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WEDNESDAY
28 August 2019

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School NEWS



New Cessnock City Council General Manager appointed

Cessnock City Council has announce the appointment of Lotta Jackson to the position of General Manager.

Ms Jackson will replace former General Manager Stephen Glen who announced his retirement earlier in the year and finished with Council in July. Ms Jackson has extensive local government experience, spanning over 20 years, her most recent role as the General Manager of Norfolk Island Regional Council. Ms Jackson has also held executive positions at Tenterfield Shire Council and Glen Innes Severn Council. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated Ms Jackson on her success and is looking forward to working together.

“Lotta is well regarded in local government and has the proven ability to lead organisations. “She is passionate about community and is dedicated to driving positive change. Lotta has a broad range of skills and a genuine focus on community. I look forward to welcoming Lotta to the Cessnock Local Government Area.” Ms Jackson is eager to start the role and looks forward to getting to know staff and the community, and liaising closely with the Mayor and Councillors in achieving outcomes. “I’m looking forward to exploring the wishes and aspirations of the people of the area now and into the future, including local employment and services, and maintaining and enhancing the environment for

both residents and visitors to enjoy.” Originally from Sweden, Lotta has spent two decades in Local Government in NSW, with half of that time in executive positions. Her extensive Local Government experience has been across various sized councils with populations ranging from 1800 to 150,000, across urban, coastal and rural areas. Lotta has several degrees including a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Master of Business Administration and a Graduate Diploma Psychology. Ms Jackson will commence in the position on Monday 30 September 2019.



■ Cessnock City Council's new General Manager Lotta Jackson. Ms Jackson will commence in the position on Monday 30 September 2019.

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Become a tech savvy senior

Don't get left behind in the digital age we now live in! Become tech savvy by taking part in the upcoming fun and FREE Be Connected Technology Workshops for local seniors and the wider community at Cessnock City Library. Council's Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Wal-

ters is encouraging local seniors and the wider community to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. "It's about teaching you that technology isn't terrifying or to be avoided, rather it can be an incredibly useful tool when you have the skills to get the most out of your device."

Bookings are essential. Book online at libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au, through the event listing on our 'Cessnock City Library' Facebook page or by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.



The following workshops are on offer from 10am to 12pm.

Friday 6 September: Absolute Basics	This course will teach you the absolute essentials of using your device, whether it is a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone.
Friday 20 September: Getting to Know Your Device	This course will teach you the basic functions of a keyboard, a mouse and a computer, including how to change settings and manage your files.
Friday 4 October: Getting Started Online	Navigating the online world can be a little tricky at first, but this course will teach you some essential skills to getting started online.
Friday 18 October: Online Hobbies	This topic has courses on some of the fun hobbies you can do online. You can learn how to become your family's ancestry champion, and explore the amazing world of Google Earth, Google Voyager and Google Arts & Culture, to whisk you away on a tour of the globe from the comfort of your own living room. You can also write your first blog.
Friday 1 November: More Online Skills	In this course, you will learn how to shop safely online and how to connect with friends and family using social networks. You will also learn about how to use a digital camera and how to watch TV or listen to music online.
Friday 15 November: Connecting to Others	This course will teach you how to get set up with the correct equipment to make video calls. It will also teach you about some different ways to make free video calls using applications such as Skype, WhatsApp and FaceTime.



Cessnock City Council Expressions of Interest Alternate Member Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel

Reference Number: E1819-89 Location: Cessnock Local Government Area

Cessnock City Council is seeking Expressions of Interest to nominate as alternate members for the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel (RPP), to represent the Cessnock Local Government Area where an appointed member has declared a conflict of interest. Planning Panels are independent, expert bodies introduced in NSW in 2009 to strengthen decision making on regionally significant development applications and undertake rezoning reviews, as well as providing advice on planning or development matters when requested. The term of the contract is for three (3) years from date of appointment. Regional panel members are appointed based on their expertise in either planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism or government and public administration. Together they ensure development decisions are made on technical merits, efficiency, fairness and transparency, with the added benefit of local knowledge. Nominated members are required to:

- Have expertise in either planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism or government and public administration;
- Have a good working knowledge of relevant state and local government legislation, including the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and knowledge/understanding of the planning process, including the assessment of complex developments;
- High level communication skills;
- Be able to work within a team;
- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of the planning process and assessment issues;
- Be able to represent and communicate the interests of the local community;
- Commit to attending the Panel meetings and site inspections where required;
- Be able to contribute constructively to the determination of applications;
- Not be a Council Official (i.e. a Councillor or Council staff member, or a spouse, de-facto or same sex partner of the Councillor or Council staff member);
- Be willing to adhere to the Planning Panels Operational Guidelines, Cessnock City Council Code of Conduct and Planning Panels Code of Conduct; and
- Complete a Pecuniary Interest Form (which is available on Council's website).

Whilst it is not essential Council's preference is to appoint persons who reside in either the Cessnock LGA or the Hunter Region. Applicants are required to be aware that pursuant to Section 2.18 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, those ineligible to become planning panel members (and will not be considered) include:

- A councillor of that or any other council; or
- A property developer within the meaning of Section 53 of the Electoral Funding Act 2018 (Noting that Section 53 of the Electoral Funding Act 2018 provides that property developer includes a person who is a close associate of a property developer); and
- A real estate agent within the meaning of the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002.

Consideration, assessment and appointment of applicants is at the sole discretion of Council. For further information on the role and how to submit an Expression of Interest, please refer to Council's website under the 'Planning and Environment' tab.

Professional Fee: Professional fees will be paid according to the alternate member's expertise

Enquiries: Janine Maher, Development Services Manager on (02) 4993 4254

Closing Date: 25 September 2019

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

31 August 2019

Happy Days Records

The Rock & Roll Circus Tour rolls in to Cessnock on its Australia Tour

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Branxton..... 4938 3396	Cessnock... 4991 0555
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Rural Fire Brigades	Crime Stoppers
Belford..... 6574 7149	1800 333 000
Broke..... 6579 1491	Poisons Info 131 126
Greta..... 4015 0000	Hunter Water
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	1300 657 000
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Ausgrid..... 131 388
Rothbury.... 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	Lifeline131 114
Rothbury.... 4991 1733	Mental Health Line
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	1800 011 511
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support
Rothbury.... 4015 0000	4990 9609
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	Centrelink Self Service
Rothbury.... 4991 1733	136 240
Scotts	Medicare 132 011
Flat..... 6575 1200	Native Animal Rescue
Central	0418 628 483
(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	

Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service

18th August 2019 at Branxton Rotunda Memorial Cenotaph ~ 53rd Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan



A SMALL service gathered at Branxton Memorial Cenotaph on Sunday, August 18 2019, to commemorate Vietnam veterans and their service. The ceremony was led by Branxton RSL Sub Branch President, Brian Furner OAM, who is a Vietnam Veteran.

Other Vietnam veterans, Taffy Fauchon, Jim Phillis & Lester Bootes & others, helped the make the very memorable.

It was also the 53rd Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan with casualties of this battle being the greatest suffered by Australia in the Vietnam war.

"While not on the scale of Gallipoli or Kokoda, that battle demonstrated the Australian soldier in Vietnam served with the skills, effectiveness and courage of their predecessors who had established the spirit of Anzac," said Brian Furner OAM.

More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam and 521 lost their lives. More than 3,000 soldiers were wounded and countless more still live with the psychological scars of the war to this day.

Bioblitz is back again!



It's the time of the year when all the native animals come out to play and Bioblitz is on, hooray!

Bioblitz is a free event where a team of scientists and naturalists make themselves available to take locals on walks through the local bushland. This gives everyone the opportunity to ask lots of questions and find out more about our local bushland and the life it supports. Cessnock is a very significant area for conservation and as a result highly skilled ecologists, botanists, entomologists and mammal experts will be attending Bioblitz 2019. This year, Bioblitz will be held on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September at Poppethead Park, Kitchener. On Saturday night, there will be a spotlighting event from 7pm to 9pm. Sunday will be full of exciting events for the whole family with walks for everyone – nature photographers, bird lovers, people fascinated by fungi and loads more!

The local trail bike police are also coming along and there will be loads of information stalls. Rotary will have a sausage sizzle, and Stanford Merthyr Public will have a cake stall - so no need to pack your lunch! A skilled children's educator will be running a jam-packed kids program on the Sunday, guaranteed to leave them amazed as they get out and about in the wild. To avoid disappointment bookings are encouraged for adult activities. The kids program does not require registration. For more information and bookings visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Bioblitz.



■ Photos (at left): Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent after laying a wreath with Kevin Gordon on his way to lay his wreath & above: AIF diggers from Singleton Army Base who made up the catafalque party with, from left to right, Brian Furner OAM President Branxton RSL Sub Branch, Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent & Joe "The Piper".

Fashion Parade

Hosted by the Anglican Boutique On Shop
Cessnock Road, Branxton

Saturday
31st August, 2019
2pm to 4pm

Enquiries:
Margaret Lewis
0428 838 434

Cost: \$10 includes afternoon tea.

Venue: Greta Workers Club
2 West Street, Greta

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STEVE'S RANT

Fuel
 Most of us who drive will have noticed the signs on the back of trucks which say WITHOUT TRUCKS AUSTRALIA STOPS. When you think about that it is so true. Only trucks have the ability to deliver door to door across the who county including Tasmania. That same flexibility has enabled the warehousing of commodities in ever larger centralized depots so making vast improvements in productivity and efficiency in the supply chain. With the use of barcode commodity ID, computer record keeping and instant information transfer, suppliers and operators in the system can manage, "just in time", stock levels so that consumers always have a range of fresh produce in their local shops and there is no scarcity. By reducing the stock holdings and the capital investment required to maintain them, profits are increased and prices for the consumer are held down. This is a delicate balance which must be managed constantly, taking into account the risk of a breakdown in any part of the system. A major part of that system is trucks. If one or two of the trucks break down this will not stop the system for there are thousands of trucks to call from. If there is a product recall, that will only affect that brand for there are other producers of the same type of product. An individual in the system can make an error that stuffs up his operation but there are parallel systems each competing with each other and they will take up the

slack. Our supply chain is resilient and flexible but there is one factor which could bring things unstuck ... FUEL. The supply chain for fuel is subject to the same risks as we have discussed above but due to our reliance on imported fuel this system is subject to external risks which we cannot control. Should China become too pissed off with us it could quiet easily turn off our fuel supplies. We would have about thirty days supply in the system before the trucks stop - let alone anything else. A discussion paper has been produced for the Government on the matter of fuel security. This was based on the situation in 2013/14, and basically says while the system has worked well until now, despite the shocks of the GFC and the tensions in the Gulf of Arabia, has not been seriously disrupted. It is currently based on the commercial imperative of maintaining supply without holding excess in stocks (mandated reserves). Fuel stocks are currently divided between, 3 days' supply held at retail outlets, 10 days supply of refined stock at terminals and 5 to 12 days at refineries. This is broken down into:- 20 days petrol 17 days turbine fuel (Aviation) 16 days diesel oil. The fuel at sea in the tankers in not included in these figures. The International Energy Agreement to which Australia is a member mandate that each country has no less than 90 days supply in reserve. Australia



has not been in that position since 2000 when we still had quantities of local crude oil and refining capacity. We have neither now. What can the individual and the household do about this? There are several options including doing nothing at all and hoping for the best. Even if you disregard the breakdown in the supply chain for food, fuel and medicine other localized events such as flood, cyclones, bushfires and civil unrest can prevent you from shopping and prevent resupply to your local area. You need to have at least 7 days' supply of non-perishable food, medications and fresh water stocks in your possession. Do not rely on frozen items

because power outages usually come with natural disasters. It is also a good idea to have a battery powered portable radio receiver to keep yourself informed. Emergency lighting, candles, have a good shelf life. So, there you are. If those pushy Chinese want to interfere in our supply chain, we know they have the means. They have hacked areas of our computer network before and with the massive expansion of their Navy they certainly have the means to cut our ship-bound imports. They have already restricted imports of Australian coal in a hissy fit over the Australian ban on Huawei electronics company being involved in

the 5G network. (They are already working on the 6G). If we are to have any hope of pushing back on these attempts by China to interfere in our internal matters, we must develop a credible *military counter*. Relying on international legal systems or public opinion doesn't work with China. They are big and ugly enough to do whatever they want. Our only realistic option is the development of a nuclear deterrent and the means of delivering it. What form that takes is up to out defence professionals. Why they haven't been pushing for this over the last twenty years is a question they should be made to answer. Cheers, Steve.



It was announced last week that Cessnock City Council has secured \$3.65 million under the NSW Government's Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund to commence the Commercial Centre Masterplan for Kurri Kurri. Cessnock Council is adding a further \$520,000 topping it up to \$4.17m. Well done for Kurri Kurri & it will make a huge difference to their CBD when completed. I understand that CCC had

known it was coming since last February. The Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway & the Kurri Kurri CBD Upgrade were the two successful projects that Cessnock City Council endorsed in this round. The cycleway application was for \$2.6M, excluding the memorial aspect of \$1.2million, & the maximum Cessnock Council co-contribution (25%) is \$650,000. I have sent 2 media requests to the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro's office asking when we will know about the walkway funding; not a reply to either. I do consider that as belligerence. As I have said before Mr. Barilaro can you, please, cut the suspense and let us know.

given to the whole of East Branxton. That particular area also has the school bus terminus and families from East Branxton, including Dalwood Acres & Sutton Grove, drop off and pick-up during the school terms. At these times the intersection is a nightmare with parking already a big problem & as the surgery grows so will its traffic; it's now dangerous and with this development it will become even more so. I think it's fantastic to have more of these facilities in our town & I also understand the principal doctor is a nice guy & a very good practitioner but simply put ... more thought should have been given to the location. It's not the good doctors fault but the council who have given it the green light; authorities that design & give stamps of approval to matters such as this should be held to account particularly

when they have put residents into a danger zone. If it happens and that they have negated their duty of care then they should be held accountable with large fines and liability prosecutions. If this was the case maybe we would not have as many accidents such as the Golden Highway & Mitchell Line intersection at Whittingham, the

Whittingham to Singleton New England Highway & many dangerous school bus drop of zones. To those who read this and say I have a sour grapes attitude ... yes, I do live only 400 metres from the new surgery BUT it will not affect me as I will use Lindsay Street to go to Branxton CBD & I will walk to Miller Park Sports & Recreation Club for my well earned refreshment.

Gary "Gus" Kedwell, Branxton
 Celebrating Greta Army & Migrant Camp 1939-1960 @ the old camp site on Camp Rd. GRETA (9 & 10th November 2019)
 Just an update. Last Tuesday 27th August, we launched the above event with an interview on NURFM at 9.45am. Advertising/Commercials for the event, will commence in October with NBN in Newcastle during prime time till the Event in November. NURFM will be broadcasting at the event on Sat 9th November 2019. So much is happening and it is a work in progress with organising

Army vehicles and displays, flyovers, helicopter rides, camel rides, Light Horseman on Parade, Brass & Pipe Bands, Ethnic Dancing and lot of food stalls, market stalls, huge kids zone and Military Parade. The Governor General of Australia Mr David Hurley will be attending and opening the event on Sat 9th November. A lot of hard work has been done to get to this stage and it is going to be a ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT.



New Doctors Surgery East Branxton
 For those readers who are unaware a new doctors surgery is opening shortly in East Branxton. It is a new surgery but the principal doctor is simply re-locating his practice. Going by what has been said the new surgery will build up over a period of time to eventually offer many & varied health services.

This is wonderful service but the only thing that I have a problem with is its location; the busiest intersection in Branxton viz., the corner of Wyndham Street & Dalwood Road. Notice of the new facility from council was disseminated some months ago but only to adjoining property owners (I'm told). In my humble opinion notice should have been



Submit a letter to the editor

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

OR

emailed to

thenews@hotkey.net.au

Helen Scott, Secretary Central Hunter Business Chamber

Cessnock continues in a growth phase with record DA approvals

Cessnock City Council welcomed new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showing that positive growth continues in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). Last financial year saw a total of 1062 development applications and modifications determined.



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the number of development applications continues to increase indicating a growth phase for the Cessnock LGA.

“The data shows we’ve had a record number of residential building approvals in 2018-2019 with a 38.4% increase from 496 approvals in 2017-2018.”

“We’re bucking the trend when compared to the rest of the state with our residential dwelling approvals continuing to increase with 689 residential dwellings approved in the LGA. This brings the value of our building approvals, in the last financial year, to \$385 million.”

“This investment in our area will provide long term benefits on the local economy.”

