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WEDNESDAY  
14 August 2019

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## STEVE'S RANT

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Members Well Done  
say...  
Not So Well Done



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Done



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## School NEWS

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## Governor-General accepts invitation to give ‘Opening Address’ at coming anniversary celebrations

His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd) has accepted an invitation from the Central Hunter Business Chamber to give the Opening Address at the coming anniversary celebration weekend for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Greta Army Camp in 1939 and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the site becoming a migrant camp.

The 2-day celebration is to be held on-site at the previous Greta Army Camp on the 9th & 10th November 2019. President of the Central Hunter Business Chamber, Brett Wild, said that he was delighted that the newly invested 27th Governor-General of Australia had again accepted an invitation to our local area. “His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd) & his wife, Mrs Linda Hurley, visited Branxton & Greta last September in his capacity as Governor of NSW & patron of the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway Ltd.,” said Brett. “His previous visit was an outstanding success



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia will give opening address at coming Anniversary Celebration at Greta Army/Immigration camp

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for the area and the local community. The community morning tea at Branxton Community Hall was attended by representatives of the local areas varying organisations, Order of Australia awardees, members of both Branxton & Greta RSL sub-branches & local schools,” said Brett. The full agenda of the anniversary celebrations will be detailed over the next week & will be disseminated through all media outlets.

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## Retiring Cessnock City Council General Manager given a hearty farewell by community representatives of the LGA



Retiring GM Stephen Glen, far right, with Deputy Mayor Councillor Melanie Dagg & her daughters and Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent

A small gathering of community representatives, former councillors, councillors, senior staff, friends & family gathered last Friday, 2nd August 2019, to

farewell the retiring Cessnock City Council General Manager Stephen Glen. MC for the evening was interim General Manager, Mr. Robert

Maginnity, who kept the formalities to a minimum. David Evans, Maitland City Council's General Manager, spoke of his regret that Stephen was retiring & that they had worked very closely over the 6 years Stephen had been GM. Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said Stephen came after a prior very forgettable GM & was a breath of fresh air from day one and that he had led Council with integrity and excellence and with community needs at the forefront of his mind. "His knowledge of local government and extensive experience has ensured Council is in a strong position & has left us fit for the future," Mayor Pynsent said.

*(In 2015 the NSW government stated that 56 per cent of councils in regional NSW were 'not fit' & that they needed to review their situation & the government had 7-point criteria which needed to be 'ticked; Cessnock gained the required 7-ticks)*

Stephen started with Council on the 3 June 2013 and this July celebrated 30 years of service in local government.

This marks the start of Stephen's retirement where he said he is looking forward to travelling and spending time with his family.

## Success for Cessnock City Council at the LGNSW Awards



Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent and Council's Community and Cultural Engagement Manager Natalie Drage at the awards.

The Local Government NSW Awards were recently held in Sydney and Cessnock City Council was recognised in a number of categories. NAIDOC Week 2018 received a Highly Commended in the RH Dougherty Awards – Innovation and Special Events. The award recognised the collaboration between Council and community in putting together a wonderful program of events. Our award winning Seniors Festival has again attracted attention, Council was named as a finalist in the Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Awards for last year's program. Council was also successful at the LGNSW Planning Awards, in the category of Culture Change Innovation and Excellence. Council received a Highly Commended for the Branxton Town Centre Strategy. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent attended the awards and said it was tough

competition. "There were some amazing events and planning projects from councils across the state that were also named as finalists. It's wonderful our Council has again been recognised at these awards that are about showcasing councils in NSW going the extra mile when it comes to events, initiatives or projects." "I'm proud Council took home a highly commended for the work it has done on the Branxton Town Centre. Council was recognised for the way it collaborated with the community to come up with a vision for the town centre. Facilitating genuine engagement on projects is important and this project is a demonstration of doing it successfully." "I'd also like to recognise the community groups and members involved in NAIDOC Week 2018 and the Seniors Festival 2018. This award is a recognition of your tireless efforts in contributing to these events."

## Thank you Howe Park Tennis Club Singleton



North Rothbury Tidy Town has needed a new tennis net at the court in Ayrefield Memorial Park for quite some time as the one in-situ was old, tattered and almost unplayable. Their president contacted Howe Park Tennis Club to ask if they had one that was surplus to their requirements & that if they did have one we would pay for it as

a new net is very costly. When he explained the situation their treasurer, Mark Rixs, said 'yes' they did have one and that the club would donate it. Thank you Howe Park Tennis Club & particularly Mark Rixs.

Photo Above & right: NRTT member and former president, Steve Lind, replacing the old tennis net with the donated Howe Park Tennis Club net



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### REMINDER

#### North Rothbury "Get Ready Weekend"

**When:** Saturday 14th September 2019  
**Where:** Rothbury Street, North Rothbury  
**Time:** 10am to 2pm  
Come & have a coffee & at the same time chat to our brigade members about fire safety around your home. There will be plenty of activities for the young & young-at-heart!

## PICK OF What's Coming

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### My Brilliant Divorce

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

31 August 2019  
Happy Days Records

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

# Construction to commence on multimillion-dollar Huntlee shopping centre



In a boost for the local community in the region's newest town, construction will officially commence on the multimillion-dollar Coles-owned Huntlee Shopping Centre. As part of the highly-anticipated development, the first new town to be built in the Hunter in more than 50 years will soon welcome a 3200m<sup>2</sup> Coles supermarket, an adjacent 200m<sup>2</sup> Liquorland and approximately 1000m<sup>2</sup> of specialty retailers. To mark the occasion, the Mayor of Cessnock, Cr Bob Pynsent, Coles State Development Manager, Howard Hathorn and Huntlee Project Director, Stephen Thompson, unveiled a plaque at the future entrance to the centre. Mr Hathorn said Coles is pleased to be the first major retailer to partner with LWP at the new Huntlee Town Centre. "The Huntlee Shopping Centre will be an outstanding retail hub offering local residents an enhanced shopping experience and a one-stop-shop in the heart of the Huntlee Town Centre," he said. "It will include a full-line, market style Coles supermarket, complete with an in-store

bakery, open-style meat counter with a qualified butcher, large gourmet deli and fresh produce area, along with a range of specialty shops and approximately 240 convenient, shaded car spaces. "Coles is committed to investing in the local region and we're delighted the Huntlee Shopping Centre will create more than 120 new retail jobs, in addition to jobs generated during the construction period. "We expect the centre to be completed by mid-2020 and we're looking forward to welcoming customers to the new retail hub at Huntlee." LWP Group is both a shareholder in and project manager of Huntlee and its Project Director for Huntlee, Stephen Thompson, said today was a major milestone in the town's development, marking the transition of Huntlee into a major regional destination. "Coles was the first organisation to commit to the Huntlee Town Centre back in early 2014," said Mr Thompson.

"The Coles team understood the vision we were creating for the first new town in the Hunter in more than half a century and, from the start, wanted to be part of forming the bustling retail hub. We warmly welcome Coles to Huntlee and look forward to them delivering this fabulous shopping destination. It will be of great benefit to both our residents and those living in the surrounding region who have eagerly awaited this day."

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, also welcomed the new retail hub to the Hunter region. "It's great to see growth and development that provides more options for residents. Living in the Cessnock Local Government Area continues to become easier and offers a great lifestyle with increased services and facilities. It's all a bonus that the facility will also provide more than 120 new retail jobs."

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**Saturday**  
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# STEVE'S RANT

Research was predictable

It is very apparent that the millennial generation it convinced that climate change is leading to catastrophic global warming. So convinced are they that they will not tolerate any discussion on the matter and are prepared to cop the draconian proposals of the *green left* and I am afraid to say, the general mainstream media and political class at every level, to cripple this country economically in order to reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, thus delaying or averting Global Warming hopefully. So persuasive is this belief that our education system has our children frightened of the future. When I was a child, despite the threat of nuclear war, the future was to be welcomed and we could see the various advances in science and technology promising a bright new world and we had no idea how far this would go. Our only guide was some of the better science fiction stories we read.

its members to the effect that global warming was a fact and this is what we must do about it; stop burning fossil fuels and start buying electric cars. I did some research on the following subjects; Volcanos and climate change, sea currents and how they affect climate change, solar variability and climate change, cosmic rays, climatic cycles, land clearance & greenhouse gasses. The result of this research was predictable. Yes, despite many variations in solar activity, volcanoes and earthquakes, the immense effect that ocean currents have on the distribution of heat; it is the push factor of greenhouse gasses which is causing global warming'. All the references I looked at concluded that global warming is a fact and the only question left unanswered was when will we all become extinct. Greenhouse gasses are only a minor part of the earth's atmosphere. In order of abundance these are; water vapour (clouds), carbon dioxide, methane (animal farts), nitrous oxide (laughing gas), ozone, CFC and other man-made highly stable gasses. By far the most important greenhouse gas is water vapour which, depending on the temperature, can vary between .02% and 4.0% of the earth's atmosphere. Water vapour holds heat until it rises up into colder elevations where it condenses to form clouds. Clouds reflect the sunlight and hence heat and their help cool the earth. In the warm tropics the water vapour is about 4% and this



is transferred to the north and south to give cloud to the latitudes of colder air and hence rain. The other greenhouse gasses are measured in parts per million and therefore are tiny percentages of the atmosphere compared to water vapour. However, they do have a push factor on the heat retained by the atmosphere and therefore increases the levels of water vapour. It is logical to me that this should lead to greater cloud cover which causes global dimming and less heat getting into the lower atmosphere. We know that global dimming occurs because the pan-evaporation rates which have been measured over many years, both in Australia and Israel, has

declined up to the early 1990s. So, there is a self-correcting mechanism of so-called global warming but nobody knows how to measure this or explain the details. Similarly, nobody knows how the changes in the levels of gasses in the atmosphere will affect climate when so many different factors are at play and the computer modelling continues to contradict what is actually happening. Yes, there is a correlation between the level of CO2 in the atmosphere and the atmospheric temperature but it is not direct i.e., double the CO2 percentage and you double the warming effect, does not apply. It is simply one of the many things which could push global warming.

So, this self-destructive enthusiasm for banning fossil fuels and doing without reliable energy can have little effect. Just as if turkeys were two bob a dozen, the deposit on a tom-tits arsehole would be of no consequence. But if you are still worried, the best thing you can do is plant trees. You will feel good and you will be doing your part in greening the planet. *Cheers, Steve*

could assist with a possible restoration of the Greta War Memorial to its original form from 1916. The main task would be the restoration of the top of the Memorial and in particular the lights. In order to assess the work involved they require substantial knowledge pertaining to the original construction of the Memorial and its relocation which took place somewhere in the 1990's. If you have any knowledge of these events or know who might assist, then please contact Richard Wesseling at [bgsshed@gmail.com](mailto:bgsshed@gmail.com) or P 0417422560.

Fashion Parade at Greta Workers Club on Saturday 31st August 2019 from 2pm ~ 4pm. The minimal cost is \$10 which includes a hearty afternoon tea. If more information is required please contact Margaret Lewis on 0428 838 434.

Cessnock City Council is encouraging residents, visitors and businesses to undertake a quick survey about the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) Vineyard District. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encouraged people to take the time to provide their views. The results of the survey will help guide future policy development for the Vineyards District. Council is taking a collaborative approach with community and industry to plan for this important area in the LGA. "We want to hear from you about what you want to see more of, what contributes positively to the amenity of the area and what doesn't," said Mayor Pynsent. *Cheers, Mike*

**What's Happening & other**  
with Mike Lowing  
The Branxton Greta Men's Shed has been asked if it

The Anglican Boutique Op Shop will be holding a

## OPINION



**LIDDELL POWER STATION**  
AGL has announced there will be no engineering miracle and its Liddell Power Station will no longer generate electricity after April 2023. I'm pleased the engineering review has given three of the four turbines a number of additional months beyond the original de-commissioning date of late 2022. The additional months will give us more time to build the new generation and storage capability AGL has promised. Along with the Bayswater - which will be upgraded - and Eraring coal generators, these new generators and storage projects will allow

the Hunter electorate to remain the power-house of NSW and will promote economic and jobs growth. AGL has again committed itself to making sure Liddell's workforce will be taken care of and I welcome that commitment. The unrealistic pre-election pressure the Morrison Government put on AGL to significantly extend the life of Liddell has been exposed as no more than a political slogan. The fact is, Liddell has reached the end of its economic and physical life. Australia desperately needs an energy policy after six years of Government inaction.

**LIDDELL POWER STATION - NO GOVERNMENT ENERGY POLICY**  
The Morrison Government is one which embarrasses itself on an almost daily basis. Last week it wanted everyone to believe it had successfully muscled AGL into keeping the aging Liddell power station open. What it didn't say was the extension is just 4 months. Today (9/8/19), it's announced its going to form a task force to decide what to do about our energy system when Liddell closes. We've known for years Liddell could not continue beyond 50 year-of-age.

If the formation of a committee is the best the Morrison Government can do after six year we are all in trouble. In the Hunter, we are not waiting for the Morrison Government any longer. We will continue to work with AGL to progress the significant investment it has promised in new forms of energy generation and storage. While the Government continues to dither and spin, we are getting on with the job. The Bayswater up-grade, a gas-fired peaking station, pumped-hydro, and battery storage are all part of our push to ensure the Hunter remains the

engine room of NSW. An energy policy from Canberra would help but we are not holding our collective breath.

**THE HON JOEL FITZGIBBON MP**  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCES  
MEMBER FOR HUNTER

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

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# Lions Club of Branxton Trivia Night

5 August 2019



questions the competition ended in a tie for first place between two tables of young trivia buffs each on an impressive score of 114. Table 14 'Derek Zoolander team for kids who can't read good' were the eventual winners in a tie breaker over table 15, 'The Nutty Professors'. It took a further four questions in the tie breaker to separate these two teams who really enjoyed their night out in Branxton. Table 25 'Trivia Newton-John' was third and table 16 'Let's Get Quizzical' was fourth. The Lions Club selected three organisations to benefit from this year's event with fifty percent of the money raised being distributed to; Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation, Jodie's Place the local Women and Children's Refuge and Harrys House, a respite centre for families of children living with cancer. Each of these organisations will receive a cheque for \$1696.33. None of this money goes to administration so will be

The Branxton Lions trivia night held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July was a great success. As a fund raising event it achieved our objectives of having funds to provide assistance to the needy in our community and beyond. The total amount raised was \$10,178.00. As a social event it was a

very good night with the 240 people in attendance at the Branxton Golf Club enjoying the event. Many people took home raffle prizes and the bidding in the auction and silent auction was competitive. A special thank you to Phil Aughey who responded to a last minute request to stand in as auctioneer on

the night. Phil was entertaining and did a great job getting that extra bid from the audience. Phil attended the evening to play trivia not knowing that an hour into the night his services would be called upon to replace our regular auctioneer, Neil Thomas, who was ill. The trivia event was keenly contested and after 125

## Branxton Lions Club Trivia Night Sponsors

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Harrigans Bottle Shop	Heavenly Tours	Hayts Cinema, Green Hills
Hughes Mechanical	Hungerford Hill Cellar Door	Hungerford Meat Co.
Hunter Distillery	Hunter Hair Art	Hunter Valley Chocolate Co.
Hunter Valley Zoo	Huntlee	Ice Box Liqueur
Il Cacciatore Restaurant	Julie and Paul Maguire	Kirkwoods Produce, Singleton
Kiss of Fire	Lake & Valley Optical	Lakes Folly Vineyard
Lillianfels, The Convent	Majestic Cinemas - Singleton	
Margaret & Richard Kostelz	McGuigans Estate	McLeish Estate
Meerea Park Wines	Mecure Resort	Mistletoe
Moorebank Estate	Oakvale Wines	Pepper Tree Wines
Peter Drayton Wines	Peterson House	Peterson Wines Brake Rd
Piggs Peake	Platinum Hair	PokoBin Chocolate Co.
PokoBin Estate Vineyard	PokoBin Village Bottle Shop	PokoBin Village Pharmacy
Reading Cinemas, Maitland	Repco - Rutherford	Richardson & Wrenth, Branxton
Ridgeview Estate	Royal Federal Hotel	Russell's Earthmoving
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Shaw & Bunner Legal	Simply Caravans	Singleton Pump & Water
Singleton Trailer Caravan & Camping	Singleton Tyre & Battery	Singleton Vet Hospital
Skydive - Elderslie	Smelley Cheese Shop	Spicers Guesthouse
Spicers Vineyard Estate	Stockland Green Hills	Sue Williams
Tambourlaine Wines	Taste of the Country	Tatler Wines
Tempus Two	The Branxton Greta News	The Carriages
The Grange on Hermitage	The Bottle - O Greta	Theleme Wines
Thomas Allan Wines	Thomas Livestock	Tintella Estate
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Photo Above: Brian Thomas presenting the Lions trivia cheque to Paula, the Director of Jodie's Place, the local Women and Children's Refuge

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spent where it is needed. The Lions sincerely thank our many sponsors who are acknowledged separately in this newspaper. This year's response to our request for



Photo above: Cathy Murray presenting the Lions trivia cheque to Sam Meyn the Fundraising Co-ordinator of the Harry Meyn Foundation which administers Harrys House.

sponsorship was excellent with many businesses helping us out for the fourth consecutive year. To all the people who organised tables a very special thank you. Your efforts are very much appreciated and ensured that the night was a

great success. The Lions Club appreciates the wonderful assistance given by Tony Bercini and the Golf Club Board Members in the preparation of the Club for the evening.

