our President Kevin Bell on 0467 314 211 or drop in on Wednesday and Friday mornings at the old St Marys school 49 Branxton Street Greta. Come and have a cuppa.**



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## House Fire Safety Reminder

Cessnock City Council is urging people to be aware of the risk of fires within the home and to practice safe fire



behaviour this winter.

In the cooler months, electrical, gas and wood heaters are used to help warm up the home. There is also increased use of clothes dryers, electric blankets, cooktops and portable heaters. It's important appliances and equipment are regularly checked, monitored while in use and maintained to minimise the risk of fire. Reading and following safety and warning instructions for heating appliances and equipment will help reduce the threat of fires within the home. Smoke alarms save lives. It is compulsory for every home, caravan or other building where people sleep to have an operating smoke alarm. Most smoke alarms must be connected to electrical power supply and backed-up by batteries. Changing the batteries and testing the smoke alarm at least yearly is a simple

practice to maintain the operation of this life-saving device.

Council strongly encourages obtaining advice and assistance from a licensed electrician to ensure your home is adequately protected. Other fire safety measures could include purchasing and installing a fire blanket or a household portable fire extinguisher. Create a fire safety and action plan involving the whole family and practice a fire drill regularly so everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

Fire and Rescue NSW respond to over 4,500 residential call outs every year. Unfortunately tragedies do occur but can be minimised by being aware of fire risks and taking preventative measures.

For more information and winter fire safety tips see <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9284>

## 2019 Premier's volunteer recognition program



Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP, Shadow Minister for Hunter, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education.

The Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program was established to recognise and appreciate the contribution of volunteers who have made active efforts to strengthen our community.

The program celebrates all volunteers – from students selflessly working with charities to individuals who have dedicated decades of their lives to causes close to their hearts.

Recent successful recipients of the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program from within the Cessnock Electorate include Les Goldie, Dale Goldie, Ray Fallon and Jane Goldie who were all recognised for their long term volunteering contribution.

Nomination categories for 2019 include:

People with a lifetime of volunteering experience – over 40 years

People with over 25 years of volunteering experience

Significant volunteering at any age

Student volunteering.

In NSW, more than 2.1 million people volunteer, contributing a combined 240 million hours of their time each year. This contribution to local communities is invaluable.

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Mr Clayton Barr said "Volunteers are indispensable within the community. There are so many hard working volunteers in the electorate of Cessnock and I encourage members of the public to nominate them for the 2019 Premiers Volunteers Recognition Program."

Nominations are open for the 2019 Premiers Volunteer Recognition Program and close Monday 30 September 2019.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood our community and we rely so heavily on them. Without volunteers, there is no doubt our community would not be able to function as successfully as it does".

For more information or to nominate in either the adult or student categories contact

[www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au](http://www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au)

## Eleven more police for Hunter Valley

In the latest allocation of police, the Electorate of Cessnock has had 11 additional police assigned to the Cessnock, Branxton, Singleton and Muswellbrook areas and the Lake Macquarie Police District is to receive five positions.

Clayton Barr MP, State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock said "the additional police and the budgeted \$6.129 million of the promised \$13.5 million for the upgrade to Cessnock Police Station is very welcome for the people in the Cessnock Electorate."

"The allocation of new police officers is a much needed boost to the already stretched officers in the electorate."

"We know from statistics that our local police officers are among the hardest working in the state in terms of jobs, response and arrests per officer. The only way to ease the workload and improve the service delivered to the community is to have more police" said Mr Barr.

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- Coming ~ BINGO!!! ~ Watch this space
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Friday 19th JULY  
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**Wednesdays**

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### **MEAT RAFFLES**



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Sundays**

### **SOCIAL BOWLS**

**WED'S 3PM**  
**PRIZE MONEY**  
**TO BE WON!**







### Simple, Sassy 'Summer of '69' Is The Perfect Beach Read

**Jean Zimmerman**

A faint tang of snobbery hangs about the term "beach read," as if, given the choice, we'd all prefer to sprawl out on a blanket in the Hamptons with *War and Peace*, say, or *Infinite Jest* (those might be properly termed littoral reads). But it takes more than sand to make a beach read: It needs a certain weightlessness, an ephemeral quality, with no heavy lifting required. Readers won't find themselves having to go back over particularly dense passages in order to keep

up. Toes in the sand, sun in the sky, not a thought in our heads — that's a beach read.

Elin Hilderbrand has been named "The Queen of Beach Reads," and she wears the mantle lightly, with justifiable pride. Many of her books are quite literally littoral, in that they are set at the shore. She presents another breezy yet gritty novel with *Summer of '69*, the story of a family of long-time Nantucket vacationers who weather some tough times and ultimately find redemption, solace, even a measure of happiness. Chappaquiddick, the moon landing and Woodstock all have cameos in this, Hilderbrand's 23rd novel. Charles Manson, 1969's poster boy of darkness, doesn't make the cut. No really dark clouds allowed. But that's not quite fair. Hilderbrand does include plenty of adversity in her stories, but it's of the type expressly designed to be overcome. At the centre of *Summer of '69* is Jessie Levin ("Rhymes with 'heaven,'" she tells people). The youngest of four children, Jessie resembles most 13-year-olds in being full of questions about life, and just as full of judgements about it. She loves

and misses her brother, Tiger, who as the book opens ships off to "the Central Highlands of Vietnam with Charlie Company of the Twelfth Regiment of the Third Infantry." Tiger will favour her with adoring letters throughout the book, as she will write him and so forward the narrative. Though *Summer of '69* is not quite an epistolary novel, the letters allow Hilderbrand to be two places at once, Nantucket and 'Nam, where, it is well known, Charlie don't surf. Kate, Jessie's mother, descends into an alcoholic haze with the departure of her beloved boy. Blair, the eldest sibling, is pregnant with twins. Free spirit Kirby spends her time listening to rock'n'roll and attending political protests. In fact, as well it should be in a novel set in 1969, rock'n'roll serves as a thematic touchstone, with chapter heads and titles drawn from songs ("19th Nervous Breakdown," "Magic Carpet Ride," etc.). Max Yasgur's farm looms at the end of the summer, but Jessie will miss Woodstock, darn it. Hilderbrand designs careful family dramas that don't overly rock the reader's

boat. Jessie loses her stern old granny's valuable necklace — hooray! it's found! She gets her first period, develops a crush on a cute older boy, who responds to her, then — horror of horrors — crushes on another girl. Blair can't find a dress to fit her bulging tummy. Beautiful Kirby falls for a dazzling African American guy, his parents disapprove of their dating, but they manage to see each other anyway. Hilderbrand plays these moments against a beautiful beachy backdrop, employing a simplicity that renders them tasty and smooth as a frozen custard purchased at a seaside stand. Speaking of beach treats, a pleasant feature of Hilderbrand's narrative is specificity about food and drink, sampled in the various boites on the island. Clothing and grooming, too, are painted in such meticulous detail that visualizing the characters is as easy as watching them on TV. Period beach-house settings are spot on: "Sliding screen doors open onto one long room with stark white walls and white beams. The furniture is modern and curvy. Against one wall is a

lipstick-red sofa that looks like a woman lying on her side; it's flanked by two shell chairs, one turquoise, one electric lime green." Oftentimes we don't hunger for a seven-course meal — oftentimes, a light repast

will do. Simple, sassy, and continuously engaging, *Summer of '69* fits neatly into the nostalgic reader's beach bag, right alongside the Chablis and the Coppertone. Where were you in '69? If you can

remember, you weren't there. But if you can't, Hilderbrand suggests you had "White Rabbit" on the radio, a crochet bikini, and designs on that hot guy down the beach.

## The New York Times Best Sellers Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (21 July 2019)

1. WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING (43 weeks on the list) by Delia Owens  
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect. Ranked 1 last week
2. SUMMER OF '69 (3 weeks on the list) by Elin Hilderbrand  
The Levin family undergoes dramatic events with a son in Vietnam, a daughter in protests and dark secrets hiding beneath the surface. Ranked 4 last week
3. THE RECKONING (21 weeks on the list) by John Grisham  
A decorated World War II veteran shoots and kills a pastor inside a Mississippi church. Ranked 5 last week
4. EVVIE DRAKE STARTS OVER (New this week) by Linda Holmes  
In a seaside town in Maine, a former Major League pitcher and a grieving widow assess their pasts.
5. BACKLASH (2 weeks on the list) by Brad Thor  
Cut off from any support, Scot Harvath fights to get his revenge. Ranked 2 last week
6. CITY OF GIRLS (5 weeks on the list) by Elizabeth Gilbert  
An 89-year-old Vivian Morris looks back at the direction her life took when she entered the 1940s New York theatre scene. Ranked 7 last week
7. SOMEONE TO HONOR (New this week) by Mary Balogh  
The sixth book in the Westcott series. Abigail Westcott and Gilbert Bennington discover their first impressions of one another were wrong.
8. BEFORE WE WERE YOURS (7 weeks on the list) by Lisa Wingate  
A South Carolina lawyer learns about the questionable practices of a Tennessee orphanage. Ranked 8 last week
9. MRS. EVERYTHING (4 weeks on the list) by Jennifer Weiner  
The story of two sisters, Jo and Bethie Kaufman, and their life experiences as the world around them changes drastically from the 1950s. Ranked 9 last week
10. COTTAGE BY THE SEA (6 weeks on the list) by Debbie Macomber  
Annie Marlow forms new relationships in the Pacific Northwest as she tries to recover from tragedy.

