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WEDNESDAY
25 September 2019

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STEVE'S RANT

Members Well Done say...



Not So Well Done



School NEWS

Councillor Dagg to continue as Deputy Mayor



• Deputy Mayor Councillor Melanie Dagg with her daughters and Mayor Councillor Bob Pynesent

Congratulations to Councillor Melanie Dagg, who was elected to the position of Deputy Mayor of Cessnock City Council for her second term. Council's Interim General Manager Robert Maginnity was the returning officer for the election and declared Councillor Dagg the successful candidate during last Wednesday's council meeting. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynesent congratulated Councillor Dagg. "During Cr Dagg's first term as Deputy Mayor she demonstrated commitment to the community and has done an outstanding job at representing Council. Cr

Dagg is a wonderful and passionate advocate for our community and I know she will continue this hard work during her second term. It was clear Cr Dagg has done an exceptional job receiving unanimous support from her fellow Councillors." Cr Dagg grew up in Cessnock, attending West Cessnock Public School, Mount View High School and later St Marys in Maitland and is currently studying law by correspondence. Melanie now lives in Branxton with her husband Josh and their two gorgeous girls Amelia and Eliza. Cr Dagg serves as a member of the Cultural

Facilities Committee, Hunter Water Consultative Committee, the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils. Cr Dagg thanked the Councillors for their support after standing unopposed for the position. "I have genuinely enjoyed the position and am thankful for the support of my colleagues. I will continue to work hard as Deputy Mayor for the residents of this special local government area, which I care so much about. I'm committed to listening to our community and fighting to ensure their voice is heard at a local, state and federal level."



• Deputy Mayor Councillor Melanie Dagg

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**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT**

PROPOSAL: 60 Tourist and Visitor Accommodation Units, Installed in Two Phases; Construction of Carparking, Landscaping and Ancillary Infrastructure.

LAND: LOT: 1 DP: 239452, LOT: 81 DP: 718789 409 & 421 Palmers Lane POKOLBIN

APPLICANT: Bimbadgen Estate Pty Ltd

APPLICATION NO.: 8/2018/917/1

CONSENT AUTHORITY: Cessnock City Council

Council is in receipt of an Application for the abovementioned property. The proposal was originally exhibited between 16 - 31 January 2019, however is being re-notified due to amendments made to the layout of proposed accommodation units. For your convenience a locality map and details of the development proposal, as specified above, can be viewed utilising Council's online enquiry system, called 'Application Tracker'. 'Application Tracker' can be accessed through Council's website on <http://datracker.cessnock.nsw.gov.au> and using the above application number and then clicking on the "Documents" view link; or alternatively:

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

The proposed development is Integrated Development as defined under Section 4.46 (cf previous s91) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. This means that additional approvals, required under other legislation, are being considered as part of the current development application. These other approvals are as follows:

Relevant Legislation	Approval Agency
Rural Fires Act 1997 – Section 100B	NSW Rural Fire Service

Before determining the Application, Council is inviting the public to make a submission in relation to the proposal. **The notification period commences on 25 September 2019 and will conclude on 10 October 2019.** Where a submission is made by way of an objection, the objection must be in writing and the grounds for objection must be clearly specified. The views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a determination is made. All comments or objections should be made by utilising Council's 'Application Tracker' "Make a Submission" link which is located under the "Exhibition Details/Make a Submission" Tab.

Once you have submitted your submission you will automatically receive a confirmation and copy of your submission via reply email. **Submissions are NOT kept confidential.** Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with privacy laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission. Should you intend to make a submission to Council your attention is drawn to your statutory obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 regarding disclosure of political donations and gifts.

You are required to complete a Political Donation and Gifts Declaration if you or an associate made any political donations or gifts to a Councillor or Council employee during the two (2) years prior to the submission. Please also note that should you make a donation or gift to a Councillor or Council employee in the period between the date of your submission and the determination of the application, you are required to submit a Declaration within seven (7) days of the donation.

Further information regarding Political Donation and Gift Declarations and the Declaration Form can be obtained from Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or from Council's Customer Service Centre. If you have any enquiries in relation to the Application please contact Mrs Kristen Wells of Council's Planning and Environment on 4993 4152.

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
CESSNOCK POOL MASTERPLAN**

At its meeting held on 18 September 2019, Council resolved to place the Draft Cessnock Pool Masterplan on Public Exhibition.

The public exhibition period will be from **Monday 23 September to Tuesday 22 October 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
- Cessnock Pool, Allandale Road Cessnock

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until 5.00pm Tuesday 22 October 2019 via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

29 new Australian citizens welcomed to Cessnock Local Government area!



Cessnock City Council welcomed 29 new citizens at an Australian citizenship ceremony today as part of Australian Citizenship Day 2019. Our newest citizens come from all across the globe including

from the Philippines, India, China, United States, South Africa, Pakistan, Vietnam, Canada, Fiji, United Kingdom, Cyprus, England, New Zealand and Kenya. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor

Bob Pynsent said the ceremony was an opportunity for all Australians, whether they are citizens by birth or by choice, to come together to acknowledge what's great about being Australian.

"There is no greater privilege than our citizenship. It's a life-long commitment to Australia's values of freedom, democracy, equality and respect," Mayor Pynsent said.

This year on Australian Citizenship Day, we welcomed the largest number of new citizens nationally since the inaugural Australian Citizenship Day in 2001.

The Department of Home Affairs and local councils hosted 150 ceremonies across the country with more than 8000 people becoming Australian citizens as part of this special occasion. Australian Citizenship Day provides an occasion for individuals, schools, community groups and organisations to reflect on the values of Australian citizenship and the contributions of citizens to our local communities.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au
PICK OF What's Coming

Harrison Craig sings Elton John Love Songs – The Piano Sessions

18 October 2019
Australia's Prince of Crooning and love ballads, **Harrison Craig**, returns in 2019 to embark on a national tour honouring the emotional, intimate and soulful love songs of the great, Sir Elton John.



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11 October 2019

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Rural Fire Brigades	
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Broke.....	6579 1491
Greta.....	4015 0000
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000
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Rothbury.....	4015 0000
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000
Rothbury.....	4991 1733
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000
Nth R'bury....	4015 0000
Rothbury.....	4015 0000
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000
Rothbury.....	4991 1733
Scotts	
Flat.....	6575 1200
Central	
(Cessnock)...	4015 0000

Electricity	
Energy	
Australia.....	131 388
Hospitals	
Maitland....	4939 2000
Cessnock...	4991 0555
Singleton..	6572 2799
SES	132 500
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Poisons Info	131 126
Hunter Water	
	1300 657 000
Ausgrid	131 388
Gas Emergencies .	131 909
Lifeline	131 114
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Centrelink Self Service	
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The NSW State Government & Hunter Water don't give a sh#t about North Rothbury



AT Cessnock Councils last weeks bi-weekly meeting a report was presented to council concerning the provision of sewerage services to its unsewered village areas.

The report contained a litany of state government broken promises going back to 2014.

As stated in the report ... "the previous indications, decisions and commitments to Council by HWC (Hunter Water Corp) and the previous assurance by the Hon. Niall Blair as the former NSW Minister for Land and Water in relation to the supply of sewerage services to North Rothbury appear to be redundant."

Initially, in 2016, Council was given an assurance that the village would be seweraged after Wye was completed under their backlog sewer program. Their missive from the then minister provided an assurance that HWC were proposing to sewer North Rothbury, Raworth and Hexham. An extract from that letter stated:

"As you are aware, following the successful connection of Wye, Hunter Water is proposing to sewer the townships of North Rothbury, Raworth and Hexham. Preliminary planning is presently underway, and subject to review from Hunter Water's

regulator, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and with the support of the NSW Government, the project is expected to commence following the completion of Wye. The EPA and NSW Health have endorsed the sewerage of these townships for environmental and public health reasons."

The current estimated cost to provide a reticulated sewer service to North Rothbury is \$12million or \$55,000 per household to be paid by the landowner which is one option suggested!

This inequitable funding model proposed by Hunter Water Corporation would only see the provision of sewerage to North Rothbury and other villages being provided at full cost to the property owners, instead of the previous Environmental Improvement Charge (EIC) which would have seen the cost spread across the full customer base.

At the meeting all ward councillors were scathing of the state government & Hunter Water. Deputy Mayor & Ward C councillor, Councillor Melanie Dagg, who led the charge & supported by Cllrs. Sander & Fagg, said that the previous indications, decisions and commitments to Council by HWC and the previous

assurance by the Hon. Niall Blair as the former NSW Minister for Land and Water in relation to the supply of sewerage services to North Rothbury appear to be redundant.

Councillors Sander and Fagg endorsed her sentiments.

A full extract of the report said that ... in March 2019, after enquiry by Council staff as to progress of providing sewer to North Rothbury, communication from HWC staff indicated that the township of Wye would be the final village sewer connection under the existing backlog priority sewerage scheme and that North Rothbury was no longer identified as receiving any connection in the foreseeable future.

In July 2019, HWC released its 2020 - 2025 Pricing Proposal indicating the previously levied Environmental Improvement Charge (EIC) would not continue, thereby removing the equitable funding source

for future backlog sewer services. We now understand that this approach is in line with IPART's October 2018 decision to no longer fund backlog sewer services via the EIC however we also understand that IPART has allowed for other equitable funding approaches to be utilised by HWC however they have not been outlined in the pricing proposal.

The previous indications, decisions and commitments to Council by HWC and the previous assurance by the Hon. Niall Blair as the former NSW Minister for Land and Water in relation to the supply of sewerage services to North Rothbury appear to be redundant.

However, in September 2019, IPART have advertised the release of an issues Paper which enables submissions to be made in relation to the proposed HWC Pricing Proposal for 2020- 25. Council will therefore have an opportunity to make a

submission to these changes and may consider to stress the importance of ensuring equitable funding is included which will enable the supply of backlog sewer to North Rothbury as a high priority and which then could apply to other unsewered villages in future across the LGA.

It is strongly recommended that this matter be escalated to the ministerial level in order to express Council's serious concerns about this change of direction.

Council should also consider writing again to HWC expressing concern over the matter and a submission to the IPART review is strongly recommended. it is understood that IPART proposes to release an Issue Paper in September 2019. At the time of this report being prepared, the Issues Paper had not been released.

In an unanimous decision council elected to ...

restate its positions, escalate the matter and send a strong message to the NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing and Hunter Water Corporation by resolving that:-

* That Council remains strongly committed to ensuring that the NSW Government and Hunter Water Corporation provide equitably funded backlog sewerage services to North Rothbury and other villages across the Cessnock Local Government Area as a high priority;

* That Council note with serious concern that there appears to be no progress or commitment by the NSW Government or Hunter Water Corporation to provide equitably funded backlog sewerage services to North Rothbury and other villages within the Cessnock Local Government Area as a high priority, despite previous assurances by the former NSW Minister for Lands and Water.

* That Council note that IPART proposes to release

an Issues Paper this month for public consultation in relation to the Hunter Water Pricing Proposal 1 July 2019.

* That the General Manager review the IPART Issues Paper when it is released in September 2019, and prepare a submission for Councils consideration prior to close of submissions.

* That Council write to the Hon Melinda Pavey, MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing as a matter of urgency, to seek a meeting to discuss Council's serious concern about:

* the lack of progress or commitment by the NSW Government and Hunter Water Corp. to provide equitably funded backlog sewerage services to the township of North Rothbury and other villages within the

Cessnock Local Government Area as a high priority; and * the HWC Pricing Proposal 1 July 2019 which suggests equitably funded sewerage services will no longer be provided to North Rothbury

* That Council write to Clayton Barr MP, State Member for Cessnock seeking support for Council's position on the provision of equitably funded backlog sewerage services to the township of North Rothbury and other villages in the Cessnock Local Government Area as a high priority.

* That the General Manager write to Hunter Water Corporation to seek an urgent meeting to discuss the Council's serious concerns.

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STEVE'S RANT

Water

The nonsense that Jacinta Price encountered with the Coffs Harbour Council rebounded to make that presentation her best yet. So good for her.

When and if the perpetrators of the drone attacks on the Saudi refineries is established, I supposed there will be some counter moves by the US and the Saudi Administration, however I did not expect my Rant of the 21st of August would become so relevant so quickly. As I said then the supply infrastructure of the oil industry is, as with other globalised supply chains, very robust and flexible. Any spike in oil prices would be as a result of knee-jerk reactions by the market and not due to any great shortage of oil or refining capacity internationally. So, don't panic yet.

What I want to discuss this week is the drought. First some facts. Drought has been part of the environment in Australia, always has been and always will be. Our indigenous peoples have lived with this and thrived for 40,000 to 60,000 years, even though dramatic climate changes including Ice Ages and changes through wet hot to dry hot conditions.

They achieved this by their shared knowledge of where the water holes were and by building wells and irrigation channels to take advantage of rain when it did fall to ensure their future supply.

In the last 150 years our white forefathers-built dams, pipelines and irrigation systems, which

we even now, would consider to be massive ventures. The most readily apparent being the Snowy River diversion and hydro scheme. But before that was the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA). The Kalgoorlie water pipeline, the various city water supply systems and the major dams on rivers leading into the Murray River system.

All this came to an abrupt halt in the nineteen seventies and eighties for reasons which defy common-sense or the aims of national development. The last major projects of any consequence were the Ord River dam in Western Australia and the Dartmouth Dam in Victoria. Both these projects were derided in their time; the Ord Dam as being a white elephant and Dartmouth as being an environmental catastrophe.

The Ord river scheme has produced the largest and most productive irrigation area in Western Australia. The Dartmouth Dam in Victoria has enabled river flows in the Murray even when Eildon and Hume Weir were virtually empty. In 1938, John (Jack) Bradfield, proposed a scheme for Northern Queensland similar to the Snowy River diversion scheme, diverting the far northern rivers to the west of the Great Divide for irrigation, and hydro power. This was to take advantage of the high tropical rainfall which flowed out into the Coral Sea.