Council’s application processing times were also a highlight of the data as Council’s average 52 days processing time remains well below the state average of 71 days. The median processing time for Council is 28 days. Mayor Pynsent congratulated Council’s team for continuing their strong record of efficient processing times.

\$3.65 million secured for Kurri Kurri commercial centre upgrade



Cessnock City Council has secured \$3.65 million under the NSW Government’s Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund to commence the Commercial Centre Masterplan for Kurri Kurri.

The Masterplan was developed in consultation

with the community to meet the evolving needs of Kurri Kurri residents. The upgrades will deliver improved facilities to the community encouraging redevelopment, visitation, accessibility and economic activity.

Council will also contribute around \$520,000 to the project bringing the total funding to \$4.17 million for

the Stage 1 works.

Stage 1 of the Commercial Centre Masterplan includes the design and upgrade of a length of Lang Street, Kurri Kurri which consists of:

- street tree planting
- landscaping
- footpath
- pedestrian crossing
- street furniture
- shelters
- lighting

signage
Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it’s a significant amount of funding for a vital project.

“These upgrades will retain the character of the Kurri Kurri commercial centre whilst catering for increased growth in the surrounding areas. I look forward to seeing the plans and designs.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the Kurri Kurri project was one of 11 infrastructure projects awarded funding under Round 6 of the NSW Government’s Resources for Regions program earlier this year.

“The Resources for Regions program recognises the important contribution mining-related communities make to the state, helps to strengthen local infrastructure and diversify their economies,” Mr Barilaro said.

“This planning and subsequent works will provide better transport links, new recreational opportunities and improved

accessibility for both locals and visitors, as well as increase the attractiveness of Kurri Kurri as a place to invest.

“This project is part of the \$294 million investment Resources for Regions has made into 65 projects since the program’s inception in 2012.”

Council will now undertake an extensive design and consultation process. The work is planned to begin next year.

This project is funded through the Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund, part of the NSW Government’s Regional Growth Fund. For more information on the project, visit

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/publications/KurriKurriDistrictStrategy.

■ Cessnock City Council Senior Strategic Planner Iain Rush, Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, Hunter Region Business Hub General Manager Kerry Hallett, Toby Thomas from Towns with Heart and Cessnock City Councillor, Rod Doherty.

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The 58 Riders

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On Friday, 6th September, 58 Riders and 24 Support Crew will depart from the Gold Coast to cycle 1,100km4kids for Camp Quality and raising money to assist the Camp Quality programs. On Sunday, 15th September, we will be greeting all the riders and support crew at the McCauley Hall, Branxton, at approx. 9-10am, with a Thank You complimentary morning tea which is becoming an annual event which we look forward to with great enthusiasm. This is a ride they do every year to raise money to support children with cancer or recovering from cancer. This year, instead of finishing in Newcastle, they will be finishing at the Bradford Hotel at Rutherford, so if you don’t get a chance to call in and see them at Branxton, you may get a chance to catch them at the finish line. Our last fund raising function for the year will be the Land Cookery/Product Promotion (Australian Honey) Day which will be held on a Monday in late October or early November, depending when Roslyn Shearer (Cookery Officer) can get a judge for the cake competition. It will be held at The Branxton Community Hall. Any non-members who want to enter can phone Marie Shearer, as per below details, for copies of a Cookery Schedule. We would happily welcome anyone interested in raising money to help others in need, or assist in any other ways, and also making new friends. Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or like any information, or attending any of our functions, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com Denise McGoldrick Publicity Officer.

REFLECTIONS

“Humility and Hospitality”

Jesus has been invited to eat a meal on the sabbath with a leader of the Pharisees. The sabbath is a Jewish holy day which is observed by religious Jews every week. It is a day of rest and a celebration of the Covenant between God and the Jewish people. Sabbath begins just before nightfall on Friday and concludes about an hour after nightfall on Saturday. During this time work and travel is prohibited ... this includes work for servants and animals. It is a time for families to gather together and rejoice in the kept promises of God and for the putting aside the normal everyday demands of life.

It is into this context that Jesus is going to the house. Jesus was aware that he was being watched and judged by the religious elite. It was on a recent sabbath that Jesus had healed a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years. At this time he showed that having compassion for another is holy, and that rather than violating sabbath law, the healing of this woman is consistent with sabbath intention and therefore enhances sabbath observances. Jesus is making a difference and the decisions that others are making is causing division.

It is not surprising then, that Jesus is being observed as he comes to this sabbath meal with the Jewish leaders. He sees a man with dropsy ... in the ancient Mediterranean world, dropsy was the swelling of the body due to retention of excess fluid. It was used as a metaphor for the greedy. The person with dropsy suffered from an insatiable thirst ... and the greedy suffer with an insatiable desire for money and prestige. But Jesus cannot ignore this man and he heals him ... reclaiming the sabbath as an occasion for healing and fullness of life.

Now that the scene is set, Jesus can use this meal to teach ... and he does! Jesus teaches that we should not go to sit at the places of honour when we are invited to a banquet, but that we should be humble and sit at the lowest place. It is much better to be recognised and asked to move up to a seat of honour, than it is to have claimed a seat of honour and have to relinquish it to someone else more important. This is not just good advice ... honour and shame are feelings that run deeply, and they are feelings that we recognise. Using these everyday life experiences, Jesus is able to indicate that when everything is reversed at the establishment of God’s kingdom, those who are humble with be exalted, that those who thought highly of themselves will be humbled. This everyday life experience enables Jesus to teach a profound lesson on the implications of the gospel. Where will you choose to sit? In a place of honour with the rich and powerful, or with the poor and lowly???

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.
We’ll take good care of him and he may even learn something
Just pay \$2.00 for his morning coffee
‘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

Congratulations to Mrs Alison Davey who has now officially been recognised and been named as Freeman of the City. The official ceremony took place last Friday and was an opportunity to recognise and congratulate Alison for her dedication to the Cessnock Local Government Area. The Mayoral Debate heats were held at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre last week and it was impressive to see some of our most talented local students \ debating some seriously tough topics. This year we had four teams participate from Mount View High School, St Philip's Christian College, Kurri Kurri High School and Cessnock High School. For the first time ever we had a Mayoral Team, which was made up of students from different schools.

The topics of debate included 'that protest action is an effective way to achieve change' and 'that we should reform the system of university entrance'. Students did an excellent job in their research and showed off some admirable debating skills. Congratulations to all the students involved. St Philip's Christian College and the Mayoral team were both successful in their heats and have qualified for the final. It's expected to be a great debate, the topic is 'that Cessnock is unfairly stigmatised as a community.' A topic suggested by teachers who know it will be an interesting one for the local young people to grapple with. Good luck! Thank you to all the teachers involved who make this debate happen. Your efforts are much appreciated, as this event is one we know our students find valuable and look forward too. Thank you to Cessnock Toastmasters Club for again assisting with organisation of the debate. The club provided one of their members to be involved in the pre debate briefing of students and teachers, and assisted with providing two adjudicators. Well done to John Quinn and Nicole Craft. An excellent contribution! Spring Awakening is back in 2019 bigger, bolder and brighter than ever before! The celebration of the arrival of spring will be held on Friday 6 September from

6pm to 9pm at the Cessnock TAFE Ground. This year we're excited to announce that the world-renowned JUNKYARD BEATS will be bringing their dynamic rhythm show to the Spring Awakening stage. There'll also be roving performers including some amazing sleight-of-hand from JD'S WORLD OF MAGIC and creative activities for the kids. The parade acts as the official commencement of the evening's festivities, departing from Cessnock Performing Arts Centre at 5:30pm and continuing via Vincent Street all the way to the TAFE grounds. For more information

www.cessnockperformingartcentre.com.au.
Cheers, Bob



Clr Melanie Dagg – Deputy Mayor & Cessnock City Councillor representing Ward 'C'

Council recently voted to place the Greta Central Park draft Masterplan on public exhibition. The Masterplan has been prepared based on detailed site analysis, site investigations, and community and stakeholder engagement. Key items identified within the Masterplan include:

- New amenity buildings for the rugby league field and horse sports area;
- Improvements to the main rugby league field including floodlighting, dug outs, and spectator mounds with terraced seating;
- Improvements to the junior cricket/rugby league fields including upgrades to surfacing, irrigation, floodlighting and provision of storage;
- Improvements to the informal sports area including surfacing upgrades;
- A children's playground with associated facilities (bubbler, seating, shelter, etc);
- A multipurpose court and hit up wall;
- Outdoor fitness equipment and sprint track;
- Upgrades to the skate-park;
- Fenced off leash dog exercise area and supporting infrastructure (shade, seating, water, etc);
- Improvements to

connectivity through a number of new pathways, and preservation of informal trails in the ecological zone;

- Improved vehicle access and parking;
- Lighting;
- A picnic and BBQ hub; Land identified for Greta Branxton Men's Shed. The works are proposed to be completed via a staged approach, but before we get to that stage it's important to have as much community feedback as possible. If you'd like to view the Masterplan and make comment, it will be exhibited at the usual public locations and also on Council's website. Council welcomed the recent State Government backflip on the Fire & Emergency Services Levy (FESL) they tried to impose on local government. Council supports career and volunteer firefighters, as well as all emergency services workers, for whom this levy assists by addressing a shortfall in workers compensation, but there was no warning or consultation about the consequences of this on local government. In May 2019, Councils were sent bills with a letter from Revenue NSW, saying council contributions to the levy would increase by \$19million in 2019/20 and Council received an invoice for \$448,565.59 for its own contribution, an increase of \$44,252 more than last year. This bill was received after Council had already prepared its budget for the upcoming financial year, and would have resulted in services and projects being axed. I commend the Government for listening to our concerns, however the future financial impacts of this policy decision will need to be addressed to ensure fairness in the scheme and financial sustainability into the future.
Cheers, Melanie



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

One of the key elements residents nominated in the vision for our area is to be a connected community and that's been a strong theme for the past couple of weeks in many ways, starting with a meeting with the Opposition Leader in Sydney last week. Singleton Council is proud of the relationships we have with both sides of politics at all levels, and I was very pleased to take the opportunity to meet with Jodi

McKay and Member for Cessnock and Shadow Minister for the Hunter, Clayton Barr MP so early on in Ms McKay's leadership. My fellow councillor Godfrey Adamthwaite, the General Manager and I made the trip to Sydney with a full list of topics to discuss, all based on Singleton's Advocacy Agenda and the issues most pertinent to the people of our local government area. Of particular importance were the construction of the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway, safety issues associated with the New England Highway at Whittingham, our issues with the current administration of the Resources for Regions program and the Two More Trains for Singleton campaign for increased passenger services. Of course, there has been action by the NSW Government around the Resources for Regions program and increased passenger train services. The Deputy Premier, John Barilaro announced a review of the Resources for Regions program in Singleton in April, and advised on a return visit last month that the outcomes would be announced in the near future. We also heard earlier this year that the long campaign for more passenger train services between Singleton and Maitland (including stops at Branxton and Greta) had been rewarded, with the announcement of up to three additional return trains to start in early 2020. Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen MP was the bearer of the good news, saying the matter had been the subject of consideration by Transport for NSW and, thanks to the hard work of many, was becoming a reality. It's an outcome I am very keen to see and as the months quickly count down to the new year, I have written to the Minister for Transport Andrew Constance to enquire about the progress of the implementation of the new services and to offer Council's assistance to encourage local commuters to plan to leave their cars at home.

As Mr Constance well knows, and as we told Ms McKay last week, public transport services – and passenger rail in particular – are vital to improve the livability of our town and villages, and are a tangible demonstration that our community is indeed connected to Maitland, Newcastle and beyond.
Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

I thank our local RSL Sub Branches and all those who

helped ensure the service and sacrifices of our Vietnam War veterans were appropriately honoured on Sunday. Interest in Vietnam Remembrance Day has grown in recent years and it's a welcome development. Tragically the politics of the South East Asia war denied our veterans the thanks, praise and support they deserved. They were even denied a proper welcome home. At the Muswellbrook Service, former SAS trooper Mick McCrone provided those gathered with a moving account of the special challenges our Vietnam veterans have had to endure. More than fifty years on, we cannot do too much to make up for the mistakes of the past and Vietnam Remembrance Day is an important opportunity to ensure younger Australians and future generations fully appreciate the deeds of those who proudly wore the Australian uniform in a war which stretched more than a decade and cost more than 500 Australians their lives and wounded further 3,000 troops. Sunday also marked the 53rd Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. In 1966, a few more than 100 Australian soldiers and a handful of Kiwis repelled a surprise enemy attack in the rain-drenched rubber plantations of Vietnam. The Aussies were initially outnumbered twenty to one. Delta Company fought off wave after wave of enemy assaults until eventual winning the battle with eventual assistance of artillery and air support. It was a victory our Australian Defence Force and all those who were involved are justifiably proud of. Let's not forget. The increasing propensity of the NSW planning system to take account of the impacts of our coal after it is exported is alarming. This is an issue which first emerged in the consideration of the Rocky Hill Mine project near Gloucester. That decision may have been the correct one given the visual and dust impacts on the nearby town, only those who know all the facts will know. But when the Company appealed the decision the Land & Environment Court decided to not only back the Independent Planning Commission's reasons for refusal but added its own additional concern: the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which would be generated when the coal is used in the customer country. Rightly, Australia has signed -up to an international agreement to reduce its GHG emissions in our own country. We must all play our part in addressing climate change. But Australia has made no commitment to dictate to other countries how they reduce their own emissions. That's a matter for them. If they want coal to be part of their path to \modernisation while finding other ways to reduce their GHG emissions, then that's a matter for them. Indeed, our international agreement specifically prevents double-

counting which would allow two countries the capacity to count carbon output reductions in their own ledgers.

Our customers in Asia remain keen to purchase our relatively clean and efficient coal. It's for them, not us, to consider any GHG impacts. If the NSW Government thinks otherwise its Ministers should say so. If not, they should address this looming threat to local coal mining jobs.
Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR A Not Well Kept Secret – Privatisation Leads to Mass Sackings

There has been quite a bit of political attention on the proposed mass sacking of up to 500 workers at Essential Energy. Keep in mind that Essential Energy was "protected" from the NSW Coalition Government's privatisation of our other electricity providers, Ausgrid and Endeavour Energy. Currently, the NSW Government is the one and only stakeholder of Essential Energy.

Essential Energy, in a fairly rough description, provides electricity to the rural and regional communities of NSW. The workforce is generally based in those same rural and regional communities. The recent focus on the mass job cuts at Essential has been about whether or not the NSW Government would allow these mass sackings, in country communities that are hurting from drought. At the time that the privatisation model was going through, the point was made to Government that without Ausgrid and Endeavour linked to Essential, and cross-subsidising the smaller and more stretched out Essential resources, that Essential Energy would struggle. Possible consequences included mass sacking of staff, reduced reliability of the network and much lower investment in maintaining and/or improving services. All of this advice was not only ignored, it was actually referred to as nonsense and scaremongering by the Coalition Government. The logic isn't hard to follow. (A) Start with a really good product. (B) Make massive cuts while things are going well. (C) Ride out the good times for as long as possible and explain repeatedly that the job cuts didn't hurt. (D) Profits appear to be good. (E) Get out before it all comes crashing down. Meanwhile, what hasn't been covered with the same attention has been the mass

sacking of Ausgrid employees since that same privatisation 4 years ago. Reports are that up to 600 people have lost their jobs in Ausgrid since 2015 and that there may be a future round of sackings of up to 300 more workers.

Typically, Ausgrid workers have been woven into the fabric of our many Hunter communities and towns. They are our neighbours, our sporting team coaches, our volunteers and they are the people that have helped to build and run one of the world's best, safest and most reliable electricity networks anywhere in the world. The "fair-weather" approach that has been implemented at Ausgrid is now being tried on, by the Government, at Essential Energy. What we already know in the Hunter is that those job-losses have been crippling to our local economies and families. And, while the sky hasn't exactly fallen, there were some very close calls that could have resulted in the network massively failing during these past 2 summers. No doubt in the coming years the local network will experience failures and there will be breakdowns both from low maintenance and freak weather events. And when the system fails, we will have to wait longer for the repairs as the workforce has been so savagely cut; and the further you live away from the major cities and towns, the longer you will wait. Meanwhile the Government assures you that this privatisation is PROGRESS!

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

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News
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Pharmacist Advice

Cortisone

What is cortisone?

Cortisone is a steroid that prevents the release of substances in the body that cause inflammation.

Cortisone is used to treat many different conditions such as allergic disorders, skin conditions, ulcerative colitis, arthritis, lupus, psoriasis, or breathing disorders.

Cortisone may also be used for other purposes not listed above.