### ABOUT .....



**Elin Hilderbrand** is an American writer mostly of romance novels. Hilderbrand's novels have all been set on and around Nantucket Island where she lives with three children. She was born and raised in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University, and was previously a teaching/writing fellow at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. The *New York Post* called Elin Hilderbrand "The queen of summer beach read".  
Biography  
Hilderbrand spent her summers on Cape Cod, "playing touch football at low tide, collecting sea glass, digging pools for hermit crabs, swimming out to the wooden raft off shore," until her father died in a plane crash when she was sixteen. She spent the next summer working, doing piecemeal in a factory that made Halloween costumes; she promised herself that the goal for the rest of her life would be that she would always have a real summer. She moved to Nantucket in July 1993, took a job as "the classified ads girl" at a local paper, and later started writing. Her first novels were published by St. Martin's Press. With *A Summer Affair*, published in 2008, she moved to Little, Brown and Company. She had a double mastectomy in June 2014. *The Perfect Couple* Elin Hilderbrand's first murder mystery was published in 2018.

**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

## WARNING NOTICE

### DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

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

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

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

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

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

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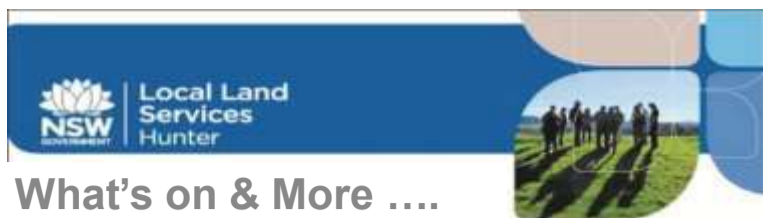
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You Smile, We Smile





**HAVE YOU MADE A FEED AND WATER BUDGET FOR THIS WINTER**

Hunter Local Land Services is urging local sheep and cattle producers to make sure they have firmed up their feed and water budgeting as we move deeper into winter. With lambing season underway and calving about to begin,



producers are being reminded to check their feed plans to ensure pregnant or lactating stock are receiving adequate energy in their feed. District Vet Jane Bennett said last winter proved very difficult for many producers and it's important to learn lessons from that and better prepare for coming seasons. "Last year we saw a lot of pregnant cows die from pregnancy toxemia, this was directly related to the type and quality of feed they were receiving," said Dr Bennett. "While producers may have been feeding out the right quantities, without testing the quality of feed they learned the hard way that it did not have enough energy to support pregnant or lactating stock. "It is crucial to ensure that the feed you are providing stock is of the necessary quality and provides enough energy to meet their requirements, especially as we move further into winter and the drought continues to impact."

Over winter the predominant coastal perennial grasses such as kikuyu, setaria and natives deteriorate in nutritional content such that the energy levels are often inadequate to meet the maintenance needs of pregnant and lactating cattle. Without supplementary high energy feeds such as grains and pellets breeders can lose body weight on a daily basis making it difficult for them to maintain their calf and their own life.

Stock cannot be transported as they come closer to birthing, and transporting is very difficult in the first six weeks after a calf or lamb is born, so it is important to make sure your feed budget extends for up to 12 weeks as a minimum, but much longer if you are intending to hold onto all stock.

The entire Hunter Local Land Services region remains drought affected, with 17 per cent in intense drought.

This area includes parts of the Upper Hunter, but is now spreading through to the Mid Coast around Gloucester and the Manning Great Lakes where conditions are deteriorating.

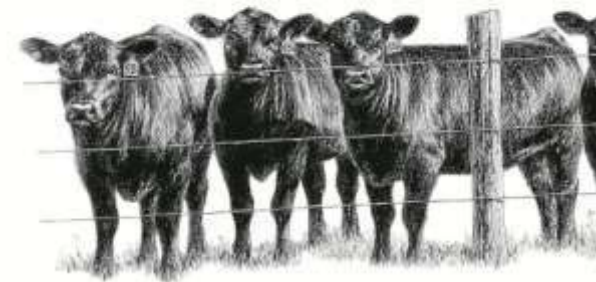
Hunter Local Land Services has staff and support services available to support local producers including our newly appointed Regional Livestock Officer Teresa Hogan who can assist with feed and nutrition advice.

"Drought continues to have a major impact on local producers, and we know many producers now have been managing difficult seasons for more than two years," said Teresa.

"We have recently received a spike in requests for advice about feeding livestock and also dealing with water quality issues, as winter begins to take hold.

"Sourcing quality feed became difficult during last winter as grain and hay supplies dried up and had to be sourced from as far away as Victoria and South Australia, and we want

producers to be prepared in case this happens again – reports already show feed supplies are tightening up with the associated increase in prices." With many producers fully handfeeding stock, calculating correct ratios and budgets is critical to ensure the health of cattle and sheep. "Please ensure when you are doing your budgets you fully cost the long-term needs of your sheep or cattle because there is no guarantee conditions are going to ease in the near future," said Teresa. "Drought creates stressful situations for farming families, and it is important to understand the physical and mental impacts of long-term handfeeding, as well as the financial implications for your business." The NSW Government has recently extended the NSW Emergency Drought Package, including extending Transport Subsidies for feed, water and livestock over the next 12 months, as well as waiving Local Land Services Rates in 2020. Hunter Local Land Services also has a dedicated Drought Support Administration Officer, Anne Lantry who can assist landholders with processing their applications for support. You can reach your nearest Hunter Local Land Services office by calling 1300 795 299 to speak to agricultural extension officers, district vets or the regional drought support team to assist you in making important livestock and property management decisions.



**Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah**

*Last reported 9th July 2019*

In somewhat of a rarity there was a rain reduced offering, easing by half. Well finished cattle were in good numbers, particularly heavy weight cows. Overall, the quality of the offering was good, however there were still a number of very plain cattle penned. The usual processors were operating with increased feedlot and restocker activity. There were varying trends through the young cattle. Demand from local restockers for light and medium weight vealers increased, resulting in the steers selling on a firm market trend, while the heifer portion were 8c to 30c/kg dearer. Light and medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends, with restockers showing a preference for the younger steers. The feeder steers were as much as 28c cheaper off the top, with some of that breed and quality related. Heavy feeder steers sold to a dearer trend of as much as 15c/kg. There was some quality related price change in a primarily dearer trend for yearling heifers to restock and feed, breed also a factor in some of the larger price ranges. The quality of the heavy grown steers contributed to a much dearer market trend, up to 25c/kg plus, a quality component. A small number to feedlots experienced strong gains also. There were limited supplies of well finished grown heifers, as they sold to dearer trends. Plain quality and condition heifers to restock and feed sold to dearer trends also. The cow market was very strong, with all classes showing dearer trends. The best of the heavy weight cows were up to 10c/kg dearer, with the secondary and plain quality cows showing greater improvement.

**Detailed Cattle report for Scone**

*Last reported 9th July 2019*

Slightly less numbers and a lift in quality saw regular buyers operate in a dearer market throughout. Young cattle quality was particularly good, with some heavy yearlings coming forward, as well as drafts of supplementary assisted cattle. Light steer weaners to background saw dearer trends of up to 30c, while medium weights also saw improved trends of 8c/kg. Heavy steer veal to the trade sold to rising trends, making to 330c/kg. Light heifers to background were 20c better, with trade veal also dearer, making to 321c/kg. Heavy yearling steers to process sold to dearer trends of 25c, with heavy feeders up to 4c/kg better. Heavy yearlings experienced solid rises in excess of 40c, however a decrease in quality for secondary drafts saw prices ease 20c/kg. There were no grown steer numbers to quote, however heavy heifers trended upwards of 20c/kg. D2 light cows saw rising trends of 20c, with D3 medium weights making to 16c/kg better. D4 heavy cows saw rises of 10c/kg. Bulls were cheaper.

**Detailed Cattle report for Singleton**

*Last reported 10th July 2019*

Singleton numbers reduced by 141 to pen 762 mostly good quality cattle, with some very well presented milk veal and grain assisted yearlings. A slight drop in quality and weight saw the top calves to slightly cheaper trends. All the regular buyers attended to a market which fluctuated firm to slightly cheaper. Light restocker calves saw dearer trends of 17c for steers, with the corresponding heifer portion back 11c/kg. Light butcher veal was firm to 5c easier and the medium weights up 14c/kg. The medium weight steer calves to slaughter saw rises of 20c, with the heavy portion 4c to 9c/kg dearer. Heavy heifers saw falls of 12c/kg. Although there was a reduction in quality, the limited grown steers saw trends rise by 20c/kg. Grown heifers also improved 23c/kg. Medium weight cows saw trends rise 3c, with the better D3 types 7c/kg dearer.

**Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth**

*Last reported 8th July 2019*

There was a small reduction in numbers, with yearlings well supplied. Cows were also in good numbers, along with a few well finished heavy grown steers and heifers. Overall, there was a great variation in both quality and condition. Well bred lines of young cattle suitable to restock and particular feed were a feature, along with some very good heavy weight cows. The same buyers from the previous sale participated. Demand varied through the young cattle, with light weights to go into the paddock experiencing difficulty. Vealers to restockers sold to cheaper trends, with the steer portion as much as 25c cheaper, while the heifers averaged 18c/kg easier. Light weight yearlings followed similar trends, with the demand greater for cattle suitable for a grain ration. Medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold to a dearer trend of 2c to 4c/kg and more in places. Medium and heavy weight feeder heifers sold to slightly cheaper trends, with some breed related price change. There was strong demand for well finished cattle, with medium and heavy weight trade heifers making to dearer trends. There was however some breed related price change also. Well finished heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend, up to 7c/kg, along with some quality related price change. Plain condition grown heifers sold to cheaper trends. There was strong demand for cows, with a dearer trend of 15c to 19c/kg. There was also some improvement in quality in the heavy weights. Heavy bulls were firm to slightly dearer.

**Australasian bred and raced.**

It is necessary to go back 113 years to locate the first leg of this unique double, one achieved in 1906 when the Carbine colt Spearmint, one who only ran five times, was successful. Then 21, the 1885 foaled New Zealand bred giant of Australian racing Carbine contested 43 races for 33 wins and nine minor placings.

Winner of the 1890 Melbourne Cup carrying 10 st 5 lb (65.7kg), Carbine was exported to England after four seasons in stud in Victoria and stood alongside the immortal St Simon at the Welbeck Abby. He became the only Australian racehorse to ever to supply a winner of the English Derby and Derbys in Australia. In Australia his first crop, three foals, included one of Australia's greatest early gallopers and sires, Wallace. Winner himself of the Victoria Derby, Wallace

supplied six winners of this Classic. He also had an AJC Derby winner and two successful in the South Australian Derby.

Carbine's second Australian crop included the triffecta in the AJC Derby and his third was represented by Amberite, winner of both the AJC and VRC Derbys.

Despite his English Derby winning Spearmint, Carbine appears to have been a better sire in Australia than Europe. Two mares by Spearmint, however provided lasting legacy, one which has him appearing remotely in multiples in the majority of the current world thoroughbreds.

One of these mares was Catnip, 'a weedy sort of a filly who won a 100 pounds 2-year-old race at Newcastle (England).' At stud she produced Nogara, a winner in Italy of their One Thousand Guineas and

Two Thousand Guineas and mother of Nearco, one of the world's great racehorses and sires of last century. He sired Nasrullah and Nearctic and the latter got Northern Dancer, sire of Danzig (sire of Danehill) and Sadler's Wells (sire of Galileo).

The other celebrated matriarch by Spearmint was Plucky Liege, a smart English 2yo who left an indelible mark on world breeding through her sons Bois Roussel (won English Derby in 1938), Sir Gallahad 111 (won French Two Thousand Guineas, placed French Derby) and his stakes winning brother Bull Dog. Sir Gallahad 111 and Bull Dog both became breed shaping sires in America.

Bull Dog and Nearco are both third generation sires in the maternal pedigree of Gold Digger, the dam of another sire giant of world breeding, Mr Prospector.

As Mr Prospector appears 4x4 and Northern Dancer 3x5x5 in the pedigree of this year's English Derby winner Anthony Van Dyck, there is a reservoir of Carbine in it.

Anthony Van Dyck is the fourth English Derby winner for Coolmore Ireland Sadler's Wells sire Galileo, one who left over 500 foals from five visits, 2002-2006, to Coolmore Hunter Valley, and is the first foal supplied in the northern hemisphere by the Darley, Hunter Valley bred Exceed and Excel mare Believe'N'succeed (2005). since she was exported to Ireland in February 2015 after being purchased by Tom Magnier (Coolmore) at the Patinack dispersal at the Gold Coast for \$1.1million. Cheers, Brian

**Australian Thoroughbred**

Compiled by Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

**Two English Derby winners boast Australian parent**

**When Anthony Van Dyck (Galileo (Ire) – Believe'N'succeed (Au), by Exceed and Excel (Au)**

**captured the 239th staging of the world's most famous race, the English Derby (2400m,**

**Epsom), on June 1, he became only the second winner of it to have a parent who was**





through it. As mentioned earlier, viruses are everywhere in the Internet. So while accessing internet from your smart guy, it may suck in some viruses. They may enter through a browser, not just any browser, a bad browser with very less security. So installing a smart browser will help you though a great start from getting away from these malwares.

**5 Try an antivirus.** If you are security conscious and still don't trust your smart browser from protecting you from the viruses, just install an anti-virus in your smartphone. Anti-virus for smartphones are spreading like wildfire so you should get yourself one too. Always buy an antivirus that is good. Go to sites like www.Cnet.com to check the reviews of anti-virus and then only buy it. Don't just buy an anti-virus out just from the wind. Remember 'less money, more work' Nowadays, there are a lot of fake antiviruses in the market. Yeah! You read that right, fake antivirus. These fake anti-viruses tell you that they can be downloaded it for free which is true. Now, they don't kill viruses they make viruses. So beware of these types.

**6 Don't have strangers.** Most of us have a list of tons and tons of people in

our contact list. Long Story Short: Just delete all the contacts of people to whom you are never going to contact. It's a waste of very little amount of space on your device and it also make your contact list a little longer, which can make it harder for you to search for other contacts.

**7 Understand that old is not gold.** Most of us get a lot of messages from our friends, parents and lovers. These messages just fill up our inbox and makes it a junk box. What must be done is, just delete these messages after you're done reading them. Of course, don't delete them if they're highly confidential or from a very 'special one' whose memory you want to keep on your device.

**8 Get a skin.** After all the hard work that your device does for you, you can do it a favor and buying it new clothes or as some would put it, skin. Skins are not only new clothes for your smarty, it also make them look attractive plus as a bonus, when you drop your smartphone for whatsoever reason, this skin may just be little protective as a shield or something.

**9 Clean your smartphone.** After all the inner details and giving much power to your device from inside, now look at the outer side. Your smartphone is always vulnerable to all those dusts and pollution.

## How to Keep Your Smartphone Safe

Smartphones are happening. The next breed of devices that are changing our lives are the soul mates of the people in this age. Thanks to Steve Jobs and the first iPhone, smartphones are the new trend nowadays. Most of us still treat our smartphone like our old mobile phones which only let us make calls and play 'Snake'. Smartphones are supposed to be treated smartly and if you just follow the steps below, you can as well treat our smartphone smartly.

- 1 Turn on Find My iPhone or find a similar service for your phone.**
- 2 Back up your data.** Backing up your data simply means keeping a duplicate data of all the data in your smartphone. There are many viruses in the internet nowadays that can just blast off your smarty pants to heaven. So if you keep a backup, then you can just not make a big deal out of it as you've a backup.
- 3 Know if you need the smartphone.** Mostly, as a matter of fact, all the smartphones have the power of multitasking, which basically means that you

can run many applications all at once. While this an advantage for many, it is a disadvantage of some of us. Mostly, we forget to shut down the applications which we've used and use some other applications. While on the background, the other application is running and we are not using it, it'll only take the juices out of the smartphone. For example, many of us switch on the Bluetooth or WiFi search even though we not need it at that particular moment. So quick note: Shut down the applications correctly after using them.

**4 Browse in a smart way.** Smartphones are commonly used for accessing the internet than making calls so that calls for a good internet browser that can make our internet experience much more better. While it is obvious that smartphones are supposed to come with a smart browser, most of them don't. So always install a smart browser in your smart phone. Google Chrome, Opera, Firefox, UC Browser may be some guys that can help you get

# MOVIE REVIEW

## Spider-Man: Far From Home

Spider-Man: Far From Home review – Marvel's follow-up to Endgame so terrible, it's brilliant by Matthew Norman