Bradfield, civil engineer and designer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge was also



the designer and consulting engineer for the Story Bridge, Brisbane, and designed the Burrinjuck and Cataract Dams, as well as the Sydney underground rail. His scheme was abandoned in 1947 presumably because the planning for the Snowy Scheme was underway. Construction for the Snowy began in October 1949. Whether his plan was the precursor to the Snowy Scheme or not I do not know. I think the Tennessee Valley Scheme in the US was the model for the detail and Hydro-electric element for the Snowy Scheme. Whatever the case, Bradfield's model is still relevant and not just to North Queensland. There are River systems in

tropical north of Australia where the monsoon season dumps more water in a month than the rest of Australia. South of the Tropic of Capricorn, gets in a year, This flows into the Gulf of Carpentaria or the Timor sea largely unused. The Ord River scheme is the model for this. Colin Barnett, Premier of Western Australia, had a plan to pipe water south from the Ord River to Perth as a long-term provision of water to the South west agricultural districts and the denser populated areas. That plan again was ridiculed as impractical and too expensive. So was the plan to pipe water from Perth to Kalgoorlie in the nineteenth century. Tony Abbott instigated investigation for new dams and irrigation

potential Australia wide when he was Prime Minister. We never saw any result from that survey but presumably it exists on some shelf in Canberra with other good ideas, that the bureaucracy thought was too hard or too much work. Both State and Federal Government is failing to provide reserves of water for periods of drought and the future populations of Australia. The management of the water we have is a complete shamble with all levels of Government attempting to balance the need for agricultural water, the water for towns, cities and environmental flows. The needless expense of desalination plants in the east coast capital cities were a product of previous drought panic. They are unlikely to

be ever used. Thanks to Stephen Conroy and Kevin 07 we have committed to spend 50 to 60 billion dollars on a telephone system which is already out of date superseded by wireless but we don't have the wit or will to provide water for our people. The classic example of a missed opportunity to secure future water occurred right here in the Hunter Valley. Hunter Water had planned for, financed and purchased the land for the construction of the Tillegra Dam on the Williams River. Here was a government corporation doing what its charter required it to do, only to be circumvented by the State Government under Kristina Keneally.

There was a concern for land owners above and below the dam who would lose their water licences. The land has been sold off. The people of Dungog still want the planned dam to go ahead. The Barrington Tops is the watershed for the Hunter River and all the little rivers that run into it. This massive range produces its own weather and the plateau swamps hold and feed beautiful fresh water into countless creeks and streams. Who has not swum in the pools of the Allyn River at the height of summer and not wondered where this exquisite cold water comes from? Similar catchment areas abound along the Great Dividing Range. The potential for storage and diversion of water exists in spades, we just need Governments to plan, spend and manage for the long term. The pity is that this conversation comes up during every period of drought and nothing is ever done. A public company floated with shareholder funds and underwritten by the Future Fund given the task of implementing Bradfield type Schemes would take the problem away from politician's and something concrete could be achieved. That the NSW government has allowed non land holders to speculate in water licences is indicative of poor water management which is against our Nations Interest. Have a look at these: ~



Hanson has a history of misleading the public

Pauline Hanson is unfit to be deputy chair of the Family Court inquiry. In 2016 it was reported her son Adam Hanson pleaded guilty in a Cairns court to breaching a domestic violence order. In July this year, she spoke in Parliament about his case and accused her former daughter-in-law of perjury over allegations Hanson said she made against him. Had she done that outside of

Parliament, she would have committed an offence by disclosing family law proceedings. This is shameful. Hanson's claim that 21 men commit suicide each week because of failures in the family law system is not supported

by any evidence. She shows little concern about the hundreds of women and their children killed by partners and fathers, often after a separation. Some of those men then kill themselves. Are they "victims of the Family

Court"? Hanson has a long history of misleading the public. I guess when you are as fast and loose with the truth as she is, it is easy to believe women lie to get their own way in the Family Court. **Marg D'Arcy, Rye**

LNG TERMINAL: ACTION OR SPIN?

A Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Newcastle will be a good thing if it can meet environmental and safety standards and is not an excuse to do nothing on the gas market front. In particular, it can't be an excuse to dither further on the proposed Narrabri coal seam gas project which if approved, will bring cheaper domestic gas to market. It's time to make a decision on the Narrabri project. We not only need more gas, we need multiple sources of gas to provide the competition necessary to put

downward pressure on energy prices, both for businesses and households. Gas alone doesn't produce electricity but it can fuel a gas-fired generator, and the Hunter desperately needs one. A new gas-fired power station will help keep the lights on, put downward pressure on electricity prices and create local jobs. The Commonwealth and NSW Governments must do everything in their power to ensure AGL and any other proponents of a gas-fired electricity generator have gas supply certainty. *The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources Member for Hunter*



Submit a letter to the editor

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

OR

emailed to

thenews@hotkey.net.au

~ <https://www.theland.com.au/story/5721377/locals-call-for-tillegra-dam-revival/>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-03-25/foreign-owned-water-entitlement-register-reveals-key-countries/10923384>
 Cheers, Steve





Maitland Bowling Club last month. We enjoyed meeting ladies from other VIEW clubs. Congratulations Maitland - a memorable day ! Our successful entertainment at our 31st Birthday based on the theme THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED proved [popular with other friends in the community. Branxton Meals on Wheels has asked if we could repeat our performance to entertain them on Wednesday 18th September at their High Tea function. Thank you to all our supporters who patronise our functions. Every dollar we make goes directly to the 5 disadvantaged Australian school children whom we sponsor through the Smith Family Learning For Life program. Our secretary, Bethany, 0419 429 364 is always happy to answer any questions about our VIEW club. We welcome any new members to join our happy band of ladies. Enjoy the new season (although their seems to be



Local lap swimmers rejoice!

The recent warmer weather has prompted Cessnock City Council to open its outdoor pools at Branxton and Cessnock a little earlier than normal, allowing local swimmers to get additional laps in before the season starts. The pools opened their doors on Monday 16 September for reduced hours, Monday to Friday 6am-1pm for lap swimming only, but this will also allow the community to pop in and purchase their season passes. The official outdoor pool season will kick off this Saturday 28 September where opening hours will return to normal, Monday to Friday 6am-6pm, Saturday and Sunday 7am-6pm. The Royal Life Saving NSW Keep Watch Program will continue at our local pools this season, which

educates parents and carers on how to keep their children safe when in, on or around the water. For the 2019/20 outdoor pool season, Council has also introduced Pensioner fees for all season passes and single entries. A full list of fees can be found on the Council website. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the news about our pools opening early for lap swimmers and is encouraging locals to get in early and make a splash. "Our pools are fantastic community facilities and as the weather warms up, I look forward to seeing them utilised by locals, young and old." Please note: For those wanting to purchase season passes this year, they need to be purchased from the local pool, not online or in the Council Admin Building.



Welcome to Spring ! Our club has been busy organising our fashion parade which will be held on Thursday 26th September -10 am at Branxton

Community Hall-light lunch included everyone welcome \$15 Maitland VIEW Club held their 54th birthday celebrations at East

many seasons in one lately?) Keep well and happy. A quote from Louise Hay "I

choose to make the rest of my life the best of my life". Peace and love to everyone Judy Spillard

SINGLETON SHIRE LANDCARE

Bio Workshop
20 October 2019 9.30am - 12pm
Catherine Vale Wines
656 Milbrodale Rd, Fordwich

Biosecurity Biocontrol Biodiversity

Paul Melehan, Upper Hunter Landcare Coordinator, will discuss ways to identify and control some invasive weeds and things you need to know about biosecurity on your property. Priority weeds include tiger pear, madeira vines, african love grass, tree of heaven, bridal creeper, panamatta grass and lanterns.

Roy Palmer, local landowner will discuss the value of biocontrol and some alternate ways to control weeds from his experiences.

Rose Porter, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, will discuss the assistance available to help control weeds to help you improve biodiversity and how to establish a protected conservation area on your property.

Bring a weed for identification
Enjoy delicious morning tea

\$5 Attendance fee to secure your space
RSVP by 15 October 2019
https://20_oct_bio.eventbrite.ie
Ph: 0428 444 305 Email: lowerhunterlandcare@gmail.com

Storytime in The Book Nook

9.30am to 10.30am

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"Do you believe in angels?"



It is not only Christians that believe in angels, there are many in our community who believe in angels, in their protective power, in their ability to guide us, in their ability to make things happen, like a carpark when we need one!!! Christians believe that angels are messengers sent by God and that they are servants of God. They are sent to help and to protect us ... to intervene between heaven and earth ... and to unite us to God. It was an angel that appeared to Mary, to tell her that she would mother God's own Son ... it was an angel that appeared to Joseph in a dream to tell him that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit, and in another dream to warn him to flee Egypt with Mary and Jesus ... it was an angel that appeared to the shepherds when Jesus was born ... it was an angel that announced to Zechariah the birth of his own son, John. So, this week we celebrate Michael and All Angels. Archangel Michael is a protector, the greatest of all the archangels, and is attributed with defeating Satan in the war in heaven. Archangel Gabriel was an important messenger of God, who brought good tidings to whom he was sent. Archangel Raphael took on human form to guide Tobiah on a journey to collect a debt owed to his father. Devotion to Michael began in the East in the fourth century. In the fifth century the Western Church began honouring Michael and all angels. As we celebrate this feast day, we celebrate spectacular miracles and ordinary miracles. We often long for spectacular and this can leave us blind to the ordinary, everyday miracles which occur on a daily basis. And though the angels are powerful, the most amazing and greatest power imaginable is found in the tiny host, which we share at Holy Communion. For in this tiny host, all of God's love can be found. We do not struggle on our own, Jesus is present with us each day and the angels watch over us, protect us and guide us. As you go about your day, may you be open to recognising the ordinary miracles that occur every day and may you thank God for the archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Every Blessing, Reverend Nicole

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'Branxton Greta Menshed' 49 Branxton Street' Greta in the grounds of the old St Marys Primary School

Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

A big thank you to everyone who braved the wind to celebrate the change of the season, with Spring Awakening 2019. It was an impressive turn out seeing over 800 people enjoying the festivities. Spring Awakening is a fantastic, fun and great community event. We are already crossing our fingers for kinder weather next year. On Saturday 7 September we celebrated the completion of Stage One of the Bridges Hill Park Playground and Access Improvement Project. Council has completed around \$1.8 million of works since construction started in June 2018. The works have included the establishment of a regional playground, fitness stations, landscaping, pathways, BBQ facilities and improved pedestrian access. It is extremely pleasing that the first stage of the \$4m project is open and ready for residents to enjoy. Council crews have been working exceptionally hard to get this community facility open to the public as soon as possible. It is a spectacular space! Locals who are yet to explore the park are encouraged to check it out. Congratulations to Council staff who continue to work on the project. Repairs to Kurri Kurri Ambulance Hall have been completed. The hall looks wonderful and completely revitalised. It will be positive to see it used and enjoyed by the local community again. Council is opening the Branxton and Cessnock pools a little earlier than normal for local lap swimmers due to the recent warmer weather. The pools will open their doors on Monday 16 September for reduced hours, Monday to Friday 6am-1pm for lap swimming only, but this will also allow the community to pop in and purchase their season passes. The official outdoor pool season will kick off on Saturday 28 September where opening hours will return to normal. Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the Home Soil memorial located at the Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney. Soil was collected from 1,701 NSW towns, cities and suburbs and homesteads given as a home address by First World War enlistees. There were a number of collection points in our own local government area and it was moving to see

the memorial now completed.

It is with great sadness we hear of the passing of Brian Andrews, a valued member of the community. Brian's contributions to the Seniors Festival were always valued. Brian's commitment to the Edgeworth David Museum will also be missed.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR A MASSIVE THANKS TO ALL OF OUR WINTER SPORT VOLUNTEERS

I have had the good fortune to watch a range of sport finals and attend a range of sporting presentation events as the winter season for 2019 comes to a close. It is just fantastic to see so many people actively involved in our various sporting communities.

But in particular I have seen some very tired and weary looking committee members, coaches and managers, canteen volunteers and other parents and grand-parents and supporters that have been giving their energy every single week. This is not new and hopefully it will never become old, because through sport and other activities we build our communities.

I want to offer a massive thanks and congratulations to all that have volunteered to make the 2019 season what it was. Our communities have had tens of thousands of sport participants this year, making all involved physically and mentally more healthy. And while I would like to wish most of you a nice summer rest I also know that many of you will stick your hand up and volunteer for summer sports too. So in anticipation, my sincere thanks in advance.

DODGY POLITICS IS A POX ON ALL OF OUR HOUSES

The latest stories about Members of Parliament and political parties having vested interests in property or taking donations that they shouldn't is a huge blow to our democracy. I really do feel for the voters out there that must think, if they read and watch the news, that all politicians must be dodgy and corrupt.

In my experience, the great majority of people in and around politics treat it as a noble occupation; one where dignity and honesty and open debate can bring about really important changes to the lives of others. In my experience, the great

majority of people in and around politics see their role as one of service, not gain. Politicians aren't perfect. And the conduct of others in or around our workplace is not perfect either, but then again I am sure that most of you can name a person or two in your place of work that is a bit questionable too.

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

Cheers, Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

Our landscapes are burning and the drought is fast becoming a calamity. For the past six years we've worried about and expressed solidarity with our farmers. But now we find ourselves worried about whole townships and communities. In the absence of meaningful rain, from December many towns across NSW and Queensland will literally run out of water.

We may soon be facing the reality that the settlement patterns we adopted more than one hundred years ago may not be sustainable. Our capital cities were selected by the early Europeans for their strategic assets, harbour shelter, alongside a major river and decent food-producing land. As government surveyors and settlers began to look beyond the Capitals our mighty rivers provided the most obvious reference point for the development of urban communities.

Often they were able to harness water with dams, weirs and open water channels. It took decades for us to realise that changing the course of nature has environmental consequences, both up-stream and down. That doesn't mean we can't build new water infrastructure; we can and should. But opportunities will be limited and expensive and if the climate continues to deteriorate harnessing is not an adequate response alone. Water evaporation during

what are becoming hotter droughts is a significant issue. And forget the silly talk about the Bradfield Scheme, it's a 1930s solution to a 21st Century problem and in any case, wasn't designed to address our current challenges.

Tackling the drought will require a suite of responses beyond water infrastructure. First, we must take more action on climate change. The science is now pretty clear and to those who still have doubts I say, act just in case, it may be too late in twenty years' time. Think of it like an insurance policy, the one you hope to call in. Reducing carbon and other green house has emissions doesn't not have to be a painful exercise, it does not have to be harmful to our economy. Innovation offers many low-cost solutions but government guidance is needed to incentivise the required investment. We certainly don't have to shrink our coal mining industry. The majority of our relatively clean and efficient coal goes to export markets where it is helping other countries modernise and reduce their own emissions. By value, 60 per cent of the coal we export is metallurgical coal our customers are using to manufacture steel. Remember, it takes 200 tonnes of metallurgical coal to make just one electricity generating wind turbine. One thing we must do is grow smarter about how and when we consume water, both in urban and rural environments. We need to help our farmers develop and adopt the most efficient ways of consuming water, including improving moisture retention by improving soil quality. We need to address evaporation by covering dams where possible and all of us have to stop using water like there is an unlimited supply of it. I believe Governments need to grow serious about helping people install home water tanks, just like we've incentivized solar rooftops which is growing at an impressive rate.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

CHANGES TO SLOW DOWN TO 40KM/H RULE

I wish to advise from September 26 changes will be made to the road rules following the completion of a trial requiring drivers to slow down to 40km/h when passing stationary emergency vehicles with flashing blue or red lights.

Drivers will no longer need to slow down to 40km/h on roads with speed limits of 90km/h or over.

Drivers will continue to be required to slow down to 40km/h on roads with speed

limits of 80km/h or under.