Important Information

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to cortisone, or if you have a fungal infection anywhere in your body.

Before taking cortisone, tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, and about all other medicines you are using.

There are many other diseases that can be affected by steroid use, and many other medicines that can interact with steroids.

Your dosage needs may change if you have surgery, are ill, are under stress, or have a fever or infection.

Do not change your medication dose or schedule without your doctor's advice. Tell your doctor about any illness or infection you have had within the past several weeks.

Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Call your doctor for preventive treatment if you are exposed to chicken pox or measles.

These conditions can be serious or even fatal in people who are using a steroid.

Do not receive a "live" vaccine while using cortisone. The vaccine may not work as well during this time, and may not fully protect you from disease.

Do not stop using cortisone suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Talk to your doctor about how to avoid withdrawal symptoms when stopping the medication.

Wear a medical alert tag or carry an ID card stating that you take cortisone. Any medical care provider who treats you should know that you take steroid medication.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to cortisone, or if you have a fungal infection anywhere in your body.

Steroid medication can weaken your immune system, making it easier for you to get an infection.

Steroids can also worsen an infection you already have, or reactivate an infection you recently had. Before taking this medication, tell your doctor about any illness or infection you have had within the past several weeks.

To make sure you can safely take cortisone, tell

your doctor if you have any of these other conditions:

liver disease (such as cirrhosis); kidney disease; a thyroid disorder; diabetes; a history of malaria; tuberculosis; osteoporosis; a muscle disorder such as myasthenia gravis; glaucoma or cataracts; herpes infection of the eyes; stomach ulcers, ulcerative colitis, or diverticulitis; depression or mental illness; congestive heart failure; or high blood pressure.

It is not known whether cortisone will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using this medication.

How should I take cortisone?

Take exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results.

Your dosage needs may change if you have surgery, are ill, are under stress, or have a fever or infection. Do not change your medication dose or schedule without your doctor's advice. Tell your doctor about any illness or infection you have had within the past several weeks.

This medication can cause unusual results with certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using cortisone.

Do not stop using cortisone suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Talk to your doctor about how to avoid withdrawal symptoms when stopping the medication.

Wear a medical alert tag or carry an ID card stating that you take cortisone. Any medical care provider who treats you should know that you take steroid medication.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention. An overdose of cortisone is not expected to produce life threatening symptoms. However, long term use of high steroid doses can lead to symptoms such as thinning skin, easy bruising, changes in the shape or location of body fat (especially in your face, neck, back, and waist), increased acne or facial hair, menstrual problems, impotence, or loss of interest in sex.

What should I avoid while taking cortisone?

Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Call your doctor for preventive treatment if you are exposed to chicken pox or measles. These conditions can be serious or even fatal in people who are using a steroid.

Do not receive a "live" vaccine while using cortisone.

The vaccine may not work as well during this time, and

may not fully protect you from disease. Live vaccines include measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), oral polio, rotavirus, smallpox, typhoid, yellow fever, varicella (chickenpox), H1N1 influenza, and nasal flu vaccine. Avoid drinking alcohol while you are taking cortisone.

Cortisone side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- * problems with your vision;
- * swelling, rapid weight gain, feeling short of breath;
- * severe depression, unusual thoughts or behavior, seizure (convulsions);
- * bloody or tarry stools,
- * coughing up blood;
- * pancreatitis (severe pain in your upper stomach spreading to your back, nausea and vomiting, fast heart rate);
- * low potassium (confusion, uneven heart rate, extreme thirst, increased urination, leg discomfort, muscle weakness or limp feeling);
- * or dangerously high blood pressure (severe headache, blurred vision, buzzing in your ears, anxiety, confusion, chest pain, shortness of breath, uneven heartbeats, seizure).

Less serious side effects may include: sleep problems (insomnia), mood changes; acne, dry skin, thinning skin, bruising or discoloration; slow wound healing; increased sweating; headache, dizziness, spinning sensation; nausea, stomach pain, bloating; or changes in the shape or location of body fat (especially in your arms, legs, face, neck, breasts, and waist). This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur.

What other drugs will affect cortisone?

Many drugs can interact with cortisone. Below is just a partial list. Tell your doctor if you are using:

- aspirin (taken on a daily basis or at high doses);
- a diuretic (water pill);
- a blood thinner such as warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven);
- cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune);
- insulin or diabetes medications you take by mouth;
- ketoconazole (Nizoral);
- rifampin (Rifadin, Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane);
- or seizure medications such as phenytoin (Dilantin) or phenobarbital (Luminal, Solfoton).

This list is not complete and there are many other drugs that can interact with cortisone. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to any healthcare provider who treats you.

Get ready early for the upcoming bushfire season!

Cessnock City Council is urging residents to get ready early for the upcoming bushfire season, as the dry conditions are likely to lead to a prolonged and bushfire season ahead.

The best way to prepare is to head along to the Rural Fire Service's Get Ready Weekend that is happening on 14-15 September 2019 at local brigades.

Get Ready Weekend is a family friendly event and a great opportunity to meet your local firefighters, get involved in kids activities, climb aboard a fire truck, and see firefighting displays and specialist equipment. By visiting your nearest Get Ready Weekend event, you can do your bit

to prepare your family and property. To find out about your local event visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/get-ready.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's important as a community we are planned and prepared.

"The continuing dry spell and the on-ground fuel have the potential for a very dangerous and long bush fire season. We need to have these conversations early and ensure plans are in place in the event of a fire."

The Bushfire Danger Period (BDP) has been declared early in many parts of the state as a result of the ongoing dry conditions. It's expected the Cessnock Local Government Area may too

For information on making a bush fire survival plan, visit www.myfireplan.com.au or for information about permits and fire danger ratings go to www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

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~ Daily Thoughts ~

"You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, Australia is coming to the aid of the US, France is accusing the US of arrogance and Germany doesn't want to go to war." Anon.



Chilli & tamarind prawns

commence the BDP early.



Katie Quinn Davies recommends these chilli and tamarind prawns for a curry-style dinner with lots of heat but that won't weigh you down.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 3 large garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 long green chilli, seeds removed, chopped, plus extra sliced to serve
- 2 x 400g cans chopped tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups (375ml) Massel chicken style liquid stock
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- Zest and juice of 1 small lime, plus wedges to serve
- 1 lemongrass stalk (inner core only), finely chopped
- 1 kaffir lime leaf, finely shredded
- 3 spring onions, thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoons tamarind paste (see notes)
- 1/4 cup (60ml) coconut milk
- 1/2 bunch coriander, leaves finely chopped, plus extra leaves to serve
- 1kg green prawns, peeled, deveined
- Steamed rice, to serve

Method

Step 1
Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large deep frypan

over medium heat. Add onion, garlic and a pinch of salt, and cook, stirring, for 4-5 minutes until soft. Add the chilli, tomato, stock, fish sauce, lime zest and juice, lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, spring onion, tamarind and coconut milk, then stir to combine. Cook for 20 minutes. Stir in the coriander and prawns, then season and cook for a further 3-4 minutes until prawns are just cooked.

Step 2

Sprinkle the extra chilli and coriander over the prawns, then serve with steamed rice and lime wedges to squeeze over.

Nutrition

- 3709 kJ Energy
- 24.3g Fat Total
- 10.4g Saturated Fat
- 8.7g Fibre
- 122.4g Protein
- 1053mg Cholesterol
- 2932mg Sodium
- 7.5g Carbs (sugar)
- 43.8g Carbs (total)

Tamarind paste adds a tart flavour. It's from Asian food shops.

Out & About

with Mike Lowing

Branxton Truckies & Partners Truck Show

On the 17th August 2019 the bi-annual Branxton Truckies & Partners Truck Show was held at Miller Park Branxton. Organiser, Bob Rhodes, said that the day was a tremendous success, the biggest & best yet. "We had over 40 trucks, a event record crowd of over 350 & we also raised \$8800 towards cancer research," said Bob. "I would like to particularly thank the board of Miller Park Sports & Recreation club who gave our fundraising a final boost with \$500." (Photos compliments of Annemaree Winter)



■ Above: a tribute to the late Wal Knodler painted on one of the company trucks. Wal, unfortunately, lost his battle with cancer.




Event organiser Bob Rhodes who said the bi-annual event was the best ever.



Branxton's youngest entrepreneur


Branxton's youngest Entrepreneur, 7-year-old Archer Kowalski, at his fresh orange juice stand last Saturday morning. Business was brisk & those that purchased a glass said that the juice was just wonderful. "We stopped to see what was going on & purchased 2 glasses & it was first class," said one of Archers happy customers. Archer is a student at Rosary Park Catholic School Branxton & when asked why he was doing his fundraiser he said it was for his schools' Colour Run.





WITH

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



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

2019 ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary

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

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

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

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

A review of the 'minor injury' definition in the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017

The *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017* came into effect in 2017 and impacts upon all motor vehicle accidents in NSW occurring on or after 1 December 2017. Under the new scheme, many injured people are deemed to have sustained a 'minor injury'. The question of whether someone has sustained a minor injury is relevant to the determination of the persons' entitlement to claim damages and to income and medical treatment beyond 6 months from the date of injury.

So what is a 'minor injury' under the scheme? The 2017 Act provides that a 'minor injury' is a soft tissue injury or minor psychological or psychiatric injury. The Act defines a soft tissue injury as follows: "an injury to tissue that connects, supports or surrounds other structures or organs of the body (such as muscles, tendons, ligaments, menisci, cartilage, fascia, fibrous tissues, fat, blood vessels and synovial membranes), but not an injury to nerves or a complete or partial rupture of tendons, ligaments, menisci or cartilage."

The Act provides that a minor psychological or psychiatric injury is defined as an injury which "is not a

recognised psychiatric illness". The definition is also instructed by the 2017 Regulations. The test tends to focus on how to objectively diagnose the injury as opposed to considering the impact caused to the individual as a result of the injury. If an injured person has more than one injury and at least one of injuries is not a minor injury, they will avoid the 'minor injury' category. In other words, if someone has sustained soft tissue injuries and also a broken bone, the injuries as a whole will be considered non-minor. Ultimately it is the CTP insurer who makes the decision as to whether a person has sustained a 'minor injury' and this decision must be made at 3 months from the date that a claim is made. If a person receives a notice that they have a 'minor injury', they can request an internal review from the insurer but this must be made within 28 days. Requesting a review is a mandatory first step in challenging a 'minor injury' decision. If the 'minor injury' determination is upheld by the insurer, the injured person can lodge an

application the Dispute Resolution Service ("DRS") within 28 days from the earlier date of either receipt of the insurers internal review decision or the due date of that decision. The DRS will then refer the matter to a medical assessor. The medical assessor will issue a Certificate as to whether the injury is minor and the findings of this assessor are binding. There are appeal rights however these are limited. If there is a deterioration in the condition or new evidence becomes available that supports the submission that the injury is not minor, it may be possible for the injured person to undergo a further medical assessment. It should be noted that only one further medical assessment is available. The new scheme will have been in place for two years this coming December. This month the State Insurance Regulatory Authority ("SIRA") announced that they will be conducting a review of the 'minor injury' definition against the objectives of the Act. They are seeking feedback from people and organisations who have been directly involved with the CTP scheme since it commenced in December 2017. Further details on the consulting process can be found at www.sira.nsw.gov.au.

Cheers, Gemma

real estate industry for their landlord clients across New South Wales. RealtyProtect is a cost-effective option for landlords. Landlords also have the option of adding building cover for an additional premium. "Property managers have been very clear with us about what landlords look for in a landlord's insurance policy and some of the key issues that can arise with rental properties," he says. "They expect certain 'big ticket' items to be covered to consider buying a policy. JLT has worked with us to create a policy based on the feedback of property managers, that aims to meet the expectations of landlords". Trani says in the development of RealtyProtect, REINSW was determined to build a socially conscious insurance product. "We take our corporate social responsibility seriously," he says. "In the real estate industry, we're putting people into homes every day. Whether it's buying or leasing, it's what we do, and we do it well. With RealtyProtect, we're taking it one step further. For every RealtyProtect Landlord's Insurance policy purchased – and every subsequent renewal – REINSW and JLT will make a combined \$5 donation to The Salvation Army to assist people experiencing homelessness." Realty Protect Landlord Insurance will also be distributed by property managers who are members of REINSW. These property managers will arrange Realty Protect policies as Authorised Distributors of JLT and will receive commission for policies sold. To celebrate the launch of RealtyProtect, landlords in New South Wales who

purchase a new Landlord's Contents policy will receive their first 13 months of cover for the price of 12. Please note that this insurance cover is subject to the terms, conditions, limits and exclusions of the Policy and an excess may apply. This offer for RealtyProtect Landlord's Contents policies is available to landlords in New South Wales only. The first period of insurance will be for 13 months and on renewal, the policy period is for a 12-month period. For more information about RealtyProtect, visit realtyprotect.com.au or contact REINSW Business Development Manager, John Trani, on 0413 365 517 or at jtrani@reinsw.com.au.

Domain has experienced a doubling in the decline of new web listings

Domain has experienced a doubling in the decline of new web listings as its annual net profit fell 29 percent. Nationally, Domain new listings declined around 12 percent, double the 6% decline reported in the first half result. The real estate website lost \$6.2 million last year. It said revenue for the year to June 30 rose by almost 20 per cent to \$343.3 million but the bottom line was hit by previously announced impairments of \$179 million. The yearly results show revenue was down 6.1 per cent. The net profit after tax was \$37.4 million, down 29.3 per cent. Chief executive Jason Pellegrino said it was a

solid performance in the context of major listing declines in Melbourne and Sydney. "For FY19 Domain delivered a solid performance in the context of the challenging year faced by the Australian property market. To put this in perspective, property sales as a percentage of Australia's dwelling stock are at their lowest point in more than 20 years." Residential revenue increased 0.5% to around \$173 million. "This is a solid result from Residential in the context of lower listings volumes in key markets, where auction volumes declined around 25% in Sydney and 28% in Melbourne." Domain have suggested their proprietary datasets have shown some encouraging signs of buyer activity in the first weeks of FY20, including increased attendance at open for inspections and increased home loan application volumes. They did noted however that listings volumes remained weak in a seasonally low listings period, with national market new listings declining down 20 per cent in July 2019, with Sydney and Melbourne new listings down 26% and 27% respectively. Domain's media arm didn't fair much better. Media, developers and commercial revenue declined around 13 percent for the year. Pellegrino highlighted financing constraints and other regulatory issues which have shifted market demand from investors to owner-occupiers, and from large high rise

developments to smaller boutique projects which require a lower level of marketing support. Over the financial year Domain acquired CommercialView and increased their stake in Homepass. "During my first 12 months at Domain we have been focused on establishing and driving the strategy which will support our next phase of growth," Pellegrino said. "Our vision is to build a customer-centric Australian property marketplace. Everyone in our business is working to inspire confidence for all of life's property decisions. "There is substantial headroom to step change our performance by using our data to build products and offerings that better meet the needs of buyers, vendors and agents." "Domain is better placed than ever to deliver on our growth ambitions. This will be further supported as the market returns to a more positive listings environment. "Our relationship with Nine provides opportunity to expand Domain's reach and engagement through Nine's broadcast and digital assets, and we're excited about the upcoming launch of a new Your Domain TV show on September 7th."

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Housing finance figures show green shoots

The June 2019 Lending to Households and Business Figures released last week by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show rises in new lending commitments for both owner occupier and investor dwellings for the first time in over a year, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia. REIA President Adrian Kelly said overall the figures for June 2019 show, in seasonally adjusted terms, that the number of owner-occupied finance commitments excluding refinancing increased by 0.4 per cent. "There were rises in new lending commitments for owner occupier dwellings for

all states but falls for the territories," Mr Kelly said. "The value of investment housing commitments, excluding refinancing, increased by 0.5 per cent with the rise driven by the first rise in New South Wales since April 2018. "The number of loans to owner occupier first home buyers rose 2.1 per cent in June and has now recorded increases in five of the six months of 2019. "The June figures reflect the post-election boost in confidence following the removal of the uncertainty around property taxation. With two interest rate cuts

and a softening in APRA requirements June will mark an upturn in market activity," Mr Kelly concluded.

REINSW launches RealtyProtect Landlord Insurance

REINSW, the peak industry body for real estate in NSW, has launched the latest offering in landlord insurance, RealtyProtect. "RealtyProtect is a landlord insurance policy with a difference," says REINSW Business Development Manager, John Trani. "It is a quick and easy process for landlords to insure their property. RealtyProtect Landlord Insurance is competitively priced and provides comprehensive cover for a range of benefits". REINSW has partnered with Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT), one of the world's leading providers of insurance brokerage services, as its authorised representative to distribute an insurance product designed by the

"You'd never know all this used to be a mine."