*The following review contains spoilers for Avengers: Endgame*  
If the follow up to the greatest superhero movie ever made was a guaranteed anti-climax, trust Marvel to manage the gentlest of let downs. Marketed as the epilogue to Avengers: Endgame, Spider-Man: Far From Home accepts the futility of trying to match its predecessor's pulverising emotional power. Instead it strikes a self-parodic tone from the start, and then veers deep into the meta by having a character design and choreograph his own CGI fight. This mischievous film never tires of teasing the conventions and traditions of the genre. First up, though, it teases its audience with a false opening, matching the faces of the Endgame fallen (Iron Man, Black Widow, etc) to Whitney Houston singing I Will Always Love You. Oh my great aunt Ada, you can't help thinking when the caption "In Memoriam" flashes up, surely Marvel hasn't had a post-Avengers breakdown and succumbed to self-reverential mawkishness? Of course it hasn't. That tribute, it transpires, was the work of the student TV channel at Peter Parker's high school. Peter, aka Spidey, was among the half of the galactic population brought back to life in Endgame after five years spent dead. Or "The Blip" as that half decade is irreverently known. Humanity has moved on from that cataclysm, and so must Spidey (Tom Holland). It's time for the eternal adolescent to grow up and fill the outsize shoes of mentor and surrogate father Tony Stark/Iron Man,

who nothing as mimsy as death can keep from brooding over this film. From beyond the grave, he bequeaths his protégé a pair of talking, sentient shades which answer, Siri-fashion, to the name of Edith (Stark's prescient and suitably modest acronym for "Even Dead I'm The Hero"). Before receiving Edith and asking her to take out a 16-year-old love rival with a drone, all our reluctant hero really needs is a holiday. He's off with the school on one of those whirlwind European tours Americans of all ages seem to enjoy, though the specific whirlwind he finds in Venice is what S.H.I.E.L.D.'s ill-tempered Nick Fury describes to him as "a cyclone with a face". Ancient primal forces called "The Elementals" (wind, fire, water and air, the four elements in Greek myth, in monstrous form) are on the loose. Jake Gyllenhaal's Mysterio nips across from an alternative reality to take them on. He could use some help from Spidey, who seems more concerned with his cute, sardonic class mate MJ (Zendaya). As an earlier MJ (Michael Jackson) assured Paul McCartney in a duet, he's a lover, not a fighter. But what choice does he have when duty calls? As a CGI action romp, Far From Home isn't so bad it's good. It is so terrible, it's brilliant. The Elementals, digitised horrors that might have been created on an early Amstrad, are literally laughable. Mysterio's costume (Roman legionnaire breastplate, red cape, goldfish bowl for helmet) belongs to mid-1980s Doctor Who,

when a giant liquorice allsort was recruited as lead baddie for a four-parter. Referencing The Matrix and quoting George Orwell, the film satires various distasteful elements of modern life, such as "fake news" and the demise of objective truth, but it's as a neo-John Hughes rite of passage high school movie that it is at its funniest, warmest and strongest. Holland does the adolescent gaucheness as beautifully as Zendaya does the tenderness beneath the snark. The two together are more than the sum of their individual parts. The comic support takes in Jacob Batalon as Ned, Peter's nerdy, unexpectedly romantic friend. Martin Starr and Curb Your Enthusiasm veteran JB Smoove are cutely teamed as the hapless teachers overseeing a whistle-stop film studio tax break tour that takes in Paris, Berlin and Prague before Tower Bridge takes almost as severe a hiding as Venice. Marisa Tomei returns as Aunt May from Spider-Man: Homecoming to light up every scene, and is given an unlikely love angle of her own with Jon Favreau's Happy Hogan, just to remind the kids that old timers do it as well. But the revelation here is Gyllenhaal. If I had been forced make a market on the one serious dramatic actor who would never demean his art by taking the superhero paycheck, he would have been my 2/5 favourite. Against all odds, Gyllenhaal jettisons the tortured earnestness, and embraces the absurdity with almost as much relish as the film pastiches it.



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# Serena Williams dishes on the day that broke her – but shouldn't have

Natalie Reilly ~ Natalie Reilly is freelance writer for The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald, Brisbane Times and WAtoday



THE NEWS | No.502 | WEDNESDAY 17 July 2019 9 19  
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• Serena Williams congratulates Naomi Osaka after losing to her in the US Open final in September last year

It doesn't matter if you're an intern or a CEO, if you have a bad day at work, it's going to stay with you. Especially if you love your job. Few would understand this better than Serena Williams, who, on Tuesday, wrote an essay in *Harper's Bazaar* about the aftermath of that day in September last year, when she was penalised by umpire Carlos Ramos three times during the US Women's Open Final. Williams disclosed that processing what occurred that day left her so enraged, she was unable to sleep for many nights, eventually leading her to seek out a therapist. But she admits to experiencing other emotions few might attribute to one of the world's top athletes – self-doubt, and despair so paralysing she couldn't pick up a racquet for months afterwards. "My heart broke. I started to think again, 'What could I have done better? Was I wrong to stand up? Why is it that when women get passionate, they're labelled emotional, crazy, and irrational, but when men do they're seen as passionate and strong?'"

Conservative commentators saw Williams' defence of herself as a tantrum, but for many women, what they witnessed on the court was sadly familiar. It wasn't simply that Williams was being penalised for arguing with the umpire. It was her credibility; her role as expert witness to the game, her qualifications, that appeared to be reduced with every complaint, until finally she was left with nothing at all. Just a reputation as a woman out of control. Williams is right – women are penalised for being passionate, and direct. Research undertaken by three European business schools, and published in *The Atlantic*, found that assertiveness and confidence in women did little to advance their careers. Meanwhile, assertiveness in men led to greater influence in the workplace.

But as women we're in a double-bind here, because if we question, or God forbid, complain about how we're treated, we know in our bones we're only going to make it worse. To know that you'll be punished more for alerting someone to the problem, while the real problem is ignored, is more commonly known as gaslighting. "When you, as a woman, are being gaslit in the workplace, you may be told that you are being aggressive or pushy by speaking up" says Dr. Stephanie Sarkis, a psychotherapist who specialises in emotional manipulation. "You are less likely to speak out again because of the possible repercussions. However, you may see men in your office speaking up, and they are praised for their leadership skills. This double-standard encourages gaslighters to continue their inappropriate behaviour."

The same month that Williams was accused of being unprofessional, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, while defending himself against an accusation of sexual assault in front of the Judiciary Committee, appeared wild with fury. *The New York Times* called it a "spectacle" but President Trump tweeted that it was "powerful" and

ultimately, Kavanaugh went on to fulfil the position of Supreme Court Judge. Meanwhile, Christine Blasey-Ford received death threats for coming forward in the first place. Dr. Ford is one of many women in this era of #MeToo who have been punished for raising the issue, while the accused walks free. Williams felt so terrible about defending herself she wrote a letter apologising to her opponent, Naomi Osaka, who she maintains won fair and square. It was only when Osaka wrote back, saying "No one has stood up for themselves the way you have and you need to continue trailblazing" that Williams says she could finally grapple with the moment in systemic terms, and not take it so personally. And this is what so many women learn: don't take it to heart, keep your head down, mouth shut. Consider that when Julie Bishop, former deputy of the Liberal Party, began to lift the lid on what she considered bullying within her party, it was only after she had resigned. Who knows what might have happened if she spoke up on her way up. Because, for women in the workplace, there's another factor equally as urgent as reputation – and that's income.

When Gretchen Carlson complained to her supervisor at Fox News in 2009 about chairman and CEO Roger Ailes' continued sexual harassment – after ignoring it for four years – Carlson says

*"As Williams herself says, the battles fought by her, though hard, will make it easier for those who come after"*

she was told by Ailes she needed to "get along with the boys" and was quietly demoted. "Much of the gender wage gap remains unexplained by differences in men and women's skill, tenure, experience or by industry specific characteristics," says Irma Mooi-Reci, a professor of sociology at the University of Melbourne who studies employment and inequality. And while she admits the data in Australia is scant on this issue, she does concede that sexist attitudes could be part of it.

"Stereotypical performance expectations about men's and women's future productive capabilities, work commitment and competing demands of family life could be sources driving this differential treatment."

It's a depressing thought – that women are already being penalised, but stand to be punished further for addressing the very fact of being discriminated against. But as Williams herself says, the battles fought by her, though hard, will make it easier for those who come after. Those who doubt this should look to the US Women's Soccer Team, who, having won on the field, now stand to only gain for raising the issue of income disparity. Let's hope they follow through.

### Serena Williams at a glance

Spouse: Alexis Ohanian (m. 2017)  
 Born: 26 September 1981 (age 37 years), Saginaw, Michigan, United States  
 Height: 1.75 m  
 Grand slams won (singles): 23  
 Children: Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr.  
 Did you know: Serena Williams has won the second-most singles titles (23) in women's Grand Slam tournaments of all time.

The speed limit in North Rothbury village is officially 50km. However, the unwritten speed limit is 25 - 40 depending on conditions and daylight. This is because the roads are dual purpose; there are no footpaths with pedestrians including children, dog walkers, and large kangaroos using the roads. Also, ride-on-mowers and any other configuration of wheels, legs or whatever. The new resident who hit aging 'Donk' please SLOW DOWN. Village mothers have been known to take matters into their own hands. A baseball bat thru the windscreen is not out of the question just because Sally has moved. She'll be back.

To the Braxton Post Office who now take banking for most banks. It is a God send; it saves us a good amount of time each week not having to go to Singleton, Cessnock or Maitland which we have had to do for the past 22 years.

North Rothbury Tidy Town would like to thank the following for their help in arranging the proposed Rothbury Riot re-enactment set down for the 14th December 2019; Steve Thompson from Huntlee (LWP) providing the venue, the Huntlee Academy cleaning & clearing the area & LWP providing public liability insurance, Cessnock City Council who are helping to prepare the site, the CFMMEU for their support, Phil Aughey for preparing the script for the re-enactment, both our State & Federal members for their great support & the local Business Chamber.

**FREE 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 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362  
**For Rent:** Braxton 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  
**Moving Sale:** Sat 27 July 8am 25 Filey Street, Greta  
**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:** agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494  
**Seamstress: Sewing & mending** P: Brune 0413 351 057  
**Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & 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.