The rule will be expanded to include tow trucks and breakdown assistance vehicles, which are displaying yellow flashing lights while stopped on the road.

On roads with speed limits of 90km/h or over drivers will need to:

Slow to a speed which is safe and reasonable for the circumstances;

Give sufficient space between their vehicle and the breakdown assistance or emergency vehicle and workers.

On multi-lane roads, drivers must change lanes to keep the lane next to the vehicle free if it is safe to do so.

These changes are about slowing down safely and if you are driving on roads 90km/h or over you will need to consider how close you are to the stationary vehicle and slow to a safer speed.

Contact: My Email address; upper-hunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au, phone numbers: 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333. Cheers, Michael



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

It goes without saying that all residents in our LGA should have access to the same basic services afforded to communities throughout the rest of the State. Which is why back in October 2016, the second meeting of the current Council, I moved a motion requesting that North Rothbury receive back log sewerage services as a high priority and that the estimated timeline for connection in 2024/25 be fast tracked.

Following that motion, we'd made progress in securing certain commitments from the then Minister. However, Council was recently advised by Hunter Water that North Rothbury was no longer identified as receiving any connection in the foreseeable future. As a result, we have activated to pull any and all levers necessary to get this issue back on the agenda and pursue a successful resolution for the good people of North Rothbury. In the last financial year, Hunter Water paid a dividend of \$144 million to the NSW Government, which would have no doubt been paid into consolidated revenue to help bolster their books, or worse, spent on infrastructure projects in Sydney. Given the cost of connecting North Rothbury has been estimated at a mere \$12 million, it is intolerable that this Government continues to take the profits generated in the Hunter

Region, without seeking to reinvest it in our community. The proposal to provide backlog sewerage services to North Rothbury is now at risk of never being delivered, and if it was delivered, it is likely it would be at full cost to the residents - an eye watering \$55,000 for each property. This is not fair! Given that water security is topical at the moment due to the ongoing drought, it would be more equitable for the State Government to ensure any dividends from Hunter Water, and its customers, is reinvested in water security infrastructure and back log sewer services in the Hunter to ensure the ongoing safety, health and wellbeing of our residents. Rest assured, this is an issue I'll be continuing to fight for.

The Branxton/Greta and Weston areas are some of the fastest growing communities in our LGA. So it was quite the surprise when we received word that the NSW Government was shutting down the Weston Fire Station. A community meeting was held, with State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr and Councillors Sander, Fitzgibbon and myself attending, the mood from the room was clear - the people want to keep their fire station, and for good reason. This goes back to my earlier point, of our residents accessing the same resources and services afforded to others, and quite frankly it is unacceptable that a growing community is losing these services. We should be future proofing suburbs, not looking at cost-cutting objectives, and these residents deserve better from this State Government. If you want to throw your support behind the campaign to save Weston Fire Station, get in touch with the office of Clayton Barr, who is leading the charge.

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the 26th Hunter Region Business Excellence Awards and present to some incredibly inspiring local business owners. Small business is the backbone of our economy and our largest employer, so it is great to see that business in the Hunter is far stronger than several years ago. We have some real success stories in our region and it was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate these. Congratulations to all the finalists for your achievements this year and I hope you continue to prosper.

Cheers, Melanie



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Our local government area is currently at an exciting juncture, where the past and the future are colliding as we

prepare to mark the bicentennial of the European exploration of our area in 2020 at the same time as planning is well underway for the future, particularly in regards to the economy. A particular focus is socioeconomic planning, as we look at partnerships, strategies and programs to promote industry diversification and maximise economic benefits for everyone in our community, now and into the future, and maintain Singleton's importance to NSW. One approach is to change the way Singleton Council uses Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs) to support the local community and the economy as a whole, by promoting social capital, economic growth and prosperity under the draft Community and Economic Development Fund Policy.

The document has been on public exhibition for feedback for the past month, outlining a new way forward for the expenditure of funds from VPAs in partnership with mining companies to foster innovation, support and grow jobs, increase business profitability, improve living standards and promote the health and wellbeing for everyone in the Singleton local government area. The idea signals a move away from the "here and now" approach to VPAs towards a longer-term view to support the community and proactively and strategically boost a range of sectors across our LGA.

More importantly, it isn't just focused on economic factors: it also encompasses a range of actions aimed to improve the social, health and wellbeing of the community. Council is also currently developing a Socio-Economic Development Strategy to work alongside the fund, to provide a strategic direction and financial backing for an efficient and effective use of resources to drive prosperity across our local government area, regardless of industry conditions.

But as always, the most important aspect of any new approach for Council is what you, the people in our community think, and the feedback we've received as part of the exhibition process will be considered in a report when the draft document comes before councillors on Monday 18 November 2019.

Cheers, Sue

Members say

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News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Prescription medicines & travel

If you are planning a trip overseas, organising your medicine is one of the most important things you can do. If you require prescription medicine, it is important you have this medicine with you so you remain in good health while you are away. It is illegal to take Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines out of Australia unless the medicine is for your personal use, or the personal use of someone travelling with you.

If you are planning to take prescription medicines overseas for your own personal use or the personal use of someone in your care who is travelling with you:

- * read the travel advice and check with the embassies of the countries you're visiting to make sure your medicine is legal there
- * carry a letter from your doctor detailing what the medicine is, how much you'll be taking and stating the medicine is for your personal use or the personal use of someone with you

(for example, a child)

- * leave the medicine in its original packaging so it can be easily identified.

More information on travelling with medicines and medical devices:

Travelling Overseas with PBS Medicine – Department of Human Services (Medicare)

Travelling with medicines and medical devices – Therapeutic Goods Administration 1800 500 147 – Department of Human Services PBS medicine enquiry line

Antibiotics & antibiotic resistance

Antibiotics revolutionised medicine and saved many lives following their introduction in the 1940s because they provided a means of treating many diseases and infections, including serious infections, caused by bacteria.

What are antibiotics?

Antibiotics damage bacteria so the body's immune system can fight them. They do not work against viruses. Different antibiotics work against different bacteria. Sometimes, doctors choose an antibiotic based on what they believe will work. At other times, doctors will perform tests to work out which bacteria are causing the infection, and which antibiotics are likely to be effective against them. Many antibiotics are less effective than they once were due to bacteria becoming resistant to their effects. This is called antibiotic resistance which may be prevented by only using antibiotics if they are needed to treat a bacterial infection

Antibiotic resistance

Many bacterial infections are treated with antibiotics. Sometimes the bacteria change to protect themselves against the antibiotic. When this happens the antibiotic no longer works. This is called antibiotic resistance and is a serious global problem.

Why is antibiotic resistance a problem?

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria

survive and continue causing infection despite treatment with an antibiotic – the bacteria are no longer sensitive to that antibiotic. Because the antibiotic no longer works against the resistant bacteria:

- infections take longer to heal
- infections can get worse and lead to more serious problems
- infections are more likely to spread to other people and because bacteria are resistant, the antibiotic may not work for other people, further spreading the problem

You might think it best to use another antibiotic to which bacteria aren't resistant. However, it may not work as well, and it could have side effects. Also, bacteria may eventually become resistant to this antibiotic too.

For these reasons, antibiotic resistance is a major threat to human health. There is concern that in time, there'll be bacterial infections that just can't be treated. How do bacteria develop antibiotic resistance?

Bacteria can change their genes after being exposed to an antibiotic. This allows them to survive antibiotic treatment. Then, when they multiply, they make more resistant bacteria. This is how antibiotic resistance develops.

What are 'superbugs'?

'Superbugs' are bacteria that are difficult to treat because they are resistant to several different antibiotics, and especially those that treat other resistant bacteria.

Superbugs such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and multi-drug-resistant strains of Escherichia coli (E. coli) are becoming more common, and can be a real problem in hospitals.

What causes antibiotic resistance?

The more bacteria are exposed to antibiotics, the more chances they have to change and become resistant. When you use antibiotics when not needed or don't take antibiotics properly – such as missing doses or not completing the course – you give bacteria opportunities to become resistant.

How can I help prevent antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotic resistance can't be totally stopped, but it can be slowed down by sensibly using antibiotics. You can help by:

- * not taking antibiotics for a cold or the flu, including cough and sore throat; viruses cause most colds, and antibiotics don't work against viruses
- * telling your doctor you only want antibiotics when necessary – such as for serious bacterial infections such as pneumonia
- * taking your antibiotic as prescribed, and completing the full course
- * never saving antibiotics for the next time you're sick
- * never taking antibiotics prescribed for someone else
- * having good hygiene practices to avoid spreading infections



It was a picture-perfect sunny day on Sunday, 15th September as members of Branxton-Greta CWA welcomed the 58 Camp Quality 1,000km Ride4Kids riders and 24 support crew at the



McCauley Hall, Branxton, for a THANK YOU morning tea at 10.00am. The riders start from Queensland and are well and truly ready for home after 10 days of cycling, and although they enjoyed the ex-

perience, were looking forward to the morning tea and then finishing at the Bradford Hotel at Rutherford and



reuniting with family and friends and supporters. The riders always thank us for the morning tea but we say THANK YOU for your hard work and cycling all that way to raise the money that you do for Camp Quality. As they were finishing at the Bradford Hotel this year, it was possible to see the riders finish their ride, which was a great treat. Looking forward to next year already. CONGRATULATIONS to you all.

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 branxton-gretacwa@hotmail.com Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.

- Photo above left: Riders/Support Crew and B/G CWA members after morning tea.
- Photo above top: Riders finishing at The Bradford, Rutherford. Congrats to all.

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These simple and tasty hasselback potatoes with prosciutto and sage will surely be a big hit at the dinner table.

Ingredients

- 12 small Coles Carisma potatoes
- 2 tablespoons Coles brand pure olive oil
- 100g prosciutto, chopped
- 1/2 cup grated swiss cheese
- 1/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon chopped sage, plus extra sage leaves, to serve (optional)

Method

Step 1
Preheat oven to 200C or 180C fan-forced.

Step 2
Place one potato on chopping board, place a chopstick on board along each side of potato. Slice potato thinly, cutting through to chopstick level to prevent cutting all the

Hasselback potatoes with prosciutto and sage



way through. Repeat with remaining potatoes. Place in a baking pan, cut side up. Drizzle over oil and season. Bake for 1 hr-1 hr 15 mins, or until potatoes are tender. Remove from oven.

Step 3
Press prosciutto randomly into potato slices. Mix together cheese, breadcrumbs and sage. Sprinkle over potatoes. Bake for a further 20 mins, or until topping is brown and crisp. Serve topped with extra sage, if using.

Investigation of Lung Injury Associated with E-cigarette Product Use, or Vaping

LAST MONDAY the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to enhance the inter-agency response to the current investigation into cases of lung injury associated with e-cigarette product use, or vaping. CDC's activation of the EOC allows the agency to provide increased operational support for the response to meet the outbreak's evolving challenges. Agency subject matter experts will continue to lead the CDC response with enhanced support from additional CDC and EOC staff. CDC also continues to work closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to collect information about recent e-cigarette product use, or vaping, among patients and to test the substances or chemicals within e-cigarette products used by case patients. While this investigation is ongoing, if individuals are concerned about these specific health risks, they should consider refraining from using e-cigarette or vaping products.

WATER RESTRICTIONS



Summer water restrictions to apply
As Glennies Creek Dam levels continue to fall, Singleton Council is encouraging residents to continue to be vigilant about using water with summer **level one water restrictions to take effect from Tuesday 1 October 2019.**

Summer water restrictions apply from October through to April.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the major difference for customers entering summer restrictions was the change in permitted watering hours of lawns and gardens.

“Under level one restrictions, customers are still allowed to water daily, however in summer the permitted hours will be between 6pm and 9am daily,” she said.

“Restriction levels are dependent on continued dry weather, drought conditions and falling dam levels, and unless the region receives continued significant rainfall, restriction levels may increase.

“Council will continue to work together with our water customers to save water, including businesses

and commercial operators to prepare and implement Water Saving Action Plans to help identify opportunities for water savings.”

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

- Watering of lawns by watering systems, micro-prays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers and hand-held hoses may only occur between 6pm to 9am daily in summer

- Watering of residential gardens by watering systems, micro-prays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers and hand-held hoses may only occur between 6pm to 9am daily in summer

- Topping up or filling of garden water features is permitted

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

Washing down of walls or paved surfaces is banned, except for health and safety reasons and as long as a trigger hose is used (eg spilt food and drink, animal droppings, sewer overflows

etc)
Penalties apply for customers who do not comply with restricted activities with on-the-spot fines of up to \$220 and maximum penalties of \$2,200





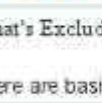

Water restrictions apply to both residential and non-residential customers. The activities and restrictions are different for residential and non-residential customers.

As a region **Hunter Water** are experiencing the lowest water levels in their dams in over two decades.

Water restrictions apply to everyone in the Lower Hunter and reducing water consumption now will help save water for future supply. Changing a little can save a lot!

Level 1 water restrictions apply to all properties connected to Hunter Water's water supply network in the areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Dungog and small parts of Singleton.

What's Allowed Under Level 1 Water Restrictions? Hunter Water

Activity	What can you do?	What can't you do?
 Watering lawns and gardens	You can: To avoid the heat of the day, water lawns and gardens by hand held hose before 10am and after 4pm if fitted with a trigger nozzle or device that can be turned off instantly. Use drip irrigation systems before 10am and after 4pm.	You can't - Use sprinklers at any time. Leave hoses or taps running unattended.
 Cleaning external hard surfaces (paths, driveways & concrete)	You can: Spot clean for safety, health or emergency reasons with a hose fitted with trigger nozzle or with high pressure cleaning equipment.	You can't - Use a hose for general cleaning of hard surfaces such as paths, driveways and paved areas. Leave hoses and taps running unattended.
 Washing vehicles, boats and buildings	You can: Wash vehicles, boats & buildings if using a bucket, high pressure cleaning equipment or a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle. Tip: wash your car on your lawn and your grass will benefit.	You can't - Wash vehicles, boats and buildings using a hose without a trigger nozzle.
 Filling private pools and spas	You can: Top up existing pools if using a trigger nozzle or device that can be turned off instantly. Fill a new or renovated pool or spa over 10,000 litres capacity by obtaining a permit and using an approved pool cover.	You can't - Top up an existing pool without using a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or device that can be turned off instantly. Leave an unattended hose running in a pool. Fill a new or renovated pool or spa over 10,000 litres capacity unless you Apply for a permit to fill a pool .
 Internal use	You can: Help water saving efforts by repairing internal leaks as quickly as possible, such as dripping taps or leaking toilets. Tip: Fixing a leaking toilet can save you between 10 to 260 litres a day.	

What's Excluded From Water Restrictions?

There are basic exclusions from restrictions activity:

- Recycled Water
- Greywater (water from sinks, showers, washing machines etc.)
- Rainwater (provided the tank/dam is not topped from, or switched to, the drinking water supply)
- Bore water
- Water used for firefighting, testing and related activities.