## REFLECTIONS

**"You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" - Jesus**

I am sure that there are times that we have all been frustrated with others by what seems like a complete lack of understanding of things that are for us obvious. We can apply this to all parts of life. We can hear the question, can't we ... "but why?" And the answer seems so easy for us, but it is also effectively impossible for some others to grasp. I can only imagine that Jesus felt this way as He ministered among the disciples, the crowds and the religious leaders of His time and ours.

The gospel reading this week brings a number of Jesus' sayings together demanding that each of us make decisions and responses to Jesus and the message He brings. This gives the passage both a tone of urgency and a weight that we don't always find together. And though Jesus is making a difference in the lives of people, we still often do not recognise the signs of His presence amongst us.

Whether we choose to see it or not, Jesus is making a difference ... and that difference is causing division within communities and families. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God was open to all people, that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. He stood up for the poor, the weak, the outcast, the lowly and the sinner. Some people respond in faith, recognising the sign from God, that Jesus is the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah. This is Good News ... but it isn't always welcomed news. Much of what Jesus said and did either shocked or infuriated the religious leaders of the day and we still struggle with this even today. We know that the news we carry is Good News, yet it is still difficult to find people who are ready and willing to receive it.

We are presented with the need to make a choice and we must take sides. We either respond in faith to Jesus and His message or we don't. The decision that we make can and will divide us, because we will either align ourselves with the kingdom of God or we will stand against it.

Life with God starts now, and though it won't always be easy, when we put God first, it will always be worth it. There is no better time for attending to our relationship with God than the present. May we recognise the signs of God's kingdom reign and may we respond in faith.

Every Blessing, Reverend Nicole

## Husband Creche

Is he getting under your feet  
 Is he moaning about shopping  
 Would your morning be stress free without him

**Ladies we have the answer**

The Branxton Greta Menshed has a husband crèche every Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Drop him off at our husband crèche.  
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 'Branxton Greta Menshed' 49 Branxton Street' Greta in the grounds of the old St Marys Primary School

# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

The Australian Fodder Industry Association held their National Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley last week. It was great to see producers from all over Australia in attendance. The conference program had a number of workshops, presentations and discussion sessions covering a variety of topics, from business management to climate change. Many of these farmers do not often get a chance to be away from the farm and this conference enabled them to come together as an industry to discuss shared challenges.

Local Government Week 2019 was a great success and Council were proud to put on a number of events for the community to enjoy. Two groups were taken on a behind the scenes tour of the Cessnock Waste Management Centre. The tour allowed residents to better understand how waste is managed and the operation of the facility. Last Wednesday was a highlight, as over 200 students attended the School Leaders Breakfast at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. Students heard from young, Australian war veteran and survivor Damien Thomlinson. He shared his personal story and talked about hard work, perseverance and setting goals. No doubt students walked away feeling inspired and driven to succeed no matter what life has in store.

Our libraries, Governance team and Finance team were also involved in putting on events for the community during the week. Well done to all the staff that got involved, it was a unique opportunity to connect with residents.

The Regional Tourism Awards were held in Newcastle last week. Congratulations to Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley who took out two categories, the Business Event Venues and Deluxe Accommodation. Beyond Ballooning also picked up two awards, winning the Tour Operator and Adventure Tourism

sections. Well done, an excellent result! A great result also for Hunter Valley Gardens who was successful in being named the recipient of the Major Festival and Events Section.

Cessnock City Council attended the Local Government NSW Awards held in Sydney last week. Council and the Community was recognised for a number of program areas and received a Highly Commended, RH Dougherty Award for 'Together we deliver, City of Cessnock, NAIDOC Week 2018' in the category of 'Innovation and Special Events'. We also received a Joint Highly Commended award in LGNSW Planning Awards for 'Branxton Town Centre' in the category of 'Culture Change Innovation and Excellence'. Cessnock City Council was also a finalist in the Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Awards for Seniors Festival 2018. A great result for both events and a reflection of the hard work of our community and staff in bringing these programs to life.

Cheers, Bob



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP  
Member for Hunter

It was a pleasure to join the Mayor, Councillors, staff and community leaders to farewell Cessnock City Council's General Manager last Friday night. Stephen Glen has served the City well. His modest and quiet demeanour belied his strong and innovative leadership. With our elected Councillors, he has helped to place Council on a more successful and sustainable course. He is entitled to be proud of his time here.

I again thank him and extend best wishes to Stephen and his family. I was somewhat bemused when my decision to co-chair the Parliamentary Friends for Coal Exports caused such a fuss. It's not particularly revolutionary for the Member of Hunter and Shadow Minister for Resources to express support for our coal industry, I've been doing it all of my political life. After all, the region I represent is home to the world's largest coal port and the Hunter electorate provides the lion's share of

its coal. Coal mining underpins our local economy and creates tens of thousands of jobs directly and indirectly. Both the major parties support the mining and export of our coal, another reason the formation of the new parliamentary friendship group should not be controversial.

here are hundreds of parliamentary friendship groups in the federal parliament. They are an expression of support for a cause, industry, need or area of public policy. For example, there are groups centred around health and social issues. In fact, there is a friendship group to assist in the elimination of just about every form of cancer. I'm also the co-chair of the friendship group for primary producers, another good example. The co-chairs of the friendship groups often facilitate meetings or social events, at which experts in the cause they seek to promote are invited to speak and engender a better understanding of the opportunities or challenges of the cause in question.

To maintain the integrity of the friendship group system the co-chairs of friendship groups come from different political parties and they operate on an entirely bi-partisan basis. They are a beneficial extra within our parliamentary processes. AGL has announced there will be no engineering miracle and its Liddell power station will no longer generate electricity after April 2023. I'm pleased the engineering review has given three of the four turbines four additional months beyond the original de-commissioning date of late 2022. The additional months will give us more time to build the new generation and storage capability AGL has promised and help us get through the 2022/23 summer.

AGL will press on with its new investments in the Upper Hunter including the upgrade of Bayswater power station. Along with its investment in pumped hydro, storage and a new gas-fired generator, the Bayswater upgrade will allow the Hunter electorate to remain the power-house of NSW. That means more economic and jobs growth. AGL has again committed itself to making sure Liddell's workforce will be taken care of and I welcome that commitment. The unrealistic pre-election pressure the Morrison Government put on AGL to significantly extend the life of Liddell has been exposed as no more than a political slogan. The fact is, Liddell has reached the end of its

economic and physical life, we've milked all we can out of her. To secure more investment, Australia desperately needs an energy policy after six years of Government inaction.

Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock  
Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR The beauty of our Democracy and Freedoms

Last week in State Parliament we dealt with a highly controversial bill around reproductive health. It was essentially a question around the right of a woman and medical staff to terminate a pregnancy, what many would call an abortion, without breaking the law up against the question of whether or not this matter should continue to be treated as an illegal action.

For the record, I voted for the law to be changed so that women and medical staff could choose to do what they already do without it being a law breaking event. I appreciate and understand that everyone reading this column would have their own views. And you can rest assured that dozens of people made contact with me to express their views both for and against. In fact, so many people called and left messages that I won't be able to get back to everyone individually, so please accept this as my thanks for expressing your views.

For many decades now, the event of terminating a pregnancy has been practiced in our public hospitals by fully trained and qualified staff in the best and safest of conditions. Even though doing so was breaking the law, it was happening in our public hospitals because the alternative was to be having pregnancies aborted in the most horrible and unsafe of conditions in homes, back alleys and by untrained people. For as long as history can record, people have wanted to not go through with their pregnancies. Having abortion classified as illegal did not stop the want or demand.

So the State could continue to "turn a blind eye" to an obvious illegal action, or, change the law. And that's what happened last week. The issue of reproduction, whether it goes to a full term pregnancy or a termination will now be dealt with as a health issue. At front of Parliament and through various MP's offices, people put forward

their views. Yes, some of these people were "protestors" both for and against. But I reflected on how brilliant our country is that you could protest, support, and give voice to your views, without any fear for your safety. Our democracy isn't perfect, nor are our freedoms, but by crikey, they are wonderfully good.

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

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Cheers Clayton



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

With preparations well underway for the 200th anniversary since the naming of St Patricks Plains in the area we now know as Whittingham, it's interesting to consider what those early pioneers might think of Singleton now. Clearly the colony from Governor Macquarie downwards, and the Aboriginal population long before them, knew the value of this area for supporting human settlements not only to survive, but to prosper. And there's no doubt that almost 200 years later, that continues to be the case. If there's something to celebrate about Singleton, it's the wonderful sense of community spirit we have right across our LGA. It's in our people, and in our places, and one of those places is Rose Point All Abilities playground. Play time there has been elevated to a completely new level over the last couple of months — and stages eight and nine of the upgrades, set to be unveiled to the public today, will reveal two new zones and a host of new equipment to encourage inclusive and accessible play. These enhancements ensure that everyone in the community will be able to enjoy this fantastic outdoor facility in the heart of our town. It's a project that goes right to the heart of our community, and I for one cannot wait to see the park abuzz with the sounds of

happy children and their families.

It's been two centuries since Benjamin Singleton founded our local government area, and we're still delivering the proceeds of the riches of our area to Macquarie Street. The smiling faces of children relishing our outdoor spaces is further inspiration for why we need to keep the pressure on all levels of government to return mining royalties to the communities that produce them to ensure our ongoing prosperity into the future. The platform already exists through the Government's Resources for Regions program, albeit with significant changes needed for a fairer and more consistent distribution of funds, without the need for a co-contribution and benefit cost ratio requirements, to benefit mining-affected areas based on the level of impact each year. This is the premise of the program that Council has presented to the Deputy Premier John Barilaro on numerous occasions, including conversations last Thursday and Friday when we met with fellow delegates of the Mining and Energy Related Councils in Sydney. And with Mr Barilaro held to a promise to deliver the outcomes of a review of the program soon, I don't intend to settle for anything less.

As our community prepares to come together for a festival of commemorations particularly over the weekend of 13-15 March 2020, I appeal to the Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her government to also reflect on the importance of Singleton to NSW, and to work with us to ensure our area continues to thrive into the future.

Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP  
Member for Upper Hunter

I am pleased to advise that residents from across the Upper Hunter can help shape the future of volunteering by having their say as part of the NSW Volunteering Strategy.

The new Volunteering Strategy will provide a blueprint for the NSW Government's investment in the sector over the next decade. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities and our Government is committed to supporting them. I encourage anyone interesting in volunteering to share their thoughts during public consultation on the strategy. Tell us what you think is working

well and what can be improved so we can build a stronger volunteering sector. Across the state, more than 2.1 million people volunteer, contributing a combined 240 million hours of their time to causes close to their heart. That's the equivalent of six million full-time working weeks. Responses to the surveys will directly help us to develop the next strategy, and influence how we invest in and support volunteers. The new strategy will help reduce barriers to volunteering, improve volunteer recognition and make volunteering attractive to more people. An online survey has opened to members of the public and another is available to organisations. The online surveys will close at 5pm Friday 6 September 2019.

To complete the surveys or to find out more information about the current NSW Volunteering Strategy, visit:

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

The NSW Government is stepping up the fight against age discrimination in the workplace announcing a new toolkit to help employers, managers and HR professionals engage and retain older workers. Research shows that potential employers too often overlook, poorly manage and disregard older workers. That's why we've worked with our partners at the Australian Human Rights Commission to develop a toolkit to help employers recognise and reject unlawful age discrimination and start discovering the benefits of older workers. Employers have the power to build broadly skilled, multigenerational workplaces that contribute to longer, healthier and more productive working lives for Australians. That's good for business, great for the community, and excellent for older Australians.

The toolkit, called Multigenerational workforces: a guide to the rights of older workers under the Age Discrimination Act 2004, is available now at <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/olderworkers>

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# Pharmacist Advice

## Q fever

Q fever is a bacterial infection that can cause a severe flu-like illness. For some people, Q fever can affect their health and ability to work for many years. The bacteria are spread from animals, mainly cattle, sheep and goats. Even people who do not have contact with animals may be infected. A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect people who are at risk. Screening is required to identify who can be vaccinated.

### What is Q fever?

Q fever is a disease caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*. It is spread to humans from cattle, sheep and goats and a range of other domestic and wild animals. Even people who do not have contact with animals may be infected.

### What are the symptoms?

Many infected people have no or few symptoms. People who do become sick often have a severe flu-like illness.

Symptoms begin about 2-3 weeks after coming into contact with the bacteria and typically include:

- \* high fevers and chills
- \* severe 'drenching' sweats • severe headaches, often behind the eyes
- \* muscle and joint pains
- \* extreme fatigue (tiredness). Patients may also develop hepatitis (inflammation of the liver) or pneumonia (infection of the lungs). Without treatment, symptoms can last from 2-6 weeks. Illness often results in time off work, lasting from a few days to several weeks. Most people make a full recovery and become immune to repeat infections. Occasionally, people develop chronic infections up to 2 years later which can cause a range of health issues including heart problems (endocarditis). This is more common for pregnant women, people with weakened immune systems or previous heart problems. About 10% of patients who are sick with acute Q fever go on to suffer from a chronic-fatigue-like illness which can be very debilitating for years.

### How is it spread?

People usually get infected by breathing in the Q fever bacteria that is in the air or dust. Cattle, sheep and goats are the main sources of infection, however a wide range of animals including domestic and feral dogs and cats, feral pigs, horses, rabbits, rodents, alpacas, camels, llamas, foxes, and Australian native wildlife (including kangaroos, wallabies and bandicoots) can also spread the bacteria to humans. Infected animals often have no symptoms. The bacteria can be found in the placenta and birth fluids (in very high numbers), urine, faeces, blood or milk of animals who are infected with or carry the bacteria. The bacteria can survive in the soil and dust for many years and be spread over several kilometres by the wind. You can get infected with Q fever by:

\* breathing in the bacteria that is in the air or dust:

- \* while birthing, slaughtering or butchering infected animals (especially cattle, sheep or goats). These activities carry a very high risk of infection.
- \* when handling infected animals, infected animal tissues, fluids or excretions or animal products or materials that have been infected including wool, hides, straw, manure fertiliser and clothes (e.g. washing clothes worn when birthing, butchering or slaughtering animals)
- \* while herding, shearing or transporting animals
- \* while mowing grass contaminated by infected animal excretions
- \* when visiting, living or working in/near a high-risk industry
- \* direct contact with infected animal tissue or fluids on broken skin (e.g. cuts or needlestick injuries when working with infected animals)
- \* drinking unpasteurised milk from infected cows, sheep and goats.