**Dates for your diary**

MON 22 JUL – Braxton Public School – Students return  
 MON 22 JULY – B/G CWA All-In-One Day (B'day, H'craft, I'national, Cultural, Ag/Env., Braxton 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 0402 015 850 or Denise McGoldrick 0422 896 415 or email [braxtongretacwa@hotmail.com.au](mailto:braxtongretacwa@hotmail.com.au)  
 FRI 26 JULY – School Tree Day  
 MON 5 AUG – Braxton Public School – P&C Meeting 6pm in Library  
 TUE 6 AUG – Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton Golf Club @ 4 pm  
 TUES 6 AUG – North Rothbury Tidy Town bi-monthly meeting. 6:30pm start @ 24 Mayne Street, North Rothbury  
 THURS 8 AUG – Braxton VIEW Club 31st Birthday lunch and entertainment  
 TUES 13 AUG – B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.  
 SUN 18 AUG – Braxton/Greta Vietnam Vets Day Memorial Service @ Braxton Memorial Rotunda John Rose drive Braxton Time: 1030am  
 MON 19 AUG – Braxton Public School – Staff Development Day (no students)  
 SUN 1 SEPT – Fathers Day  
 TUE 3 SEPT – Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton Golf Club @ 4 pm  
 TUES 10 SEP – B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.  
 THURS 12 SEP – Braxton VIEW Club meeting

**Dates for your diary**

THURS 26 SEP – Braxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade  
 TUE 1 Oct – Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton Golf Club @ 4 pm  
 TUE 5 Nov – Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton 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., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 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 (Braxton & 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 – Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton Golf Club @ 4 pm  
 TUES 12 NOV – B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.  
 TUES 10 DEC – B/G CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 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.  
 WED 25 DEC – Christmas Day  
 TUE 31 DEC – New Years Eve  
 SUN 26 JAN 2020 – Australia Day



# In The Garden

lawncare expert Victa to provide vital garden care tips for the cooler months. "During this time, lawns and gardens use up their stored energy reserves, making them more susceptible to diseases, weed invasion and over maintenance."

If you are at risk of over-loving your lawn and garden this winter, follow Adam's five fool-proof tips to ensure your garden is winter proof:

- 1. Overfeeding:** Nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus are the three key plant nutrients which most species benefit from a boost of during the year. Apply them at the wrong time and not only do you waste fertiliser and money, but also risk those extra nutrients polluting storm water. In winter, plants grow slower, so less fertiliser is required to keep them fed. Overfeeding plants with nitrogen during winter also makes the leaves softer and more susceptible to disease, so reduce the frequency by half.
- 2. Overzealous pruning:** It's a well-known fact that well-pruned plants produce more flowers and fruit, and allow more light to reach your lawn. Pruning also invigorates many trees and shrubs because it leaves the plants with extra root and energy reserves to foster new growth on the remaining branches. However, some trees 'bleed' or ooze sap when pruned too much in winter. Avoid leaving stubs behind as they invite insects



and disease to move in and attack healthy tissue. Also, refrain from hacking into it and instead cut to the tree's natural shape.

- 3. Over-watering:** Go easy with your

watering during winter. Low spots in the garden, trenches around trees, badly drained garden beds and uneven turf can potentially drown plants, cause root rot or stunt growth. Fungal problems caused by constantly wet turf will also result in dead patches down the track. Don't spoil your lawn by over-watering – so unless it's bone dry, avoid it altogether. Remember to adjust your watering schedule with the season and when there are significant changes in the weather.

**4. Over-crowding:** Money may not grow on trees but converting unused garden areas into a productive veggie patch is the next best thing. While it is tempting to throw entire packets of seeds in your garden beds, or sow a large variety to get the most out of your patch, it can be fraught with hazard.

Sow too close together and you risk choking out your plants and blocking much-needed winter light. A bit of breathing space will work wonders for your harvest. Also, avoid starting earlier than recommended as plants that get off to a weak start rarely recover.



**5. Over-mowing:** A lush, green lawn can be the pride of the street, and regular maintenance will keep it looking that way throughout the year. But before you jump on the mower to give it a good clip, make sure the grass surface is clear of leaves, twigs and sticks.



Windy, wet weather can blow debris on to your lawn and potentially damage your mower. Switch your mower from mulch to catch mode as large patches of cuttings left behind may kill patches of lawn. Avoid mowing too often as lawn growth decreases substantially in winter. Depending on growth rates of different grasses, once every three to four weeks should suffice.



## Top 5 winter gardening mistakes

During winter there's no need to water the lawn as frequently.

Winter can be hard going for plants, where heavy rain is known to saturate the soil and cause root rot, and prolonged periods of early morning frost can damage delicate leaves.

Some gardeners use cold weather as the perfect excuse to take a well-earned break, while others are at risk of over-loving their lawn and garden by continuing with their usual regime. Just as nature adjusts to changing seasons, gardening specialist and garden guru Adam Woodhams recommends people do the same.

"The onset of the cooler weather means that plant growth slows dramatically and has to tolerate not just the cold conditions, but also reduced daylight hours and often increased overshadowing," says Adam, who has teamed up with garden and



## Library News

### Local libraries get a boost!

Cessnock City Library is set to benefit from a record boost in funding, with the State Government delivering \$36.5 million in funding to NSW public libraries in 2019/20.

The NSW State Budget announcement will see a total of \$60 million in additional funding going to public libraries over four years. Cessnock City libraries are receiving a \$64, 022 funding increase.

Cessnock City Council's, Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters welcomed the increase.

"This additional funding will make a huge difference in helping our library to better meet the growing demands of our readers and communities. We are always looking for new ways to engage with the community and offer them experiences. Our libraries are important community hubs and we need to continue to invest in them."

In one year our libraries could welcome up to 170,000 visitors each year and host over 1000 events. To find out what's on at your local library visit [libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au).

LOWER BELFORD

On Thursday the 27 June Lower Belford CWA held their annual luncheon. With guests coming from Merriwa to Belmont and Nelson Bay and in between also local Ladies, and some husbands. We have a small hall that was filled to the brim with ladies as a 2 course hot lunch was served.

The guest speaker was Mrs Lindsay Ratcliffe, who worked in Vietnam for 16 years with woman's right and challenges. One of these challenges was trying to be heard in a men's world fighting for the local communities. Micro enterprise mentoring, silk weaving, water and sanitation.

Mother and child health programs of targeting poverty reduction programs.

Lindsay was awarded by the Vietnam Government 3 medals of development work with poor communities in Vietnam.

Lindsay had some baskets with her to show us some of the items the ladies make to make some money. We also had a craft table for sale and outside a trading table with fruit and vegies, eggs from a husband Ken. We had lucky door prizes much laughter and an enjoyable day was held by all.

*Agnes Meany Publicity Officer*



NEWS

## BRANXTON LIONS CLUB



## BRANXTON GOLF CLUB

SATURDAY 27 JULY 2019 - 7.00PM

KITCHEN OPEN FROM 5.00PM

BYO NIBBLES FOR THE EVENING

TICKETS \$100.00 PER TABLE OF TEN

CONTACT BRIAN THOMAS 0417 282 440

AUCTION. LOTS OF TRIVIA & RAFFLE PRIZES



Guest speaker Lindsay Ratcliffe





**Branxton Public School**

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June we held our Gold for Goldie day at school to raise funds for the Brecard family. The day began with our Performance Assembly. Stage 3 amazed us with their glockenspiel performances which they have been working on with Mrs Tuyl. We also had our Starstruck dancers, recorder group, senior and junior choir, keyboard group and Kindergarten performing for family and community members. Following the performances, we began the great head shave. Four staff members and over twenty students bravely shaved their hair off, after gaining thousands of dollars of sponsorship from our community. Some other students had worked towards their own personal challenges to show their support for the Brecard family, again raising money for the Bracards. Mrs Brecard was able to attend the morning's events and was just overwhelmed by our school and community. She now understands why Mr Brecard loves this school so much. She particularly loved the beautiful portraits too. Mr Brecard told Mrs Maier that he was in total shock at all the support and sent all his love and thank you - to everyone. At the last count we had raised \$26,000. Mr Brecard lost his battle late last week and passed away surrounded by his family. We know he felt the love and support from Branxton Public School and the Branxton community. Thank you to everyone involved for making our Gold for Goldie day such a special day and don't forget to acknowledge and cherish those 'Goldie' moments.



■ Gold for Goldie

**Dates for the Calendar**  
 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Students return for Term 3  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August – P&C Meeting 6pm in Library  
 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August – Staff Development Day (no students)

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



■ The great HeadShave

# NOTICE

## GRANT'S BARBER SHOP

### Grant is Retiring

I would thank all my valued clientele for their patronage and support over the last 29 years.