SECTION 4.59 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to 4.59 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 August to 31 August 2019.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2018/00000213/001	26-Aug-2019	59 Maitland ST	Construct New Mixed Use Commercial and Retail Centre
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000383/001	1-Aug-2019	75 Yates ST	Shed
GRETA	008/2019/00000420/001	15-Aug-2019	40 Branxton ST	Boundary Adjustment Between Two (2) Existing Lots
GRETA	008/2019/00000329/001	19-Aug-2019	100 Talleyrand CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
LOVEDALE	008/2018/00000634/001	5-Aug-2019	701 Lovedale RD	Outdoor Extension of Existing Cafe & Associated Shade Structure
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000343/001	5-Aug-2019	11 Lockwood ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000440/001	5-Aug-2019	9 Lockwood ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000423/001	6-Aug-2019	75 Kesterton RISE	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000455/001	9-Aug-2019	64 McGinn DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000477/001	19-Aug-2019	33 Peachy Av	Exhibition Home & Associated Landscaping, Retaining Wall & Advertising Signage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000492/001	19-Aug-2019	127 Hanwood RD	Inground Swimming Pool
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000361/001	21-Aug-2019	10 Peachy Av	Exhibition Home, Retaining Walls, Landscaping & Associated Signage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000428/001	21-Aug-2019	27 Kinnawane RD	Principal Dwelling & Detached Secondary Dwelling with Associated Retaining Walls
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000439/001	21-Aug-2019	2 Olivia PL	Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000488/001	22-Aug-2019	13 Saxby Av	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000457/001	23-Aug-2019	17 Peachy Av	Exhibition Home & Associated Landscaping, Pergola, Deck & Advertising Signage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000458/001	23-Aug-2019	15 Peachy Av	Exhibition Home & Associated Landscaping, Pergola & Advertising Structure
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000429/001	26-Aug-2019	57 Kesterton RISE	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000645/001	27-Aug-2019	1823 Wine Country DR	Construction of a service station, food and drink premises and commercial building comprising of 3 tenancies
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000446/001	27-Aug-2019	18 Olivia PL	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000500/001	27-Aug-2019	10 Jolley RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000662/001	19-Aug-2019	Lot 22 DP 721884	Accommodation (72 Units) Including Function Centre and Ancillary Works
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000265/001	12-Aug-2019	749 De Bayers RD	Rural Dwelling, Swimming Pool, Access Road, Landscaping & Demolition of Farm Building
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000510/001	20-Aug-2019	4 Iconbark DR	Dwelling Alterations & Additions comprising of an Ensuite & Pergola

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




WITH

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

SHAW & BUNNER
LEGAL

P: (02) 4046 1805 | F: (02) 4017 0646



THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA



where the Court considers the principle of law involved to be one of major public importance, are normally determined by a full bench comprising all seven Justices.

The High Court exercises both original jurisdiction (cases that begin in the High Court) and appellate jurisdiction (appeals made to the High Court from other courts). The High Court is the court of final appeal with the ability to interpret the common law for the whole of Australia, not just the state or territory in which the matter arose. As such, the court is able to develop the common law consistently across all the states and territories. This role, alongside its role in constitutional interpretation, is one of the court's most significant.

The original jurisdiction of the High Court refers to matters that are originally heard in the High Court and includes matters arising under any treaty; affecting consuls or other representatives of other countries; in which the Commonwealth, or a person suing or being sued on behalf of the Commonwealth, is a party; between

States, or between residents of different States, or between a State and a resident of another State; in which a writ of mandamus or prohibition or an injunction is sought against an officer of the Commonwealth. Most of the Court's work relates to the hearing of appeals against decisions. There is no automatic right to have an appeal heard by the High Court and parties who wish to appeal must persuade the Court in a preliminary hearing that there are special reasons to cause the appeal to be heard. This requires "special leave" to appeal, special leave is granted only where a question of law is raised that is of public importance; or involves a conflict between courts; or "is in the interests of the administration of justice". The Court rarely gives the judgment at the end of a hearing. Rather, the decision is "reserved" and presented some time after the hearing. Each Justice makes his/her own decision on cases, and where decisions are not unanimous, the decision of the majority prevails. The usual practice is for Justices to prepare written reasons for their decisions which are handed down by the Court at a later sitting.

Cheers, Kerri

to around nine times over the next seven years from around six times now and in 14 years' time it will be 14 times!

The trouble with the doomsters is that they've been saying that for 15 years and we're still waiting for the crash. In between, first home buyers are wondering why it's so hard to do what my and my parent's generation took for granted: be part of the Aussie dream with a quarter acre block.

The reality is it's far more complicated than these extremes. Here's seven stylised "facts" regarding Australian property.

First – it's expensive
This has been the case since early last decade and remains so despite the recent correction in prices:

* According to the 2019 Demographia Housing Affordability Survey the median multiple of house prices to income is 5.7 times in Australia versus 3.5 in the US and 4.8 in the UK. In Sydney it's 11.7 times & Melbourne is 9.7 times.

* The ratios of house prices to incomes and rents relative to their long-term averages are at the high end of OECD countries.

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.

We often write about the interesting judgments of the High Court of Australia, this week we focus on the High Court itself.

The High Court of Australia is the highest court in the Australian court hierarchy and the final court of appeal in Australia. It has both original and appellate jurisdiction, the power of judicial review over laws passed by the Parliament of Australia and the parliaments of the states, and the ability to interpret the Constitution of Australia.

The High Court is composed of seven Justices, they are appointed by the Governor-General of Australia on the advice of the federal government, and under the constitution must retire at age 70. Cases which involve interpretation of the Constitution, or where the Court may be invited to depart from one of its previous decisions, or

* The surge in prices relative to incomes has seen household debt relative to household income rise from the low end of OECD countries 25 years ago to the high end now.

These things arguably make residential property Australia's Achilles heel. But that's been the case for 15 years or so now.

Second – it's diverse
While it's common to refer to "the Australian property market", in reality there is significant divergence between cities. This divergence has been extreme over the last five years with Perth and Darwin seeing large price falls in response to the end of the mining investment boom, as other cities rose. The divergence is also evident in gross rental yields that range from 8.7% in regional WA units to 3.1% in Sydney houses.

Third – talk of mortgage stress is overstated
Headlines of excessive mortgage stress have been common for over a decade now.

There is no denying housing affordability is poor, household debt is high and some households are suffering significant mortgage stress. But most borrowers appear to be able to service their mortgages. And despite some seeing negative equity and a significant proportion of borrowers switching from interest only to principle & interest loans (which has seen interest only loans drop from nearly 40% of all loans to 23%) there has been no surge in forced sales and non-performing loans.

Non-performing mortgages have increased but remain low at around 0.9%. While Australia saw a deterioration in lending standards with the last boom, it was nothing like other countries saw prior to the GFC.

Much of the increase in debt has gone to older, wealthier Australians, who are better able to service their loans. Low doc loans are trivial in

Australia and the proportion of high loan to valuation ratio loans has fallen as has the proportion of interest only loans.

Fourth – it's been chronically undersupplied

Annual population growth since mid-last decade has averaged 373,000 people compared to 217,000 over the decade to 2005, which requires roughly an extra 75,000 homes per year. Unfortunately, the supply of dwellings did not keep pace with the population surge (see the next chart) so a massive shortfall built up driving high home prices.

Thanks to the surge in unit supply since 2015 this is now being worked off, but it follows more than a decade of accumulated undersupply which is the main reason why housing has remained relatively expensive in Australia. Not tax breaks or low rates – all of which exist in other countries with far more affordable housing!

Fifth – house prices go up and down

After several episodes of price declines ranging from 5 to 10% across various cities over the last 15 years and 15%, 21% and 31% for Sydney, Perth and Darwin respectively in recent years home buyers should be under no illusion that prices only go up.

Sixth – the housing market remains rate sensitive

While it varies from city to city, despite much scepticism recent rate cuts have helped push up the property market again.

Finally – house price crashes are not easy to forecast

The expensive nature of Australian property and associated high debt levels have seen calls for a property crash pumped out repeatedly over the last 15 years.

In 2004, The Economist magazine described Australia as "America's ugly sister" thanks in part to soaring property prices. Property crash calls were

wheeled out repeatedly after the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) with one commentator losing a high-profile bet that prices could fall up to 40%.

In 2010, a US newspaper, The Philadelphia Trumpet, warned that "Los Angelification" (referring to a 40% slump in LA home prices around the GFC) will come to Australia. Similar calls were made a few years ago by a hedge fund researcher and a hedge fund: "The Australian property market is on the verge of blowing up on a spectacular scale."

Over the years these crash calls have often made it on to 60 Minutes and Four Corners. But our view remains that to get a national housing crash – as opposed to periodic falls in some cities – we need much higher unemployment, much higher interest rates and/or a big oversupply.

But while the risk of recession has increased it remains unlikely, aggressive rate hikes are most unlikely and while property supply still has more upside it's unlikely to lead to a big oversupply as approvals to build new dwellings are now falling.

As we have seen for years now overvaluation and high debt on their own are not enough to bring on a crash.

So where to now?

The rebound in buyer interest since May has seen auction clearance rates in Sydney and Melbourne rise to around 75% and prices lift nearly 2%, albeit other cities are mixed.

This has so far come on low volumes, but they now look to be rising. Our base case is that house price gains will be far more constrained than the 10-15% implied by current auction clearance rates.

Compared to past cycles debt to income ratios are much higher, bank lending standards are tighter, the supply of units has surged with more to come and this has already pushed Sydney's rental vacancy rate above normal levels and unemployment is likely to drift up as economic growth remains soft. So, we don't expect to see a return to boom time conditions and see constrained gains through 2020 – eg around 5% or so. There are three key things to watch:

* The Spring selling season – if auction clearances remain elevated as listing pick up then it will be a positive sign that the pick-up in the property market has legs.

* Housing finance commitments – these have bounced but will have to pick up a lot further to get 10-15% price rises.

* Unemployment – if it picks up significantly in response to slow economic growth then it will be a big constraint on house prices and could result in another leg down in prices.

We don't see the rebound in the Sydney and Melbourne property markets as a barrier to further monetary easing, but it may reduce the need as it turns the wealth effect from negative to positive. And if it continues to gather pace then expect a tightening of the screws again from bank regulators.

Implications for investors
Over long periods of time residential property provides a similar return to shares (at around 11% pa) but it offers good diversification as it performs well at different times to shares so it has a role to play in investors' portfolios.

The pull back in prices in several cities in the last few years provides opportunities for investors, but just bear in mind that rental yields remain relatively low in Sydney and Melbourne and be wary of areas where there is still a lot of new units to hit.

CONT P. 13



Market Trends

Shane Oliver | 12 September 2019

The seven things you need to know about the Australian property market: Shane Oliver EXPERT OBSERVATION
After the biggest fall in at least 40 years – with a 10.2% top to bottom fall between September 2017 and June this year – average capital city home prices have turned up again. I thought prices would fall further with a 15% top to bottom fall led by around 25% falls in Sydney and Melbourne. But the facts changed from May – with the election removing the threat to negative gearing & the capital gains tax discount, earlier than expected interest rate cuts & a relaxation of APRA's 7% interest rate test all pushing prices up again. So, where to from here?

Extreme property views

There are basically two extreme views amongst "property experts". On the one hand, some real estate spruikers still wheel out the old "property will double every seven years" line. On the other hand, property doomsters say it's hugely overvalued and over-indebted with massive mortgage stress and so a 40% or so crash is inevitable.

The trouble with the former is that implies home price growth of 10.3% pa, so even if wages growth picks up to 3.5% (a big ask!) it implies that the average price to income ratio of Australian housing will rise

"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~~ **ASKING \$389,000**



BRANXTON

OPEN HOUSE

14 Russell Street, Branxton NSW 2335
Saturday 28th September
1pm ~ 1:30pm

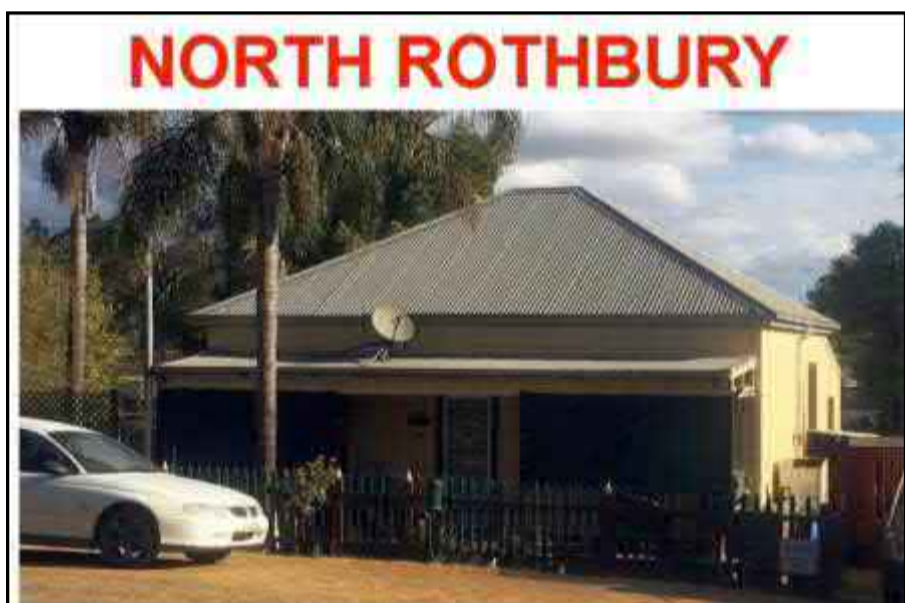
Large modern family home

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

MAKE AN OFFER



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
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 lease 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 tenanted 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 (885sqm) features
* Spacious living area * New kitchen * Builtins in all bedrooms
* New bathroom * Reverse cycle split air conditioning
* Large single lock-up garage * Set on 885sqm 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

BELFORD
Vacant Building Block
2559m²
Vacant Land with building approved
Lot 1 DP 1205549
Well over half an acre of good level block.
ASKING \$160,000 ONO

NORTH ROTHBURY
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



For Sale

BRANXTON "SUTTON GROVE"

Something for everyone

As you enter this lovely family estate you will see wide open spaces. 5 good size bedrooms, all with built-ins & main with walk-in robe & ensuite.

There are multiple living areas with a large covered decking off the family area & covered BBQ area.

Other features include ducted air conditioning, all gas cooking, 18 metre shed with toilet & 3-phase power, lovely gardens, water tank & dam.

All this on .8HA
(Approx 2 acres)

PRICE RANGE \$779,000 to \$819,000

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Man charged with almost \$2-million worth of alleged fraud – Kurri Kurri

Friday, 20 September 2019
A man will face court next month after allegedly defrauding a Hunter Valley business of close to \$2-million over a seven year period.