### Who is at risk?

Workers in the following occupations are at high risk of Q fever:

- \* abattoir and meat workers
- \* livestock and dairy farmers and farm workers
- \* shearers, wool classers/sorters, pelt and hide processors
- \* stockyard/feedlot workers and transporters of animals, animal products and waste
- \* veterinarians, veterinary nurses/assistants/students and others working with veterinary specimens
- \* wildlife workers working with high-risk animals (including Australian native wildlife)
- \* agriculture college staff and students (working with high-risk animals)
- \* laboratory workers (working with the bacteria or with high-risk veterinary specimens)
- \* animal shooters/hunters
- \* dog/cat breeders, and anyone regularly exposed to animals who are due to give birth
- \* people whose work involves regular mowing in areas frequented by livestock or wild animals (e.g. council employees, golf course workers or staff of mowing businesses in regional and rural areas).

All workers who enter workplaces in which Q fever may be present are also at risk of infection. This includes tradespeople, contractors, labour hire workers, sales representatives, buyers and council workers.

Other people may be at risk of Q fever through contact with high-risk animals outside of work. Infections have also occurred in regional and rural areas by breathing in infected dust and particles in the environment. Other people at increased risk of Q fever include:

- \* family members of those in high-risk occupations (from contaminated clothes, boots or equipment)
- \* people living on or near a high-risk industry (e.g. neighbouring livestock farms, stockyards housing cattle/sheep/goats, meatworks, land being fertilised with untreated animal manure)
- \* visitors to at-risk environments (e.g. farms, abattoirs, animal

saleyards and agricultural shows)

horticulturists or gardeners in environments where dust, potentially contaminated by animal urine, faeces or birth products, is aerosolised (e.g. lawn mowing).

### How is it prevented?

A safe and effective vaccine (Q-VAX®) is the best way to prevent Q fever infection.

Vaccination is highly recommended for people who work or intend to work in high-risk occupations.

Vaccination is also recommended for everyone aged 15 years and over who has the potential to be exposed to Q fever during activities outside of work, or in the environments in which they live or visit.

For those who are not immune (through vaccination or past infection), the following measures can reduce the risk of infection:

- \* wash hands and arms thoroughly in soapy water after any contact with animals wear a properly fitted P2 mask (available from pharmacies and hardware stores) and gloves and cover wounds with water-proof dressings when handling or disposing of animal products, waste, placentas, and aborted foetuses. This should not be considered a substitute for Q fever vaccination.
- \* wear a properly fitted P2 mask when mowing or gardening in areas where there are livestock or native animals
- \* wash animal urine, faeces, blood and other body fluids from equipment and surfaces where possible
- remove and wash dirty clothing, coveralls and boots worn during high-risk activities in outdoor wash areas. Avoid taking these items home to reduce the risk of infection to your household. If you do take them home, bag and wash them separately (should only be handled by those immune to Q fever).

How is it diagnosed? The initial suspicion of a Q fever diagnosis is based on symptoms and an understanding of the possibility of coming into contact with the bacteria in the previous 6 weeks. Make sure your doctor is aware if you belong to one of the risk groups described above. Blood tests are required with repeated testing two to three weeks after symptoms begin to confirm the diagnosis.

### How is it treated?

Early treatment with antibiotics can get you better sooner and reduce your risk of long-term complications. It is important to seek early medical attention if you develop symptoms of Q fever and are in one of the groups at risk of infection. Chronic (long-term) Q fever infection may require long-term antibiotics.

What is the public health response? Laboratories must notify the local public health unit of any confirmed Q fever cases. Public health unit staff investigate each case to determine the likely source of infection, identify other people at risk of infection, ensure control measures are in place and provide information to cases.

## New signage helping you find your way in the LGA

Cessnock City Council is currently rolling out new street signage as part of the Hunter Valley Wine Country Signage Strategy, in the Pokolbin, Lovedale, Mount View and Wollombi areas.



The new signage, which includes street name signs and pictogram signs, is being installed at all intersections within 'Wine Country' as replacements for the existing street name signs and business 'fingerboard' signs. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this project is grant funded by the NSW Government's Regional Growth and Environment Tourism Fund.

"Signage is a powerful tool that makes it easier for tourists to find their way. It helps develop a strong regional identity, create a positive first impression for visitors and provides important information about an area. Thanks to the NSW Government for funding this project that will improve in the visitor experience."

During this process, as outlined in the Hunter Valley Wine Country Signage Strategy, the non-compliant business 'fingerboard' signs will be removed to make way for the new signage. This is to ensure compliance with Australian Standards, State Environmental Planning Policy No. 64 (SEPP 64) and the Cessnock Development Control Plan.

The rollout commenced in July and will continue over the next six months. To find out more about the signage strategy visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/publications/signage](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/publications/signage).

## Upgrades to Branxton Community Hall



Branxton Community Hall attendees can look forward to improved safety and accessibility as a number of upgrades to the lighting and the ladies toilets have occurred at this important community facility.

The Branxton Community Hall has been a fixture since its establishment during the Greta Migrant Camp and Army Camp. The Hall remains a much loved and well utilised facility hosting a number of local community groups and events including Yoga classes, charity events, Gospel church and Karate lessons.

The upgrade to the Hall's lighting will deliver safe access for all users and provide an extra level of security. The ladies toilet upgrades included tiling, painting, new PC items, installation of baby change table and partitions.

Cessnock City Mayor, Bob Pynsent said it's fantastic to deliver this important project to the community.

"We recognise the importance of the Branxton Community Hall as a space for a number of community groups."

The lighting upgrade was funded by the Branxton Community Hall Section 355 Volunteer Committee and the ladies toilet upgrades was funded by Council through the Open Space and Community Facilities capital works program.

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## What's Cooking?

**Ingredients**

- 100g gluten-free corn chips
- 1 cup (100g) rice flakes
- 1/3 cup (25g) finely grated parmesan
- 2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley, coarsely chopped
- 4 x 180g Australian RSPCA Approved Chicken Breast Fillets
- 1 Coles Australian Free Range Egg, lightly whisked
- 1/4 cup (60ml) milk
- 1/2 cup (65g) gluten-free plain flour
- 1/3 cup (80ml) olive oil

**Method**

**Step 1**  
Place the corn chips and rice flakes in a food processor and process until fine crumbs form. Combine the crumbs with the parmesan and parsley in a medium shallow bowl

**Step 2**  
Place a chicken fillet between 2 pieces of plastic wrap. Use a meat mallet or rolling pin to gently pound the chicken to 2cm thickness. Repeat with the remaining chicken.

**Step 3**

## Gluten-free chicken schnitzel

Whisk the egg and milk in a medium bowl until well combined. Place the flour on a plate and season. Coat each piece of chicken in flour and shake off excess. Dip in the egg mixture, then in the crumb mixture to coat. Place on a plate and cover with plastic wrap. Place in the fridge for 15 mins to set.

**Step 4**  
Heat half the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Cook half the chicken for 3 mins each side or until golden brown and cooked through. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel. Repeat with the remaining oil and chicken.

**Notes ~ Serve with mixed salad leaves and lemon wedges**  
**Nutrition** 2850 kJ Energy, 32g Fat Total, 8g Saturated Fat, 3g Fibre, 50g Protein, 325mg Sodium, 4g Carbs (sugar) & 47g Carbs (total)





# Out & About

with Mike Lowing

## Annual Combined Clubs Ride

On 3.8.19 the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Combined Clubs Ride was held and has raised to date \$11,000 for the Wespac Rescue Helicopter. 87 bikes left the Luskintyre Tiger Moth Airfield to a lunch cooked by the Vacy Fire Brigade via a picturesque ride around the valley of Paterson and Dungog. Thankyou to all who participated in this fund raising ride. *Steve Drinkwater, Event organizer.*

*(Photos courtesy of Annemaree Winter)*



Geoff of Branxton enjoyed the support day for Wespac Rescue Helicopter



Steve, Bruce & Frank take charge of the raffle




Warren Bridge braved the early morning chills from Tuncurry to join in.




Locals enjoying the lunch made by Vacy Fire Brigade.

Support riders from the Newcastle, Taree and Singleton Clubs



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**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!

**What happens to your pets when you die?**

Australians have one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world! But who will look after our beloved pets if we die? How can you make sure that your pet will be looked after?



the money be used for the care of your pet or used to care for your pet in a particular way. Keep in mind however that such a request is not binding – you are trusting that the person or charity will follow your request as

If you have a Will and do not make provision for your pet, the residual beneficiary will inherit your pet. If you pass away without a valid Will, your pet will go to your next of kin.

Will, there are some different ways you can do this:-

**1. gift your pet to a family member, friend or to a charity.**

The simplest way to provide for your pet under a Will is to gift the pet to a trusted family member or friend, or to a charity. You may consider combining the gift with a request that the person or charity either look after you pet in a particular way or make arrangements for your pet to be re-homed. Your request is not binding, it is more like guidance.

**2. give your pet and a sum of money to a family member, friend or a charity.**

If you gift your pet and money, you need to consider whether you give any direction about how the money is to be used. You may choose to give the money with a request that

guidance. You may give the money on the *condition* that the person or charity first agrees to use the money in the way that you have directed. The Executor of your Will would then ensure that the beneficiary does agree to use the money in the required way but at a practical level there would be no continuing supervision ensuring that the agreement is adhered to.

The gift of money can be made through a legacy programme with an animal charity. Under these programmes a gift of money is made to the charity to either re-home your pet or to place them in a facility that these charities operate. For your peace of mind you may also wish to visit their facilities to ensure that your pet would be happy with the accommodation. We also suggest that you contact the charities to find out the requirements for you to take advantage of their "pet legacy programme".

Secretary of Defence, United States of America" (\$500 to \$700). Sporting memorabilia includes Hawke's set of Big Bertha Callaway golf clubs (\$400 to \$600), a framed photo of Don Bradman signed by Bradman (\$800 to \$1200), and framed photos of Hawke playing tennis (\$200 to \$300). There are a few bottles of Penfolds Grange for \$200 to \$300, bottles of the Chinese liquor Moutai (\$200 to \$400), a bottle of Bob Hawke Vintage Port (\$300 to \$500), as well as cigar boxes, a Versace ashtray and his gold-plated cigar cutter. The most expensive lot is

frame with a photo of Hawke and d'Alpuget with fellow former prime minister Kevin Rudd and his wife Therese Rein or in the same price range there is the white bougainvillea plant in a ceramic pot from the couple's terrace. The beloved and longest serving Labor prime minister died in May, aged 89, just two months after he had sold his long-held Northbridge home in an off-market deal registered at \$9.2 million, and Ms d'Alpuget has since downsized to a \$3.63 million apartment she bought off-the-plan in the One30 Hyde Park building.

July and a post-federal election boost. But he warned against expecting a "v-shaped" recovery" in the market. "The July home value index results provide further confirmation that the housing market has reacted positively to the recent stimulus of lower mortgage rates and improved credit availability, however the response to-date has been relatively mild," Mr Lawless said on Thursday. Mr Lawless said the ongoing tightness in housing credit is expected to keep a rapid rebound in housing values at bay, despite the lowest mortgage rates since the 1950s. "Housing credit polices remain much tougher than they were prior to the royal commission as lenders continue to move away from the Household Expenditure Measure and examine borrower spending behaviours and expenses more closely," he said. The July result eased the annual rate of decline across Australia's combined capital cities to 7.3 per cent, having ballooned to a 8.4 per cent annual decline in the 12 months to May. CoreLogic said the primary drivers for the turnaround were Australia's two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, where values have ticked higher over the past two months, taking values 0.3 per cent off their floor in Sydney and 0.4 per cent higher in Melbourne. "Despite an unprecedented amount of new apartment stock entering the market, Sydney and Melbourne unit values have consistently outperformed the detached housing sector through the downturn,

and this trend is continuing into the recovery phase," Mr Lawless said. The uptick was helped by the Sydney and Melbourne markets stabilising. Price gains in Hobart accelerated from 0.2 per cent to 0.3 per cent in July, while Darwin property prices swung from a 0.9 per cent monthly decline to a 0.4 per cent monthly gain. The 0.2 per cent lift in Brisbane values was the city's first month-on-month rise since November last year. Combined regional housing values fell by 0.2 per cent for the month, easing from a 0.4 per cent decline in June. AMP chief economist Shane Oliver said it was clear the coalition's federal election win in May had given the market confidence, via the removal of threats to negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount. Dr Oliver said positive headlines around the relaxation of the 7.0 per cent mortgage rate serviceability test played a role. But he warned the nation's economic climate was vastly different to that which accompanied the RBA's last easing cycle in 2011, which laid the foundations for prices to climb dramatically to a mid-2017 peak. "By contrast today, household debt to income ratios are much higher, bank lending standards are much tighter such that a return to rapid growth in interest only and investor loans is most unlikely," Dr Oliver said. "So we don't see a return to boom time conditions and expect constrained low single digit price gains through 2020."

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**Bob Hawke's treasure trove: Political mementos, art, furniture and diplomatic gifts set to go under the hammer**

BY LUCY MACKEN

Bob Hawke's treasure trove of art works, diplomatic gifts, mementos and designer furniture is set to go under the hammer later this month in a home contents clearance sale expected to total more than \$250,000.

The 300 lots that make up the Bob Hawke and Blanche d'Alpuget Mementos Curiosities Art and Design Collection will be on view over two days on August 24 and 25 in the recently sold Northbridge home of the late

former prime minister and his widow Blanche d'Alpuget before it is all moved to a Paddington venue in time to go under the hammer on August 27. "The home that Bob Hawke and Blanche d'Alpuget shared had an eclectic mix of 20th-century design furniture that was complemented with an archive of his political career that represents some of the important moments in Australian history," said Andrew Shapiro, whose



■ Included in the collection is The Drover's Wife by artist Hugh Sawrey, on offer for between \$8000 and \$12,000.

Shapiro Auctioneers and Gallery is handling the sale. Notable pieces include art works by great Australian artists Tom McAuley, Hugh Sawrey and Leanne Wanjidari, as well as designer furniture sets by Italian designers Paolo Piva and Antonio Citterio, and more personal items such as the conductor's baton Hawke used a decade ago when conducting the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah* at the Sydney Opera House. Of the many diplomatic gifts there are two of his traditional Chinese silk jackets, a pill box from Queen Elizabeth and a silver bowl inscribed: "Presented by Dick Cheney

an art work by Euan Macleod, *Lone Figure in Gully*, for \$14,000 to \$18,000, and the cheapest lots are expected to sell for between \$100 and \$200 and include a crystal photo



■ A portrait of Bob Hawke by artist Richard Freeman is up for grabs for \$500 to \$700.

**National property prices increase for first time since 2017**

Property prices stabilised in July as the housing market embraced dual rate cuts and improved credit availability, but economists have warned not to expect a boom in the near future.