*Cheers, Grant*



**Central Hunter Business Chamber Brekkie**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019 @ 7.00am – 9.00am**

**Join us at Crowne Plaza, Lovedale for a delicious buffet brekkie & coffee.**

We will be hosting the following chamber speakers:

**Branxton - Stuart Ramsay of Hunter Family Spending Planners**

**Singleton - Sue Gilroy of Cultivate Confident Cultures**

**Cessnock - Clint Ekert - LGA Customer Service Awards**

**Our Guest speaker - Barrett Campbell of Balance123 Accounting and Advisory.**

**Please bring along marketing material, flyers, business cards for promotion at the brekkie**

**Tickets can be purchased thru Sticky Tickets:-**  
<https://www.sticktickets.com.au/87669>

# WANTED

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

**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE**  
 P: 4938 3300

GATE DETAIL

**“Branxton Gardens” Senior Living, Branxton**  
 Recent sales

**SOLD**  
UNIT 2

**SOLD**  
UNIT 10

**SOLD**  
UNIT 12

**SOLD**  
UNIT 18



# SPORTS RESULTS



**Hunter Valley Golf Club**  
**Sunday 23rd June** Merewether's Alec Liddell has won the Weekly Challenge with 35 points from Jai Kumar who returned 33 points.  
**Tuesday 25th June** The cold and wet morning put many off from the Tuesday Stableford, conditions did not seem to bother Robert Logue who continued his run of form with 37 points, Rici Turchini took 2nd with 35 points. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Smith (3rd) Robert Hannah (8th) and Julie Van Den Berg (10th)  
**Wednesday 26th June** Once again the uncertain weather limited the starters in the Ladies

field with Christine Tancred doing best with 36 points from Melita Watson 34 and Sharon Blackett 3rd with 31 points the lone ball winner was Jill Slatter.  
**Thursday 27th June** A 41 point round from Ryan Wilson was enough to win the Vets Stableford with Paul Smith runner up with 40 points and Don Bradley 3rd with 39. Ball winners were: Peter Perkins 38, Geoff Boyd 38, David Peel 37, Stephen Clark 36, Brian Rooney 36, Dave Blackburn 35, Bruce Chambers 35, Chris Taggart 35, John Pascoe 35, John Harrison 34, Kevin Dick 34, Lindsay Meyn 34, Spot Mitchell 34, Larrie Clarke 34, Dale Troy 34, Paul Ireland 34, Phil Small 33, Mark Barrow 33, Wayne Barber 33, Robert Logue 33, John Stewart 33, Kevin Smith 33, Graham Morris 33, Murray Flannigan 32, Sharon Constable v32, Wayne Cowan 32, Darrell Preston 32, Peter McIntyre 32, Gary Johns 32, Terry Webb 32, John Hogg 31, Ken Springbett 31 and Alan Kendall 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Mathews (3rd) Chris Taggart (4th) Ryan Wilson (8th) Danny Schofield

(10th) and William Edwards (17th)  
**Saturday 29th June** The early chill did not take the edge from scores in the Medley Stableford with A Grade to David Peel with 36 points from Shannon Attewell 35, B Garde to Steve Clark with a solid 40 points from Gary Thompson 37 and C Grade to Mike Carter with the round of the day 41 points from Peter Milas 36. Ball winners were: Bruce Chambers 35, Mathew Merlo 35, Wayne Drayton 35, Peter Allen 34, Wayne Barber 34, Brian Connolly 34, Evan Powell 33, Steve Piggott 33, Peter McIntyre 33, Julie Van Den Berg 33, John Parish 33, Ron Higginbottom 32 and Dane McKay 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Luke Johnston (3rd) Paul Bullock (4th) Ray Newton (8th) and Paul McCudden (10th).  
**Sunday 30th June** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Luke Johnston with 37 points from Nigel Delfs 36 and Mark Eddy rd with 33 on countback. Ball winners were: Ricky Blake v33, Alex Lascelles 32, Peree Watson 32, Anthony Bower 32, Tom

McPherson v31, Bob Wonnacott v31 and Patrick Jakubowski V31 c/b  
**Tuesday 2nd July** Robert Logue has continued his great run of form with a solid 39 points from his 3 handicap and the win in Tuesday's event, 2nd to Graeme Flynn with 38 points and 3rd to Paul Smith with 37 on countback. Ball winners were: Terry Webb 37, Ian Smith 37, Andrew Edwards v37, Dan Olsen 36, Brad Hoolahan 36, Scott Conti 36, Phouang Sihapanya 36, Darrell Porter 35 Scott Doyle v35, Brian Rooney 35, Col Bradley 35, Andrew Causey v35, Matt Lorenz 34, Jeremy Smillie 34, Victor Joseph 34, Anthony Mudd v33, David peel 33, Bill Williams 33 Joe Laughlan 32, Wayne Burgess 32, Mick Barrett 32, Hieu Le 31, Dan Taylor 31, Arthur Cuttriss 31 and Lloyd Barrett 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dean Morison (3rd & 10th) Robert Hannah (4th) and Wayne Burgess (17th)  
**Wednesday 3rd July** The Ladies American Foursomes has been won with the excellent score of 59 1/2 by Melita Watson & Jeanette Irwin, 2nd to Jill Ramsden & Kerrie Anne Skinner with 64 1/2 and 3rd to Brenda Mannix & Isobel Skeates with 70 1/2. Next week the Ladoes will play the 5th Stroke Round of the Golf NSW Medal and Putting comp  
**Thursday 4th July** Donald Bradley produced an excellent round of 64 points to claim the Vets American Stableford event with Phil Small runner up with 61 points from Paul Ireland 3rd with 58 points. Ball winners were: Peter McIntyre 57, Richard Craft 55, Gary Arnold 55, Robert Hannah 55, David Archibald 55, Anthony Neale 54, Bill Williams 53, Brian Rooney 53, Jeff Taylor 53, Chris Taggart 53, John Carmody 53, James Hogg 53, Bill Davey 52, Gunther Shilko 52, Norm Barry 52, Peter Payne 52, Greg Ireland 52, Bruce Chambers 51, Paul Adams 51, Graham Donaldson 51, Terry Webb 51, Ryan Wilson 51, Dave Gellwiler 51, Paul Smith 50, Steve Clark 50, Kevin Dick 50, Kerry Bartlett 50,

Kevin Smith 49, Kevin Gibson 49, Evan Powell 49, Ken Harris 49 and Wayne Burgess 49 c/b. The winners of the 4BBB run in conjunction were Bruce Chambers & Don Bradley with 50 points from Phil Small & Rob Hannah on 49. Nearest-the-Pins went to Graham Morris (3rd) Tom Bell (4th) Col Somerville (8th) Peter McIntyre (10th) and Bruce Chambers (17th). The raffle has been won By Greg Ireland with Phil Small taking 2nd. The Misty Glen Wines Outstanding Performance for June has been won by Bill Williams.  
**Saturday 6th July** The Monthly Medal has been won by Leigh O'Connell with 65 Nett, A Grade to Scone Visitor Michael Haynes with 68 Nett from Nathan Sweeney 69 c/b, B Grade to Ryan McGregor with 69 on c/b the Colin Holden and C Grade to Mike Carter 66 with Peter Milas

runner up with 67. Ball winners were: John Barbour 68, Peter Tierney 69, Terry Roughan 69, Lindsay Meyn 70, Kevin Smith 70, Wayne Barber 70, Wade Attewell 70, Lloyd Barrett 71, Nick Hain 73, Dvaid Peel 73, Alan Provenzano 73, Ben Pickering 73, Ron Higginbottom 74, Steve Piggott 74 and Hieu Le 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Milas (3rd) Terry Roughan (4th) Mike Carter (10th) ans Nathan Sweeney (17th).  
**Branxton Veteran Golfers**  
*Results 27-6-19*  
*Stableford*  
 Div 1 Winner G Anderson 30 pts R/u K Anderson 29 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> P Anderson 29 pts  
 Div 2 Winner A Cannon 34 pts (SOD) R/u G Scobie 31 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> H Van der Brugen 30 pts (c/b)  
 Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form division  
 NTPs Ladies J Harris

## Greta Museum

Honours the sacrifices of our local Service People - Come in to see our displays and photographs, about them and many other subjects.  
 Open Wed. & Sat. 11- 3pm  
 96 High Street Greta

Come in to INSPECT  
 what's new in your local museum!



(Wood rimmed child-safe magnifying glass that really works)  
 Greta Historical Museum  
 96 High Street Greta  
 Open 11 am-3pm  
 Wednesdays & Saturdays



## Greta Camp and Maitland Connections

(Hear how Molly Morgan was involved and what followed!)

A Talk by

### Alek Schulha

*Alek, author and journalist was born at the Greta Camp and has campaigned for many years for a monument at the camp site*

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

1pm at Brough House

73 Church Street, Maitland



An ethnic dancing performance and delicious 1950s afternoon tea follows the talk.

Tickets \$12

Members \$8

Children \$4

Bookings essential at [maitlandmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandmuseum@gmail.com) or call 49334450



NOTICE FOR EVERYONE WITH A CONNECTION TO THE GRETA CAMP



To celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Army Camp and the 70<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



Members draw - Won (S Condran)  
Despite the fog lingering for most of to-day's round, it didn't deter our merry band of players from taking up the challenge. Congratulations to Alan Cannon on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day" and a well done to other winners and placegetters. We must also applaud the effort by the 'family Anderson' in taking out the first three places in Div 1.