In August 2017, detectives from Hunter Valley Police District launched an investigation into several alleged fraudulent transactions at a licenced premises in Kurri Kurri between 2010 and 2017. Following extensive inquiries, about 2.45pm on Thursday 19 September 2019 a 52-year-old man was arrested and taken to Dubbo Police Station. Police will allege the man, who was an employee at the time, fraudulently obtained approximately \$1.9-million.

He was charged with dishonestly obtain financial advantage by deception. He was granted conditional bail

to appear at Kurri Kurri Local Court on Tuesday 15 October 2019

Man charged with array of offences following pursuits ending near Singleton

Saturday, 21 September
A man has been charged with multiple offences after police pursuits ending near Singleton last Friday night. Just after 6pm on Friday 20 September officers attached to the Traffic and Highway Patrol Command were conducting stationary speed enforcement on Putty Road at Mellong, when they attempted to stop a Mitsubishi Outlander which was allegedly travelling at 125km/h in a 100km/h zone.

A pursuit was initiated when the Mitsubishi failed to stop, during which time it allegedly reached high speeds and crossed to the incorrect side of the road multiple times.

The pursuit was terminated due to safety concerns, before another pursuit was initiated on Putty Road at Howes Valley. Road spikes were deployed on Broke Road near the intersection of Putty Road which caused the vehicle to leave the road and collide with a tree before coming to a stop.

The driver – a 34-year-old man – was arrested and taken to John Hunter

Hospital under police guard for treatment to minor injuries.

The passenger – a 37-year-old woman – was also taken to John Hunter Hospital to be treated for minor injuries. The man has been charged by virtue of two outstanding warrants, police pursuit – not stop – drive dangerously (x2), exceed speed limit over 20km/h, drive whilst licence suspended, goods in custody, possess prohibited drug, and other traffic-related offences.

He was refused bail to appear via AVL at Newcastle Bail Court last Saturday 21 September 2019.

Man charged after shots allegedly fired near Cessnock

Friday, 20 September
A man has been charged after shots were allegedly fired in the Hunter Valley earlier this week. Just before 3pm (Tuesday 17 September 2019), emergency services were called to Scott Street at Weston, following reports shots had been fired.

Police have been told that a 27-year-old man – accompanied by an 18-year-old man – attended a business on Scott Street, where he

was allegedly threatened by three men, armed with a firearm, a tomahawk, and a hammer.

The pair fled the location in a Toyota Land Cruiser after the 27-year-old man was struck through the driver's side window with a tomahawk, and shots were fired into the driver's side door.

Officers attached to Hunter Valley Police District attended and commenced inquiries.

The 27-year-old man suffered minor injuries and did not require hospitalisation.

Following inquiries, a 33-year-old man attended Kurri Kurri Police Station about 4.10pm on Friday 20 September 2019, where he was arrested and charged with discharge firearm with intent cause grievous bodily harm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm in company of others.

The Kurri Kurri man was refused bail to appear at Newcastle Local Court last Saturday 21 September 2019.

Investigations are continuing.

Daily Thoughts

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." - **Groucho Marx**

"Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much." - **John Wayne**

"If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to." - **Dorothy Parker**

"Nobody believes the official spokesman, but everybody trusts an unidentified source." - **Ron Nesen**

"Laughter is the closest distance between two people." - **Victor Borge**



Wild Dog/Fox 1080 Baiting

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will be undertaking 1080 ground baiting for wild dog/fox control in NPWS managed land at

- Lot 1/137264, Lot 1/707207, Lot 10/1137569 adjacent to Black Creek, North Rothbury

Baiting location is directly adjacent to properties on

- Hanwood Road and Merewether Close, North Rothbury
- Old North Road, Rothbury
- Sweetwater Road and Squire Close, Belford

Ground baiting will commence on the 08/10/2019 and cease by 09/11/2019

This baiting program is being carried out as part of a broader coordinated control program to mitigate the impacts of wild dogs on stock and wildlife. If you would like to become involved in the cooperative program, please contact the Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

Domestic pets are not permitted in National Parks or Reserves. Neighbours and park users are reminded that 1080 baits are lethal to domestic pets. The area will have 1080 baiting signs erected at access points to where baiting is being undertaken. In the event of accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance.

We suggest that working dogs be restrained to ensure they do not enter the baiting location, or to muzzle dogs if they are required to work adjacent the baiting location during and after poisoning.

For further information please contact NPWS Wollemi Yengo Area office on (02) 6574 5555

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FROM P. 10

Market Trends

Shane Oliver | 12 Sept 2019

There is probably better value to be found in regional centres and Perth, and Brisbane looks attractive in offering reasonable yields, a low vacancy rate and improving population growth.

Key points

* The Australian housing market remains far more complicated than optimists & doomsters portray it to be.

* Yes, it's expensive and heavily indebted but talk of mortgage stress is overstated & it's been undersupplied.

* The combination of rate cuts, the election and a modest regulatory relaxation have helped turn property prices back up, but the upswing is likely to be constrained.

Dr Shane Oliver is Head of Investment Strategy and Chief Economist AMP Capital

Huntlee lends a helping hand to Hunter Animal Rescue



On the 14th September Branxton Lions held a raffle at the Branxton's IGA Supermarket raising money for local charities. The raffle was drawn by Lyn Unicomb from IGA. The winner was 1st Judy Randell from Greta & 2nd prize went to Evie Dun from East Branxton. Prizes were donated by Ivanhoe

Winery and Branxton Bakery. Branxton Lions would like to thank Ivanhoe Winery and Branxton Bakery as our sponsors and our generous community for buying our tickets; many thanks to all. **Ken Meany Publicity Officer**
 • Photo above: Lyn Unicomb from Branxton IGA with Brian Thomas from Branxton Lions Club



As any animal rescue service will tell you, Spring is a particularly challenging time, with an influx of animals needing to find a new home. The team at Huntlee is lending a helping hand to Hunter Animal Rescue (HAR) these school holidays, staging the second annual "Pets in the Park" fundraiser, with all monies raised going to HAR. The event will be held from 11am till 2pm on Sunday, 29 September in the park outside the Huntlee Land Sales Centre at 1 Triton Blvd, North Rothbury. The team from Hunter Animal Rescue will be bringing along some of their cats and dogs who

are looking for their forever home, so Huntlee residents can see if they can find a furry friend to complete their new family home. A range of local businesses have rallied to lend a hand to the fundraiser and make the day more special, including Daniel Arnaldi Pet Photographer offering \$5 pet photos with all funds going to HAR; Twisted



Whiskers Mobile Dog Wash pampering local pups and donating money from each wash to HAR; and Hunter Pet Motel with a marquee giving away dog treats and dog leads. They've also donated a deluxe trampoline bed for a raffle prize to raise funds for HAR. To ensure loads of fun for the two-legged members of your family, there will be a free

Biggest and Smallest Pet, and the Pet Who Looks Most Like Their Owner. Guests are invited to bring along a donation of pet food and other pet supplies (including blankets) to help Hunter Animal Rescue take care of their adoptees. The Huntlee Café will be open throughout the event, selling delicious treats for the humans and "pupappuccinos" for the furry members of their family. And Hunter Animal Rescue volunteers will be running a Hot Dog Stand. For further information, call the Huntlee Land Sales Centre on 4938 3910 or visit the Huntlee Pets in the Park Facebook event page.



jumping castle and for a gold coin donation to Hunter Animal Rescue, you can get an airbrush tattoo or have your face-painted. Competitions will also be held such as Best Trick, Best Dressed, Waggiest Tail,

• Photos above: From last years inaugural "Pets in the Park"

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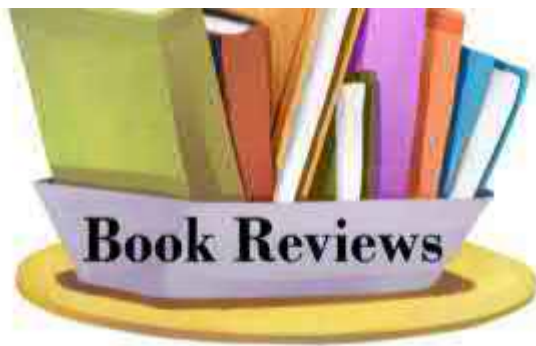
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Book Review: *Vendetta in Death* by J.D. Robb
By Janet Webb

Lieutenant Eve Dallas must keep the predator from becoming the prey in *Vendetta in Death*, the newest thriller from the #1 *New York Times* best-selling author J.D. Robb.

Vendetta in Death is futuristic fiction that casts a light on the #Me-Too movement. Robb's 49th "In Death" thriller introduces Lady Justice, a murderous vigilante who targets perpetrators of sexual violence—men who dole out pain and humiliation, leaving their victims broken and impotent. It should be noted that in Robb's New York City, hiring a licensed companion for sex is legal and regulated, but then again, sex never is the motivation of a sexual predator.

Nigel B. McEnroy is a successful businessman, married with two children, helming his own executive headhunting business with two partners. In business, Nigel B. McEnroy was scrupulous, exacting, ethical, and diligent. None of that stopped him from being, in his private life, a liar, a cheat, an adulterer, and a serial rapist.

The man was unquestionably a pig, and it was time for the slaughter. Crime fiction often straddles the dichotomy between a public persona and private acts. In Nigel's case, it is not NYC's Special Victims Unit (or the April 2061 version) who pursue him, it's a woman who knows his sordid secrets. As in, to ensure capitulation when stalking the large-breasted redheads he favors, "he usually tipped a drug into his chosen prey's drink, to ensure cooperation."

Worse, perhaps, he had at least once (she suspected more) roofied a potential candidate for a position, one he would pass over—for a male—just to add insult to injury. Of course, the poor girl hadn't been able to prove a thing, could barely remember the assault, had been too afraid to accuse the son of a bitch. But she'd heard enough from other victims, more than enough to begin her research, stalking, trailing, watching the pig in action.

The stalker sets off in character, sporting full lips, long, luxurious red hair, and sultry green eyes: "the temporary fake boobs looked and felt absolutely real," supremely confident that Nigel will succumb to her charms. At the discreet club he favors, a sensuous redhead bumps into him, speaking French with a "throaty" accent. First names only, says tempting Solange, tossing her hair back, looking into her miniature compact, and titillating Nigel with words and gestures.

When his back is turned, Solange drops her bag on the floor and Nigel bends to pick it up after setting two martinis on the table. As he did, she spilled the contents of the vial in the compact into his drink. "Merci." She took the purse, slipped the compact back inside. She accepted the glass, tapped it lightly to his. "To the moment," she said. "And the many pleasures."

See how the tables are turned: Nigel can't enact his customary method of drugging his victim—it's him that feels "oddly light-headed." He wakes up to a nightmare. Nigel is naked, his hands are attached to a chain hanging from a ceiling, and there's no Solange. Instead, a stranger appears: "she wore silver boots and a kind of—good God—breastplate in black leather with the letters LJ emblazoned on it in silver, like the boots." In her hand is an electric prod, which she uses to sear his skin, telling him he'll pay, not just for his wife and daughters, but "for every woman you've raped."

After torturing him for hours and extracting a confession, she kills him, saying, "Justice is served." Enter Eve Dallas: As dawn broke over the city, Lieutenant Eve Dallas stood over the naked, mutilated body. The early breeze frisked through her choppy cap of hair, flapped at her long leather coat as she read the bold, computer-generated print on the sign tacked securely where the victim's genitals had been.

He broke his vows of marriage, and woman he disparaged.

His life he built on wealth and power, to lure the helpless to his tower.

He raped for fun, and now he's done. LADY JUSTICE.

Eve shifted her field kit, turned to the uniformed officer, the first on the scene. "What do you know?"

Eve mutters, "Somebody was really pissed at you, Nigel." One of the pleasures of "In Death" is anticipating the cast of characters and how they will interact with Eve and her husband Roarke. Like her right-hand-woman Peabody, who intones, "Harsh."

Eve remembered a time, not so long before, when Peabody would have taken that look and gone green. A couple years as a murder cop brought out the sterner stuff. Eve, Peabody, and McNab meticulously examine Nigel's palatial apartment. They discover Nigel's bottles of ROHYPNOL, RABBIT, "and a small one labeled WHORE." Ian McNab blurts out: "Son of a bitch. He's got travel vials. Go clubbing, take a vial, pick your target. Get her back here, do what you want. Lady Justice's poem wasn't wrong." Not only did Nigel take his victims back to his home when his wife was out of town, but he also had an "all-directional vid cam, on a tripod, already cued for voice activation."

Peabody calls him a "slime sack," although Eve retorts, "Yeah, but he's our slime sack now." It sickens Eve to watch disc after disc of women being raped and humiliated by Nigel but it's her job. "Perhaps Lady Justice had a point," Roarke suggested. "Murder doesn't have a point, and it's not justice."

Investigating the Lady Justice killing causes long-suppressed experiences to surface. By-the-book Peabody asks Eve, "What would you do if a boss or superior tried the grab-ass on you?" Eve says in her first year in Homicide, a second-grade detective cornered her in the locker room. Eve "busted the asshole's nose, bruising his balls," but when Feeney (her first boss) crashed in, "Detective F*#kface starts going off on how I came at him." Feeney stands up for Eve and forces the handsy detective to take early retirement, but, and here's the rub, it could have ended totally differently.

"The fact is," she said as she started hunting for parking, "if he hadn't stood up for me, I'd have swallowed down what I had to swallow to stay on the job, to stay in Homicide. I could kick the fucker's balls, but

without Feeney's backing, I couldn't have done much else." Not everyone has a Feeney—a "real cop," a "real boss," and a "real man,"—in their corner.

The case tears Eve apart: she's saturated in Nigel's obsessive prurient moves—his need to control women—but she's also submerged in the suffering of his victims. Roarke steps up for his Eve. "It's your job, Lieutenant, to know that, understand that, as much as it's your job to find his killer." Those eyes, those incredibly blue eyes, looked straight into her. Saw everything.

"Empathizing with the women he used doesn't change any of that." "Empathizing isn't objectivity." "And bollocks to that. If feeling, relating, understanding isn't part of the job, well then, why aren't droids investigating?" Lady Justice kills the next night and the night after that. Same modus operandi: a man is tortured, defiled, and left naked on the street, with a "poetic note" from Lady Justice outlining his sexual crimes. Eve zeroes in on the vigilante, feverishly working to prevent another killing. She's pissed off as she tells Roarke, "that some have the mind-set that taking a life is some sort of act of heroism." That's not justice in Eve's mind.

Her moral compass demands "real justice," which would have put Nigel behind bars, "taken away that power, that money, his freedom for years." Subtle, unspoken analogies with 2019 abound: *Vendetta in Death* is a brutal story, punctuated with perceptive, thoughtful observations (and some trademark humor—everyone will chuckle at how Eve and Roarke would punish each other if they erred—knowing full-well that's not in the cards for this legendary couple).