The CoreLogic July 2019 home value index shows national dwelling values were flat over the month - stabilising after a consistent trend towards smaller month-on-month declines - helped by a subtle price rise across most capital cities. Prices across the state capitals rose by a combined 0.1 per cent in July, breaking almost two years of losses, including a monthly increase of 0.2 per cent in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and an easing decline in Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. Australian house prices just rose for the first time in two years. (AAP) CoreLogic head of research Tim Lawless said the figures suggested a new floor had been found following back-to-back interest rate cuts in June and

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

[www.minerals.org.au](http://www.minerals.org.au)



# For Sale

# BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



## BRANXTON

**OPEN HOUSE**  
 42 Bowen Street, Branxton NSW 2335  
 Saturday 17th July  
 11:30am ~ 12noon

**Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home**  
 3 good sized bedroom family home on large block just a 2 minute walk to the main street & across the road to Branxton Public School. Features include Two bathrooms, separate lounge-room, modern kitchen, dishwasher, split air-con system. All this on 970 square metre fully fenced block.  
 INSPECTION RECOMMENDED **ASKING \$399,000**



## BRANXTON

**OPEN HOUSE**  
 14 Russell Street, Branxton NSW 2335  
 Saturday 17th July  
 11am ~ 11:30am

### 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**



## East Branxton

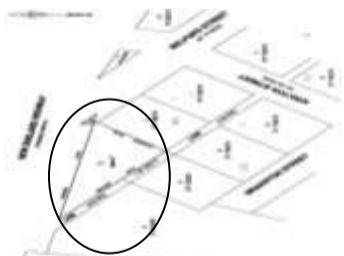


### Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

**ASKING \$275,000**

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## North Rothbury



**As new ~ Totally renovated; kitchen, bathroom, new flooring &**  
 This brick & Tile family home on a very large fully fenced block (885sm) features  
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INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

**ASKING \$399,000**

## NORTH ROTHBURY Building Blocks



### Vacant building block 809m<sup>2</sup>

Vacant Building Block  
 Fantastic visage  
**ASKING \$130,000 ono**



### 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**

## NSW Police commence Operation Merret targeting unsafe road behaviours

The NSW Police Force has commenced Operation Merret in a continued effort to reduce the

number of deaths and injuries on NSW roads, particularly in regional areas.

Operation Merret, an unorthodox and proactive approach to road policing, is aimed at educating and empowering the public to make the right decisions on the state's roads and will run until Saturday 26 October 2019.

During the three-month operation, more police will be out on the roads, not only targeting motorists for dangerous behaviours, but educating drivers on safe behaviour and encouraging those who are doing the right thing through positive reinforcement. Last year's Operation Merret saw more than 30,000 infringements issued across the state for a range

of offences, including speeding, not wearing a seatbelt, and using a mobile phone while driving. For the fatal crashes that have occurred this year, the majority of those killed in fatal crashes were drivers (48.9 per cent), passengers (16.8 per cent), and pedestrians (15.3 per cent). Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, Assistant Commissioner Michael

Corboy, said there had been too many lives lost in preventable tragedies this year on our roads. "Every police officer in the state has been tasked with speaking to drivers, riders, passengers and pedestrians about their responsibilities and safe choices on and around our roads," Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

"Motorists, passengers and pedestrians need to be accountable for the decisions they make that impact other road users.

"To prevent further serious injury or death on our roads, I implore every driver to take responsibility and ensure safety is their primary focus.

"Please slow down, wear your seatbelt, avoid handling mobile telephones, make certain you are adequately rested before driving, and take regular breaks to avoid fatigue."

*Anyone with information about illegal and dangerous driving behaviour is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or*

*nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.*

## Serious motorcycle crash near Singleton

Sunday, 04 August 2019 08:51:23 PM

A motorcyclist has been seriously injured following a crash in the state's Hunter Valley region today. Just after 1.45pm (Sunday 4 August 2019), emergency services were called to The Putty Road, Howes valley, south-west of Singleton, after a southbound Toyota and a northbound motorcycle collided, ejecting the rider.

The rider, a 73-year-old man, was seriously injured and treated by paramedics. He has been airlifted to John Hunter Hospital in a serious but stable condition. The Toyota driver, a 44-year-old man, has been taken to Singleton Hospital for mandatory testing. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended and established a crime scene with the assistance of the Traffic and Highway Patrol Command and Traffic Management Control.

The road remained closed for some time while the scene was examined by specialist forensic officers. Inquiries into the crash continue

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.

## Police investigate after threats made during suburban dispute – East Maitland

Friday, 02 August 2019

10:35:29 AM

Police are appealing for information to locate a man who may be able to assist with inquiries after a suburban dispute in the Hunter yesterday.

About 12.40pm (Thursday 1 August 2019), a 27-year-old man attended a home on Pepler Place, Thornton with what is believed to be a weapon.

Police have been told the man threatened residents inside the home and poured a flammable substance on the property.

Officers from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District were called a short time later.

Upon seeing police, the man fled the scene through nearby bushland.

An extensive search operation was conducted around the Thornton and East Maitland areas, utilising resources from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District, the Police Dog Unit and PolAir, however he was not located.

Following extensive inquiries, the 27-year-old man was located and arrested at a property on Cassia Way, Metford about 9.45pm yesterday (Friday 9 August 2019).

He was taken to Maitland Police Station where he was charged with stalk/intimidate fear physical etc harm (personal), armed with intent to commit indictable offence, possess unauthorised firearm, and in relation to an outstanding arrest warrant.

The Metford man was refused bail to appear before Newcastle Local Court today (Saturday 10 August 2019).

**CRIME STOPPERS**  
com.au  
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Branxton VIEW Club members were saddened by the loss of our dear foundation member, Jan Travis, who passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. A foundation member with Edith McRae for 31 years, Jan was always ready to share her experience with us. We formed a guard of honour at her funeral. Vale Jan-you are greatly missed by all of us.

Our 31<sup>st</sup> Birthday celebrations were well attended by the many clubs and friends. Lots of fun and laughter as we themed our entertainment on

**THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED.**

Do you remember the Big Bopper, Ritchie Valens, and Buddy Holly who all died in a tragic plane crash and also Patsy Cline who also died in a plane crash? Well the music and antics of our entertainers certainly had our audience smiling and joining in the songs.

Who can forget "That'll be the Day", "Peggy Sue", "Chantilly Lace" and "Tennessee Waltz" followed by Don Mc Leans' song "American Pie" written by him in 1971 referring to the above artists.

Yes, we all dressed up and in typical Branxton VIEW manner had a fantastic 31<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration!

Many thanks to all those who proved "that many hands make light work" both before and after the day. Congratulations and thanks to Greta Workers Club and their fantastic cook and helpers-well done!

All money raised goes to fund our five disadvantaged school children whom we sponsor through the Smith Family Learning for Life program. Thank you to all our friends and supporters!

Our next function is our "donna-lou" Fashion Parade to be held in Branxton Community Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Everyone is most welcome to attend and the affordable clothes can be purchased on the day.

Sizes range from 8 - 26 and latest Spring/Summer fashions will be presented on the day. \$15 includes a light lunch and the day commences at 10am so come along and bring some friends and enjoy the warmth and friendship that we enjoy.

*Peace and love to everyone  
Judy Spillard*

# Liam Kirkwood wins Queensland young auctioneer award

Born & raised in Branxton, 23 year old Liam Kirkwood, has just accomplished a major feat in his chosen career taking out Queensland's



**Young Auctioneer of the Year; much to his surprise!**

He was in the top ten after eliminations in Rockhampton and at the Brisbane show the top ten were judged and the rest is history.

He heads to the Sydney Royal Easter Show next year to compete in the national titles.

Liam is now living & working in Townsville and where he completed his real estate/auctioneering course last year & is currently employed by Kevin Curry who has the Ray White Livestock franchise in Townsville & Charters Towers.

Kevin, who is 71 years of age, is just about to retire & young Liam is set to take the reins for both offices. Well done & congratulations.



• Liam, at right, after his win.

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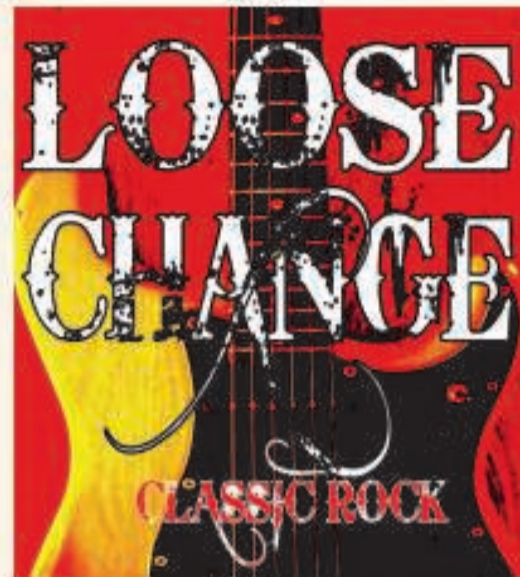
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- Champions Restaurant OPEN 7 days a week for Lunch & Dinner. Takeaway meals available
- Fantastic selection of drinks available; Low Sugar & Gluten Free | Great Northern now on-tap
- Raffles every Thursday evening at 7pm & Sundays at 3:30pm + Joker Draw
- **"Jerry's Karaoke"** the 1st Saturday of the month ~ Next 17th August
- Accommodation available
- Wednesday Nights FREE POOL from 6pm
- Friday Night TRIVIA from 6pm with Prizes & Giveaways
- Music every 2nd Saturday



# Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

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**Dine-in or Takeaway**



**Fridays &  
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**Every Thursday & Sunday**

**\$3600 as at Sun 11/8**

**\$2500 Thurs 15/8**





Wallabra, during the drought of the mid 1960's. It transports us back to a time when there were no mobile telephones, cars didn't have air conditioning, the roads were made of dirt and the Beatles flooded the airwaves. It was also a time when television had not yet reached regional areas and the community halls were used regularly.

Lorry and Marg Stirling own a soldier settler farm. The dams have dried up and the only remaining bore needs a part before it can be repaired.

The sheep will remain thirsty until it is repaired. It is Marg's task to venture two hours into Wallabra, on a frightfully hot day, to pick up the part.

Her journey, eventful as it is, gives the reader an insight into the culture of the district through the people she encounters. Author, Phillip Aughey,

draws a lot of his material from his childhood memories of his parent's property west of Griffith, on the edge of the Hay plain.

The narrative is most believable. Phil Aughey has a skill of portraying the seemingly mundane into an entertaining story. Full of typical Australian characters the story flows from one incident to the next with compelling interest.

Although this is the author's first novel, he has had success as a playwright. He runs a touring theatre company, Anvil Creek Theatre, which tours three plays written by him. Aughey has lived in Branxton NSW for the last twenty six years and has been the instigator of the now very popular *Newcastle Fringe Festival*. Being his first novel Aughey has shown great

A true story from Mount Isa in Queensland.

Recently a routine Police patrol car parked outside a local neighbourhood pub late in the evening. The officer noticed a man leaving the Bar so intoxicated that he could barely walk. The man stumbled around the car park for a few minutes, with the officer quietly observing. After what seemed an eternity and trying his keys on five vehicles. The man managed to find his car, which he fell into. He was there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started the car, switched the wipers On and off (it was a fine dry night). Then flicked the indicators On, then off, tooted the horn and then switched on the lights. He moved the vehicle forward a few metres, reversed a little and then remained stationary for a few more minutes as some more vehicles left. At last he pulled out of the car park and started to drive slowly down the road. The Police officer, having patiently waited all this time, now started up the Patrol car, put on the flashing lights, pulled the man over and carried out a breathalyser test. To his amazement the breathalyser indicated no evidence of the man's intoxication. The police officer said that the breathalyser equipment must be broken. "I doubt it," said the man, "tonight, I'm the designated decoy".

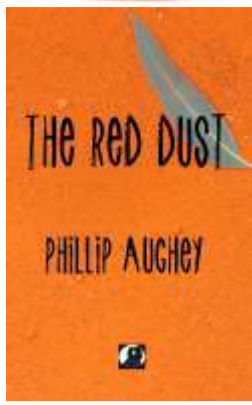
skill in telling a very affectionate, insightful and moving story.

It is intimate in its dealing with the characters involved and the reader gains a real perspective upon how the community band together. The novel's greatest strength however is in its descriptive passages of the outback. He paints a very realistic picture.

This is a wonderful novel, well worth the read.

Published through Black Cockie Press it can be purchased through Amazon or through

www.anvilcreektheatre.com



by Michael D. Lowing

It is rather topical that this novel should be released during possibly the worst drought in living memory.

"The Red Dust" tells the story of a farming community, somewhere in the outback of Australia near a fictional town called

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....**



When novelist, thespian, pianist & horsetrainer Phillip Aughey moved to Branxton in 1991 he didn't realise that he was in fact distantly related to many people in Branxton (his great grandmother was Louise Shearer from Glendon who married James Cowan of Sandy Hollow).

Since living in Branxton Phillip has been an active member of the Great/ Branxton cricket club, a classical pianist (he has lost count of the number of piano recitals he has given all for charity), he runs a touring theatre company which tour plays written by Phillip all over Australia and overseas.

The name of his theatre company, Anvil Creek Theatre, gives reference to where he lives. His first play gave its opening performance at the Royal Exchange Hotel. That play, "The Exchange" has now given 193 performances.

However, it is possibly his voice that has gained him most notoriety in Branxton. Again he has lost count of the number of charity auctions he has given. His tones are heard as the ground announcer for the Colts Rugby League team and at 7pm on most Friday nights his voice dominates the

Royal Federal with his raffle draws. In 2016 Phillip initiated the *Newcastle Fringe*. There have now been four very successful Fringe festivals in Newcastle all under his stewardship.

Having had a diverse life he was also a horse trainer for many years kicking above his weight in winners, most notably *Lakshmi* and *Well Met*.

**THE ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES 2019**

**Drum Major For City of Maitland Pipes and Drums Wins Best Junior Drum Major-Aberdeen Highland Games**

Held every year on the first Saturday in July, the Aberdeen Highland Games have become, Aberdeen's most spectacular event, drawing thousands of people to the township every year to enjoy the festivities. The Games begin with a spectacular parade of bands, clan representatives and others that leads into the Massed Band Salute and Chieftain's Address that officially opens the day. The event offers fun for all the whole family, including Highland and country dancing and music, Pipe Band displays, Strong man events with the Tartan Warriors, as well as tug-of-war, egg tosses, three-legged races, and the famed Kilted Dash.



A multitude of stalls offering all manner of Scottish heirlooms and souvenirs, clothing and garb, as well as a variety of food and drinks are also available. The Aberdeen Highland Games is followed by a traditional Ceilidh in the evening. This year, The Drum Majors Competition was conducted for the first time, at the same time of The Pipes & Drums Competition. The Drum Majors Competition was judged under two age groups

They were: Competitors under 16 yrs, **The Best Junior Drum Major** and Competitors over 16 yrs **The Best Senior Drum Major**.

The Drum Major of The City of Maitland, Charlie Wilson, 11 yrs of age, won The Best Junior Drum Major Trophy, creating history as the first Drum Major to win this event, and have his name engraved on the first plate attached to the trophy. Well done to all competitors of this great day in The Hunter Valley.

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**The New York Times Best Sellers**  
Combined Print & E-Book Fiction **(18 August 2019)**

1. WHERE THE CROWD SING (47 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 2 last week
2. LABYRINTH (NEW THIS WEEK) BY CATHERINE COULTER  
The 23rd book in the F.B.I. Thriller series. Agents Savich and Sherlock wend their way through a maze of lies to get to the bottom of a secret. Ranked 4 last week
3. ONE GOOD DEED (2 WEEKS ON THE LIST) BY DAVID BALDACCI  
A World War II veteran on parole must find the real killer in a small town or face going back to jail. Ranked 1 last week
4. DARK AGE (NEW THIS WEEK) BY PIERCE BROWN  
The fifth book in the Red Rising series.
5. THE NEW GIRL (3 WEEKS ON THE LIST) BY DANIEL SILVA  
Gabriel Allon, the chief of Israeli intelligence, partners with the crown prince. Ranked 3 last week
6. THE NICKEL BOYS (3 WEEKS ON THE LIST) BY COLSON WHITEHEAD  
Two boys respond to horrors at a Jim Crow-era reform school in ways that impact them decades later. Ranked 4 last week
7. SUMMER OF '69 (7 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 8 last week
8. THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN (162 WEEKS ON THE LIST) BY GARTH STEIN  
An insightful Lab-terrier mix helps his owner, a struggling race car driver.
9. THE RECKONING (25 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
10. BEFORE WE WERE YOURS (11 WEEKS ON THE LIST) BY LISA WINGATE  
A South Carolina lawyer learns about the questionable practices of a Tennessee orphanage.