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

There's more to Australian mining.



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

www.minerals.org.au





BRANXTON

Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

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

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED **ASKING \$399,000**



BRANXTON

OPEN HOUSE

14 Russell Street, Branxton NSW 2335
Saturday 7th September
1pm ~ 1:30pm

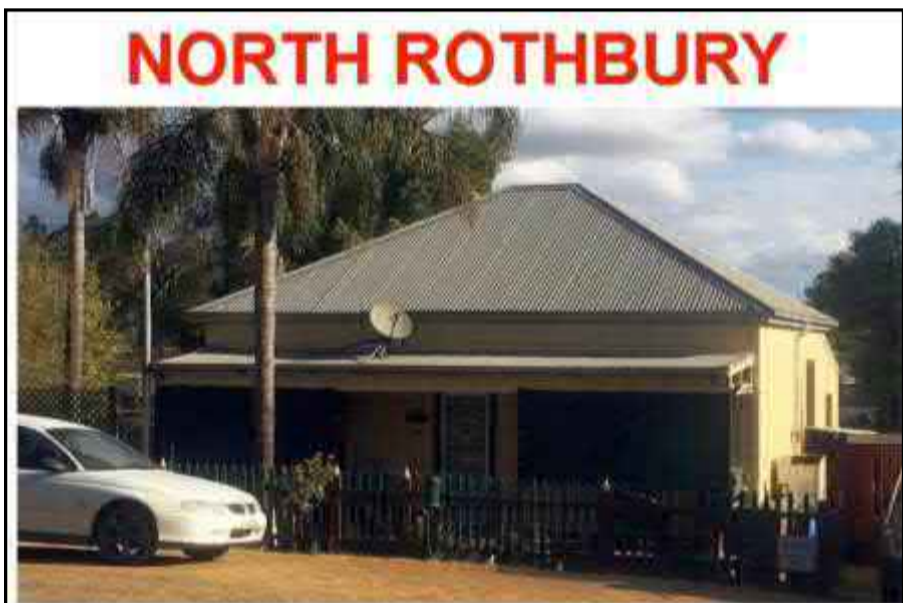
Large modern family home

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



NORTH ROTHBURY

Old World Charm

That could be transformed into a wonderful family home. All the bones are there. 3 large bedrooms on 809square metre fenced block. Large lounge room with original features and French doors opening onto good decking. Such a clear slate to work on.

ASKING \$285,000

NORTH ROTHBURY

LOT 521 Under Contract
LOT 524 SOLD

Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road,
Vacant blocks
4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks. Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country

ASKING: \$420,000 each

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 linen storage with iron floor. It is currently rented at \$290 per week. Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway

ASKING \$275,000

North Rothbury

As new ~ Totally renovated; kitchen, bathroom, new flooring &

This brick & Tile family home on a very large fully fenced block (885sm) features

- * Spacious living area
- * New kitchen
- * Builtins in all bedrooms
- * New bathroom
- * Reverse cycle split air conditioning
- * Large single lock-up garage
- * Set on 885sm fully fenced block with magnificent views to the north

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

ASKING \$399,000

NORTH ROTHBURY Building Blocks

Vacant building block 809m²

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

Burnett Street, Cessnock where they executed a search warrant. At the residence Police identified a 17 year old Cessnock male, a 2 others. They were working on a suspected stolen motorcycle. During the search warrant police located a small amount of cannabis and methyl-amphetamine as well as three suspected stolen motorcycles being Honda CRF 150, Yamaha YZ250 and Yamaha WR450. One of the motorcycles had the vehicle identification number completely ground off. The 17 year old was arrested at the end of the search warrant and conveyed back to Cessnock Police Station. He was charged with Goods

in Custody and Posses prohibited Drug. A 24 year old Cessnock male was released and will be issued with a Future Court Attendance notice for possess prohibited drug. A third 18 year old Cessnock male was released pending further investigation. **Around 4am** on Wednesday the 21st of August, offender/s have gained access to a cable room at the Integra Underground Coal Mine at Glennies Creek. Once inside an amount of copper piping has been cut and dragged to a vehicle in a nearby paddock. 2 offenders were sighted at the location, 1 described as male, wearing work boots, light blue skinny jeans and blue hooded jumper.

A second incident has occurred sometime between 10pm on Wednesday the 21st and 1am on Thursday the 22nd of August where offender/s have cut a latch and accessed a shipping container. At this stage, Police cannot confirm what has been stolen. If anyone has further information or believes they have seen something or someone suspicious, please contact Singleton Police on 65787499 or Crime stoppers on 1800 333 000. **On other news**, overnight on Saturday the 17th of August, offenders have damaged the 6th green at the Branxton Golf course by gouging into the turf causing approximately \$500 worth of damage.

Rural Fire Services attended a vehicle fire around 11am on Sunday the 18th of August in Stair Street, Kayuga. The vehicle was well alight when Police arrived and it is unknown what caused the fire. Don't forget, Police are out and about conducting Random Breath Testing in your area. Please, if you have been drinking, make sure you have a designated driver or have a plan "B". Don't risk it!!!! **Did you know?** Road rules apply to bicycles too! Comply with traffic lights, speed limits and turn signs or incur equivalent fines. Increase your visibility to other road users, particularly at night. And unless you or someone you are accom-

panying are under the age of 16, stay off the footpath!
Man charged after gun parts and ammunition allegedly located – Kurri Kurri
Wednesday, 21 August 2019 12:29:04 PM
Several gun parts and ammunition have been seized during a search warrant at a Hunter Valley property. About 2pm yesterday (Tuesday 20 August 2019), police from Hunter Valley Target Action Group executed a search warrant at a home on Wickham Street, Stanford Merthyr, just outside of Kurri Kurri where they spoke with a 32-year-old man.

During the search, officers allegedly located parts of firearms, including pistol and rifle parts, ammunition, and credit cards. The man was arrested and taken to Cessnock Police Station. He was charged with goods in custody, possess prohibited weapon without permit, possess ammunition without licence and four counts of possess firearm barrel. He was refused bail & appeared at Maitland Local Court last Wednesday 21 August 2019.

Weekly Wrap

Some great work again by your police, who continue to make inroads into the theft of stolen motorbikes in the Cessnock area. About 1:10pm on Thursday the 22nd of August, Police attended an address in



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

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

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000403/001	16-Jul-2019	4 Franks CL	Shed
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000412/001	29-Jul-2019	2 Victoria ST	Patio Cover
GRETA	008/2019/00000187/001	4-Jul-2019	56 York ST	Dwelling & Carport (constructed over three (3) phases)
GRETA	008/2019/00000398/001	11-Jul-2019	8 Oulta CL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
GRETA	008/2019/00000404/001	28-Jul-2019	51 Popham ST	Garage
LOVEDALE	008/2019/00000206/001	15-Jul-2019	377 Lovedale RD	Construct New Secondary Dwelling and Tennis Court
LOVEDALE	008/2019/00000377/001	30-Jul-2019	379 Talga RD	Swimming Pool
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000189/001	3-Jul-2019	6 Wethered CR	Retaining Wall
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000302/001	1-Jul-2019	8 Heaverty AV	Inground Swimming Pool
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000853/001	5-Jul-2019	57 Washery RD	Proposed Construction Of Eight (8) Water Reservoirs And Associated Works
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000373/001	5-Jul-2019	49 Kesterton RISE	Two Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000150/001	10-Jul-2019	34 Bendeach DR	Retaining Wall
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000375/001	10-Jul-2019	20 Toole CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000268/001	18-Jul-2019	17 Olivia PL	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000366/001	18-Jul-2019	181 Tuckers LANE	Swimming Pool and Deck
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000414/001	26-Jul-2019	9 Rothbury ST	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000342/001	29-Jul-2019	7 Lockwood ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000355/001	29-Jul-2019	13 Lockwood ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000356/001	29-Jul-2019	15 Lockwood ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000405/001	30-Jul-2019	8 Emerton RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000424/001	31-Jul-2019	71 Kesterton RISE	Shed
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000251/001	8-Jul-2019	304 Pokolbin Mountains RD	One Tourist Accommodation Unit in a Proposed Lot
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000409/001	9-Jul-2019	5 Turpentine CL	Inground Swimming Pool & Spa
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000340/001	12-Jul-2019	64 Casuarina DR	Two Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000351/001	15-Jul-2019	107 Vintage DR	Temporary Event - Winery Running Festival Sat 20 - Sun 21 July 2019
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000360/001	15-Jul-2019	21 Paperbark DR	Two Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage, Inground Swimming Pool & Associated Retaining Walls
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000780/001	30-Jul-2019	319 Deaseys RD	Change of Use (comprising Alterations & Additions) of an Existing Shed to a Cellar Door & Ancillary Wine Storage Area & the Use of an unauthorised Structure as a Dwelling
ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000304/001	4-Jul-2019	144 Wine Country DR	Patio Cover

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR GRANT SCHEME 2019/2020

SPORTING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Council has \$20,000 available within the Sporting Facility Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme and \$20,000 in the Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to sporting and community groups. All applicants must contact Council's Recreation & Community Liaison Officer, Mrs Kate Hicks on 4993 4234 prior to lodging an application.

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Council has \$25,000 available within the Community & Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to not-for-profit community, arts and cultural groups. All applicants must contact Council's Community and Cultural Engagement Officer Ms Jo Miller on 4993 4258 prior to lodging an application.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - TIDY TOWN

Council has \$10,000 available within the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to not-for-profit community environmental groups (such as adopted Section 355 Committees of Council, Landcare, etc.) to undertake projects that make 'on the ground' improvements to the local environment, encourage community pride and/or promote a positive community image. All applicants must contact Council's Sustainability Officer Tricia Donnelly on 4993 4239 prior to lodging an application.

Groups are invited to apply for funds through these Grant Schemes.

Grants will be provided on a Dollar for Dollar basis and Council will assess applications in line with a preset selection criteria. All projects must be completed by 30 June 2020. Application forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Administration Building or via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au). **Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5.00pm, Friday 6 September 2019.**

PUBLIC EXHIBITION GRETA CENTRAL PARK MASTERPLAN

At its meeting held on 7 August 2019, Council resolved to place the Draft Greta Central Park Masterplan on Public Exhibition. The Public Exhibition period will be from Monday 12 August to Monday 9 September 2019. The document can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section)
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au
- Kurri Kurri Library, Lang Street Kurri Kurri
- Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club, 2 West Street Greta

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until 5.00pm, Monday 9 September 2019 via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post

Finding your lost furry friends just got a little bit easier

Cessnock City Council have announced a new way of reconnecting owners and their lost fluffy friends! A new initiative of Council's Ranger team, Lost Animals, is a page on Council's website containing information about pets that have been found, hoping to prevent them being transported to the RSPCA for holding. The aim of the web page is to assist Rangers in returning these beloved family

members to their homes. For the last financial year Council impounded 464 dogs and 134 of those were returned to their owners. The new initiative hopes to see more pets returned home safely and quickly. Council's Principal Ranger, Jason Mullee is thrilled about the new website and looks forward to seeing the results. "It's a great initiative for pet owners and gives them a starting point when their



much-loved pets have gone missing. Ranger's see a lot of animals go to the RSPCA and never to return home. This new page allows for people to see the whereabouts of their pets as soon as they have been

backyard is secure and that the animal is microchipped, plus the microchipping details are up to date. For more information and to see what animals have been located visit

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals/lostanimals.

located by our Rangers. The teams can post a pet to the website almost immediately." There are a number of steps owners can take to ensure their pooch doesn't end up lost! This includes ensuring the

CESSNOCK KURRI KURRI Library News



Get ready for Spring Awakening @ Your Library

Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries will be holding lantern and Regent Honeyeater mask making workshops in the first week of September in the lead-up to the Spring Awakening Festival this year. Come along, make a beautiful paper lantern, or a regent honeyeater mask (or both!), and join us for this year's lantern parade to the Festival. Council's Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said Spring Awakening is a magical event for our community and the library loves holding these workshops to help people get ready for the festivities.

"On the night of Spring Awakening, families can also visit the library fairies at the Cessnock City Library storytelling tent."

The lantern making workshops are from 4pm to 5pm and will be held at Cessnock Library on Monday 2 September and at the Kurri Kurri Library on Tuesday 3 September.

The mask-making workshop will be at Cessnock Library on Wednesday 4 September, 4pm to 5pm.

All materials and tools will be provided. Bookings are essential, as places are limited! Book online at libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or by calling Cessnock Library on 49934399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 49371638.

Daily Thoughts ...

"Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." **Benny Hill**

"I'm way overdue for a promotion. I've made so many lateral moves, I'm beside myself." **Gary Apple**

"It is now proved beyond doubt that smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics." **Fletcher Knebel**

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. **Anne Frank**

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Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licence-in-Charge

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BRANXTON NSW 2335
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the **tatts** hotel
Greta

TATTERSALLS HOTEL *and* **Champions Restaurant**

OPEN 7 Days a Week

88 High Street, GRETA NSW 2334
P: 02 4938 7302  [tattsatgreta](https://www.facebook.com/tattsatgreta)  [tattsgreta](https://www.instagram.com/tattsgreta)

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!!

NEW

- 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

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



Friday 30th AUG
PAT V'S CAT



Friday 6th SEPT
THE WAY



\$2900 Wed 28/8
\$3300 as at 18/8



HARVEST BISTRO

**Authentic Chinese Cuisine &
Australian Meals**
Open Wednesday to Sunday



FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS

GRETA WORKERS/MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB AGM
Sunday 1st September 2019 @ 9.30am at Greta

Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 4938 1226

TUK TUK



Thai & Aussie

Special Buffet \$20/head

Kids under 10yo, \$10

Saturday Nights

Book now!



**Every Friday &
Sunday**



Every Thursday & Sunday
\$500 as at Sun 27/8
\$2700 Thurs 29/8



her. Their first collaboration 'Never Never' was released in 2016 and hit the bestseller list immediately. This was followed by

'Fifty Fifty' in 2017, 'Liar Liar' in 2018 and 'Hush Hush' was released last May. She was a guest speaker at Maitland Library in their series of 'Guess who's Talking' last May.

Unfortunately, I was away & missed it.

Her fast-paced novels with complex, likeable characters are receiving a lot of attention both nationally and internationally)

Description: The Inn
A gripping stand-alone novel from one of the world's bestselling thriller

writer. Ex-Boston homicide detective Billy Robinson has retreated to a quiet life on the New England coast. Struggling to cope following the death of his beloved wife, he must now run the inn that Siobhan took care of so well.

The inn's quirky residents help keep Billy on solid ground as he grieves, and the group soon become an unconventional family. But this small town is in the grips of a growing opioid epidemic, and when a young resident gets hooked into the crisis, Billy knows he must act to save the people in the inn that he has grown to care so much about.

With his secretive past in Boston catching up to him, can Billy survive long enough to save the town – and its beloved inn – from ruin?

My View:
I had a little Stepehndrugs

King déjà vu moment when I started reading this, perhaps it was the setting that evoked this random memory? The waterfront, the old run down building that is the Inn? A horror story of sorts, this however, is where the resemblance ends.

I have mixed feelings about this read. The first time I picked this up I was not engrossed or engaged with the narrative...I put the book down and started reading again the next day...something changed! The tension, the dilemmas, the characters living in the Inn grabbed a hold of me and didn't let me lose until I finished reading. What a change! I wish I could articulate the reason for the change-perhaps pace? Perhaps it's the connection with the "good guys" and their struggle? A great collaboration. A solid read. I hope you enjoy it.

Daily Thoughts ...

"I have stopped smoking now and then, for a few months at a time, but it was not on principle, it was only

to show off; it was to pulverize those critics who said I was a slave to my habits and couldn't break my bonds." **Mark Twain**
"Asthma doesn't seem to bother me any more unless I'm around cigars or dogs.