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ABOUT ...

Nora Roberts (born **Eleanor Marie Robertson** on October 10, 1950) is an American author of more than 225 romance novels. She writes as **J. D. Robb** for the *in Death* series and has also written under the pseudonyms **Jill March** and for publications in the U.K. as **Sarah Hardesty**. Nora Roberts was the first author to be inducted into the Romance Writers of America Hall of Fame. As of 2011, her novels had spent a combined 861 weeks on *The New York Times* Best Seller list, including 176 weeks in the number-one spot. Roberts was born on October 10, 1950 in Silver Spring, Maryland, the youngest of five children. Both of her parents have Irish ancestors, and she has described herself as "an


Irishwoman through and through". Her family were avid readers, so books were always important in her life. Although she had always made up stories in

her head, Roberts did not write as a child, other than essays for school. Roberts has been included repeatedly on the Giving Back Fund's annual lists of

the most philanthropic celebrities, with the bulk of her donations going to the Nora Roberts Foundation.

The New York Times Best Sellers
Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (22 September 2019)

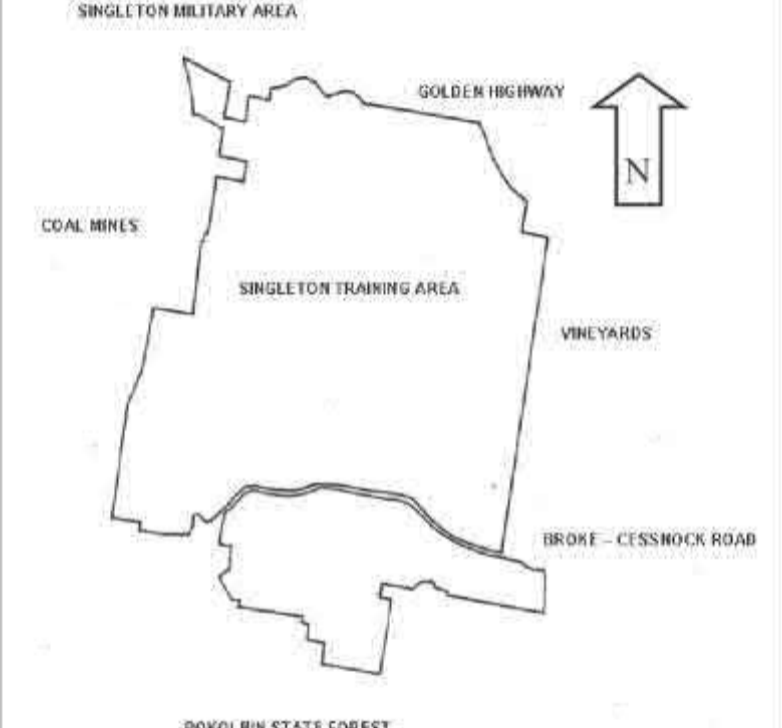
1. VENDETTA IN DEATH by J.D. Robb (New this week)
The 49th book of the In Death series. Eve Dallas looks into the misdeeds of a wealthy businessman while a vigilante named Lady Justice uses disguises to avenge women who were wronged.
2. WHERE THE CROWDADS SING by Delia Owens (52 weeks on the list)
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect. Ranked 2 last week
3. DARK ILLUSION by Christine Feehan (New this week)
The 33rd book in the Carpathian series. A mage and an ancient warrior must stop a threat against all Carpathians.
4. A BETTER MAN by Louise Penny (2 weeks on the list)
The 15th book in the Chief Inspector Gamache series. The search for a missing girl is imperiled by rising floodwaters across the province.
5. THE GOLDFINCH by Donna Tartt (48 weeks on the list)
A painting smuggled out of the Metropolitan Museum of Art after a bombing becomes a boy's prize, guilt and burden.
6. THIS TENDER LAND by William Kent Krueger (New this week)
Four orphans escape a Minnesota school and encounter a cross-section of different people struggling during the Great Depression.
7. THE GIRL WHO LIVED TWICE by David Lagercrantz (2 weeks on the list)
Mikael Blomkvist helps Lisbeth Salander put her past behind her in the latest installment of Stieg Larsson's Millennium series.
8. THE SECRETS WE KEPT by Lara Prescott (New this week)
During the Cold War, members of the C.I.A.'s typing pool aid its mission to smuggle the banned book "Doctor Zhivago" behind the Iron Curtain.
9. THE ORACLE by Jonathan Cahn (New this week)
A traveler discovers mysteries hidden behind seven locked doors.
10. NOTHING VENTURED New this week
by Jeffrey Archer
St. Martin's
While investigating the theft of a Rembrandt painting from the Fitzmolean Museum, the Scotland Yard detective William Warwick falls in love with a research assistant.


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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.

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

00190



What's on & More

WORKING TOGETHER TO TAKE OUT PROBLEM PESTS IN CENTRAL HUNTER

Hunter Local Land Services is working closely with large landholders and public land managers across the Central Hunter to control feral animals including wild dogs, pigs, foxes and rabbits.

Collaborating with local mining companies, public land managers and local farmers will ensure the extensive control work being undertaken is well coordinated to maximise effectiveness around the Singleton Local Government Area and parts of Muswellbrook Shire.

"The Central Hunter Land Managers Pest Species Management group started in response to growing pig problems on large holdings of land. Since we have started synchronising timing of our pest control programs we are seeing very encouraging results in terms of knockdowns in population numbers and decreases in re-colonisation of known hotspots," said Committee member Peter Bowman from Hunter Valley Operations – Community and Environment.

"The coordination between large land owners, such as the mining industry and public land managers is key to generating some real shocks to the breeding populations of feral animals in this district, and we are already seeing some tangible results.

"We would encourage other land managers to come on board, the majority of miners in the area are now involved, and our meetings twice a year are important for identifying emerging threats and maximising the effectiveness of our control programs."

Hunter Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer Matt Kennedy said the group has a strong program in place for a large amount of activity during spring – that will commence in coming weeks.

"From mid-September we will undertake strategic trapping and baiting of feral pigs over at least a two week period," said Matt.

"This will be followed by our annual wild dog baiting program that will be boosted by two weeks of trapping as well.

"We will also undertake coordinated rabbit baiting across multiple sites during this period."

A training school for members of the Central Hunter Land Managers Pest Species Management group will also be held during September, demonstrating how to use FeralScan for reporting pest problems to ensure uniformity across the district.

Hunter Local Land Services is calling on all landholders to join in and undertake feral animal controls during early spring to gain a more holistic landscape approach.

Landholders should call Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299 to discuss how to join in with your nearest control program with your local Biosecurity officers.

Hunter Local Land Services can assist by performing property inspections to help identify pest activity on your property, training landholders in 1080 usage and supplying feral pig traps.

"Landholders have a biosecurity duty under the Biosecurity Act to control pest species on their property – participating in local control programs is one way to make sure you are meeting your biosecurity duties," said Matt.

"While the ongoing drought conditions are unfortunately very tough for local farmers, they have created ideal conditions for isolating and controlling pests as they seek out food and water.

"Landholders could gain an upper hand on feral animal populations by undertaking the work now - it will greatly reduce the work required to keep populations manageable after we receive some rain."



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 17th September 2019

There was an increased penning this week that saw large numbers of light and medium weight young cattle. Cows were also well represented. The quality of the offering was very mixed as was condition. There were quite a few good quality young cattle as well as very good cows. In a reflection of the ongoing poor seasonal conditions there were also numbers of very plain condition cows and young cattle. Large numbers of bulls. The usual buyers were in attendance with all processors operating. The ability to purchase lines of very light weight young cattle contributed to a dearer market trend for both steers and heifers. There were substantial average price changes as a result. The plainest of those young cattle saw a firm to cheaper market trend. Well bred yearling steers in the heavier weight classes saw some breed related price change on a slightly cheaper market trend, where there was a little reduced competition. The market trend for yearling heifers was similar to that of the steers. There was a large price range in the light weight with quality and lot size contributing. The better quality feeder heifers saw little change. Well finished heifers suitable to the trade sold to cheaper trends. Too few heavy grown steers for a quote. Well finished heavy grown heifers sold to cheaper trends with reduced competition. The plainer condition cows sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend with both restockers and processors active. Well finished heavy weight cows sold to a cheaper trend, as much as 6c/kg with some very good quality cows penned. Despite the large numbers, the bull market remained firm for the better quality lots.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 17th September 2019

The breed and quality for the younger cattle was plainer, while the cows were represented with some high yielding pens, with some carrying a good fat cover. Numbers slipped marginally, with the majority entering the younger categories, with the prime conditioned drafts suitable for the butchers limited in supply. The usual buyers competed in a variable market trend. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers sold close to firm, with breed and quality contributing to some price variations, as prices ranged from 228c to 276c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the trade and restocking orders improved 11c and made from 176c to 236c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeder orders lost 11c and sold from 200c to 270c/kg. The yearling heifers to the feeder orders showed little change in value, making 200c to 262c/kg. The best yearling to the butchers topped at 314c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to the processors trended firm ranging from 236c to 270c, as the heifer portion made 235c to 255c/kg. The plainer cows trended dearer by 11c, making from 156c to 224c/kg, depending on weight and cover. The better finished heavy weight cows sold close to firm and made from 218c to 248c/kg. There were some high yielding bulls penned, with the best heavy weight topping at 267c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 11th September 2019

Numbers remained static, with an excellent offering of grain assisted vealers and yearlings, many of the vealers yarded still on the cow. This led to a positive spike in the young butcher offering. Conversely, lack of condition and quality in the feeder and background categories, saw those classes dip to cheaper trends throughout. All the regular buyers attended. Select pens of B muscle calves sold to a top of 378c, with the corresponding C muscle veal showing a dearer trend of 40c/kg. The better offering of light background calves saw a dearer trend of 20c/kg. However, the plainer conditioned drafts sold to values 35c/kg back on last day. Quality variation in the yearling steer drafts to feed on saw cheaper trends throughout. Well finished B muscle heifers sold to 362c, with the C muscle drafts 20c/kg dearer. Cows enjoyed rising trends, with light cows seeing a 20c rise, the medium weights 17c/kg better. Heavy 3 and 4 score cows were 27c/kg better.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 16th September 2019

There was a reduction in numbers with cows and young cattle making up the bulk of the offering. There was a fair supply of very mixed quality grown heifers, too few heavy grown steers to quote. The quality of the offering was very mixed, carrying through all categories. Condition varied greatly with well finished cattle suitable to processors limited. The usual buyers were in attendance, however feedlot competition eased. Market trends varied through the young cattle, with lightweight yearling steers to restockers selling to cheaper trends. The plainer quality steers were most affected. Medium and heavy weight feeder steers sold on a firm to dearer market trend with some breed and quality related price change. Light weight yearling heifers to restockers sold to dearer trends, the better quality heifers attracting the majority of the competition. Medium weight feeder heifers sold to a cheaper trend, again quality and breed a factor in some price change. There was strong processor demand for well finished heifers, remaining firm to dearer. Well finished grown heifers sold to cheaper trends with quality variations a factor in price change. Plainer condition medium weight cows sold to a slightly dearer trend, with demand for lean cows remaining high. Well finished cows to processors saw demand weaken. This resulted in a significantly cheaper trend, with the overall quality also not quite as good



Meet the record breaking apprentice making waves in WA



By Mitch Cohen
Booting home six winners at a meeting is rare enough for any jockey let alone when it happens less than 18 months into your riding career.

For star Western Australian apprentice Jade McNaught the record breaking feat is just the latest highlight in a whirlwind start to life in the saddle. McNaught drew national

attention last weekend when she piloted six of the nine winners at Saturday's Belmont card in Perth. It's was the first time the feat has been achieved by an apprentice in Western Australia and is made even more remarkable by the fact McNaught only took up race riding in May last year aged 29. McNaught has a

background in equestrian but decided to take the plunge into the jockey ranks after catching the racing bug while riding trackwork in her home town.

"I have done a few things in life but nothing really that I was set into and I was 29 at the time so I thought I may as well give it a crack because things were getting a bit

late," McNaught told Racenet.

"If you are going to do something you need it to be something you enjoy and I love horses that I would give it a go.

"I have been riding horses all my life, just not racehorses.

"I was working over at a performance horse stable (in Sydney) and came back to WA to come home for a bit to try something different when I started riding trackwork and breakers for a job.

"When I started taking the babies down to the track, I got my track licence and everyone was asking me how heavy I was because I am not really that small but I am light.

"They suggested that I should give it a crack and it all slowly went from there." McNaught got a licence to ride trackwork midway through 2017 and rode for the

first time at a meeting at Albany last year. Since then she has piloted 126 winners and has become one of the most exciting apprentice prospects across the country.

McNaught has ridden more winners than any other jockey in Western Australia this season and is also leading the metropolitan jockeys' premiership for 2019/20.

McNaught has piloted 25 winners from 94 rides at a strike rate of 26.6 percent across the state, with 17 of those coming in town at an impressive strike rate of 33.3 percent.

The 17 winners has her six clear of the prolific, premiership winning rider of the past nine seasons, Willie Pike.

Her six winners last

weekend include four victories for trainer Adam Durrant and one each for Kieran McDonagh and Martin Allan. Despite the success McNaught is determined to keep both feet on the ground.

"My confidence levels are still the same. I think people might be expecting more from me now but I just go out there and ride each race the same. I just do my best," McNaught said.

"Obviously I went in with a good book (on the weekend) and I just try and pick the best horse in the race. "You never always get it right but lucky enough to get the opportunities I do riding these good horses.

"It makes it a lot easier but I didn't think I would come home with six." McNaught's incredible

start to the new season has unsurprisingly attracted some interest from the east coast but she's says her plan is to continue to base herself in Perth for the foreseeable future.

"I have been asked a few times but while I am getting full books of ride on Saturday and the support, I will stay here for the time being," she said.

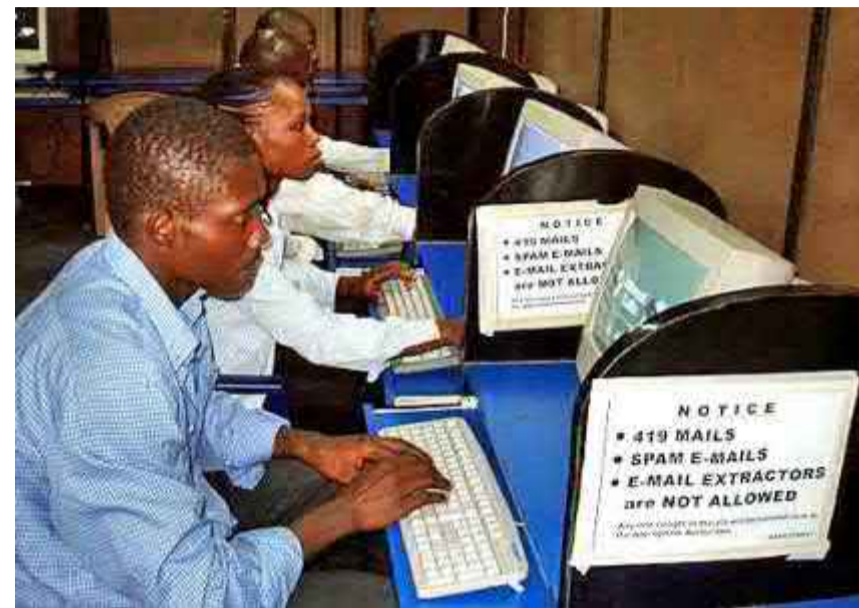
"It would be a lot harder over east where you might get one ride a week where as I am getting 20-30 rides a week.