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

**WARNING NOTICE**

**DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES**

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

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

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

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

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

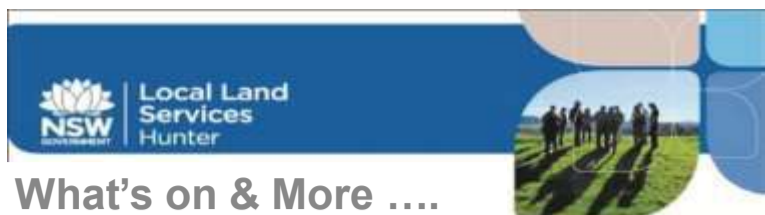
Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

00199





What's on & More ....

# COMING EVENTS....

## Pig Owners Field Day - Denman

When: 30 Aug 2019 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
 Where: Denman RSL, Paxton St & Isobel St Denman  
 (Lunch Included)  
 Details: Home butchery demonstration and Vet update!  
 Don't miss this opportunity to hear from local mobile home butcher Drew Shearman, who will give a demonstration on basic butchery techniques and pork cuts.  
 Producers will hear an overview on responsible pig ownership from our Hunter District Vet Team, topics will include:  
 \* Common pig diseases and recommended vaccinations  
 \* What swill feeding is and why it is illegal  
 \* Exotic diseases  
 \* Zoonotic diseases  
 \* Pig husbandry and nutrition  
 \* NLIS requirements for pigs and pigpass

For further information and to RSVP contact: Singleton Office: (02) 6572 2944 or our Scone Office: (02) 6540 2400. District Vets: Jane Bennett 0427 322 311 OR Kristi Arnot 0409 758 823 kristi.arnot@lls.nsw.gov.au Please RSVP by 22 August for catering purposes <https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/m1n93vog0lzbqes/>

## NSW Landcare and Local Land Services conference (Broken Hill)

When: 22 Oct 2019 8:00 am - 24 Oct 2019 8:00 pm  
 Where: Civic Centre, Broken Hill  
 Contact: Major Programs Coordinator/Chris McCulloch on 0427 061 164.  
 Details: Landholders and community members throughout NSW will have a great opportunity to experience the best of the outback with Broken Hill hosting the 2019 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services conference.  
 The conference, which will be held from 22 to 24 October, will highlight some of the great work and achievements by the Landcare community and landholders throughout NSW, while also offering informative speakers, workshops and field trips.  
 The theme of the 2019 event is 'Healthy Landcare – Healthy Landscapes'.  
 Registration for the conference is currently open and the program is also available on the conference website.  
 For further information on the event, visit: [NSW Landcare and Local Land Services conference website/Facebook page/Twitter page.](#)

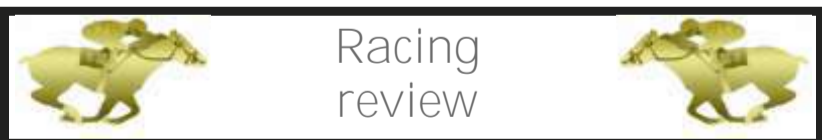
## Annual land and stock returns

**Thanks for helping us protect our primary industries from pests and diseases. The information you provide also helps keep your markets open and focuses our support during emergencies.**

We ask you to lodge your Annual Land and Stock Return this year, even though drought conditions persist across the state. Your 2019 rates notice was covered under the NSW Government's drought relief package, but it is important you still lodge your return.  
 Your Annual Land and Stock Return information, even as a nil return, helps build a statewide picture of land use in NSW. This information is invaluable in the event of an emergency or a biosecurity event such as a pest or disease outbreak.  
 It allows us to respond quickly and accurately to help you get back to business!  
 If you pay Local Land Services rates or have a property identification code (PIC), you need to lodge a return by **31 August 2019**.

### How to lodge your return

You can lodge your return online. The simplest and quickest way to lodge your return is usually online. The online form asks the same questions as the paper form and takes only a few minutes to complete:  
 \* Look up your holding reference number and unique online password on the top right corner of the form we mailed to you log into the online portal and put in your information.  
 Mailing back ~ Alternatively, you can post your completed annual land and stock return to: Local Land Services, Locked Bag 6013, Orange NSW 2800



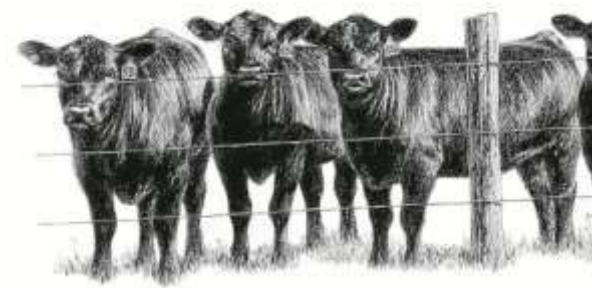
Racing review

## Expert delivers his BIG FIVE to follow for the spring

It's that time of year when we need to polish the crystal ball and try to conjure some potential spring stars to steer us into for the big races ahead.  
 It can be harder than solving a Rubik's Cube given the vast majority of spring hopefuls haven't yet resumed. But we are happy to have a throw at the stumps so Clinton Payne ([racenet.com.au](http://racenet.com.au)) has given us his BIG FIVE to follow for the spring.  
 Some of these horses are big names but there's more than a few from left-field there.

We aren't saying these are necessarily the best five horses of the spring, just ones we are keen to hitch our wagons to.  
 Hopefully we are on the right track and are the ones you are looking forward to following during the spring.  
**VERY ELLEEGANT** – She's my early tip for the Cox Plate and if an Australian-trained, southern hemisphere-bred galloper is to repel the foreign raid on the Melbourne Cup – this is the only horse that could be capable. I'm confident this is

an Oaks-winning filly that will stay at four. I look at the progression she made from a spring three-year-old to the autumn when she went from a promising stayer that was doing it all upside-down to the dominant staying filly she became. Going off her two early spring trials in recent weeks, I'm optimistic, and hopeful, that Chris Waller is winning the battle at teaching her to settle and conserve her enthusiasm. She's by a sire that's progeny stay all day and



## Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah Last reported 6th August 2019

There was an increase in the overall numbers with large supplies of cows and yearlings. All other categories were represented but to a lesser extent. The quality of the offering was generally good, while the condition varied dependant of feed type. There was strong evidence of both crop and supplementary finishing, while the plain condition cattle mostly came off grass paddocks. The usual buyers were in attendance and there was a new southern order operating on cows to both feed and process. The limited supply of vealers sold on a firm to cheaper market trend to restockers, while odd sales to the trade were dearer. There were varying trends through the yearling steers to restock and feed, light weights to restock mostly cheaper, however there were isolated breed related dearer sales. Medium weight feeder steers sold to a dearer trend, up to 11c/kg in places. The heavy weight feeder steers sold to a cheaper trend, down 9c/kg with both breed and quality contributing. Yearling heifers to restock and feed also met with varying trends, light weights to restockers were firm to cheaper. The better quality and more forward condition medium weight heifers sold to a dearer trend of 5c/kg on average. The secondary quality and lessor sought after breeds of heifer struggled at times to attract much competition. Demand was weaker for well finished heavy steers and heifers with the market trend cheaper, and significantly so. The cow market showed some variation. The plainest condition light weights attracted strong local restocker competition to be dearer. There were odd dearer sales in the medium weight cows, reserved for the higher yielding lots. The balance were up to 8c/kg cheaper. Despite the extra competition the well finished cows sold to a cheaper trend of 8c/kg and more in places. Heavy bulls sold to a dearer trend with an improvement in quality.

## Detailed Cattle report for Scone Last reported 6th August 2019

Numbers decreased for a fair to good quality penning of mainly younger cattle. The majority were suitable for the lot feeder and restocker orders, while there were ample numbers of high yielding cattle suitable for the butchers also offered. There were approximately 230 cows in the penning. The market trend was firm to dearer for the better end, however the plainer cows trended cheaper. The over 200kg vealers to the restockers lost 4c, with the steers making from 214c to 292c, as the heifer portion made from 220c to 260c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeders gained 5c to 10c depending on weight, with the medium weights making 292c to 320c/kg. The yearling heifers also to feed improved 5c and sold from 242c to 304c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers lifted 12c, with a single B muscle yearling heifer topping at 350c/kg. The grown steers were limited in supply, while the older heifers to feed made around the 232c to 246c and topped at 256c/kg to the processors. Cows sold to a mixed trend, with the plainer drafts easing 20c to 30c/kg, as the better finished heavy weights remained close to firm. The plainer pens made 140c to 218c, with the heavy weights topping at 255c before averaging 238c to 250c/kg. Heavy weight bulls remained firm and topped at 260c/kg.

## Detailed Cattle report for Singleton Last reported 7th August 2019

Consignments remained similar, however on average breed and quality for some younger cattle were not as good as the previous market, with greater numbers of crossbreds penned. The majority were younger cattle and suitable for the lot feeders and restockers, with fair numbers of high yielding vealers and yearlings suitable for the local processors also penned. There was only half the yarding of cows this week. The market trend on average was firm to dearer, with breed and quality contributing to most price variations. The over 200kg vealers to the restockers remained firm, with the steers making from 232c to 264c, while the heifer portion sold from 180c to 286c/kg. The yearling steers to feed topped at 322c, to predominantly sell from 270c to 284c/kg, depending on weight. Yearling heifers trended 10c/kg cheaper for the lighter end, as the heavier drafts sold close to firm. The ideal weights to the feeder orders sold from 236c to 290c/kg. The prime high yielding younger cattle to the processors sold to solid competition, with the best yielding drafts topping at 370c, while sufficient numbers sold to 300c/kg. Heavy weight steers to the processors received from 260c to 279c, with the best older heifer selling to 270c/kg. Cows sold at similar prices week-on-week, with the plainer 1 and 2 scores making from 96c to 220c, depending on weight, while the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights sold from 220c to 266c/kg. Heavy weight bulls sold to 240c/kg.

## Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth Last reported 5th August 2019

There was a reduced penning this week, however cows and yearlings were once again offloaded in large numbers. The quality of the offering was fair to very good, with some well bred lines of feeder cattle. Condition was very mixed through all categories with export processors well catered for. The usual buyers were in attendance, however there was reduced competition on the well finished heavy steers and heifers. There was some new Southern processor competition. The limited supply of vealers sold to cheaper trends, both to restockers and the trade. Light and medium weight yearling steers to restockers and feeders sold to dearer trends from 4c to 10c/kg, with some better quality lines presented. Heavy weight feeder steers sold to cheaper trends of as much as 18c/kg, with breed and quality contributing. There was a noticeable reduction in some of the breed related price variations. There were cheaper trends through the yearling heifers of 10c/kg and more in places where quality variations came into play. Well finished local trade heifers saw a firm to cheaper market trend. With reduced competition, the well finished heavy grown steers and heifers sold to cheaper trends of up to 19c/kg on steers and more for the heifers. There were large numbers of plain condition cows penned which sold to cheaper trends, while the well finished cows remained firm with the occasional cheaper sales. Heavy bulls sold to a cheaper trend.

she has the class of a weight-for-age galloper. She's got all the attributes so I'm hopeful her manners give her the chance to be an Australasian heroine.  
**PIERATA** – Right now the horse to beat in The Everest and the other big Group I weight-for-age sprints is Santa Ana Lane but if there's a horse capable of going to another level this spring to claim that mantle it's this son of Pierro. Pierata didn't have the best of luck during the autumn, but showed what he was capable of in the All Aged Stakes. The great thing about this horse is he's adept in all types of track conditions. I touched on it earlier, I think physically Pierata is capable of improving again at five this season. Reports from the stable indicate he's a stronger horse this time in and if he has further matured as indicated, he is capable of going to the top of the pile.

**NAKEETA JANE** – I reckon if Mark Newnham has the autumn over again, Nakeeta Jane might not have backed up in the Randwick Guineas and for mine, rightly or wrongly, she wasn't the same horse after that run. Looking to the spring with races like the Epsom and the Golden Eagle, not that she's anything like the odds I'd want to be taking this far out, but this is the filly I think is the best value of the horses I consider the winning chances. The four-year-old girls more than held their own against the boys in set weights two and three-year-old races so there's no reason not to think that trend won't continue, especially with The Autumn Sun enjoying his spring campaign in the breeding barn. I can't line Nakeeta Jane up against the likes of Mystic Journey, Arcadia Queen and Brutal but I do know this daughter

of *So You Think* is bloody good and given a preparation focusing on races up to the mile, she'll be in the mix in whatever she contests.  
**ANAHEED** – When you talk the three-year-old filly ranks this season you hear plenty of mentions of Kiamichi, Loving Gaby, Lyre, Libertini, Funstar, Flit and the like but I haven't heard too many mentions of this Peter and Paul Snowden-trained daughter of Fastnet Rock and one thing I've learned over the past decade or so is a good Fastnet Rock at two usually equals an even better horse at three. Going off her two trials, that's what you're going to get from Anaheed. She's looked superb in both outings to the trials, the latest in blinkers and I expect her to bloom quickly this spring and she will train on. Another positive about Anaheed is if there's any wet

tracks about – no problems.  
**MO'S CROWN** – When predicting horses to follow I always like to throw one in that's outside the square and this is a colt that I think has a very bright future. Go back to his debut run at Rosehill back in February, he was beaten a half-neck by True Detective and they spaced the third horse. When you watch that replay you'll see nothing went right for Mo's Crown, he was slow away, circled the field to race up outside the lead, took over at the top of the straight and was a sitting duck, only grabbed in the last couple of strides. They then pushed on to the Pago Pago, either the heavy track or he'd had enough got the better of him there. True Detective has shown in recent weeks he's no doubt well above average so I'm eager to see what this bloke has to offer when he returns.



anonymization technique.

- Some websites block traffic coming from Tor browser.
- While Tor protects you from eavesdropping and surveillance, it won't protect you from websites that contain malicious content. With those considerations in mind, have fun surfing the dark web, and stay out of trouble.

### Here are the 13 best deep web search engines

The most secretive section in the deep web is known as the dark net, and you'll need to download Tor to access it (here's more on that process). Many people search the deep web to find drugs, illegal porn, or stolen credit cards. But deep web

search engines also provide a lot of educational archives, hidden articles from academic journals, and intel on news around the world.

Finding all the untapped information is not as difficult as it might seem at first glance. With these user-friendly, deep web search engines, hidden information is just a few clicks away. But be warned: The deep web is like a black hole. If you aren't too careful, you may get sucked into the internet so far gone that things may never be the same.

### The best deep web search engines

**1) Torch**  
Torch has one of the largest search engines in the deep web, as they claim to have an index of more than a million hidden page results. It is one of the oldest search engines, but is still around for a good reason.

**2) DuckDuckGo**  
This deep web search engine—which, like many other deep web search engines on this list, also lets you search the regular web—has a clean and easy to use interface and doesn't track your discoveries. The options for topics to search are endless, and you can even customize it to enhance your experience.

**3) Onion URL Repository**  
The Onion URL Repository has a massive index of over a million page results and does not set limits on what information it holds close.