The thing that would bother me most would be a dog smoking a cigar." **Steve Allen**

"Never forget that only dead fish swim with the stream." **Malcolm Muggeridge**

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (25 August 2019)

- 48 WEEKS ON THE LIST WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING BY DELIA OWENS
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect. Ranked 1 last week
- NEW THIS WEEK THE INN BY JAMES PATTERSON AND CANDICE FOX
A former Boston police detective who is now an innkeeper must shield a seaside town from a crew of criminals.
- NEW THIS WEEK OUTFOX BY SANDRA BROWN
F.B.I. Agent Drex Easton has a hunch that the conman Weston Graham is also a serial killer.
- NEW THIS WEEK A DANGEROUS MAN BY ROBERT CRAIS
Elvis Cole and Joe Pike get more than they bargained for when they investigate the abduction of a bank teller.
- NEW THIS WEEK THE TURN OF THE KEY BY RUTH WARE
A nanny working in a technology-laden house in Scotland goes to jail when one of the children dies.
- 163 WEEKS ON THE LIST THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN BY GARTH STEIN
An insightful Lab-terrier mix helps his owner, a struggling race car driver. Ranked 8 last week
- 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST ONE GOOD DEED 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 3 last week
- 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST THE NEW GIRL BY DANIEL SILVA
Gabriel Allon, the chief of Israeli intelligence, partners with the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, whose daughter is kidnapped. Ranked 5 last week
- NEW THIS WEEK BELOVED BY TONI MORRISON
Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. A former slave living in Ohio is haunted by events at the Kentucky plantation from which she escaped 18 years ago.
- 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST THE NICKEL BOYS BY COLSON WHITEHEAD
Two boys respond to horrors at a Jim Crow-era reform school in ways that impact them decades later.

ABOUT

James Brendan Patterson (born March 22, 1947) is an American author and philanthropist. Among his works are the *Alex Cross*, *Michael Bennett*, *Women's Murder Club*, *Maximum Ride*, *Daniel X*, *NYPD Red*, *Witch and Wizard*, and *Private* series, as well as many stand-alone thrillers, non-fiction and romance novels. His books have sold more than 300 million copies and he was the first person to sell 1 million e-books. In 2016, Patterson topped *Forbes's* list of highest-paid authors for the third consecutive year, with an income of \$95 million. His total income over a decade is estimated at \$700 million.

In November 2015, Patterson received the Literarian Award from the National Book Foundation, which cited him as a "passionate campaigner to make books and reading a national priority. A generous supporter of universities, teachers colleges, independent bookstores, school libraries, and college students, Patterson has donated millions of dollars in grants and scholarships with the purpose of encouraging Americans of all ages to read more books."

Early life

Patterson was born on March 22, 1947, in Newburgh, New York, the son of Isabelle (Morris), a homemaker and teacher, and Charles Patterson, an insurance broker. He graduated *summa cum laude* with both a B.A. in English from Manhattan College and an M.A. in English from Vanderbilt University.

Reception

Patterson has been criticized for co-authoring many of his books and for being more of a brand that focuses on making money than an artist who focuses on his craft.

In an interview for *USA Weekend*, Stephen King referred to Patterson as "a terrible writer but he's very successful. King also implied, while being asked on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* about how many hours it takes him to write a book, that Patterson needed only twelve hours for two books, noting he and Patterson had "a mutual respect – sort of". Patterson said of King in a *Wall Street Journal* interview, "He's taken shots at me for years. It's fine, but my approach is to do the opposite with him—to heap praise."

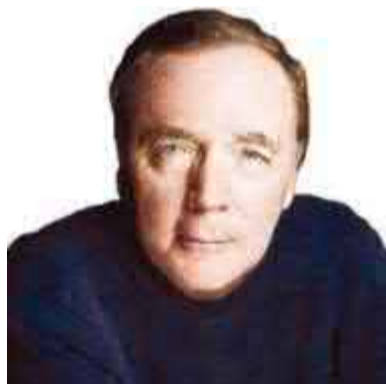
Legal thriller writer Lisa Scottoline said in a review of Patterson's *Kill Alex Cross*, "They used to say that 50 million Elvis Presley fans couldn't be wrong, and James Patterson makes 50 million fans look like a good start. He has sold more than 230 million books, and his fans aren't wrong, either."

In 2013 Patterson took out ads titled "Who Will Save Our Books? Our Bookstores? Our Libraries?" in *Publishers Weekly* and *The New York Times Book Review*, which employed the text "If there are no bookstores, no libraries, no serious publishers with passionate, dedicated, idealistic editors, what will happen to our literature? Who will discover and mentor new writers? Who will publish our important books? What will happen if there are no more books like these?" Patterson called the ads an attempt to "stir the pot a little bit." *Digital Book World* called the ads, "refreshing, really. And brave." Maureen Sullivan, president of the American Library Association, told the *Tampa Bay Times* she was in the process of writing James Patterson a thank-you letter.

In 2017, digital humanities scholars Simon Fuller and James O'Sullivan published research showing that Patterson does not do much actual writing when collaborating with other authors. O'Sullivan writes: "Patterson is all about story... 'author', in its widely accepted sense, isn't always the most appropriate term for his role within the writing process." O'Sullivan would later go on to conduct the same analysis on *The President is Missing*, a collaboration between Patterson and Bill Clinton; here O'Sullivan concludes that Patterson did most of the writing, aside from the end of the novel.

Personal life

Patterson, his wife Susan (Sue), and their son Jack live in Palm Beach, Florida. In 2015, Patterson established the James Patterson Pledge with Scholastic Book Clubs to put books in the hands of young readers.

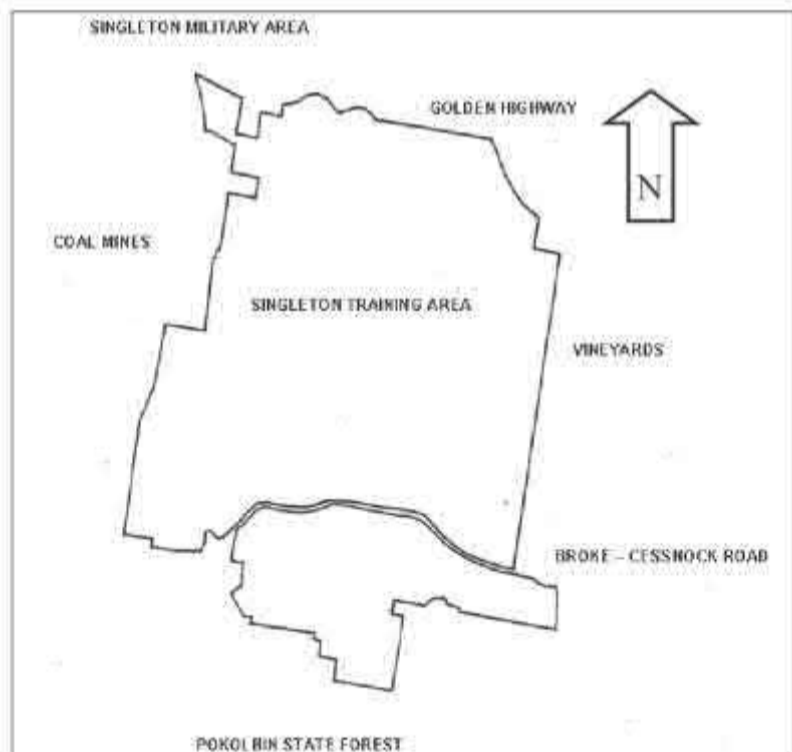


James Brendan Patterson



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

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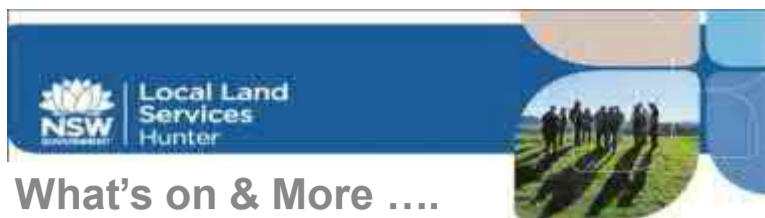
Monday 9am - 5pm
Tuesday 9am - 5pm
Wednesday 9am - 5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday - by appointment only

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You Smile, We Smile



What's on & More

TAKING STOCK OF THE DROUGHT



Hunter Local Land Services is joining with Hunter New England Health in urging Hunter producers and their families, to take stock of more than just their land and animals, as the drought continues to impact our region.

With heavy frosts, cold winds and dry weather hitting the region in recent weeks, winter has really bitten hard. We understand it can take an emotional toll on producers trying to feed and maintain stock and want to help connect our community with local support services.

“Unfortunately nearly 100 per cent of our region remains impacted by drought, with winter conditions impacting remaining crops in the Upper Hunter and worsening feed gap issues in the east of the region around Gloucester and the Upper Manning,” said General Manager Brett Miners.

“We understand the pressure many producers are under as they try to handfeed and meet energy requirements of their stock, especially those beginning calving or lambing or lactating.

“It is important to ensure you have a long term view when it comes to feed and water budgeting and you are testing feed to ensure its quality, and where possible selling excess stock to ease the workload and pressure on yourself and property.” Out of the paddock the ongoing tough conditions are also being felt across the community.

“We know the drought is affecting local families, their farms and also local businesses,” said Brett.

“We are seeing these impacts in our producers and we are encouraging them and their families to reach out for help, and also to check on neighbours or others in our farming communities who might be struggling.

“We don’t know when it is going to rain, and sadly we can’t make it rain, but we can look out for each other and work together to ease the burden wherever we can.”

Hunter New England Health has advised it is important to keep an eye on your own health as well as your livestock’s.

This drought is unfortunately now in its third year here in the Hunter and we understand the impact across the region is widespread, and nowhere more so than in the homes of our farming families, and businesses that support our rural communities.

If you are feeling like you need to talk to someone, or the impacts are making you feel low or depressed, reach out to your local GP.

Just having a conversation with your family or local doctor is a great start, there are many support services out there we can connect you to.

Hunter New England Health District has established a Drought Support Team who provide mental health and emotional support for farmers, farming families, local businesses and services who have been affected by the drought.

The support program is flexible and can offer short conversations and information through to ongoing formal counselling. A member of the Drought Support team can visit your farm, home or place of work, or can arrange to meet you any other place when confidentiality can be guaranteed. To access the service call 0477 322 851. If it's too hard to talk, you can text the Virtual Psychologist. The Virtual Psychologist offers a Text service that you can use from anywhere. You will be connected with a qualified mental health professional and you can make an appointment to text with the same counsellor again at a day/time convenient to you. Text 0488 807 266.

There are some really good resources online too – visit the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program for contacts for support services, tools and tips and local programs and projects across New South Wales at <https://www.ramhp.com.au/>



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 20th August 2019

There was an increase in supply. Yearlings well supplied and the cow sell off continued. There were large numbers of lightweight yearlings penned, along with a good supply of mediumweights, while heavy feeder numbers were limited. The quality and condition of the offering was fair to good. The majority of the forward condition cattle having had access to crop. The usual buyers were in attendance and operating. Market trends varied through the young cattle. Lightweight yearlings to restockers sold to cheaper trends, the steers up to 8c/kg, with the better quality heifers only marginally cheaper. Secondary quality and mixed breed pens were affected more. The heavier yearling steers up to 330kg sold to a dearer trend with breed a factor in price change. Medium and heavy feeder steers sold to cheaper trends of 5c to 15c/kg and more in places, once again breed and quality a factor. Yearling heifers over 280kg to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends of 5c to 25c/kg with the well finished lots most affected. There was a breed and quality component also. The limited supply of heavy grown steers sold to a cheaper trend of 15c/kg under reduced competition. Well finished grown heifers however sold to dearer trends with some improvement in quality. There was a strong market for cows with the market trend firm to dearer. Little change on the best of the cows, with the plain condition and secondary cows showing dearer trends

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 20th August 2019

Weaners and yearlings made up the bulk of the yarding along with 122 cows. It was a mostly plain quality yarding with a limited selection of prime conditioned cattle in all sections. Not all the regular buyers were present with the absence of some restocker orders and feeder buyers. The few young cattle to the trade were 5c cheaper with vealers selling to 278c while the prime steer yearlings sold from 300c to 330c/kg. The prime heifer yearlings sold from 276c to 300c/kg. The heavier feeder steers were 5c dearer while the lighter steers and feeder heifers were 15c/kg cheaper. The feeder steers sold from 240c to 318c while the feeder heifers sold from 224c to 280c/kg. Young cattle to the restockers were up to 30c cheaper with the young steers selling from 80c to 268c while the young restocker heifers sold from 110c to 254c/kg. A single pen of well finished grown steers were dearer selling for 280c/kg. Grown heifers sold to 308c/kg. Cows were 15c to 20c cheaper with the 2 scores selling from 100c to 186c/kg. The better 3 and 4 scores sold from 178c to 250c with the prime heavy weights averaging 238c/kg. Bulls sold to 255c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 21st August 2019

Numbers lifted by 300 for as the selloff due to the dry conditions continues. It was only a fair quality yarding with vealers and yearlings making up the majority of the yarding along with pretty good numbers of cows. The bulk of the young cattle were only in store condition though there were odd pens of ideal butcher’s calves mixed throughout. Young cattle to the trade sold firm, with prime steer vealers selling from 290c to 338c while the prime heifer vealers sold from 286c to 334c/kg. Limited numbers of ideal feeder cattle were up to 20c/kg cheaper with quality a factor. The feeder steers sold from 232c to 314c while the feeder heifers sold from 220c to 276c/kg. Large numbers of young cattle to the restockers were up to 30c cheaper and more in places with the young steers selling from 100c to 282c/kg. The young restocker heifers sold from 80c to 232c/kg. The few grown steers were 5c cheaper with the prime medium weights selling from 250c to 260c/kg. Grown heifers sold to 250c/kg. Cows were 10c to 13c/kg cheaper. The 2 score cows sold from 110c to 204c while the better 3 and 4 score cows sold from 180c to 250c and the prime heavy weights averaged 234c/kg. Bulls sold to 245c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 19th August 2019

There was an increase in numbers despite a change in season just around the corner. Producers opting out rather than taking a chance on a Spring break. All categories were represented, however the bulk of the offering were cows and yearlings. The quality of the offering was fair to good with some very good quality young cattle available. The condition of the offering was also fair to good with quite a few crop and supplementary fed cattle penned. The full field of regular buyers were in attendance, some not operating to their usual capacity. Market trends through the young cattle were generally cheaper. In some classes breed and or quality did have an effect on price change. Medium and heavyweight yearling feeder steers sold to a cheaper trend of 5c to 13c/kg. There were similar trends for similar weight yearling heifers to feed. Lightweight young cattle to restockers saw weaker demand from local buyers, however there were some Southern restocker orders active. There was reduced competition on well finished heavyweight yearlings with the market trend significantly cheaper for both steers and heifers. There were insufficient heavy grown steers to quote. The reduced competition was reflected in the market for well finished grown heifers with the market trend significantly cheaper. There were cheaper trends through the cow market. The plainer condition cows were least affected. Well finished cows experienced large price falls with the competition not as strong. There was a large number of bulls penned, with quite a few young bulls. This being a reflection of the number of cows that have been sold.

desert plateau in central Saudi Arabia.

In announcing the race, a weight-for-age event for Northern Hemisphere 4-year-olds and up and up and Southern Hemisphere 3-year-olds and up and for which entry is free, the chairman of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, HRH Prince Bandar bin Khalid Al Faisal, said it has been designed to foster the development of Saudi Arabia’s racing industry.