**Results 4-7-19 Stableford**  
Div 1 Winner R Yandle 26 pts (c/b) R/u P Conroy 26 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> T Seamer 24 pts  
Div 2 Winner R Hebbe 28 pts (SOD) R/u B Smith 25 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> S Condran 25 pts  
Ladies Winner T Martin 24 pts R/u J Harris 8 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R McCarthy 7 pts  
NTPs Ladies T Martin Gents G Musliak  
Members draw - Not won  
Sadly the rain played havoc with our resilient group of players, causing some to retire before completing the round. The hardy ones completed the play, much to assist the day being a worthwhile gathering. Congratulations to Ron Hebbe, our stalwart 'Scoreboard keeper', on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to other winners and placegetters and those who participated in to-days round, making the best of the inclement conditions.

**Results 11-7-19 Stableford**  
Div 1 Winner K Anderson 28 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u G Sheldon 26 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> M Ryan 25 pts (c/b)  
Div 2 Winner B Smith 28 pts R/u R Hebbe 27 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> G Beeton 26 pts  
Ladies Winner R Friis 26 pts R/u J Scobie 25 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> C Caldwell 21 pts  
NTPs Ladies R McCarthy Gents G Cuthbert  
Members draw - Won (B Turner)  
It's Winter and to-days fresh/blustery wind reminded the players of the season. However our merry little band of players were equal to the task and despite the wind and the leaf eddy's, managed to complete the round. Congratulations to Keith Anderson on winning his division and achieving the "The Score of the Day" and a well done to other winners and placegetters.

**LN Bootes, Hon Sec Branxton lady Golfers**  
29th May 2019 - Stableford  
Winner: Ruth McCarthy with 31 points. Runner-up: Carol Miller with 30 points  
Nearest to the pin: Carol Miller  
12 June 2019 - Monthly Medal  
Winner: Caren Caldwell with 73 nett. Runner-up: Trish McMillian with 77 nett  
Nearest to the pin: Caren Caldwell  
Putting Comp: Winner: Jen Salna with 32 putts. Runner Up: Caren Caldwell with 33 putts  
19th June 2019 - PAR  
Winner: Jan Scobie with -1

Runner-up: Robyn Hoffman with -2 (c/b)  
Nearest to the pin: Trish McMillian  
26th June 2019 - Stableford  
Winner: Diane Williams with 33 points. Runner up: Jen Salna with 30 points  
3 July 2019 - Monthly Medal  
Winner: Caren Caldwell with 75 nett. Runner Up: Trish McMillian with 78 nett. Nearest to pin: Jan Scobie  
Putting Comp: Carol Miller with 25 putts & Caren Caldwell with 30 putts

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB**  
**Saturday, 29 June 2019 SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD**

Field: 46  
Grades A Joshua Tracey 37  
Grades A Michael Tracey 36  
Grades A Greg Noble 36  
Grades B Mathew Mullaney 39  
Grades B Geoff Jones 35  
Grades B Paul Bush 32  
Grades C Brett Apps 46  
Grades C Ted Zawirski 37  
Grades C Tim Mullaney 33  
NTP 2/11 A 2nd Daniel Turner 186cm  
NTP 4 A 4th Peter Wilton 214cm  
NTP 9/18 B 9th Robert Miller 337cm  
NTP 13 B 13th Zac Hayes 210cm  
Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 30  
2017 Club Champion Joshua Tracey, followed up last week's 2 Person Ambrose Championship triumph with his father Mick, by winning Saturday's Stableford Competition with an excellent 37 pts. He ironically defeated his father Mick who was runner up with 36 pts, showing why these two performed so well last week when playing as a team. Third place went to the ever consistent Greg Noble with 36 pts as well. Matthew Mullaney won B Grade with his well compiled 39 pts, well clear of runner up Geoff Jones with 35 pts, with Paul Bush's 32 pts good enough for third place, on a day where only 30 pts was needed to win a ball. The round of the day belonged to Brett Apps in C Grade who had an unbelievable 46 pts, finishing a lap clear of the field with Ted Zawirski runner up with his 37 pts, and Tim Mullaney third with 33 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Dan Turner on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, finishing only 186 cms away, whilst Zac Hayes shot on the difficult 13<sup>th</sup> is worthy of mention.

**Saturday, 6 July 2019 STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL**  
Field: 58  
Winners C Douglas Elphick 65  
Grades A Greg Gillard 67  
Grades A David Hollis 67  
Grades A Lee Heuston 70  
Grades B MicK Martin 67  
Grades B Mathew Mullaney 69  
Grades B Darren Maskell 70  
Grades C Micheal Carling 66  
Grades C Col Hughes 68  
Grades C Dylan Barnes 70  
NTP 2/11 A 2nd David Hollis 385cm  
NTP 4 B 4th David Hodges 439cm  
NTP 9/18 A 9th Lee Heuston 96cm  
NTP 13 A13th David Hollis

220cm  
Balls 17 Distributed down to score: 74  
Douglas Elphick won Saturday's Monthly Medal with an excellent 65 nett score, on a day where a 74 nett score was needed to win a ball and the day's DSR was a 69—a tough rating for a monthly medal. Greg Gillard returned to the winner's list, winning A Grade with his 67 nett, just ahead of Dave Hollis, with Lee Heuston's 70 nett good enough for third. Dave had a great day on the par threes, winning two of them, with his shot to the difficult 13<sup>th</sup> the highlight, finishing only 220 cms away. Lee also had a nearest the pin on the 9<sup>th</sup>, earning him the shot of the day, finishing only 96cms from the cup. Mick Martin won B Grade with a very pleasing 67 nett, defeating Mathew Mullaney's 69 nett, with Darren Maskell third with 70 nett score. Mick Carling won C Grade, with the day's second best stableford score of nett 66, defeating Col Hughes' 68 and Dylan Barnes with his nett 70.



**Summer/Autumn Comp Results**  
Branxton Tennis Club are still running three competitions per week consisting of Monday Night Mixed Doubles, Tuesday Ladies and Tuesday Night Graded Mixed Doubles. All tennis has been of good standard and we hope everyone has enjoyed watching and playing as much as the committee has. We also have Ladies social day every Wednesday morning, just turn up for a fun hit!  
All comps have now come to an end and the results are as follows:  
**Tuesday Ladies Day Comp Winning team**  
Libby Thompson, Shirley George, Sharon Bridge & Lisa Fitzgerald  
**Runners Up**  
Kylee Durrant, Kay Ockwell Linda Henning & Bronwyn Collins  
**Monday Night Comp Winning Team**  
Matt Dillow, Robyn Metcalf, Russell Hall & Flynn Stacey  
**Runners Up**  
Adam Murrell, Linda Searles Sue Smith & Helen Millsteed  
**Tuesday Night Comp A-Grade Winner** – Matt Killick  
**Runner up** – Darren Jackson  
**B-Grade Winner** – Glen Goodyer  
**Runner up** – (Tie) Justin Priddis & Craig Wilkinson  
**C-Grade Winner** – Michael Michell  
**Runner up** – Mark Dunford  
**D-Grade Winner** – Ryan O'Donnell  
**Runner up** – Matt Bellamy  
Thanks to everyone for the great tennis, we have a strong club and always welcome new players. We

are in need of both new players and reserves for the upcoming competitions so if you are interested in playing tennis in a great social atmosphere contact us at - [branxtontennis@gmail.com](mailto:branxtontennis@gmail.com) or Branxton Tennis Club via Facebook and we can talk about all the tennis options in Branxton.

**Branxton Tennis Club Annual General Meeting Miller Park Bowling Club Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 7pm**



**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.

**MATCH REPORTS - ROUNDS 8 & 9**  
**Round 8 Friday 21st June 2019 Over 35-1s vs Nelson Bay**  
The team was looking to maintain a 100% winning record at home tonight against a Nelson Bay side that sat one point above us in the table. We started strongly with lots of early chances and eventually took the lead through a great turn and shot from Grant. The chances kept coming but Nelson Bay defended well and the score remained 1-0 at half time. An extra goal buffer came after Daggy's corner was shot home from the edge of the box, and then the game was well and truly under control. Further goals to Smithy, Grant and Sull capped off an impressive 5-0 victory, with Sull proving that his goal against Rutherford was no fluke with another long range shot from out wide. Overall a solid performance from the team looking to get back to the top of the table.

**Saturday 22nd June 2019 Under 8-2s vs Lochinvar**  
It was a great game to watch today as the boys played some of their best football. Lochinvar were a strong team and it was a close game the last time we played them, but this week the team showed just how much they have developed over the season. The first goal was especially pleasing to watch with some good passing in the build up, finishing with

Leyton picking out Carter to score. Jude defended well today, even when he was outnumbered by the opposition. Elijah did a lot of running in the first half and had his best performance winning lots of tackles. He also did a great job as goalkeeper in the second half and didn't concede a goal - a worthy winner of the best and fairest award. Well done to everyone - keep up the good work.

**Under 15s v Southern Lakes**  
The Greta Branxton Wildcats Under 15s scored a convincing 8 - 1 win over Southern Lakes on Saturday. Goals to Jesse, Ethan and Alec and good defensive work by Noah will see our team maintain their position on top of the leader board.