**4) Uncensored Hidden Wiki**  
When you search the deep web occasionally, you'll discover useful places where you need to be careful. The Uncensored Hidden Wiki is very much one of those locations, an uncensored collection of links and articles that, over the site's history, have included links to information on criminal activities from drugs to child pornography. The site has cleaned up its act considerably, but there are still links to graphic content and possibly illegal sites to be found. If you can look past those elements, however, Uncensored Hidden Wiki is a treasure trove

of deep web information. Inside you'll discover blogs about Tor, links to deep web email services, and even social networks. Just be careful what you search.

**5) The WWW Virtual Library**  
Considered one of the oldest archives in the whole World Wide Web, the WWW Virtual Library has an index with results pertaining to everything from agriculture to social and behavioral sciences. The search engine was created by the same man who created the foundations of web itself, Tim Berners-Lee, so you know it's the real deal.

**6) notEvil**  
This search engine is great because users can skip all the clutter and distraction from surfing the web with no ads. It's clean and mimics the look of Google.

**7) ParaZite**  
The deep web can seem like a terrifying place, but part of the fun of discovery is opening doors and not knowing what's behind them. ParaZite is a search engine that gamified the deep web. Beyond its basic, and useful, search features, it also offers up the chance to gamble by taking you to a random site on the deep web. It's basically the deep equivalent of Google's "Feeling Lucky" feature—except using it I was taken to a new email client, a black market site, and an essay on why children are jerks. Make sure you're using a firewall and VPN before you fire up ParaZite.

**8) TorLinks**  
The directory in TorLinks has a wide range of intellectual results, with the most notable being the literary section.

**9) (Censored)**  
**10) Touchgraph**  
Touchgraph gets visual with the deep web scavenger hunt. The algorithm it uses is specifically designed to cluster the relationship between your search results to create a visual result—a creative touch to make searching more exciting.

**11) Start Page**  
If you're worried about privacy, Ixquick's Start Page is one of the best search engines available, even if you're not using Tor. Unlike other search engines, Start Page doesn't record your IP address, allowing you to keep your search history secret. It's bothersome that Google knows everything about you. Start Page is a way to do some research without sharing your information with someone else.

**12) Ahmia.fi**  
Ahmia.fi is a great search engine for beginners who are new to the deep web. It takes about five seconds to figure out how the search engine works. Once cracked, scouring the deep web becomes a breeze.

**13) Yippy**  
Like Touchgraph, this search engine also collects your



# MOVIE REVIEW

## DANGER CLOSE: THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

Late afternoon August 18, 1966 South Vietnam -- for three and a half hours, in the pouring rain, amid the mud and shattered trees of a rubber plantation called Long Tan, Major Harry Smith (Travis Fimmel) and his dispersed company of 108 young and mostly inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers are fighting for their lives, holding off an overwhelming force of 2,000 battle-hardened Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers. With their ammunition running out, their casualties mounting and the enemy massing for a final assault each man begins to search for his own answer, and the strength to triumph over an uncertain future with honour, decency and courage.

**Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan**  
Review By Mark Goodyear.

Depicting the horrors of the Vietnam War has been the goal of some of the finest films ever to grace the silver screen.

Each one of them has told of its needlessness and violence without holding back. Now it is time for Australia to properly add its voice to this medium of storytelling on the topic. "Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan" recalls the battle that saw 108 brave ANZAC soldiers, many of whom were conscripts, take on an estimated Viet Cong force of over 1000 in the rubber plantation of Long Tan during the Vietnam War.

It is a story that often falls on deaf ears due to it being the most unpopular war in the history of Australia. However, that makes it only all the more important to tell. Director Kriv Stenders tasked himself with glorifying and further immortalising these men, and when all is said and done, I believe he has done just that.

The story from a historical standpoint is relatively accurate and straightforward in its approach. From a character standpoint, the men come off as both familiar and unique at the same time. The archetypes form quickly. For instance, Travis Fimmel's redemption character Major Harry Smith and Richard Roxburgh's grizzled and stubborn Brigadier David Jackson, but the way Stenders has opted to present them is refreshing.

Within this context, we are subject to an atmosphere

searches to make a common result or pattern, but without the visual aspect. Instead, it's simple like Google.

*Ben Dickson is a software engineer and the founder of TechTalks.*

riddled with Australian colloquialisms and classic humour that manages to shine enough new light on these familiar individuals.

The performances enhance this to no end, with the aforementioned Fimmel and Roxburgh being standouts in an excellent ensemble. Luke Bracey is also worth mentioning as Sergeant Bob Buick. He nails the endearing war hero so well that I believe this is the best performance of his young career.

Strangely enough, the highest praise I can give the performances is that most of them are underwhelming throughout the opening. It is hard to say why this is, possibly the distinctly Australian tone clashing with the setting, or challenges with production allocating time to filming this section. Regardless this evolves into a miraculous strength. The emotional bonds that are able to form as the story progresses combine with this shaky beginning to further emphasise the growth of the characters.

The primary goal of this movie, as it is with most war movies, is to make clear that one of the significant casualties of war is youth just as much as lives. Seeing these young men, each of whom is inspired by their real-life counterpart, forced to evolve so drastically is what makes Danger Close the pleasant tribute that it is. Once the battle begins, their baptism of fire becomes the films greatest asset and sparks the characters to life as they embrace their tragedy. With the depiction of the battle, Stenders has opted to be as direct as possible. Which serves to honour the heroes to no end; however, it does feel as though it is something we have seen before. The lifelessness of the enemy becomes a slight issue, and the violent impact is lacking in certain key moments. The initial period of the battle begins with a bang, but it can't help but stagnate as it drags on.

There was no genuine attempt to break new ground within the genre,

which is a shame because I think those involved were more than capable of achieving that. Thankfully the emotional impact doesn't suffer because of this, that aspect remains firmly intact thanks to the exceptional performances. When the few moments where the combat and the emotion combine come around the most stimulating portions of the entire film play and form the most respectful Australian film tribute to its heroes in years.

There are two technical aspects of this film that are entirely mesmerising throughout with how beautiful they are.

The cinematography of Ben Nott and Caitlin Yeo's score combine to form some gorgeous moments briefly reminiscent of the stunning images and music of "The Thin Red Line". These two aspects are just as crucial to expressing emotion as the performances are, and when they all come together, it is impossible not to be impressed.

It is a depiction of war that, at times, is violent and aggressive, yet, at least on the Australian side of things, is not exploitation depicting mindless drones of war. Stenders most prominent success on his end is that he ensured each brave Australian is a Man first and a soldier second, something that is so easy to miss in war films.

As the credits roll, I think anyone who sees Danger Close will be left dwelling on the typical giant questions like "Why were we there?" and "Was it worth it?". However, above all else, they will think upon the battle of Long Tan and how young conscripts made the impossible possible. All involved should take a bow for telling the story as respectfully as they have. The stunning technical achievements and the supremely respectful performances elevate Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan above its run of the mill storytelling.



## A beginner's guide to the dark web

You're only scratching the surface.

Ben Dickson



If you think search engines like Google and Bing let you probe the entire web, you're totally wrong. You're barely scratching the surface of the web—literally. Below the web's outer crust flows other layers of the internet that you can't find through search. But with a little bit of know-how, anyone can dive into the web's deep end to find some hidden treasures (and perhaps a bit more than that). Here's a quick guide to the deep web, the dark web, and what you'll find when you get there.

### What is the dark web?

There are basically three parts to the world wide web: surface web, deep web, and dark web.

The surface web is everything that's publicly available and accessible through search or typing a URL into your browser. The deep web, also known as the invisible web, is all the content on the web that is not indexed by standard search engines, such as email clients, online banking websites, or pages that are inaccessible to crawlers, the software that indexes the web for search engines. Some of those pages can still be accessed if you have the URL while others require you to have login credentials. According to expert estimates, the deep web is 500 times larger than the surface web.

The dark web, however, is a totally different beast—a tiny fraction of the web that is only accessible through specialized software such as the Tor browser. However, the term "dark web" is also often used to refer to the darknet, the overlay networks that are used to anonymize communications and obfuscate both the origin and destination of internet traffic.

### Who uses the dark web?

The main characteristic of the dark web is its anonymity, which makes it appealing to a number of actors. Like all innovative tools, the dark web is an instrument to shady and illegal activities, such as child pornography and the sale of drugs, firearms, and stolen credit card numbers. One of the most famous

cases that involves the dark web is that of Silk Road, the first modern online black market that was created on the dark web. The website was shut down in 2013 and its founder is serving a life sentence in prison. Naturally, many other similar websites have sprouted in recent years. Earlier this month, Alpha-Bay, another dark web marketplace that made \$600,000 and \$800,000 a day, was shut down by law enforcement.

However, the dark web is also being used for many other activities that are mostly legitimate (though not necessarily legal, depending on your perspective). Edward Snowden, the famous whistleblower who exposed the U.S. government's mass surveillance program, used the dark web to send information to reporters and media outlets. Journalists and activists also use the dark web to avoid being traced by autocratic governments or other actors that might want to harm them.

In countries where the government restricts access to specific websites and social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, dark web tools can help circumvent censorship.

### How to access the dark web?

The most famous tool to get on the dark web is the Tor browser. With Tor, you can access websites whose address ends with the .onion extension. These are websites that are exclusively available on the dark web and can't be accessed through normal browsers.

Tor enables you to access all the other surface and deep websites with the added benefit that it anonymizes your browser traffic by encrypting it and deflecting it across several computers—called Tor nodes—before sending it to its destination. However, there are several things you should know about Tor:

- Tor's browsing experience is considerably slower than normal browsers because of the



# We must see China - the opportunities and the threats - with clear eyes

By Andrew Hastie



The Sydney Morning Herald



■ A man-made Chinese airstrip in the heavily contested South China Sea.

bipartisan passage of laws countering espionage, foreign interference and influence. Tough decisions were made on our future 5G network to safeguard our digital sovereignty for the generations to come. Critical assets, such as ports and gas pipelines, are now monitored much more closely, in recognition of their importance to our national life together. But there is more to be done. Right now our greatest vulnerability lies not in our infrastructure, but in our thinking. That intellectual failure makes us institutionally weak. If we don't understand the challenge ahead for our civil society, in our parliaments, in our universities, in our private enterprises, in our charities — our little platoons — then choices will be made for us. Our sovereignty, our freedoms, will be diminished. The West once believed that economic liberalisation would naturally lead to democratisation in China. This was our Maginot Line. It would keep us safe, just as the French believed their series of steel and concrete forts would guard them against the German advance in 1940. But their thinking failed catastrophically. The French had failed to appreciate the evolution of mobile warfare. Like the French, Australia has failed to see how mobile our authoritarian neighbour has become. Even worse, we ignore the role that ideology plays in China's actions across the Indo-Pacific region. We keep using our own categories to understand its actions, such as its motivations for building ports and roads, rather than those used by the Chinese Communist Party. The West has made this mistake before. Commentators once believed Stalin's decisions were the rational actions of a realist great power.

Like many people across the world, I saw 9/11 as the geopolitical moment that would shape the 21st century. It shaped the next decade of my own life. But I was wrong. The most significant geopolitical moment of the 21st century had already happened, five months earlier. And most of us, distracted by more dramatic events, failed to see it. It came on April Fool's Day, 2001. A J-8 fighter jet from the People's Liberation Army Navy collided with a US Navy EP-3 signals intelligence aircraft, 70 kilometres off the coast of Hainan Island. Both planes began plummeting toward the South China Sea. The PLAN fighter pilot did not survive. The 24 crew of the badly damaged US EP-3 managed a hard landing on the island, and, after being offered water and cigarettes, were held for 11 days by the Chinese government. The crew was released to the US, but the aircraft was returned much later — in many small pieces — via a Russian Antonov cargo plane. This was an



■ A US navy EP-3E surveillance plane similar to the one that collided with a Chinese fighter jet on April 1, 2001.

early test for the Bush administration, only 10 weeks old. It was faced with brinkmanship, intelligence plundering and technology transfer. All this took place over what are now contested waters — where today the PLAN has forged unsinkable aircraft carriers, out of reefs and atolls. The Hainan Island incident laid down the contours for the present challenge facing Australia. It portended the agonising security and economic balancing act we must now perform. That clash, almost 20 years ago, has now grown into overt geopolitical rivalry across the Indo-Pacific. The US seeks to remain the dominant power in the region and the People's Republic of China works to supplant it. Australia must now, somehow, hold on to our sovereignty and prosperity. We must balance security and trade. But most importantly, we must remain true to our democratic convictions while also seeing the world as it is, not as we wish it to be. This will be immensely difficult. It is impossible to forsake the US, our closest security and investment partner. It is also impossible to disengage from China, our largest trading partner. This is the central point: almost every strategic and economic question facing Australia in the coming decades will be refracted through the geopolitical competition of the US and the PRC. The US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, made that much abundantly clear when he said "the world has been asleep at the switch". We must be clear-eyed about our position in the world. We are resetting the terms of engagement with China to preserve our sovereignty, security and democratic convictions, as we also reap the benefits of prosperity that come with our mutually beneficial trade relationship. Last year, the Coalition government secured

But the Princeton Professor of History, Stephen Kotkin, found otherwise, after years of sifting through the archives of top Soviet meetings. He discovered that Stalin and his advisers "said the same things as they said in their propaganda ... [using] all the Marxian categories, because it turns out the Communists were Communists! They believed in the ideas and it's only by taking the ideas and politics seriously, can you understand the phenomenon." We must be intellectually honest and take the Chinese leadership at its word. We are dealing with a fundamentally different vision for the world. Xi Jinping has made his vision of the future abundantly clear since becoming President in 2013. His speeches show that the tough choices ahead will be shaped, at least on the PRC side, by ideology — communist ideology, or in his words, by "Marxist-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought". Xi's view of the future is one where capitalism will be eclipsed and "the consolidation of and development of the socialist system will require its own long period of history ... it will require the tireless struggle of generations, up to 10 generations". With history as our guide, we have no reason to doubt President Xi Jinping. Our next step in safeguarding Australia's future is accepting and adapting to the reality of the geopolitical struggle before us — its origins, its ideas and its implications for the Indo-Pacific region. The next decade will test our democratic values, our economy, our alliances and our security like no other time in Australian history.

**Andrew Hastie is the federal member for Canning and the chair of the parliamentary joint committee for intelligence and security.**

THE NEWS | No.504 | WEDNESDAY 14 AUG 2019 9 19

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

**and**

**To the local urban vandals** who have basically destroyed a vacant house at Huntlee North Rothbury. Your graffiti has left your signature so be prepared for a visit from the local constabulary. I suspect that the graffiti on the rail/highway sound barrier is also your work ... it behoves me to understand what joy you get out of destroying other peoples property and scaring public infrastructure .... hopefully you can explain before the local magistrate as I would love to know.

**To Howe Park Tennis Club** in Singleton; North Rothbury Tidy Town needed a new tennis net as the one in-situ was old and tattered. Our president contacted Howe Park Tennis Club to ask if they had one that was surplus to their requirements & that if they did have one we would pay for it as a new net is very costly. When he explained the situation their treasurer, Mark Rixs, said 'yes' they did have one and that the club would donate it. Thank you Howe Park Tennis Club & particularly Mark Rixs.

**To the Branxton Lions Club** for their great trivia night held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. It was a great success. As a fund raising event it achieved their objectives of having funds to provide assistance to the needy in our community and beyond. The total amount raised was \$10,178.00.