Among the competitors for the Cup could be entries from Prince Khalid bin Abdullah, a member of the Saudi Arabian Royal family and principal of Newmarket UK headquartered Juddmonte Farms, a world leader in breeding and racing. They bred and raced Frankel. The \$20million Saudi Cup is to be held in between America’s richest race duo, The Pegasus (dirt \$9million dirt, \$7million turf) scheduled for Gulfstream Park late January and the Dubai World Cup (\$12,000,

2000m, dirt) at end of March. The World’s richest race on turf, the third running of the \$14million The TAB Everest, is to be conducted over 1200m at Randwick on Saturday October 19. In addition Sydney racing this spring introduces Australia’s second richest event, the \$7.5million The Golden Eagle, a 1500m event for 4-year-olds to held at Rosehill on November 2. Australia’s Champion Sires 2000-2019

2000-01 Danehill (USA) – 188 starters, 93 winners (13 SWs), 161 winners \$7,750,263
 2001-02 Danehill (USA) – 202 starters, 109 wins (26 SWs), 187 wins \$7,805,297
 2002-03 Danehill (USA), 215 starters, 161 winners (21 SWs), 192 wins \$7,099,634
 2003-04 Danehill (USA), 226 starters, 104 winners (13 SWs), 156 wins \$7,939,311
 2004-05 Danehill (USA), 219 starters, 110 winners (21 SWs), 188 wins \$11,468,820



2005-06, Redoute’s Choice, 177 starters, 89 winners (12 SWs), 151 wins \$11,095,730
 2006-07, Flying Spur, 248 starters, 129 winners (17 SWs), 218 wins \$10,465,326
 2007-08 Encosta de Lago, 312 starters, 132 winners (12 SWs), 204 wins \$10,442,843
 2008-09 Encosta de Lago, 316 starters, 147 winners (11 SWs), 227 wins \$9,922,090
 2009-10 Redoute’s Choice, 270 starters, 138 winners (14 SWs), 193 wins \$9,085,612
 2010-11 Lonhro 241 starters, 129 winners (14 SWs), 229 wins \$8,743,094
 2011-12 Fastnet Rock, 273 starters, 130 winners (16 SWs), 231 wins \$12,688,076

2012-13 Exceed and Excel, 266 starters, 140 winners (17 SWs), 233 wins \$11,424,241
 2013-14 Redoute’s Choice, 217 starters, 96 winners (10 SWs), 150 wins \$10,311,293
 2014-15 Fastnet Rock, 309 starters, 146 winners (15 SWs), 217 wins \$10,888,914
 2015-16 Street Cry (Ire), 173 starters, 85 winners (12 SWs), 144 wins \$12,974,854
 2016-17 Snitzel, 324 starters, 159 winners (26 SWs), 273 wins \$16,220,135
 2017-18 Snitzel, 328 starters, 173 winners (26 SWs), 307 winners \$29,243,613
 2018-19 Snitzel, 346 runners, 180 winners (12 SWs), 290 wins \$24,267,820

Australian Thoroughbred

Compiled by Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

Cradle of the Thoroughbred, \$20million race
 Some 300 years ago a horse credited as being born in Yemen at the southern toe of the Arabian Peninsula which borders oil rich Saudi Arabia under the name of Godolphin Arabian became one of the three sires from use in England sprung the

Thoroughbred breed. Also born in the Middle East, the other two were the Darley Arabian (Syrian desert) and the Byerley Turk (open verdict; possibly Turkey). The trio are recalled following the announcement that Saudi Arabia is to stage the world’s richest race on

Saturday evening February 29, 2020. Carrying a total purse of \$20million and a first prize of \$10million, it is to be run over 1800m on the dirt surfaced King Abdulaziz racetrack at their capital city Riyadh, one which has a population of over five million and is located on a

click's

Ed. Two perspectives on the computing power of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing



The DSKEY input module (right) shown alongside the Apollo Guidance Computer's main casing (left). Apollo 11 computer 100,000 times less powerful than iPhone used to mine Bitcoin

Apollo 11 computer 100,000 times less powerful than iPhone HACKED to mine Bitcoin

BY Sophie Curtis
Technology and Science Editor

It would take well over a quintillion years for the Apollo Guidance Computer used in the moon landings to mine a single Bitcoin block

The first moon landing is still considered one of mankind's greatest achievements nearly half a century after Neil Armstrong took his first step off the Apollo 11 spacecraft.

But it is perhaps even more impressive when you consider that the computer on board Apollo 11 was less powerful than the smartphone in your pocket. The Apollo Guidance Computer (AGC) was the primary computer for controlling the guidance and navigation systems on the Apollo 11 spacecraft. It was one of the first computers to use integrated circuits, so instead of filling an entire room, it squeezed into a box just a couple of feet in size.

The AGC didn't have a processor as we know it, but it instead used around 5,600 electronic gates that allowed it to perform operations at 0.043 MHz - roughly 40,000 a second. To put that in context, the latest iPhone's processor is estimated to run at about 2490 MHz - over 100,000 times more than the Apollo 11's computer.

Moreover, the AGC had just 2048 words of memory that could be used to store "temporary results", which is equivalent to 32,768 bits of RAM (Random Access Memory) in today's terms. It also had 72KB of Read Only Memory (ROM), which is equivalent to 589,824 bits. This memory is programmed and cannot

be changed once it is finalised.

By comparison, the latest phones typically have 4GB of RAM. That is 34,359,738,368 bits - more than a million times more memory than the Apollo computer had in RAM. The iPhone also has up to 512GB of ROM memory, or 4,398,046,511,104 bits - seven million times more than that of the guidance computer.

In fact, the AGC was closer in power to a classic calculator than a smartphone, according to Graham Kendall, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Nottingham. Texas Instruments' TI-73 calculator, released in 1998, had 512GB of RAM, 256KB of ROM and a processing speed of 6MHz. That's slightly less ROM, but eight times more RAM than the AGC. With regard to processing speed, the TI-73 was 140 times faster than the Apollo computer. "It's mind-blowing to think about that a simple calculator, designed to help students decades ago pass their exams, was more powerful than the computer that landed man on the moon," said Prof Kendall in an article for The Conversation.

A team of computer historians recently got their hands on one of the original AGCs and managed to bring it back to life.

A member of the team, Ken Shirriff, then decided to see if the computer could be put to a more 21st Century use - mining Bitcoin. The process involves generating trillions of random numerical sequences until the correct one is found, which results in a block being successfully mined. Shirriff succeeded in getting the AGC to run a Bitcoin mining program. However, he concluded that it would take 4×10^{23}

seconds on average for it to find a block.

That's about a billion times as long as the entire age of the universe, which scientists have calculated to be around 13.8 billion years old.

In other words, it would take the machine well over a quintillion years (a billion billion) to mine a single Bitcoin block.

"The Apollo program cost 25.4 billion dollars as of 1973, equivalent to about 150 billion dollars today," said Shirriff in a blog post. "The current market cap of Bitcoin is 200 billion dollars, so if NASA had been mining Bitcoins, they could have paid for the whole Apollo program and still had money left over. "One flaw in this plan is the Apollo Guidance Computer's low performance, since mining a block would take much more than the lifetime of the universe."

NASA's Apollo 11 onboard computer really was as primitive as they say

IT'S ONE of the biggest tropes linked to the moon landings - that moment when someone pipes up with the fact that the ship's computer was less powerful than a mobile phone.

But what does that mean exactly? What was the computer that took us to the moon like?

The first thing to say is that, yes, the facts are true, the Apollo Guidance Computer (AGC) was indeed less powerful than a mobile. In fact, it has about the same compute power as an Apple II, which would go on sale in 1977 for a cool \$1298, boasting just 4KB of RAM. That's quite a lot less than a mobile phone.

But let's just think about that for a moment - Apollo advances meant that we

were able to buy a home computer, as powerful as NASA's, a mere eight years after the moon landing.

That's pretty cool, and a reminder of the positive side-effects of the Space Race.

ACG was the first computer to use integrated circuits, which have become the norm for modern computing. Yet, despite this, the AGC did most of the heavy lifting, with manual override controls only whipped out for the lunar landing itself. This was a major step up from Gemini and Mercury, most of which had to be piloted manually.

Astronauts could programme the computer with the interface, known as DSKY (say it 'Disky'). There were only numbered keys, with a helpful legend printed on the side of the cabin to remind the three intrepid astronauts how to give it commands. The calculator style layout would later become the norm for domestic calculators.

Three DSKY interfaces were linked to Apollo XI - two in the command module, with a further one in the lunar lander.

The processor ran at a feeble 2.048Mhz (compare that to the 2Ghz on your phone), and the 15-bit RAM (with 1 parity-bit) used a combination of a magnetic core which could hold 2048 words and the core-rop (ROM) which held 36,384. Two additional computers were also used - the LVDC to programme the Saturn V booster, and the AGS which would kick in if the lunar landing/takeoff needed to be aborted. If the AGS kicked in, the astronauts knew that their mission had changed from landing on the moon to getting home alive.

If all that has made you think, "well if its that easy, why haven't we been back yet", then go for your life - the source code for the ACG is available in its entirety on Github. Bring us back a moon rock!

MOVIE REVIEW

ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD

Stars: Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie, Margaret Qualley, Dakota Fanning, Julia Butters, Damon Herriman, Austin Butler, Emile Hirsch, Scoot McNairy, Luke Perry, Al Pacino, Nicholas Hammond, Spencer Garrett, Mike Moh, Lena Dunham, Damian Lewis, Bruce Dern, Kurt Russell, Timothy Olyphant, Zoë Bell and Michael Madsen.

Writer/Director: Quentin Tarantino



When you are a director eight films into a career streak marked by eight cinematic events, your ninth film can be about whatever your heart desires.

And Los Angeles in the summer of 1969 - a cool hotbed of hippy counter-culture, groovy tunes, barefooted women, the paradigm-shifting emergence of New Hollywood and a scruffy, psychotic, ticking time bomb of violence called Charles Manson - beats to the obsessive pop-culture pulse of Quentin Tarantino like no film of his ever has. Once Upon a Time in Hollywood hitches a ride through the period with three distinctive characters, each of which speak to key strengths in Tarantino's writing arsenal. Leonardo DiCaprio plays ageing action tough-guy Rick Dalton, once the heroic lead in a hit NBC series, but whose career has reverted to small-screen baddie bit parts; Dalton's stunt-double and gofer Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt, at his most charmingly laconic), whose industry standing is also sliding but who takes the downturn in his manly stride; and, a starlet on the rise named Sharon Tate (a luminous Margot Robbie, who has settled into life as Rick's neighbour in a home on Cielo Drive with hair-dresser Jay Sebrigg (Emile Hirsch) and her largely-absent boyfriend, Roman Polanski).

Plotting is sparse in Tarantino's ninth. Rick gets a gig as a moustache-twirling villain in a TV western pilot, and feels the pressure to deliver the performance of his newly-defined career; Tate wanders the backlot before settling into a session of her big-break movie, The Wrecking Crew with Dean Martin, giddy with delight when the audience laughs at her pratfalls; and, Cliff, between running errands for Rick and hanging with his lovable pitbull Brandy, chance encounters a free-spirited teen named Pussy-cat (Margaret Qualley) who takes him to 'Charlie's' creepy commune compound on an old movie lot called Spahn Ranch.

A fair portion of the movie magic that the auteur brings, and he brings a lot, is in the interaction of his



characters and the meaningfulness he imbues in each of them. Not since Jules and Vincent bantered between hits in 1994's Pulp Fiction has Tarantino so perfectly nailed the fragile 'macho buddy' friendship dynamic that he captures in Rick and Cliff. Men like these are the heroes of the director's formative years (speculation suggests they are based in part upon Burt Reynolds and Hal Needham); actors who have experienced the ebb-and-flow of stardom have often found favour with the director (Travolta, of course, but also Robert Forster, David Carradine and Michael Parks, amongst many). DiCaprio and Pitt (who deserves Oscar attention for his work here) are like a booze-sodden Butch and Sundance; one, tearing himself apart over his waning influence, the other so injured to pain and suffering (Pitt's strapping torso a diary of past wounds) he's numbed to what the future holds for his type of Hollywood hanger-on. In one of Tarantino's great dialogue scenes, a desperate DiCaprio, in full villainous garb awaiting his first scene, shares a heartbreaking meet-cute with seasoned Tinseltown 8 year-old, Trudi (a perfect Julia Butters); it is one of many great bit parts from actors such as Damian Lewis (a spot-on Steve McQueen), Bruce Dern, Luke Perry, Dakota Fanning and Damon Herriman.

The inspired casting of Margot Robbie as Sharon Tate represents, above any other character from Tarantino's oeuvre, the kind of warm, genuine human presence that defines his growth and maturity as a storyteller.

He understands that her horrific demise, in confluence with the Viet Nam War and the Watergate revelations, sounded the death knell for America as a nation driven by optimism and hope.

Robbie is an extraordinary presence as the ill-fated starlet; Pitt and DiCaprio carry the load, but the film soars on the Australian actress' impact in only a handful of scenes.

America is not denied its destiny-altering moment of late '60s ultra-violence; this is a Tarantino movie, after all, and few filmmakers revel in the visceral power of cinematic bloodshed like QT. But the destiny he envisions is different; more importantly, it's better.

Tarantino's tendency towards historical revisionism (see, 2009's Inglorious Basterds) and the hint of a fairy tale outcome right there in the title allows for what is the most emotionally resonant third act in all of his films.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is an experiential odyssey, more interested in the mood and vibe of the summer of love and the characters that populate it than any heavy bummer of a narrative. This is where Tarantino likes to live, clearly as a filmmaker, but also one suspects, within himself - the LA of Matt Helm movies, Playboy Mansion pool parties, the Van Nuys Drive-In, neon-lit fast-food hangouts and whiskey sours before noon. His Hollywood is filled with flawed but real heroes, friendships bonded by hardship, and an innocence that is cherished, not lost. His heart is in this film, for the first time afforded as much input as his fan-boy passion and film culture knowledge. The result is the year's best American film.

Sydney universities hiding from the facts about Chinese students

By Salvatore Babones

The Sydney Morning Herald



One of the great pleasures of teaching at a top global university like the University of Sydney is the opportunity to teach students from all around the world. More than one-third of Sydney's students hail from overseas, and that doesn't even include Kiwis. We're a veritable United Nations of education. As an American expat myself, I feel right at home.

themselves in local social life are likely to be ready for success by the time they get down to serious academic work in their second and third years. Chinese students who spend their first year living in Sydney's China bubble never get better. Some have even told me that their English language skills deteriorated at university.



It is often said that international education enriches both the visitors and the hosts — and at its best, it does. But intercultural exchange requires real communication, and unfortunately many of our international students don't speak English well enough to make Australian friends. At the University of Sydney, most of those alienated international students come from China. It's not their fault. They've put in the hours and jumped through all the hoops. But when it comes to mastering a language, study only gets you so far. To really learn a language, you have to live it. When nearly a quarter of your fellow students come from the same country as you do, it's tempting just to fall back on your home language instead.

Roughly 24 per cent of all students at the University of Sydney come from China. The figures are nearly as high at UNSW (23 per cent) and UTS (17 per cent). There are more Chinese students at these three inner-Sydney universities than in all 33 public universities in the US state of California. This extraordinary concentration makes it all too easy for Chinese students to live in a Chinese bubble.

Every semester I have Chinese students in my classes who struggle to have even basic conversations with me about their homework. Forget about class discussion. And I teach in the social sciences, which attract a culturally curious student body. I hear stories of business students who complete entire semester-long team projects in Chinese, then let the best English speaker in the group write up the results.

Australian universities are simply admitting too many Chinese students, and too many of them can't comfortably express themselves in English. Minimum language requirements for direct admission are generally adequate, but many Chinese students enter with lower scores through back-door university "foundation" programs. Exactly how many is a mystery, because these privately operated preparatory programs do not report student numbers. International students who come in with good language skills and immediately immerse

With so many students struggling with the language, academic standards inevitably suffer. I can teach simple factual material to students with limited English, but I can't engage them in sophisticated team projects. In my quantitative methods class, I can teach them statistical techniques, but I can't teach them when and how to use them. Worst of all, I can't teach them how to write meaningful term papers, because I don't have the time or the training to teach them how to write English in the first place.

For example, most Australians know that in China, family names come first and personal names second: Xi Jinping is President Xi, not President Jinping. Yet I have taught Chinese students in their second or third year at the University of Sydney who still can't alphabetise Western authors by family name in a reference list. Some can't even distinguish between the name of a journal and the title of an article in that journal. It really is that bad. Unfortunately, all of this is anecdotal. Every colleague I talk to has the same stories to tell, but we don't have any data to offer. Universities could easily collect the data, but they refuse to admit that they have a problem. Instead, they hide behind the pro forma stance that any student who passes the minimum English requirements for admission is ready to study in English.

Well, my Chinese students speak and write pro forma English. That's not good enough. We owe it to them to help them improve their English language skills, and that means admitting fewer Chinese students, then giving them more support when they arrive. Anyone who spends four years and six figures on an Australian university degree should at least graduate fluent in English. It's our responsibility to make sure that they do.

Salvatore Babones is an adjunct scholar at the Centre for Independent Studies, an associate professor at the University of Sydney, and author of the paper *The China Student Boom and the Risks It Poses to Australian Universities*.

THE NEWS | No.505 | WEDNESDAY 28 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

Thankyou Crib Box Café Braxton for dressing your chairs at breakfast with Granny Rugs.

To the Braxton RSL Sub Branch for their Vietnam Vet Day Memorial Service & Long Tan 50 year Memorial Service held on the 18th August; a good attendance on a beautiful day. Well done.

To the dirty, horrible, disgusting grubs who litter the entrance to our local tip ~ it would take no effort to clean your tracks!

I am sure there are many of us that are fed up with local dogs repeatedly getting out of their yards and menacing the neighbourhood. I am sick of feeling threatened in my own front yard and when taking my children for walks. One local dog has been reported to the ranger as he was particularly vicious towards my own dog. As a responsible pet owner it is your responsibility to put up an appropriate fence, exercise your dog and teach them some manners, but then I wonder what sort of manners and respect for others these dog owners have. Did you know that Cessnock Council has an after hours ranger service Ph: 4940 7816 when switch is not available? I strongly urge locals to call the ranger when these dogs are loose so that these owners start to get the message that this is not acceptable; we have had enough!! After speaking with the ranger it was also recommended that photographic proof of stray animals be collected so that infringement notices can be issued to the owners of these repeat escapees.