"I don't really want to turn my back on trainers over here. I know they would be happy for me to take the opportunity but things are going a bit too well at the moment."

■ Photo: star Western Australian apprentice Jade McNaught



Nigerian Scammers Pull in Millions With Fake Emails, Romance Scams



controlling the bank accounts used to receive the money from the victims. Once the funds were collected, the two suspects distributed it to co-conspirators based in Nigeria while taking a cut for themselves. The feds unsealed the indictment after US law enforcement arrested 14 suspects connected with the fraud. They live in the US, but the other suspects are believed to be based in Nigeria and remain at large.

To prevent falling for a business email compromise scams, the FBI **advises** company staffers to first call up their CEO or the relevant executive to verify that a major wire transfer request is legit. The FTC has also **issued** tips on how to avoid romance scams.

BY MICHAEL KAN
Federal investigators have unsealed an Oct. 2018 indictment against more than 80 suspects involved in the online fraud, which collected at least \$6 million from unsuspecting victims in part through business email compromise schemes.

scammers likely pulled this off by hacking into business email accounts to send off the legitimate-looking, but fake emails to the victim companies. The scheme tricked individual victim firms into wiring tens of thousands of dollars; one company sent \$1.75 million. On the romance scam front, the suspects created fake profiles on dating websites and social media platforms to trick people into sending them money and gifts.

the scams. Rather, the announcement focuses on the money laundering side of the operation. Federal investigators have charged two Nigerian nationals based in California—Valentine Iro and Chukwudi Christogunus Igbokwe—with

A group of Nigerians stole millions from US companies and individuals by sending fake emails to businesses and using **romance scams**, according to the FBI. On Thursday, federal investigators unsealed an Oct. 2018 indictment against more than 80 suspects involved in the online fraud, which collected at least \$6 million from unsuspecting victims, including the elderly. The suspects' most lucrative scheme used a tactic called **business email compromise** or CEO fraud. This can involve posing as a business executive over email, and trying to trick the victim company into wiring a large sum of money to a bank account. According to the **indictment**, the

"The overall conspiracy was responsible for the attempted theft of at least an additional \$40 million," US officials said in today's announcement. The unsealed indictment doesn't offer specifics about

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You Smile, We Smile

MOVIE REVIEW

Downton Abbey

'Downton Abbey' movie review:
Fans of the TV series, this one's for you

By Moira Macdonald



In an exquisitely romantic moment late in the "Downton Abbey" movie, someone dances with someone else, out on the steps of a grand country home, as the sunset glows like amber and the camera pulls away to showcase the picture-perfect countryside caught in that magic light. And ... mere days after seeing the movie, I can't for the life of me remember the name of the second person in that dance, or how exactly that person came to be there. And it doesn't matter, not a whit; this isn't really a movie, but a delicious wallow, and regular movie rules don't apply.

I have absolutely no idea how a newcomer to the world of "Downton Abbey," as depicted in the six-season TV series, will react to "Downton Abbey: The Movie" (oh, let's call it DA: TM), but I suspect it would involve a lot of comically blank looks and maybe a need for a drink afterward. So let's just say this: If you loved "Downton Abbey," particularly if you fantasized about its architecture and maybe found yourself the teensiest bit in love with at least one of its characters (yes, of course I did all of those things; one of these days I plan to teach a college course on Lady Mary's outfits) — DA: TM is for you. If you remained utterly indifferent to the "Downton" phenomenon — it isn't. Off you go. Go see "Hustlers" or something — it's good! — and be well.

Are we alone now, Downton fans? OK then. This is a movie for which my scribbled notes from the screening contain pithy gems like "The staircase!" "The necklaces!" "HENRY!" Because, let's be honest, very little happens. And that's all right; it's quite enough that we're back at Downton, listening to the Dowager Countess (the great Maggie Smith, in fine form) being crisply dismissive, and watching Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan) barking orders to the staff, and evaluating the level of smirky chill in the smile Edith (Laura



Carmichael) gives to Mary (Michelle Dockery). Essentially, DA: TM is two hours of Downton's Greatest Hits. The series left off, after six seasons, with everybody happy; the movie leaves off the same way, with just a bit of picturesque twaddle in between. Said twaddle involves a royal visit to Downton — yes, that's it, that's the plot — with a few little sidebars involving Edith pouting about something (because it isn't Downton if Edith isn't required to look aristocratically pained), Daisy (Sophie McShera) up in arms about something (ditto, non-aristocratically), Tom (Allen Leech) trying to find his place in Downton's world, etc. etc. Meanwhile, the upstairs people complain about how very, very exhausted they all are (these are folk, mind you, who literally don't have to dress themselves), and the downstairs people blather on about Downton's Glory. In the TV series, creator Julian Fellowes ran out of ideas somewhere around Season 3, and the movie illustrates, in large scale, that nothing's changed. (Even Downton fans will have fun afterward poking holes in the plot.) But DA: TA also reminded me of Fellowes' great strength: he creates characters that we care about, and what a joy it was to spend time with

them again. There's a scene involving the Dowager and Mary, late in the film, that's as good as anything in the finest days of the series (which is to say, Seasons 1-2); a moment of sweet hopefulness for poor, vulnerable Thomas, the former Evil Butler (Robert James-Collier); and the great pleasure of seeing Joanne Froggatt's ever-noble Anna smiling again. And then there's that glorious eye candy — call it Downton porn — writ large: the costumes (by Anna Robbins, each lovelier than the last), the twilight, the landscapes and, most of all, Highclere Castle itself, getting its swoonworthy big-screen due. It's not a great movie, not by any definition, but I happily lapped up every minute. Nice to see you back, Downton; this fan missed you.

★★★ "Downton Abbey," with Hugh Bonneville, Laura Carmichael, Jim Carter, Brendan Coyle, Michelle Dockery, Joanne Froggatt, Matthew Goode, Robert James-Collier, Allen Leech, Phyllis Logan, Elizabeth McGovern, Sophie McShera, Lesley Nicol, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton. Directed by Michael Engler, from a screenplay by Julian Fellowes. 122 minutes. Rated PG for thematic elements, some suggestive material, and language. .

Rothbury Riot anniversary brings back bitter memories

By Mike Scanlon



THE NEWS | No.507 | WEDNESDAY 25 SEP 2019 9 19

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

and **NOT SO**

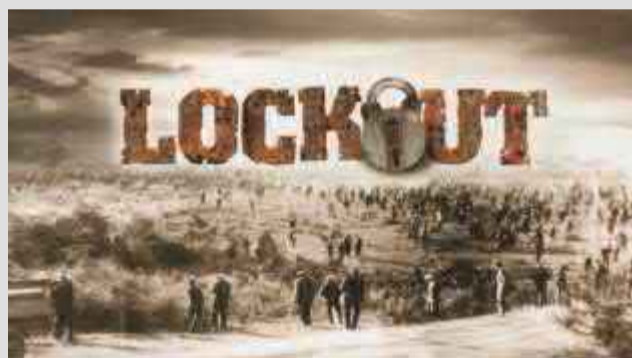
to the New South Wales Police Force for their untiring effort to keep NSW motorists from harming themselves on our roads. I don't care if the general public consider their actions primarily as a fund raising exercise because the 'stats' speak for themselves; we are having less & less fatalities on our roads each year with the number of road users going up each year ~ keep up the good work by keeping drunks & dangerous drivers off our roads!

P-Plate doesn't stand for P-ermission to do 100k's in a 50k zone. Slow down you twits.

to the moron 'green p-plater' in the gold expensive car on 19/9/19 at 5.50am, that overtook us doing 120 coming into the 60 zone at Lochinvar; who then slowed to 50 in the 60 because they got scared of the camera, blocked the overtaking lane and wouldn't accelerate in the 100 and then insisted on slamming their brakes on because we were. If you're going to drive at least learn how to regulate your speed using the accelerator - let's hope there's an officer of the law waiting to witness this next time! Do mummy and daddy know that you're driving their car like an imbecile and & that you are an accident waiting to happen? I recorded your registration number & feel obliged to refer it to the local police.

THE infamous Rothbury Riot is a frightening memory for older miners on the Northern Coalfields. But that's almost 90 years ago now. So, what all the fuss about? Why is it still so vividly remembered among an older generation? After all, Newcastle's Star Hotel riot 40 years ago next week on September 19, 1979, is far more recent memory. But let's not forget that major civil disturbance was really just a big, drunken mob brawl over the sudden closure of a local pub. It's mostly remembered these days because of the extraordinary footage shot on that over-the-top night by fearless NBN TV cameraman Barry Nancarrow. There's no comparison. The so-called Rothbury Riot of December 16, 1929, was far more deadly serious with long-lasting consequences for all involved. The riot is still etched in the memory of Coalfields folk because it was a turning point in unionism and industrial relations. For when the violence and savagery was unleashed on the starving miners they greeted it with disbelief, making them forever embittered, distrustful of governments or any authority. Out of the struggle came a greater sense of solidarity and community strength and later marked gains in working conditions. On paper, the story seems simple enough. Up to 6000 miners had marched on the Rothbury colliery, near Cessnock, where mine owners were attempting to re-open the closed pit with scab labour. The miners arrived at dawn, trying to gain entry to the mine knowing a tent city with about 350 "volunteer" workers had been hastily erected inside. Violence erupted with police. Police were instructed to fire shots into the air and ground only. The mass assault was soon repulsed. The official toll was one innocent miner - Norman Brown - shot dead by a policeman's bullet, apparently from a ricochet. Nine others were said to be hit by bullets and dozens injured. The incident occurred during the Great Depression. Earlier, miners had been locked out of work illegally with their families now living in poverty, living on charity. Almost 10,000 miners went without work for 15 months before they finally returned with a 12.5 per cent pay cut and the loss of other industrial rights. But is it the whole story? The unarmed miners said they went there peacefully at first to protest, even accompanied by a pipe band to keep up morale. But the sight of the scab labour tents enraged desperate miners and things got out of hand. The Sun newspaper soon reported one miner being killed, plus 45 also being wounded. Then came a "six-months reign of terror" up to June 1930, according to former northern mining leader, the late Jim Comerford. It was the era of the 'Basher Gang'. They rode in motor lorries patrolling the main road between Maitland and Cessnock 24 hours a day. If they found three people gathered together in the street, it was an offence under the Unlawful Assemblies Act. Little matter if the men on the street were merely talking about the cricket or the weather, they were clubbed into submission not to gather like that again. Comerford, who had been a terrified 15-year-old witness to the Rothbury colliery violence, said "imagine the uproar if the same sort of thing happened at (Sydney's) Vaucluse or on the North Shore". He said it was a common belief these "specials" weren't police, but actually Sydney underworld scum, long-term criminals given early release and put into uniform. "Their appetite for brutality and the clear dislike

of them by most of the local police fed that belief," Comerford said in 1980. The looming anniversary of the traumatic 1929 Rothbury Riot came into prominence recently with the exhibition "The Shot Heard Around Australia" held at Cessnock Library. While the display is over, some exhibition panels will return on December 16, on the actual 90th anniversary date. Cessnock Local Studies librarian Kimberly O'Sullivan said its exhibition space was booked out about 18 months in advance. "So, sadly, I cannot extend the exhibition even though I would very much like to," she said. The last time Rothbury 1929 - Australia's most violent industrial conflict - came under the spotlight was in 2007 when the documentary *Lockout* was screened. Five years in the making, the program was created by the Hunter-based team of Greg Hall and Diane Michael. Strangely enough, during their research they found state government records between 1928 and 1934, like a coronial inquiry they wanted, no longer existed. Few photographs also existed as during the Rothbury Riot miners had smashed news cameras. Among the miners had been Wally Wood who miraculously survived being shot in the throat by a police bullet. "I was one of the unlucky blokes," he told me 30



Flashpoint: Miners fleeing bullets and baton-wielding police as seen on the 2007 documentary cover of Lockout

years ago at Raymond Terrace. He said the bullet must have missed his jugular vein by a hair's breadth. He said three or four police were taking pot shots at them. "I could hear bullets whining overhead. We ran away in the shrub so fast I reckon we caught up with the most recent bullet," Wood joked. Comerford also remembered Wood being shot. He said he saw a policeman rise from behind a bush and "deliberately shoot Wally Wood through the throat" and flee. But Comerford said many local police had sympathy for the miners' plight. He blamed imported Sydney police for inflaming the situation. Later it was revealed that had miners got into the mine area they would have been greeted with waiting machine guns and steam hoses connected to a boiler. Police kept raiding homes for weapons while Coalfields doctors secretly treated many miners for unreported gunshot wounds. Press reports from the coronial inquiry found police officially fired 123 rounds to deter miners. It was also revealed 100 rifles and 5000 rounds of ammunition were issued to quell any disturbances. On a personal note, decades afterwards I remember



Unlucky: Riot survivor Wally Wood in 1989 showing where he got shot

being told something by the son of a legendary Newcastle policeman who'd once served on light duties at Kurri before retirement. It was maybe in the 1940s when the policeman was told to clear out a cell at the station where old records were stored. "Burn all the papers in the backyard before the historians get a chance to look at them," the resident sergeant ordered.

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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
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For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. 0407 453 494
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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
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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
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Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

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

Dates for your diary

WED 26 SEP - SAT 30 NOV — Maitland Regional Museum and the Museum of Clothing are presenting an exhibition-*Maitland High Street-Coming to Town in the 50s* at Brough House, 73 Church St, Maitland. Open Saturdays and Sundays 10.00 am - 3.00 pm until 30th November, 2019 - \$4 adults, children free. Weekday group visits including Morning Tea and a talk (\$10) can be booked-02 49334450 or email maitlandmuseum@gmail.com
THURS 26 SEP — Branxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade
THUR 26 SEPT - As September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Cost FREE. Contact Barry 0457073825- Rose 4990 4554.
FRI 27 Sept — Branxton Public School PBL Assemblies and Reward Afternoon
FRI 27 Sept — Applications close for "Stronger Country Communities Fund 2019" grant applications. Successful applicants will be announced January 2020.
FRI 27 SEP — Wollombi Music Festival - Friday 27 September - Sunday 29 September
FRI 27 Sept — Branxton Public School Last day of Term 3
WED 2 OCT — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 7pm. Any information please call secr. Dr Alan Beckley 49381203 Or Ken Meany 65747027.
MON 7 OCT — Labour Day public holiday
TUES 8 OCT — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
SAT 19 OCT — Dance at Branxton Community Hall. A mixture Old Time, Nu Vogue, Rock and Roll, Line Dancing and some others. \$10 & bring a plate
WED 6 NOV — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 7 pm. Any information please call secr. Dr Alan Beckley 49381203 Or Ken Meany 65747027.