**FREE Classified's**

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

**Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128

**Drum lessons:** Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

**For Rent:** Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

**For Sale:** 2002 Rover 75 in need of a good home. Restoration project. Full leather interior, GPS, fully optioned. Needs new headliner, bonnet respray. Good tyres. Unregistered. P: 0414 757 826

**For Sale:** Walk behind slasher/ mower, unused for a long time but was working. Free. 4 x Roll down security shutters, white, 1800,1860,1760 and 1650 wide with most fittings. Free. Painted block board solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, good workshop bench top. \$20. New Humes Prime coat, SCX1,solid core door, 2040 x 820 x 35, \$60, Chain wire, as new 1.2m x 6m, \$15. Edmonds whirlybird roof ventilator, woodland Grey, new in box, \$60 P: 0437312905.

**For Sale:** Small, almost new, Guinea Pig cage. \$25 P: 0404 499 849

**For Sale:** PRICES REDUCED! Timber bedroom set, brand new, new mattress, 2xside tables, 1xchest draws, 2xbed lamps, 1xsummer sheets & 1xpair winter sheets, dooner and dooner cover also pillows. Moving sale \$900 P: 0428 057 253

**For Sale:** Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077

**For Sale:** 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 ct170 st170 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

**Work Wanted:** HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989

**Work Wanted:** Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

**Work Wanted:** 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**

- SUN 18 AUG — Branxton/Greta Vietnam Vets Day Memorial Service @ Branxton Memorial Rotunda John Rose drive Branxton Time: 1030am
- MON 21 AUG - Branxton Public School - Staff Development Day (no students)
- WED 19 AUG -- Branxton Public School Book Week activities
- FRI 23 AUG — 28th Laguna P&C Art Exhibition - Friday 23 August - Sunday 25 August
- SAT 24 AUG — Handmade in the Hunter Markets. Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Location: Kevin Sobels Wines, Pokolbin, NSW
- SUN 1 SEPT — Fathers Day
- TUE 3 SEPT — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
- SAT 7 SEPT — Wollombi Wild Ride/. Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Location: Wollombi Tavern, Wollombi, NSW
- SUN 8 SEPT — Broke Village Fair & Vintage Car Display. Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Location: McNamara Park, Broke, NSW
- TUES 10 SEPT — NEW DATE FOR CENTRAL HUNTER CHAMBER BREKKIE - a reminder that the Business Chamber brekkie has been transferred to Tuesday 10th September from 7.00am at Crowne Plaza in Lovedale, need to purchase your tickets thru sticky tickets.
- TUES 10 SEPT — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
- THURS 12 SEP — Branxton VIEW Club meeting
- SAT 14 SEP — Stonehurst Long Table Lunch. Time: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Location: Stonehurst Cedar Creek, Cedar Creek, NSW
- THURS 26 SEP — Branxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade
- FRI 27 SEP — Wollombi Music Festival - Friday 27 Septem-

**Dates for your diary**

- ber - Sunday 29 September
- TUE 1 Oct — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
- TUE 5 Nov — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
- MON 7 OCT — Labour Day public holiday
- TUES 8 OCT — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 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 (Branxton & Greta). This is a public event over two days with military parade, market stalls, ethnic dancing and music, food vans and etc
- TUES 12 NOV — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome.
- TUE 3 DEC — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
- Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
- SUN 8 DEC — Where Pigs Fly Open Day - Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Location: Where Pigs Fly Animal Sanctuary, Laguna, NSW
- TUES 10 DEC — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 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

# In The Garden

## Spring gardening tips and ideas



Spring is the best time to get out in the garden. The winter chill has gone, the days are getting longer and your garden is about to burst into life. Bunnings Greenlife buyer Katrina Gatt has some great ideas to get your garden looking its best over the coming months.

**Make grass greener**  
To get your grass going, get out the garden fork and aerate your lawn. In early spring, apply a weed killer to remove broadleaf weeds and those pesky bindii. Follow up a few weeks later with lawn fertiliser to keep the grass growing strong and prevent new weeds.

If you have some bare patches or want to start a whole new lawn

from scratch, now is the time to prepare the lawn to grow grass from seed. When the soil warms up, you'll be able to establish your grass before the heat of summer hits.

**Trim and tidy**  
Prune trees and shrubs to remove any withered winter leaves. Trim your hedges to encourage new growth. If you haven't done it already, summer flowering shrubs like hibiscus and hydrangea should be trimmed now so all their energy goes into producing beautiful blooms. Leave it any later and you risk cutting off the buds.

**Time to plant**  
Spring is the perfect time to plant just about anything. The

soil moisture is still high and plants can become established before the heatwave hits. To add organic matter and nitrogen to your veggie patch, consider a green manure crop. Once it starts shooting, dig it back into the soil for a naturally prepared bed. For a complete list of what to plant based on where you live, check

out our spring planting guide.

**Fertilise**  
Before the growing season gets into full swing, just about everything will appreciate a good dose of fertiliser. Blood and bone and dynamic lifter are perfect for Australian natives. Just throw a handful over every four square metres. Dig compost and manure through

the veggie patch and soluble fertilisers to any veggies that you already have planted. Potted plants will love liquid fertiliser for a quick boost and a dose of slow release fertiliser to keep them going. Use specialist fertilisers for roses, citrus and orchids as they contain the particular nutrients these plants need.

**Watch out for pests**  
As the weather warms up aphids become active in the veggie patch or on the new growth of roses. Psyllids can also appear on the new growth of Lilly Pillies and need to be controlled to prevent them spreading. Use a garden insecticide to keep them in check.

## 6 plants that repel mosquitoes and flies



Using plants is a natural and effective way to repel mosquitoes, flies and other insects from entering your home. Certain plants can also prevent pests like slugs and snails from destroying your flower or vegetable garden. Here's a list of the six best insect-repelling plants.

**Citronella geranium (pelargonium citrosum)**  
Once the leaves are crushed this plant releases a pungent odour which has been known to repel mosquitoes and other bugs. It can also be used to make sprays or rubbed into the skin as repellent. Grows approximately 1m x 70cm/ Requires full sun and light shade/ Prefers well-drained soil/ Hardy plant

**Rosemary (rosmarinus officinalis)**  
An easy-to-grow and low-maintenance plant. It's often used as a culinary herb due to its fragrant foliage but it also repels mosquitoes and other insects. Grows approximately 1.8m x 1m/ Requires full sun/ Prefers well-drained soil/ Hardy plant, prune well to maintain shape/ For smaller gardens, they can be put in pots, or a ground-cover

version is available

**Basil**  
A tasty addition to meals and salads, it also repels house flies, mosquitoes and whiteflies. To make the most of its repelling effect, it's best planted in pots and left near front entrance ways and alfresco areas. Grows approximately 90cm x 60cm/ Requires part to full sun/ Use a good quality compost or potting mix and water regularly/ Purple version available

**Lavender (lavandula species)**  
Unwanted bugs—especially fleas, flies, mosquitoes and moths—hate the scent of lavender oil once its extracted. Another tip is to make small posies of lavender and then leave them in clothes drawers or cupboards to keep moths away. Grows approximately 1.2m x 1.2m/ Requires full sun/ Use a good quality compost or potting mix, though it'll grow well in most soil types/ There's many different varieties available to choose from including varying flower types, flower colours and heights

**Marigolds**  
Most commonly used as a companion plant in vegetable gardens to attract bees and beneficial insects. At the same time, they repel nematodes and whiteflies. Nematodes are microscopic worms that cause havoc on the root system of plants; particularly the Solanaceae family—capsicums, potatoes, tomatoes etc. Once a marigold's life is spent, they can be turned into soil. Grows approximately 30cm x 30cm/ Requires part to full sun/ Use a good quality compost for planting and fertilise/water regularly/Removing spent flowers will encourage new growth/ Look out for different colours

**Oregano, parsley or thyme**  
The scent given off from these plants confuses and repels pests and should be used as a companion plant. They're also used for cooking. Grows approximately 30cm x 50cm/Requires part to full sun/Use a good quality compost or potting mix for planting/Excellent also as a groundcover to suppress weeds. Other plants to consider:- *Garlic, Lemon grass, Lemon thyme, Nasturtiums, Petunias, Tansy, Venus flytraps (or pitcher plants) & Wormwood*

version is available

 You are invited to  
**Branxton's 5th Annual Dress in Pink High Tea Fashion Extravaganza**  
featuring  
**Sue's Clothing, Rutherford**  
With Sarah Farley as MC  
from 2NURFM  
**Wednesday 16th October 2019**  
10.00am  
**Branxton Community Hall**  
Tickets \$20 to be pre purchased  
for Women's Cancer  
Catering by Branxton Greta CWA Ladies  
Helen 0427 047 024

  
  
  
**High Tea**

**Singleton Quilters Inc presents**  
**QuiltFest 2019**  
**20th - 22nd September 2019**  
Friday 10 - 4pm  
Saturday 10 - 4pm  
Sunday 10 - 3pm  
**Mechanics Institute**  
74 George Street  
(New England Hwy) SINGLETON  
Entry \$5 per person donation.  
**Sale Table, Demonstrations & Pop Up Shop**  
**Thimbles & Threads from Denman**  
**All proceeds from the Raffle Quilts to the Singleton High School Special Education Uni**  
**Enquiries:**  
Marea (President) 0408 731 529  
Kim (Secretary) 0415 804 856  
Jane (Treasurer) 0448 773 203

# School News



## Kirkton Public School

Our debating team participated in a very close match with Kurri Kurri Public School on Thursday. Their improvement was evident, however we were defeated narrowly. Thank you to Cessnock Toastmasters for helping our school with the Premier's Challenge Debating competition. Mr John Quinn, who is a member at Cessnock Toastmasters, assisted as an adjudicator at the Debating Gala Day and again for our last debate on Thursday.



This term we will be hosting Triple M from 6am-9am on the 19th September which is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Triple M will provide a bacon and egg breakfast.

On this day we will also welcome some of our local preschool students for some pirate activities with our Kirkton students and families, finished with a Splash and Dash. We will use this day to help us raise funds for our play equipment with an online donation platform being set up now— information to come to you shortly. We also intend to donate 10% of total funds raised to Childhood Cancer Support.

## Branxton Public School



**Branxton Public School News**  
Kindergarten enjoyed their first excursion in Week 2, with a trip to Hunter Valley Zoo. The staff, students and parents had a wonderful day exploring this amazing local venue. The children were able to get up close and personal with many animals, including lizards, kangaroos, alligators, goats, emus and dingo pups. Thank you to the many parents who helped to make the day so special for our Kinders. Education Week was celebrated on Thursday last week with open classrooms, a special assembly and a picnic lunch for families.



■ At the zoo



■ At the zoo



■ Junior Dance Group

It was lovely to have so many interested visitors to our school and we know the students enjoy sharing their efforts with families and friends. There was also an awards ceremony at Rutherford Technology High School to acknowledge the achievements of staff, students and community members. Congratulations to Mrs Maier (Leadership Award), Mrs Kerrie O'Brien (Community Award), Mr Onslow (Non-teaching Award), Pat Bush (Aboriginal Student Achievement Award), Jeremy Bourke (Student Award), Mr Foster



■ Jeremy with his award



■ Pat with his award

(Teacher Award), Mrs Goodyer, Mrs Noble, Mr Foster, Mrs Wicks (Special Award for School Promotion Team - Facebook). During the ceremony the BPS junior dance group, led by Miss Elsley, performed and delighted the crowd to "You've got a friend in me". Well done to our Public Speakers who represented BPS last week at the Zone Public Speaking competitions. They all did their Personal Best with their entertaining, informative and persuasive speeches.

### Dates for the Calendar

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August – Staff Development Day (no students)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August – Book Week activities

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



## Central Hunter Business Chamber Brekkie

**Tuesday 10th Sept 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:  
To be confirmed**

**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.stickytickets.com.au/87669>



### 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



**"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton**  
Recent sales



# Library News



# NFHM

National Family History Month

original records they uncover in each episode? In this workshop we will watch an episode and Council's Local Studies Librarian Kimberly O'Sullivan will explain how original records are uncovered.

On Tuesday 20 August between 11am to 12:30pm Kurri Kurri Library will host an 'Understanding Ancestry' workshop. Ancestry.com is a wonderful family history tool, but it can be tricky to use. Volunteer, Debbie Rowley loves Ancestry.com and wants to help you get the most out of this resource. This free workshop will help you negotiate your way through Ancestry.com and answer your common research questions. Access to Ancestry.com is via a

paid subscription, but did you know that if you are a member of Cessnock Library you have free unlimited access to the site with your library card? Cessnock Family History Group also operates from the Local Studies Room at Cessnock Library and they welcome visitors and enquiries.

Council's Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said family history and genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies around the world. "There are over 250,000 Australians who are members of family history related organisations and the month has broad appeal across Australia."

Bookings essential and bookings for all events can be made at <https://bit.ly/2RysR1T>.

**What:** Family History Month Events

**When:** Thursday 15 Aug 2019 10am to 12pm at Cessnock Library

Tuesday 20 Aug 2019 11am to 12.30pm at Kurri Kurri Library

# Science Week Rocks!



This week is National Science Week and Cessnock City Library is presenting some great FREE Science based talks and workshops.

On Wednesday 14 August, from 6pm to 7pm at Cessnock Library, Geological Survey NSW will present a fascinating FREE talk for adults: 'What Lies Beneath – An Introduction to the Geology and Rocks of the Hunter Valley Area.'

On Thursday 15 August 5.30pm to 6.30pm at Cessnock Library, Alex Morris will present a FREE 'Climate Reality' talk. Alex Morris is a member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps who recently attended Al Gore's Climate Reality Conference in Brisbane.

Bookings are essential and bookings for all events can be made at

<https://bit.ly/2RysR1T>. Council's, Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said it's exciting to partner with Climate Reality Corps and Geological Survey NSW to offer these engaging and informative activities.

"National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. It aims to encourage an interest in science pursuits among the general public, and to encourage younger people to become fascinated by the world we live in."

**What:** National Science Week events @ Cessnock City Library

**When:** Tue 13, Wed 14 and Thur 15 August

**Where:** Cessnock & Kurri Kurri Libraries.

## Who do you think you are? Find out this National Family History Month!

August is National Family History Month (NFHM) and Cessnock City Library is presenting two FREE workshops on genealogy and family history On Thursday 15 August from 10am to 12pm Cessnock Library

is presenting Unlocking the mysteries behind 'Who Do You Think You Are?'. The television series 'Who do you think you are?' has been a global phenomenon, but how do the archivists and historians find the



## 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)

## 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 11am-3pm

Wednesdays & Saturdays



## NOTICE

### Branxton Greta Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service

**Sunday 18 August 2019**

**Branxton Memorial Rotunda  
1030pm**

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

# SPORTS RESULTS

## RESULTS GOLF

### Branxton Veteran Golfers

*Results 1-8-19  
Stableford*

Div 1 Winner E Barrett 30 pts (c/b) R/u D Sheppard 30 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> J Sheedy 29 pts  
Div 2 Winner G Scobie 32 pts (SOD) R/u R Brooks 31 pts M Lutovac 30 pts  
Ladies Winner C Caldwell 29 pts R/u M Hunt 24 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Friis 20 pts  
NTP Ladies C Caldwell  
Gents J Flynn  
Members draw - Not won  
Another great Winter's day for a game of golf and for our players comfort. Congratulations to Graeme Scobie on winning his division and achieving the score of the day. A well done to other winners and placegetters. Many thanks to the veteran players, who gathered to make to-days event an enjoyable one.

*Results 8-8-19  
Stableford*

Div 1 Winner L Hunt 34 pts (SOD) R/u Musialek 31 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Crooks 28 pts  
Div 2 Winner B Ward 29 pts (c/b) R/u P Lancaster 29 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> I Harris 29 pts  
Ladies Winner H Van der Bruggen 32 pts R/u T Martin 28 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> J Harris 24 pts  
NTP Ladies H Van der Bruggen

Gents E Muzenberger  
Members draw - Not won  
What more can I say? The day was sunny, no breeze until we almost finished the round, then only gentle. The wind did freshen when all members were in the club house and the rain never eventuated. Congratulations to Lee Hunt on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

A REMINDER - Our next "Away Day" is to Hawks Nest", on Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019, gathering at 7.30 am for a 8 am 'shotgun' start. Members!, if you are planning to attend please submit your name to our Treasurer/Membership officer also, if you intend using a Golf Cart. This is to assist with the draw.