Classified's Classified's

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

FREE Classifieds

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

Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

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

For Sale: Blacksmith forge with electricity blower; handmade \$100 P: 4930 7671

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: 2013 Nissan Navara ST-R (4X4) \$17,000 4 cyl, 2.5 L Transmission Manual Kilometers 101,000 km Body Type Ute / Tray Location North Rothbury, NSW

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: 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: agjstment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

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

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

Work Wanted: 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

- SUN 1 SEPT — Fathers Day
- TUE 3 SEPT — Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
- SAT 7 SEP — Wollombi Wild Ride/. **Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Location: Wollombi Tavern, Wollombi, NSW**
- SAT 7 SEP — Spring Markets 92 Station Street, Weston NSW 2292 hosted by Finding Yellow. Free Community Event. All welcome. 10am - 2pm. Lots of Stalls - fashion, accessories, trinkets & treasures. Fun and entertainment by Super Hubert. Homemade delicious treats, cupcakes, slices, cakes and cookies. Beautiful handicrafts - plants, art & craft. HUGE RAFFLE WITH AMAZING PRIZES!!
- SUN 8 SEP — Broke Village Fair & Vintage Car Display. Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Location: McNamara Park, Broke, NSW
- TUES 10 SEP — 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 SEP — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
- THURS 12 SEP — Braxton VIEW Club meeting
- SAT 14 SEP — Stonehurst Long Table Lunch. Time: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Location: Stonehurst Cedar Creek, Cedar Creek,
- THUR 19 SEP — Cessnock View Club Monthly meeting/ luncheon Supporting 7 Learning for Life students Guest speaker All welcome 10 Cessnock Leagues Club
- THURS 26 SEP — Braxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade
- FRI 27 SEP — Wollombi Music Festival - Friday 27 September - Sunday 29 September
- TUE 1 Oct — Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
- TUE 5 Nov — Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton Golf Club @ 4 pm
- MON 7 OCT — Labour Day public holiday
- TUES 8 OCT — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
- SAT 9 & 10 NOV — Silky Oak Festival GRETA: SAVE THIS DATE - we are celebrating the birthdays for Greta Army Camp and Greta Migrant Camp hosted by the Central Hunter Business Chamber (Braxton & Greta). This is a public event over two days with military parade, market stalls, ethnic dancing and music, food vans and etc
- TUES 12 NOV — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome.
- TUE 3 DEC — Braxton Lions Club meeting at Braxton 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., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
- SAT 14 DEC — North Rothbury Tidy Town Twilight Markets & 90 year Rothbury Riot re-enactment.3pm - 8pm. Call Mike Lowing on 0414 757 826 for further details.
- WED 25 DEC — Christmas Day
- TUE 31 DEC — New Years Eve
- SUN 26 JAN 2020 — Australia Day



In The Garden

Produce in Pots

In Vegetables, Fruit

By Helen Tuton

Plants in pots... it's hardly a new or revolutionary concept... I mean, we are all well acquainted with the potted Maidenhair fern in the bathroom, a dusty 'Parlour Palm' struggling for life in the corner of the office, or the ubiquitous 'Peace Lily' given as a gift when we can't think of anything better. But what about productive plants in pots? Imagine a 'movable feast' in your inner city courtyard, providing a fair amount of the food you love to eat? A bounty of beautiful herbs out by the BBQ, or tonnes of tumbling tomatoes at your townhouse? Just about anyone has room for a few pots at their place, and we reckon you will be amazed by just how much produce you can grow in just about any space!

Gone to Pot – Getting Started Planting a productive potted plot is no different to getting going in a garden – it's all about planning, position, potting mix, patience and productivity.

Position This is all about the best position, not just for your plants, but for you as well. Almost all edible plants will do best in a full sun spot, so spend a bit of time in your patch, and work out where the sun is at it's most super! Remember, this will vary considerably from winter to summer... but the beauty of planting in pots means you can move them as required to catch the rays! Pop the pots somewhere

convenient for you – the closer they are to the house, the more likely they are to be watered (very important) and eaten (also very important!). Make sure that the pots are not blocking access ways, are not sitting in wind tunnels, and are not in the firing line of dogs, cats and wayward balls.

If you just can't get the right pot position, why not consider going up, rather than down? There is a massive range of tasty treats that can be grown in hanging and wall pots, and this is often an excellent solution for light starved courtyards, or those spaces dominated by our little fur babies (yes, dogs and cats are cute, but they can be a gardener's nightmare!). Turn the old Hills Hoist into a harvestable haven, or the side fence into a fresh food feast – they make excellent backyard features, and you'll be the talk of the neighbourhood (in a good way)!

Planning

Containers look best when they're grouped together, with pots of all different shapes and sizes closely clustered. It has a greater visual impact, cuts down on watering, creates some mini biodiversity and means you don't have to walk so far to enjoy a plethora of plants. Group plants that require similar levels of watering together, bearing in mind that plants in terracotta pots will dry out a bit faster than others. We know that pots can be pricey (no-one works in horticulture for the money), but check out our

Renters Guide To Sustainable Gardening for some great tips for procuring pots. The secret is to never let a pot pass you by... if you see a bargain (or even better, a freebie), grab it, you can always use it for something.

Potting Mix

As anyone who knows me will tell you, I have an unhealthy obsession with healthy soil (which is not a bad thing in itself, but does tend to make fairly boring dinner party conversation). When planting productive pots, the growing medium is incredibly important, but the hot tip here is NOT to use garden soil in pots! Healthy garden soil contains a fantastic mix of microbes, bacteria, fungi and worms... which are great in the garden, but generally don't perform that well in containers. Garden soil in pots can often have significant drainage issues, and tends to go shabby pretty quickly. The secret to awesome pots is to use a certified organic potting mix, and thankfully, there are now plenty of them around. When opening bags of potting mix, it is important to be aware of the potential for harmful airborne critters to puff out of the bag and into your respiratory system, so consider wearing a mask, and wetting down the potting mix before handling. Good organic potting mixes will break down over time, so you will need to refresh the pots with new potting mix every so often. Oh, and don't forget to mulch the tops of all pots with a straw based, locally sourced mulch, to slow down water loss, and prevent weed infestation. As this stuff breaks down, your potting mix will be enriched with natural goodness, minimising the need for additional feeding, saving you both time and money.

Patience...

...is a virtue, so my mother tells me, but this is not always an easy thing to remember in the garden. Consider staggering the planting times of some of your edible favourites (that is, don't plant 15 tomato plants at once), to prolong the harvest and therefore maximising the yield of your pots. Growing from seed is an excellent way to do this, and while it may be a slightly longer and more tedious process than using seedlings, the extended harvest and money saved may just make it worthwhile for you. Plus, you can often collect and save the seed from many herbs and vegies from one year to the next, which is a good thing for the back pocket, and the planet. Use heirloom varieties whenever possible to ensure the seeds will be viable.

Productivity

Edible gardening is all about maximising productivity, and this is especially important in small space and container gardens. The secret is to plant what you want to eat, and be familiar with plant families and **Companion Planting**. Depending on the size of your pot, you can often plant a number of different varieties of plant in the one container. Here are a few suggestions for some winning containerised combinations! Use these as a guide, remembering, the bigger the pot with these the better. If your pots are a little small, use these combinations as suggested plantings for groups of pots... they'll look great, and you'll be amazed at just how many incredible edibles you'll be able to fit into even the smallest space!

The Pasta Pot – One or two tomato plants at the back of the pot. Underplant these with some basil seedlings and a couple of marigolds. At the front of the pot, plant some trailing thyme, marjoram and / or oregano. These will soften the

edge of the container, and mean that everything required for a perfect pasta or pizza is in one pot! Plant this pot in spring / summer.

The Stir Fry – Underneath a Kaffir or Tahitian lime in a pot, plant some pick and come again Asian Greens (like Tatsoi, Bok and Pak Choi), and pop in some slow bolt coriander as well. If you don't have a lime tree, why not use some snow peas as the vertical planting instead? Grow these up a 'teepee', and underplant as above. Plant this pot as required in autumn / winter.

The Kickin' Curry Container – For any lover of home made curries... this container is a cracker! In spring / summer, pop in an Eggplant (or two, if using the smaller Thai eggplants) at the back of the pot. These will need to be staked. Underplant with a Chilli, Spinach, Coriander, and a Curry plant or two, and you are set to whip up a super curry in a hurry. Try this around September. For a winter version replace the eggplant with cauliflower and the spinach with kale. Too easy and darned tasty!

The Season-All – This is a must have for any container gardener. A bay tree in a nice big pot forms an attractive (but somewhat slow growing) centrepiece, surrounded by rosemary (either standard or trailing), thyme, tarragon, parsley and marjoram. Once planted and established, you've got yourself an incredibly attractive, fairly drought tolerant, semi-permanent pot planting that will add interest both to the garden, and to your cooking! Plant in spring / summer... and enjoy for ages!!

The Hot-Hot-Hot Pot – In a nice big pot (think half wine barrel size), pop in a capsicum at the back of the pot (remembering it may need to be staked). Whack in a couple of trailing cherry tomatoes, a chilli or two (experiment with these, there are some real winners) and some marigolds for colour and companionship! If you are so inclined, whack in some chives, and you've got yourself an instant Mexican feast in a pot! Plant in spring / summer. The Super Salad – This one is all about the lettuce, particularly the varieties that can be picked from continuously through their growing period. Lob in some Lettuce under a teepee of peas, and pop in some rocket, silverbeet (or spinach



depending on the season) and some chives, and you've got yourself the fixings of a nice, green salad! Can be planted all year round, just keep the water up to this thirsty pot.

The BBC – Build a teepee, and plant a climbing bean or two. Underplant this by popping in a couple of cauliflower and broccoli seedlings, leaving about 30cm between them. Interplant with a sage or two, and some dill. These will enhance the flavour of the broccoli and cauliflower, and help keep Cabbage White Butterfly at bay. Plant between April and August.

The Happy Apple – Miniature or 'Ballerina' apple trees are fantastic in pots, and with the right pollinators nearby, they can be incredibly productive. Underplant these trees in pots with some nasturtium and chives, and you will have yourself a happy potted apple. Plant anytime. The Hanging Garden – There are so many great varieties of herbs and vegies that will do well in hanging baskets, but here are a few of my tried and true favourites: Strawberries, Tomatoes (in particular the cherry and "pot tumbler" varieties), thyme, marjoram, oregano, prostrate rosemary, mint and chamomile.

While these suggestions are awesome (if I do say so myself), they are by no means the only combinations possible. Remembering the principles of backyard biodiversity and companion planting, you too can come up with your own cool containerised combination



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



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



Kirkton Public School

Assembly Awards

K/1/2

Cash—improved sentence writing skills & Charlee-Rose—working well in mathematics

4/5/6

Nayte—improvement in reading & Felina— for confident public speaking and debating skills.

Principal's award

Kendra— consistently displaying our FLORA values, especially that of opportunity—giving new things a go.

Triple M Broadcast

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

Branxton Public School

Branxton Public School News

Branxton Public School staff, including our aides, attended Dylan Wiliam's presentation for our Staff Development Day. Dylan Wiliam's is an expert in Formative Assessment and led us through different ways to engage students in reflecting on their learning. In particular, he spoke about how to make assessment meaningful and purposeful for both students and teachers. What a spectacular Book Character Parade we had last week! Students and staff made a big effort as always and the library even had a makeover for the Book Fair. Well done to our Library Monitors and Readers for their part in the Parade and thanks to Mrs Melnik for organising a fabulous event. If you haven't already, check out the photos on our school Facebook page, courtesy of Mrs Goodyer.



■ Book Week



■ Reading



■ Book Week



■ Book Week

Dates for the Calendar

Tuesday 27th August – Kindergarten 2020 Information Evening
 Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th September – Stage 2 Great Aussie Bush Camp
 Thursday 12th September – Infants' Sports Carnival

TAX RETURNS From \$99

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~ Quotable Quotes ~

"It is now proved beyond doubt that smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics." **Fletcher Knebel** "Never argue at the dinner table, for the one who is not hungry gets the best of the argument." **Richard Whately** "Conversation is the enemy of good wine and food." **Alfred Hitchcock** "Constant complaint is the poorest sort of pay for all the comforts we enjoy." **Benjamin Franklin** "Honesty pays, but it don't seem to pay enough to suit some people." **Kin Hubbard** "I'm way overdue for a promotion. I've made so many lateral moves, I'm beside myself." **Gary Apple** "Half of the world's misery comes from ignorance. The other half comes from intelligence." **Bonar Thompson** "Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." **Benny Hill** How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. **Anne Frank**

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
 P: 4938 3300

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton

Recent sales

SOLD **SOLD** **SOLD** **SOLD**

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

WILDCATS FOOTBALL FINALS FEVER!

The Wildcats have had an amazing last two weeks on the football field, with four of our teams, Under 13's, 15's 16's and Men's O35-1 all taking out their Minor Premierships, and playing their Grand Finals this coming Saturday. Our Men's Zone League 3 teams both finished in second spot, and have the second leg of their semi-finals battle being played at home this Saturday afternoon as well. After wins in the first semi-final leg last Sunday, both teams are well positioned to make it to the Grand Final on Saturday 7 September.

Match times and locations:-

Over 35-1 v Belmont 8.00pm Friday 30.8.19 Taylor Park Barnsley **U16** v Warners Bay 8.30am Saturday 31.8.19 **MILLER PARK BRANXTON U15** v Belswans 10.45am Saturday 31.8.19 Taylor Park Barnsley **U13** v Mayfield Jnr 12.15pm Saturday 31.8.19 Norm Chapman Oval Rutherford Zone League 3 Reserve Grade 3.15pm Saturday 31.8.19 **MILLER PARK BRANXTON** Zone League 3

First Grade 5.30pm Saturday 31.8.19 **MILLER PARK BRANXTON**

As well as our own teams battling for glory, the Wildcats are hosting a full weekend of football starting on Friday night – with various grand finals being played Friday night, Saturday and Sunday as well as our Men's Zone League 3 semi-finals. There will be a full canteen running over the weekend, and the bar will be open for senior games. Come on down, catch some great football, grab a burger and beverage, and cheer our teams on to victory!



ZONE LEAGUE 3
2ND SEMI FINAL
SATURDAY 31 AUG
MILLER PARK
BRANXTON
 Reserve grade v
 West Wallsend
 3.15pm
 First grade v
 Mayfield Jnr
 5.30pm



UNDER 15-2019 MINOR PREMIERS
GRAND FINAL v BELSWANS
 10.45am **SATURDAY 31 AUGUST**
TAYLOR PARK, BARNSELY



UNDER 16-2019 MINOR PREMIERS
GRAND FINAL v WARNERS BAY
 8.30am **SATURDAY 31 AUGUST**
MILLER PARK BRANXTON



UNDER 13-2019 MINOR PREMIERS
GRAND FINAL v MAYFIELD Jnr
 12.15pm **SATURDAY 31 AUGUST**
NORM CHAPMAN OVAL RUTHERORD

NOTICE FOR EVERYONE WITH A CONNECTION TO THE GRETA CAMP



To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Army Camp and the 70th anniversary of the Migrant Camp, Greta Museum is asking for YOUR STORY, in the year 2019.

- Only one page is required, so it needs to be summarised. Please also provide a photograph (old or new). The title will be 'My Story of Coming to Greta Camp, by ...'
- All the stories will be stored in the Greta Museum for future generations to learn about the past, in a specific file and filed under whichever name/s you prefer
- One story may be chosen randomly each fortnight to print in *The News*.