**Round 9 Friday 28th June 2019 Over 35-1s vs Rutherford**  
It was tight match tonight as the second on the table Wildcats travelled to play the bottom team Rutherford. The home team took the lead early with a well taken counter attack, but Sull equalised with a stunning long range drive - now becoming his trademark. The Wildcats went ahead early in the second half but were pegged back with another audacious goal scored by the Rutherford midfielder. The boys did well to continue our attacking style of play and the chances at goal inevitably came. Goals to Smithy and Grant completed the scoring as the Wildcats triumphed 4-2. Brad was dangerous all night down the right hand side creating many chances, while Tim stood out when he moved into midfield. Another good result which keeps us near the top of the table.

**Saturday 29th June 2019 Under 8-2s vs Cessnock United**  
Another good performance today by the team. It was the first time we tried to put the players into positions and they coped with the change quite well. This is something we will continue to work on at training. Harlan pulled off a great sliding tackle in the first half to prevent a certain goal and Leyton scored a ripper of a free kick in the second half. Joel was strong with his running and passing and also managed a couple of well taken goals. Congratulations to Xander for scoring his first ever hat-trick. Ashton played well up front and came close to scoring his first goal. Well done to all the boys and we're all very proud of the effort.

**U15s v Maitland JFC**  
A convincing win for the Greta Branxton Wildcats in Round Nine who defeated Maitland JFC 8 - 2 at Miller Park. Goal scorers for the match were Alec, Jesse, Bowen, Ethan, Jacob and Kade. Connor was named Player of the Match for his excellent work in defence. The team now looks forward to their next away game against Dudley.

**Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 7th July**  
A great round of 44 points has seen the Weekly Challenge won by Ryan McGregor with Hawks Nest GC visitor Benjamin Wallis runner up

with 37 points  
**Tuesday 9th July**  
Nathan Davey with 43 points was the Tuesday Stableford winner from John Stewart 40 on countback to Horizons visitor Todd Hollingworth. Ball winners were: Garry Marsden 39, Bill Williams 38, Robert Hannah 38, Beb Bradbury v38, Bill Freeman 35, Hieu Le 35, Victor Joseph 34, Robert Logue 34, Col Bradley 34, Lindsay Self 33, Brian Rooney 33, Ken Scott-MacKenzie 33, Greg Ireland 33, David Peel 33, Wayne Cowan 33, Ryan Wilson 33, Geoff Boyd 32, Chris Taggart 32, Graeme Flynn 32, Chad Timmins v31, James Hogg 31, Scott Conti 31, Tom Bell 31, Kevin Gibson 31, Paul Smith 30, Rick Turnchini 30, Richard Craft 29, Bob Prentice 29 and Lachlan Peacock 28 c/b. Nearest-he-Pins went to Col Bradley (3rd) David Peel (8th) James Hogg (10th) and Tom Bell (17th).

**Wednesday 10th July**  
Glenda Williams has produced the only sub Par round in the Ladies Golf NSW Stroke round with 70 nett with Jill Slatter 2nd with 74 and Christine Tancred 3rd with 77 on countback. Ball winners were: Jill Rmsden 77, Dale Hamilton 79, Mary Fortey 79, Sue Peel 81, Barb Johnson 81 and Robyn Dunlop 83 c/b.

**Thursday 11th July**  
Kerry Porter has turned back time' to record 42 points and claim the Vets Stableford event from Dennis Anthony 40 and Ken Springbett 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners were: Eric Smith 31, Larrie Clarke 37, Kerry Bartlett 37, Ruff Davey 37, Mick Barrett 37, Ron Findlay 37, John Stewart 36, Ryan Wilson 36, Bruce chambers 36, Bill Williams 36, Tery Webb 35, Tom Bell 35, Dale Macklinshaw 35, Peter McIntyre 34, Darrell Preston 34, John Pascoe 34, Peter Payne 34, Kevin Dick 34, William Edwards 34, Peter Bus 33, Spot Mitchell 33, James Schofield 32, Robert Hannah 32, David Peel 32, Gunther Schilko 32, Anthony Neale 32, Peter Threadgold 32, Chris Norman 31, Ray Boyd 31, Steve Rawlings 31, Greg Amlöh 31, Greg Ireland 31, John Harrison 31, Brian Rooney 31 and Paul Adams 31c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Danny Schofield (3rd) Bobby Logue (4th) Peter Payne (8th) David Peel (10th) and Ryan Wilson (17th). The 2BBB winners run in conjunction with today's event were Kerry Porter & Kevin Gibson with 50 points from Murray Flannigan & Ron Findlay with 47 on countback. The raffle winners were Paul Ireland 1st and John Stewart 2nd. Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford.

**Saturday 13th July**  
The testing conditions for the Medley Stableford has been highlighted by an excellent round of 69 by Angello Wood to claim A Grade with 39 points from Andrew Zok with 35, B grade to Richard Craft with 39 points from Bruce Chambers 38 on countback and C grade to Ron Higginbottom with 36 on countback to Spot Mitchell. Ball winners were:

Ken Springbett 38, Dan Olsen 38, Zac Hayes 37, Fluffy Clark 35, Stephen Zok 35, Peter Franks 35, Steve Piggott 34, Geoff Boyd 34, Nic Bates 34, Mitch Attewell 33, Peter Attewell 33, Colin Somerville 33, Mike Carter 33, John Brown 32, Wayne Barber 32, Peter McIntyre 32, Ron Findlay 32 and Tony Lorrman 32 c/b. Nearest-the -Pins went to Angello Wood (3,8,10 and 17) and Shannon Attewell (4th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB 13/7/19 STABLEFORD**  
Field: 57  
Grades A G. Noble 41  
Grades A P. Wilton 37  
Grades A K. Mounser 34  
Grades B D. Maskell 37  
Grades B R. Caldwell 37  
Grades B L. Hunt 37  
Grades C B. Turner 31  
Grades C M. Carling 30  
Grades C S. Primmer 30  
NTP 2/11 B 2nd B. Bridge 284cm NTP 4 B 4th J. Sauer 39cm NTP 9/18 A 9th D. Kinch 226cm NTP 13 B 13th D. Maskell 370cm  
Balls 17 down to score: 30  
Saturday's gale force winds didn't deter Greg Noble as he played a fabulous round to convincingly win the A Grade Stableford Competiton with a blistering 41 pts .  
Greg is a very underrated golfer so look out for him as he is retiring from work soon as he has more time for golf, fishing and travelling. Peter Wilton was equally impressive finishing runner up with 37 pts from his low single figure handicap. Kyle Mounser was third with his 34 pts, a very pleasing score in the conditions. Darren Maskell won B Grade with an excellent 37 pts which included a nearest the pin on the very difficult 13<sup>th</sup> hole—I can only imagine where he had to aim his tee shot with such strong westerly winds. Reece Caldwell was runner up on a count back with the Branxton Veterans President, Lee Hunt, third on the same score. Lee has only just returned from a recent Queensland sojournment, so Branxton certainly welcomed him back with such cold, windy conditions. Barry Turner won C Grade with his 31 pts, just ahead of Mick Carling and Steve Primmer with 30 pts, showing just how difficult the day was for all golfers. Steve's recent visit to Rutherford's driving range seems to be working, especially on a day when 30 pts was needed to win a ball and the DSR was 71. The shot of the day belonged to all golfers who hit the green on a par three, but the best shot must be given to C Grader Justin Sauer on the 4<sup>th</sup>, his shot finishing only 39 cms away—beautifully done. Grade winning with 37pts, on a day where only 30 pts was needed to win a ball and the DSR was a 71. Lee Hunt returned from a recent Queensland sojournment to finish runner up with the sane score, whilst Club President Richard Crooks finished third with a very pleasing 36 pts. Barry Turner won C Grade with his 31 pts, just ahead of Mick Carling and Justin Sauer with 30 pts, showing just how difficult the day was for all golfers.



# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The NEWS SPORT

## GRETA IS BOWLING THEM OVER



Jason Stewart and Graeme O'Neill with Zone President John Payne

23rd June with a full green and players representing Denman, Karuah, Raymond Terrace, Kurri, Singleton RSL, Maitland Park, Beresfield and Greta. The results of the day were, 1<sup>st</sup>: S. O'Neill, A. Turner, G. O'Neill 3w + 36 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Gardner, J. Stewart L. Banister 3w+33

3<sup>rd</sup>: J. Doust, A. Solomons, C. Doust 3w+4  
Big Thank You to our Sponsor **GRETA GUARDIAN PHARMACY**. Greta is always looking for new bowlers Men, Ladies and Juniors with free coaching available.



■ Above: Sue O'Neill District Ladies Singles Champion

Bowlers at Greta Workers are doing well of late. Graeme O'Neill and Jason Stewart have just won the Zone 6 Presidents Reserve Singles and will now represent Zone 6 at State in September. Jason also finished Runner Up in The Presidents Reserve Singles earlier in the year. Not to be outdone, Graeme's sister, Sue O'Neill, came out and won the District Ladies Singles this week and now heads to Scone to play in the Zone Playoffs. During the year Greta Ladies won the District Pennant Flag and the Men were Runner's Up in the Zone Pennants for 2019. This August our Four



■ Above: Greta Juniors Jace, Angus, Koby & James

Juniors have been selected to represent Zone 6 at the State Junior 7 a side at Dubbo the boys are doing well considering they have

all been playing for less than twelve months. The Ron Banister Versatility Mixed Triples were played on Sunday

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