*LN Bootes, Hon Sec*

### Hunter Valley Golf Club

**Sunday 28th July**  
Mitch Attewell has produced a solid 40 point round to claim the Weekly Challenge from Wayne Thompson who returned 38 points

### Tuesday 30th July

Ken Scott-MacKenzie recorded 27 points on the back nine to haul in the early leaders with his 18 hole score of 42 points to nudge Col Bradley to 2nd with 41 with Scott Conti holding on to 3rd with 39 on countback. Ball winners were: Andrew Causey v39, Graeme Flynn 38, Steve Piggott 38, Paul Smith 38, Ryan Wilson 38, Terry Webb 38, Greg Harder 37, Dean Morison 36, Jason Bear 36, Bill Williams 36, Jason Cowburn 36, David

Peel 34, Mark Makin 34, Steven Kane 34, Bob Prentice 34, Joe Olsen 34, Gunther Shilko 33, Wayne Cowan 33, Richard Craft 22 and John Stewart 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Payne (3rd & 10th) Paul Smith (8th) and Steve Piggott (4th & 17th)

### Wednesday 31st July

Maureen Donaldson has won the Ladies Par event with +2 from Jeanette Irwin +1 and Leesa Robinson 3rd with square. Ball winners were: Toni Fisher -1, Jill Slatter -1, Jenny Chambers -1, Joy Provenzano -1 and Glenda Williams -2 c/b.

### Thursday 1st August

Peter Threadgold did best of many great scores to win the Vets Stableford with 44 points from Phil Small with 42 on countback to Steve Piggott. Ball winners were: Bindi Manderson 41, Paul Adams 41, Doug Harley 40, Kevin Dick 39, Phil Wetzler 39, Michael Watson 38, Kerry Bartlett 38, John Hogg 38, Bill Davey 38, Wayne Barber 37, Graeme Smith 37, Geoff Sweetman 37, Terry Webb 37, Ryan Wilson 37, Paul Smith 37, Dave Fury 36, Graham Morris 36, Geoff Geason 36, Richard Craft 35, Dale Macklingshaw 35, Gary Johns 35, David Peel 35, Dave Blackburn 35, Ken Springbett 35, James Hogg 35, Bruce Mathews 35, Phil Marks 35, Wayne Drayton 35, Paul Ireland 34, Michael Gilbert 34, Mark Green 34, Peter Mathews 34, Fluff Clark 34, Chris Norman 34 and Norm Barry 34 c/b. The 2BBB played in conjunction went to Terry Webb & Kevin Dick with 51 points from Tom Bell & Phil Small who survived a countback for 2nd with 50 points. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ken Morris (3rd) Steve Rawlings (4th) Don Bradley (8th) Ken McLaughlan (10th) and Wayne Barber (17th). The raffle has been won by Bindi with Dave Gellwiler 2nd.

### Saturday 3rd August

The Monthly Medal has been won by Simon Nicholson with 67 Nett on countback, A Grade went to Andrew Zok with 70 Nett with David Peel runner up with 71, B Grade to LLoyd Barrett with 70 Nett with Matt Lorenz 2nd with 71 and C Grade to the unlucky Billy Davey with 67 Nett with Bill Mitchell runner up with 69. Ball winners were: Max Hindmarsh 71, John Parish 73, Liam Stewart v73, Bruce Chambers 73, Scott Jones 73, Stephen Zok 73, Phil Small 73, Jason Cowburn 74, Kerry Bartlett 74, Shawn Parish 74, Ben Bradley 74, Ryan McGregor 74, Denis Corke 75, Justin Woodbine 75, Peter Huckfelt 75, Mark Makin 75, Graham Morris 76, Lindsay Meyn 76 and William Harden 77 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins Jeremy Holden (3rd) David Peel (4th) Tom Bell (10th) Phil Small (17th).

### Sunday 4th August

Steve Piggott has put in a great round of 79 to finish 4th in District Championship for Seniors played at Kurri, while he was nudged from 3rd on countback he finished only 2 strokes behind the winner, well done Steve. The Weekly Challenge has been won by Jai Kumar with

38 points from Ian Harris of the Tamworth GC with 37 points.

### Tuesday 6th August

Inform Simon Nicholson has added to his weekend success with another slashing round of 43 points to clearly win the Tuesday Stableford from Darrell Porter 40 and Bill Freeman 3rd with 38 points. Ball winners were: Jason Cowburn 37, Ian Newell 37, Geoff Wiese 37, Graeme Flynn 36, Col Bradley 36, David Peel 35, Terry Webb 35, Bill Williams 35, Garry Marsden 34, Toby George 34, Damien Porter 33, Bob Prentice 33, Rex Talbot 33, Phoussang Sihapanya 32 and Geoff Boyd 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jason Cowburn (3rd & 8th) Steve Piggott (4th) Lachlan Peacock (10th) & David Peel (17th)

### Wednesday 7th August

The Ladies Stableford has been won by Jill Slatter with 38 points from Mary Fortey with 34. Next week the Ladies will play the HRDGA Medal Stroke round with a \$2 entry fee in conjunction with Rd 6 of Golf NSW Medal and Putting comp.

### Thursday 8th August

Peter McIntyre received the Judges nod in the Medley Stableford after he and Ron Higginbottom both carded 42 points. Wayne Cowan took 3rd with 41. Ball winners were: James Schofield 40, Mark Barrow 39, Doug Harley 39, Mark Green 38, Ken Harris 38, Rod Williams 37, Graeme Flynn 37, Stephen Clark 37, Bob Manderson 37, David Peel 37, Dave Gellwiler 37, Garry Clarke 36, Neil Peterson 36, Wayne Drayton 36, Dale Macklinshaw 36, Paul Adams 36, Alan Kendall 36, z Kerry Bartlett 36, Ken Blackett 36, Danny Schofield 36, Simon Nicholson 36, Graham Donaldson 35, Evan Powell 35, Kevin Dick 35, Gary Tomlinson 35, Ian King 35, Gary Johns 35, Greg Amloh 34, Noel Eilenor 34, Geoff Sweetman 34 and Alick Bender 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ron Findlay (3rd) Garry Clarke (4th) Greg Harder (8th) Kevin Dick (10th) and Jeff Taylor (17th). The 2BBB winners were Evan Powell & Rod Williams on countback from Ken Blackett & John Tancred after both teams returned 49 points. The raffle has been won by Rod Williams with Geoff Sweetman 2nd. Next week the Vets will play Stroke.

### Saturday 10th August

Strong wind and cool conditions led to average scoring in the Blue Tee Challenge with Kerry Bartlett returning 37 points for a clear win in A Grade, Paul Bullock was 2nd on countback with 30 points, B Grade to Paul McCudden with 39 points from Jeremy Holden 37 and C Grade to Andrew Schofield with 36 on countback to Bill Mitchell. Ball winners were: David Agnew 34, David Crowley 34, William Harden 32, Adam Tomlinson 31, Luke O'Donnell 31, Paul Adams 31, Michael Gilbert 30, David Peel 30, John Parish 30, Ken Springbett 30, Leon Dureau 30 and Peter Huckfelt 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Geoff Boyd (3rd) Paul McCudden (4th)

Paul Adams (8th) Paul Bullock (10th) and David Peel (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford.

### Branxton Lady Golfers

*24 July 2019 - Stableford*  
Winner: Caren Caldwell with 32 points

Runner Up: Diane Williams with 31 points  
NTP: Caren Caldwell

*31st July 2019 - Stableford*  
Winner: Ruth McCarthy with 35 points

Runner-up: Trish McMillan with 34 points  
*7th August 2019 - Monthly Medal*

Winner: Jen Salna with 71 nett

Runner-up: Neridah Busch with 84 nett



### Wildcat Juniors wrap up the season, with competition teams taking on premierships!

Greta Branxton Wildcats is wrapping up the season with some great accolades under their belt for 2019. All Junior Mini Roos teams have had a great season, learning some great skills and making new friends. They are all disappointed that the season has come to an end. The under 3 & 4 program was very successful with 50 players. Under 6-11s had a massive 25 teams including the Under 10 & 11s development squads, who played in the inter district competition with Newcastle & Macquarie's top teams and successfully showed their mark.

Inter-district teams from U12s through to seniors, have all had a great season. This is the first year for many; The first year Wildcats have put an Under 12s team into B grade (the competition does reach to L grade). The team, under clubs coaching coordinator Peter Stanbridge were mostly players from last years development squad and slotted straight into this level of football and although just missed finals they have been very successful and competitive at this level. This level of football for junior

competitive teams, forms part of the clubs plan which is proving successful, retaining skilled players and giving them a decent level of football to play locally.

### MINOR PREMIERS Under 13s

Team have had a fantastic season with coach Grant Hamilton. The team are not only minor premiers, but have done so convincingly, sitting at 40 out of a possible 42 points for the season with 11 wins & 1 draw is fantastic. We know grant will have them training hard over the next 3 weeks to retain their title and hopefully win the major premierships as well.

You can watch the U13s at Miller Park, 9am this Saturday take on Mayfield Jnrs in their semi final.

**Under 15s** is a newly formed team with a mix of U14 & 15s. They were placed together this season and joined up with newly appointed coaches Kane Koosmen & Dylan Siddens who both successfully play in the mens teams. Kane & Siddo stepped up into the coaching role this year for the first time, taking time out of their weekends to complete a coaching course to specifically help this team, and have certainly formed part of this teams success.

This group have formed an awesome bond over the season and have already asked to stay together as a group and have asked the coaches to again coach their next seasons team - you can't ask for more than that!

The under 15s team comradely and mate ship, along with their commitment to the game & training has most certainly help them earn the minor premierships as well, sitting in first place of their competition also undefeated with 10 wins and 2 draws. Head down to Tredennick Oval, Speers Point this Saturday at 10.45am for their semi final game.

**Under 16s** coached for the second season by Stewart Thrift & Lauren Fairfull have too, come away as minor premiers. This grade has had some fierce competition with a struggle for top spot on the ladder being fiercely contested by Warners Bay & Westlakes teams right until the last game. Our Wildcats still came away with 11 wins, just 2 losses & 1 draw. They will head to the semi finals at Miller Park this Saturday at 10.45am for a clash with Warners Bay, the only team to have beaten the wildcats this season. It will be the game of the day to watch with some fierce skills on the park, fighting it out for a win.

**Over 35-1s**, are another of Greta Branxton FC teams to be successful and walk out as minor premiers, sitting just a couple of points above their nearest rivals. They will head to Kahibah Friday night at 8pm to take on the team in the number 2 team in the major semi final.

We wish our 4 teams the best in the final series. They're already bringing home trophies for their wins over the season, but we wish them luck for the extra wins and the extra medals around their necks in the final series! The honey grain medals of football!

**Zone League 3** - have had a massive season which still continues. 2018 saw our top mens team win A Grade inter district grand finals and the club take the leap of faith into Zone League 3 for 2019. The season has been very tolling with a longer season, extra games and harder clashes which also brings about more injuries. A standard competition has 14 rounds- Zone League this season, has had a massive 21 rounds. Club President Luke Thrift said, With just 1 round left to go before the semi finals kick off, the boys in zone league have had an absolutely successful season. First grade have secured overall second place on the ladder already, while the reserve grade boys will look to finish anywhere between 2nd & 4th spot with coach Jeff Robinson aiming for this team to finish nicely in 2nd position as well.

Zone Leagues last game kicks off at Minimi on Saturday at 12.45 & 2.30pm, followed by 2 weeks of semi final legs & a grand final the week after all other teams have finished. You can catch the boys at home for their second leg of the semi final at Miller Park on the 31st August. Tentative time is 5 & 7pm after all other inter district grand finals are finished for the day.

3 photos attached to this email/ article  
Individual team reports:  
**Under 8-2s vs Cessnock PCYC 3rd August 2019**  
It was one of the most evenly contested matches that the team had all season against a much improved Cessnock PCYC. The boys did well to match their opponents in a physical but largely well spirited match. Jude scored a great goal to get the scoring under way and Carter and Harlan also contributed goals. There were plenty more chances but the team struggled to find the back of the net. Luckily the team

defended well and kept the shots from the opposition to a minimum. Well done to Will who yet again had a solid game with some good tackling and accurate passes.  
**Over 35-1s vs Swansea 26th July 2019**  
It was a top of the table clash tonight as the Wildcats hosted a Swansea side that only just managed to put together 11 players. In the end it was a comfortable victory for the Branxton boys 7-3. The win was made easier in the 2nd half after Swansea were reduced to 10 men after one of their players continued to argue with the referee. It's good to see our players not getting involved in any of that - shout out to Giuseppe! It could have been a bigger win if not for some cheap goals we conceded, but this is something we'll work on at training (lol.) Grant played his part by scoring a hat-trick and caused the opponents all sorts of trouble throughout the match. Overall it was a solid victory - keep up the good work team.  
**Over 35-1s vs Warners Bay 2nd August 2019**  
It was hard not to get complacent tonight against a Warners Bay side that were out of contention for the semi finals, but they certainly put up a good fight. They almost went ahead in the early stages of the game when a goal bound header was cleared off the line. It was the introduction of Peely into the heart of midfield that turned the game and resulted in three quick goals in succession to give the Wildcats a 3-0 lead at half-time. Grant got his second hat-trick in as many weeks and has found his scoring touch at the right time of the year. The intensity dropped off in the second half which gave Warners Bay a glimmer of hope. They pinched one back after scoring from a dubiously awarded penalty, but the defence lead by Chris and Brimo stayed strong and prevented any more goals. Tim also had a good game and has been one of the unsung heroes of the team. 3-1 wasn't the result we deserved but it was the result we needed to remain top of the table for another week.

## YOUR friendly team

# The News

Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator  
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# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The News **SPORT**

**Branxton  
Greta  
Little  
Athletics**



**Branxton Greta Little Athletics coming season looking good!**



The Branxton Greta Little Athletics season start is getting much closer with registrations opened online at Little

Athletics NSW. The club's new President, Daniel Webber, says that club has shown great

growth over the past 3 seasons under the guidance of previous President, John Hamson, and with the help of Daniel's committee he plans to continue growing the club.

"Branxton Greta Athletics had a very strong presence last season at Zone, Regional and Dubbo State Combine Multi carnivals and 6 athletes attending State at Olympic Park in Sydney. This season we are becoming a One Sport club, therefore we are able to cater to Seniors 18yrs - Opens," said President Daniel Webber.

"We also welcome Kaylem Rouse this year, our club's first Multi-Class athlete. As the club grows there will be a large focus on inclusion and diversity."

Daniel said that he has a great support network within his committee to take the club to the next level. Some other new additions to the team are Barry Richards, Vice-President and also the club Coach.

"With Barry's larger than life personality he is the perfect fit for these roles in the club. Sarah Richards, Secretary is also a great asset to the club," said Daniel.

The club would also like to acknowledge and thank their sponsors:- Royal Federal Hotel, A-Plus Contracting, Hunter Pet Motel, Branxton IGA, Huntlee, Bagley Painting, GoCon Rural Fencing, BAZAIR, Piggots Pharmacy, Miller Park Sports & Recreation Club, Gold Cobra, McDonalds Greta along with Hunter Business Chambers.

"With these funds the club aims to purchase electronic timing gates for this season at a cost of around \$11,500. Without this support the club would not be able to achieve this," said Daniel. For more information follow us on our facebook page, Branxton Greta Little Athletics.

Go along and join in— it's a great club.

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