Send, or bring in, to Neridah at Greta Museum, 96 High Street Greta NSW 2334. Open Wed. & Sat. 11am-3pm or email to gretamuseum@gmail.com (queries: call 0427657150)

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



Open 7 days
8am - 8pm

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
 (opposite ALDI)

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 15-8-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner E Barrett 31pts R/u E Munzenberger 27 pts (c/b) 3rd K Anderson 27 pts
Div2 Winner R Brooks 35 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u L Bootes 35 pts 3rd R McMillan 31 pts (c/b)
Ladies Winner M Hunt 34 pts R/u N Busch 29 pts 3rd J Harris 27 pts
NTP Ladies M Hunt Gents R Crooks
Members draw - Not won A fine, cloudless and cool/cold Winter's morning, with a light dusting of frost, greeted our players as they gathered or to-days round. Thankfully the strong wind that threatened did not eventuate until all players were back in the clubhouse. Congratulatory to Robert Brooks on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day" and a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

Results 22-8-19 Stableford

Div 1 Winner D Sheppard 31 pts (SOD) R/u M Ford 30 pts 3rd P Conroy 29 pts
Div 2 Winner R Showman 30 pts R/u B Turner 28 pts (c/b) 3rd G Cuthbert 28 pts
Ladies Winner C Caldwell 30 pts R/u J Harris 28 pts 3rd R Friis 28 pts
NTP Ladies C Caldwell Gents L Hunt
Members draw - Not won Whilst having a pleasant day for golf, our hardy band of players had to battle the gusting wind to complete the round. Congratulations to Darryl Sheppard on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", and well done to all other winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec Branxton Lady Golfers 14th August 2019 - Stableford

Winner: Jen Salna on 36 points (c/b)
Runner-up: Trish McMillan on 36 points
3rd: Carol Miller on 32 points
4th: Caren Caldwell on 31 points
Nearest to the pin: Trish McMillan
21st August 2019 - Stableford
Winner: Ruth McCarthy on 36 points
Runner-up: Kerrie O'Connell on 31 points
3rd: Caren Caldwell on 32 points
4th: Carol Miller on 31 points
Nearest to the pin: Jen Salna
CONGRATULATIONS TO KERRIE O'CONNELL FOR HER EAGLE ON THE 3RD!

Hunter Valley Golf Club Tuesday 13th August

The freezing condition which greeted the field had little effect on the scoring with plenty of excellent returns on the day. Bill Williams led the way with a solid 43 points with Dan Taylor 2nd and Bill Freeman 3rd after surviving a 5 way countback with 40 points. Ball winners were:

Ryan Wilson 40, Jacob Rose v40, Joe Olsen 40, Karl Zalewski v39, Frazer Wilson 39, Robert Hannah 39, Wayne Cowan 39, Joe Lachlan 38, Shawn Parish 38, Scott Conti 38, Hieu Le 37, Matt Delforce 37, Corey Lamb 36, John Stewart 36, Steve Piggot 36, James Hogg 35, Jason Cowburn 35, Brian Rooney 35, Scott Tate 34 and Lindsay Self 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Matt Delforce (3rd) Steve Piggot (4th) Geoff Boyd (8th) James Hogg (10th) and Dan Taylor (17th)

Wednesday 14th August
Jeanette Irwin has produced an outstanding 67 Nett round to claim the Ladies Stroke event by a huge margin. Molly Hamilton took 2nd place on countback after she and Robyn Dunlop had 76 Nett scores. Ball winners were: Sue Williams 77, Melita Watson 78, Dale Hamilton 79 and Karen Baillie 80 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jeanette Irwin (3rd) Jenny Chambers (4th) Sue Peel (8th) and Molly Hamilton (17th). The Putting comp was won by Dale Hamilton.

Thursday 15th August
Inform Bill Mitchell has cleaned up the Vets comp with a great 63 Nett round with Wayne Cowan Runner up with 66 on countback to Bob Hannah 3rd, Jerry Irwin 4th with 67 and Brian Rooney 5th with 68 on countback. Ball winners were: Phil Wetzler 68, Ian Newell 70, Kevin Dick 70, Larrie Clarke 71, Danny Schofield 71, Bill Williams 71, Ken Harris 71, Don Bradley 71, Gary Tomlinson 71, John McLoughney 71, Gunther Schilko 71, Michael Watson 71, Graham Donaldson 72, Kevin Gibson 72, Gary Johns 72, Bill Davey 72, Kerry Bartlett 72, Peter Mathews 72, Jmes Schofield 72, James Hogg 72, Rod Williams 72, Eric Smith 73, Graeme Flynn 74, Peter Threadgold 74, John Pascoe 74, William Edwards 74, Col Bradley 74, Wayne Drayton 74, Paul Ireland 75 and Peter McIntyre 75 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter McIntyre (3rd) Danny Schofield (4th) Paul Smith (8th) Mark Barrow (10th) and Kevin Dick (17th).

Saturday 17th August
The Medley Stableford has been keenly contested in all grades with Stephen Applebee taking A Grade with 38 points from Dan McLeod 36, B Grade to Graeme Smith with 39 points from Stephen Zok 37 c/b and C Grade to Ian Taylor 39 from Max Hindmarsh 37 c/b. Ball winners were: Brian Connolly 37, James Schofield 37, Peree Watson 37, Alan Provenzano 37, Paul Adams 37, Kevin Smith 36, Peter Puerta 36, Colin Holden 36, Andrew Zok 35, Brendan Connor 35, Peter Huckfeldt 35, Wayne Barber 35, David Peel 35, Joel Fitzgibbon 35 and Ken Springbett 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Adrian Kent (3rd) Geoff Geason (4th) Wayne Drayton (8th) Stephen Zok (10th) and Stephen Applebee (17th).

Sunday 18th August
Justin Woodbine has won the Weekly Competition with 41 points from Anthony Bower 38 and Shannon

Attewell 3rd with 37. Ball winners were: Robert Kelly v36, Sam Capuano v36, Todd Burgoyne v36, Thang Le v35, Seth Knott 34, Steve Piggot 34, Sam Provenzano 33 and Nathan Sweeney 33 c/b

Tuesday 20th August
A countback was required to find the winner in the Tuesday Stableford after Geoff Boyd and Graeme Flynn recorded 41 points apiece with Geoff getting the Judges nod for the win, 3rd went to Darrell Porter with 40 points. Ball winners were: Col Bradley 39, Bob Prentice 39, Todd Mitchell 39, Scott Conti 38, Lindsay Self 37, Wayne Burgess 37, Rex Talbot 36, Robert Logue 35, David Peel 35, Brian Rooney 35, Ken Wright 34, Tim Caban 34, Greg Noble 34, Mark Fullbrook 34 and Ryan Wilson 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Col Bradley (3rd) Geoff Boyd (4th) Graeme Flynn (8th) Terry Webb (10th) and Julie Van Den Berg (17th)

Wednesday 21st August
The Ladies opening round of the 2019 Championship has seen defending Champion Dale Hamilton open up with a 10 stroke lead at the completion of the round from Melita Watson, Division 2 is much tighter with Leesa Robinson holding a 1 shot advantage to Isabel Skeates and Division 3 has Toni Fisher 3 shot to the good of Robyn Dunlop. Round 2 of 3 will be contested next Wednesday. The daily comp played in conjunction has seen Toni Fisher win the day with 74 Nett from Christine Tancred 75 on countback to Glenda Williams 75 also on countback. Ball comp details not available at this time.

Thursday 22nd August
The Vets American Stableford Division 1 has seen Gunther Schilko receive the Judges nod over John Stewart after both had 56 point returns, Division 2 went to Rod Williams with 58 points from Spot Mitchell 55 and Division 3 to Bruce Mathews with the round of the day 59 points from Larrie Clarke With 58. Ball winners were: Ken Wright 57, Brian Rooney 57, John Tancred 57, Kevin Gibson 56, Graham Morris 55, Ruff Davey 55, Richard Craft 54, Geoff Boyd 54, Darrell Preston 54, Kevin Smith 54, Eric Smith 54, Rex Talbot 54, Ken Blackett 54, Peter McIntyre 54, Mick Gilbert 53, Ron Findlay 53, Alick Bender 53, Tim Caban 53, Kerry Bartlett 53, Wayne Barber 53, Peter Threadgold 53, Boss Hogg 53, Greg Amloh 53, Joe Olsen 52, Chris Norman 52, John Pascoe 52, Paul Ireland 52, Phil Wetzler 51, John Grayson 51, Alan Kendall 51 and Ian Newell 51 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kevin Dick (3rd) Geoff Boyd (4th) Mark Green (8th) Peter McIntyre (10th) and Mark Barrow (17th). The raffle has been won by Graham Morris (again!) Gruller took 2nd place.

Saturday 24th August
A freezing start followed by strong gusty wind has seen the edge taking from the scores in the opening round of the 2019 Club Championship. Jason Cowburn is leading the way with a 75 from Seth Knott and Shawn

Parish 78, B Grade has Wade Attewell 85 from Peter Huckfeldt 86 and John Parish 87 and C Grade Peter Attewell 91 leading from Luke Johnston and Denis Corke with 93 each. The Weekend Ladies event Has Tracy Morison 89 with a handy lead to Julie Van Den Berg and Sue Peel in 3rd place. The daily comp played in conjunction has seen Shawn Parish win A Grade with 69 Nett from David Peel 71c/b, B Grade to John Parish 69 on countback to Tracy Morison and C Grade to Peter Attewell with 67 from Luke Johnston 69. Ball winners were: Ian Taylor 71, Denis Corke 71, Nathan Sweeney 71, Wade Attewell 72, Peter Huckfeldt 72, Bohdi King 73, Darrell Porter 73, Stephen Applebee 73, James Schofield 73, Todd Mitchell 73, Kevin Smith 73, David Preece 73, Tom Bell 73, Tony Bowie 74, Seth Knott 74 and Ken Springbett 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Parish (3rd) Terry Roughan (4th) David Peel (8th) Jeremy Holden (10th) and Paul Bullock (17th).

Branxton Saturday Golf Results

Saturday, 10 August 2019 SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 53
Grades A Michael Simpson 34
Grades A Tony Seamer 34
Grades A Edward Barrett 33
Grades B David Hodges 40
Grades B Wayne Oliver 38
Grades B Stephen Ross 36
Grades C Steven Primmer 36
Grades C Barry Turner 35
Grades C Michael Carling 34
NTP 2/11 B 2nd Roger Yandle 159cm
NTP 4 C 4th Richard Turnbull 234cm
NTP 9/18 B 9th Richard Alley 118cm
NTP 13 B 13th John Martin 108cm
Balls 16 Distributed down to score: 30
Saturday's gale force winds ensured all players kept their head down, making scoring difficult for most players across the field. Mick Simpson showed his class, winning the A Grade with his 34 pts—a great effort from this single marker. Tony Seamer battled his way to the runner up position with Eddie Barrett third, on a countback, with his 33 pts, on a day when only 30 pts was needed in the ball competition and the DSR was 71. Dave Hodges had the score of the day with his 40 pts a brilliant effort in such conditions. Wayne Oliver's 38 pts was just as impressive to finish runner up, with Steve Ross third with his pleasing 36 pts. Steve Primmer won C Grade with his 36 pts, just ahead of Barry Turner and Mick Carling. Steve's winning score is quite remarkable as he only recently told me he liked windy days on the golf course—well now, the proof is in the pudding after his winning effort. The shot of the day belonged to John Martin on the 13th—how John actually hit this green in such a howling gale is remarkable let alone leaving it just over a metre away—I'm sure he will have a great story to tell me how it was done!

Saturday, 17th August 2019 SATURDAY COMP - MEN'S FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Field: 62
SCRATCH WINNERS
JOSH TRACEY/ MICK TRACEY 76
SCRATCH RUNNERS UP
MARK MOYAL/ PETER WILTON 81
NETT WINNERS
GRAHAM BULL/ DOUGLAS ELPHICK 61.5 NETT
NETT RUNNERS UP
DAVID KINCH/ KELVIN MATHER 70.5 NETT C/B
NETT THIRD CHRIS ZAWIRSKI/ TED ZAWIRSKI 70.5 NETT
NETT FOURTH ROGER YANDLE/ GRAHAM SHELDON 71 NETT
NETT FIFTH STEVE ROSS/ KEVIN WALTON 71.5 NETT
NETT SIXTH GARY WALSH/ ROBERT MILLER 72.5 NETT C/B
NTP 2/11 T FOSTER 306 CM
NTP 4 G SHELDON 405 CM
NTP 9/18 G GILLARD 550 CM
NTP 13 G WALSH 360 CM
Balls ANYONE WHO DIDN'T WIN A VOUCHER
The annual "sorry" event was played on Saturday—that being the Foursomes Championships, an event where each player takes turns to play the same ball, meaning shots are often played from some very precarious, unwanted positions. Josh and Mick Tracey, the early odds on favourites for the title, showed how it was done in winning by a commanding 5 shots with their 76 from Mark Moylan and Peter Wilton's 81 off the stick. The nett winners, Graham Bull and Doug Elphick, had an incredible 61.5 nett score, 9 shots ahead of the rest of the field. Dave Kinch, Kelvin Mather, Chris Zawirski and Ted Zawirski finished with 70.5 nett scores. Fourth place was taken by Roger Yandle and Graham Sheldon only half a point back, with Steve Ross and Kevin "Doc" Walton 5th and Gary Walsh and Robert "Shirl" Miller 6th. The shot of the day belonged to Tom Foster on the 2nd whilst all other players finished with a ball—a testament to everyone's willingness to play and ultimately enjoy this tough event.

Saturday, 24 August 2019 SATURDAY COMP STABLEFORD

Field: 53
Grades A Michael Tracey 39
Grades A Mark Moylan 37
Grades A Robert Biles 35
Grades B Neil Jordan 39
Grades B Fraser Wilson 38
Grades B Richard Crooks 36

Grades C Lennard Porter 38
Grades C Dylan Barnes 38
Grades C William Mitchell 37
NTP 2/11 C 2nd Kevin Walton 324cm
NTP 4 B 4th Ed Garland 294cm
NTP 9/18 C 9th Col Hughes 166cm
NTP 13 B 13th Paul Bush 270cm
Balls 6 Distributed down to score: 32
The windy conditions didn't deter Mick Tracey who won A Grade with a very creditable 39 pts from his single figure handicap. Mick has been a very solid golfer for many years, consistently scoring in the 70s each week. Mark Moylan continued his recent good form finishing runner up with his 37 pts with Bob Biles' 35 pts good enough for third place, on a Day where 32 pts was needed to win a ball. Neil Jordan found his form to win B Grade with a very pleasing 39 pts, just ahead of the long hitting Fraser Wilson with 38 pts, whilst Club President Richard Crooks was third with 36 pts. Local legend Lennie Porter won C Grade with 38 pts, on a countback from Dylan Burns with William Mitchell's 37 pts earned him third place. The shot of the day belonged to Col Hughes on the 9th, finishing only 166 cms from the pin. The Hunter District Championships for A, B and C Grade was held at Muswellbrook on Sunday with Branxton well represented across all grades. Some notable results included Isaiah Wolferstan finishing second in the A Grade handicap (and only 2 strokes from winning the title with his 73 scratch score); Dave Hollis winning the B Grade handicap with his 71 nett; Adam Wallace winning the C Grade handicap with his 69 and the team of Mick Carling, Kel Mather, Adam Wallace and Geoff Jones winning the C Grade Team event. A great effort from our small club.



Semi Final Over 35-1s vs Belmont 16th August 2019
With Swansea disqualified for playing ineligible players the Wildcats headed to

Kahibah Oval to take on a Belmont side that produced two closely fought games in the regular season. The game started with both sides having early chances but it was Daggy that broke the deadlock with a clinical finish from out wide. The Wildcats scored another two goals in quick succession and the game was starting to get away from Belmont. Brad finished off another good move to make the score 4-0 just before half time. In the second half, Matt and Chris were solid in defence and limited the opposition to occasional glimpses at goal. The goal scoring continued for the Wildcats with Brad getting another goal from the penalty spot and Grant hammering home a sixth to make the final score 6-0. It was our strongest team performance of the season and the boys are now looking to complete the job with a win in the grand final in a fortnight.

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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Tattersalls Hotel Social



The Greta Fishing Club had their Harrington trip away on the weekend of 16/17/18th August and got rather nice conditions for the weekend. Calm seas resulted in a few boats getting outside, and quite a few gave the wall a hammering. With the rumors of kingfish being along the



■ Two old sea dogs Troy Fields (1.75kg Snapper) and Robert Barnes

wall the young fella's tried their hardest but the closest they got to a legal was a 90cm (approx.) busting them off. One undersize Kingy got

landed and released however. Troy Fields won the weekend fishing the beach and the ocean with 79.7 points Snapper, Bream and a Pearl Perch and retained the overall lead from Mark Dever. Steve Nevin skipped into second place with a mixed bag of Squire, Flathead and Morwong (63.9



■ Kye Barnes with his 0.85kg Bream

points). That capped off a successful two days to the Nevin boat with 3 generations teaming up, Jeff "Devon" Nevin (58.4 points) and Tyson Nevin (40.4) taking the lead in the Juniors. Tom Fields landed 1 Bream (14 points), and the father/son combo Kye (22.6) and Robert Barnes (29.8) registered their first scores of the year. The next Fishing weekend is 20/21/22nd September, Lake St Clair, Weigh in Sunday 22nd 3pm at the Tatts.

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