Dates for your diary

SAT 9 NOV — Dance at Branxton Community Hall. A mixture Old Time, Nu Vogue, Rock and Roll, Line Dancing and some others. \$10 & bring a plate
SAT 9 & 10 NOV — Silky Oak Festival GRETA: SAVE THIS DATE - we are celebrating the birthdays for Greta Army Camp and Greta Migrant Camp hosted by the Central Hunter Business Chamber (Branxton & Greta).
TUES 12 NOV — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome.
TUE 26 NOV — Branxton Lions Club Seniors dinners at Greta's Workers Club at 6 pm. Any information please call secr. Dr Alan Beckley 49381203 Or Ken Meany 65747027.
WED 4 DEC — Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 7 pm. Any information please call secr. Dr Alan Beckley 49381203 Or Ken Meany 65747027.
Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
SAT 7 DEC — Branxton Lions Club Seniors dinner at the Branxton Community Hall at 6 pm. Any information please call secr. Dr Alan Beckley 49381203 Or Ken Meany 65747027.
SUN 8 DEC — Where Pigs Fly Open Day - Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Location: Where Pigs Fly Animal Sanctuary, Laguna, NSW
TUES 10 DEC — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.
SUN 15 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

Spring - Planting and maintenance garden guide

The blush of colour on opening flower buds and the delicate green tracery of new leaves on trees and shrubs tell us that winter's over and longer, warmer days are ahead. It's the start of a new year in the garden and it's time for gardeners to get outside and enjoy it.

Planting

in stock at your local garden centre
Drought-hardy perennials such as geranium, scabiosa, statice
Evergreen trees and shrubs and deciduous shrubs from pots (eg roses)
The vegetable patch
Direct sow seeds of the following vegetables & herbs from mid Spring (when the soil has warmed):- lettuce, rocket, bok choy, pak choy, bush and climbing beans, beetroot, silver beet



From early to mid September in most areas (2-3 weeks later in cold areas like alpine and southern Victoria and Tasmania), the following can be planted out into the garden or pots:
The flower garden
Seedlings of late Spring and Summer flowering annuals like alyssum, lobelia, French marigold, petunia, portulaca, salvia and zinnia - check what's

squash and pumpkin, sweet corn, Zucchini, basil, coriander, dill, Oregano, parsley, vietnamese mint
Sow tomato seeds in punnets or trays. Keep moist but not wet and place in a warm spot out of the direct sun.
Transplant into the garden or large pots mid Spring when the soil is warm.



Summer - Planting and maintenance garden guide

The Australian summer fills gardeners with trepidation - will it be unbearably hot and dry or will torrential rains create havoc?
For most of us, it's all about outdoor entertaining, the festive season and holidays but, if your garden is to survive the vagaries of Summer, there is some work to be done.

Planting

Early summer is still a good time to plant out flowers and vegetables. Avoid planting in the heat of the day and try to get them all in the ground or pots before the end of December.
Water seedlings in with **Scotts Pure Organic Premium Seaweed Liquid Plant Food** - use the concentrate and dilute it in a watering as the label recommends.
Plant flowers, bulbs and vegetables as early in summer as possible. Once daytime temperatures hit 30 deg C or more, it's too hot to plant tender seedlings and bulbs.

Suggestions for early Summer include:

The flower garden

Autumn flowering bulbs such as sternbergia (sometimes known as the autumn daffodil), belladonna



lilies (also known as naked ladies!) and autumn crocus (colchicum)
Petunia, impatiens, celosia, bedding begonia, French marigold, zinnia, salvia, sun-flower, torenia and verbena



The vegetable patch

Zucchini, pumpkin, beans (dwarf/bush & climbing), broccoli, cabbage, carrot, leek, lettuce, sweet corn, cucumber and late season tomatoes
Plant herbs in the vegetable plot and pots or dotted around in the flower garden - many make great companion plants!



Feeding

Plants need regular feeding if they are to continue growing strongly and healthily. If you used a six or 12 month controlled release Osmocote in Spring, you don't need to reapply it yet.

Garden beds

Your plants will respond well to a boost of liquid fertilizer. Treat the whole garden with a wetting agent & use a plant food every 2-3 weeks on all your vegetables and herbs. It's boosted with extra calcium to help prevent blossom-end rot on tomatoes,

capsicums and their cousins

Lawns

In early December, give the lawn an application of a good lawn fertilizer & wetting agent. - this will not only feed but also assist moisture and nutrients to penetrate into the root zone. If you fertilised the lawn late in Spring, don't feed it again now but do apply a wetting agent



Pruning

Trimming evergreen trees and shrubs in early summer will help keep them neat and tidy as well as encourage bushiness, rather than long, straggly growth
Lightly prune camellias and azaleas where needed in early summer.
Keep hedges trimmed often and lightly
Continue to remove the dead flowers ('dead-head') all summer annuals & perennials and summer-flowering shrubs including roses.



Lawn Care

Raise the cutting height of the mower to leave the grass longer - this reduces moisture loss from the soil and provides some shade to the soil and roots
Take the catcher off the mower and mulch mow, leaving the clippings as an insulating layer over the lawn
Where local regulations permit, or if you have abundant tank water, give lawns one deep soaking per week to keep them green and healthy
Watch for weeds and remove them by hand before they grow too large
Lawn Grubs can be active in lawns in warmer areas. If you didn't treat the lawn in Spring, then an application of **Scotts Lawn Builder™ + Grub & Insect Control** now will assist in

Scotts Lawn Builder™ + Grub & Insect Control now will assist in



Controlling garden pests

Protect summer vegetables and other edibles against caterpillars, thrips, aphids, whitefly and other soft-bodied insect pests with Defender™ Pyrethrum Insect Spray
Mites can do a lot of damage to ornamental plants. Try Defender™ MaxGuard which is also effective and long-lasting against a wide range of other pests. DO NOT use it on food plants!
Watch out for black spot on roses. Spraying with diluted milk powder may be effective.



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

School NEWS



Branxton Public School

Our Infants' Sports Day was a fabulous day with a focus on participation and fun. It was great to see all our students enjoying the many activities on the day and doing their personal best. Thank you to the P&C for providing a BBQ lunch and other special treats. Thank you also to the families and friends who came along to cheer on the students.



■ Sport



■ Kinder Performance



■ Sport



■ Performers



■ Sport

Congratulations to our talented students who performed at last week's Performance Assembly. Again, we were so pleased to see so many families and friends in attendance and I know

Dates for the Calendar

Friday 27th September – PBL Assemblies and Reward Afternoon

Friday 27th September – Last day of Term 3

Monday 14th October – 1st day of Term 4

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

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

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P: 4938 3300

GATE-DETAIL

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales

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Buckle Up for a Weekend of Country in the Hunter

By Samantha Cooke



The fifth annual Country at the Camp festival is anticipated to be better than ever with headliner Adam Brand to perform.

The Hunter can expect a musical spectacular featuring established and local artists for the annual Country at the Camp music festival.

The event held at Drovers Camp, Elderslie Road, Branxton, is set to make a dent in the Australian music scene. Running for the fifth year, there are expectations of more than one-thousand people attending on Saturday November 9th. With a lineup that includes headliner Adam Brand, along with Viper Creek Band, Ashleigh Dallas, SAMI and other talented artists, the music will be going from 12pm until midnight. Organisers Luke Thrift and Cass Shoulders started Country at the

Camp in 2015 based on their own love of music and long-time experience going to gigs. Being friends for 15 years, they took a crack at the industry and are proud to see their dream growing. "Big numbers, good times, cold beer and good music," Luke said when picturing the November event.

"The artists love to get amongst the crowd. Laying on the grass with a cold beer in the sun sort of vibe". If you're looking for a festival where you can mingle with your favourite artists, this laid-back country atmosphere is where you'll need to be. Held in an amphitheater set in the bush, Drovers Camp was

the choice venue. "With a big old timber stage. It's unique. There's not much like this around," Luke said. Winner of 12 Golden Guitar Awards, among other accolades, Adam Brand is bound to bring the crowds. Performing minimal shows throughout 2019, he has made an exception to be part of this event. "He's been great to work with and we're so excited to have him here in Branxton," Luke said. "Apart from that, we've got The Viper Creek boys back this year. They're always a crowd favourite. Local boys Outlaw Avenue and new local up-and-comer SAMI. There are a few more in between that we're

excited to have too." The festival is only growing with many more ideas brewing to make it better each year. For any artists that want to be part of it, Luke encourages them to come to the show this year to check it out. Being a fully licensed venue, the onsite bar will hold all refreshments throughout the low to mid 30 degree days. But it's not all for adults, with the festival boasting it's family friendly nature. Don't forget to wear your cowboy boots and buckle up for a great time.

Visit www.countryatthecamp.com for tickets or more information about the event.

Daily Thoughts

"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**
 "Half of the world's misery comes from ignorance. The other half comes from intelligence." **Bonar Thompson**
 "It isn't necessary to imagine the world ending in fire or ice

-- there are two other possibilities: one is paperwork, and the other is nostalgia." **Frank Zappa**
 "One thing a computer can do that most humans can't is be sealed up in a cardboard

box and sit in a warehouse." **Jack Handey**
 Enjoyment is not a goal. It is a feeling that accompanies important ongoing activity. **Paul Goodman**

Caring for Community donates \$250 to local Men's Shed



Greta Guardian Compounding Pharmacy has been part of a national monthly competition for the last three months. It is called Caring for Community and is a way for the pharmacy to give back to the local community with a \$500 first prize and \$250 second prize.

Greta Pharmacy is pleased to say that they won second prize in the competition in August and were able to present the Greta-Branxton Men's Shed with a cheque for \$250! This would not have been possible without help from locals supporting both their business and, in turn, other local groups. The competition begins again at the start of

each month and is based on number of sales of two specific products. These products change each month and can be found in-store in the Caring 4 Community bins and promoted on Facebook. The competition relies on support from locals through sales of these products which allows for as many entries into the draw as possible. If you can think of any local groups to donate possible prizes to then please let them know as they are attempting to choose a different local group each month.

● Photo above: Men's Shed receiving their \$250 from Greta Pharmacy



"Grandpa, if you give me 1 dollar, I'll tell you who sleeps with Grandma when you're not home..."
 "Here, I'll give you 2 dollars, who is it?"
 "Me...!"

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 NSW 2334



Open 7 days
 8am - 8pm

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
 (opposite ALDI)

Neil Peterson 41, Ken Morris 40, Ken Springbett 40, Stephen Clark 40, Graeme Flynn 40, Kerry Porter 39, Wayne Barber 39, Gary Johns 39, Garry Marsden 38, Alick Bender 38, Ray Newton 38, Wayne Berry 37, Wayne Drayton 37 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bill Freeman (3rd & 10th) Robert Manderson (4th) Eric Smith (8th) and Phil Small (17th). The raffle went to James & Danny Schofield with Kevin Dick the runner up.

Saturday 14th September
The great scores continued in the Saturday Stableford with Shawn Parish claiming A Grade with 38 points from Wayne Barber 37 on countback, B Grade to Hieu Le with 45 from James Schofield 41 and C Grade turned out to be a gigantic struggle between playing partners Russell Lightfoot with 47 points from Tony Butler with 46, 2 fine rounds! Ball winners were: William Harden 39, Terry Roughan 39, David Agnew 39, Lindsay Meyn 38, Dean Freebairn 38, Ken Springbett 37, Ken Harris 37, Ray Newton 37, Paul Bullock 37, Peter Attewell 37, Colin Somerville 37, Leon Dureau 37, Michael Gilbert 36, Graeme Smith 36, Sharon Smith 36, Denis Corke 36, Peter McIntyre 36, Lorraine Clack 36, David Peel 36, Wayne Drayton 36, Nick Wilson 36, Shannon Attewell 36, Kerry Bartlett 36, Lilian Kremmer 36, Alan Provenzano 36, Garry Marsden 35, Paul Botting v35, Max Hindmarsh 35, Stella Hunter 35, Phil Darcy 35, Todd Mitchell 35, Bruce Chambers 35, June Bowen 35 and Jeff Taylor 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wade Attewell (3rd) Bruce Chambers (4th) Shawn Parish (8th) Peter Huckfelt (10th) and Andrew Zok (17th).

Sunday 15th September
The Weekly Challenge has been won by Tony Krishna with an outstanding 45 points from Avondale GC visitor Christian Borkowski with 43 and Jai Kumar 40. Ball winners were: Jesusa Oshaliee v39, Neil Bates 37, Lilian Kremmer v37, Andrew Boyle v36, John Payne v35, Justin Woodbine v35, Brian Pobje v34, Stuart Phegan v33, Dorothy Hissey v33, Craig Smith 33, John King v 32, Nathan Zajac v 32, Rob Slomka v 32, Sean Stevenson v32 and Shane Wilson v31

Tuesday 17th September
The early morning rain, much needed, left many of the field indoors with only the hardy taking on the conditions. Jason Cowburn had little trouble in the wet shooting 69 scratch for a 38 point return with Graeme Flynn runner up with 36 points

Wednesday 18th Sept
The ongoing rain cancelled out the Ladies Stableford, next week the Ladies will play 2 Person Ambrose with those wishing to qualify for the Lets Play Keno the cost will be \$5 per team.

Thursday 19th September
With a break in the rain a good field took part in the Vets Irish Stableford with Mick Barrett claiming division 1 with 83 points

from David Peel 80 on countback, Division 2 went to Greg Harder on countback from Doug Harley after both had 85 point returns and Division 3 to Kerry Porter with 79 from Ken Morris with 78, Ball winners were: Wayne Drayton 82, Kerry Bartlett 80, John Hogg 80, Peter McIntyre 79, John Grayson 78, Garry Fairlie 78, Robert Logue 78, Tom Bell 76, Wayne Barber 74, Peter Threadgold 73, Paul Smith 73, Wayne Berry 72, Paul Ireland 72, Gary Arnold 72, John Carmody 72, Bill Freeman 71, Ryan Wilson 71, Graham Morris 71, Neil Peterson 71 and Alick Bender 70 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Richard Craft (3rd) Paul Smith (4th) Bill Freeman (8th) and Kevin Dick (17th). The raffle was won by Bill Mitchell with Paul Adams taking 2nd.

***Sad Note:**
Veterans member Peter Matthews was tragically killed at Mudgee this week when taking part in a charity motor bike ride. The entire club extends sincere condolences to his family. R.I.P. Peter.

Saturday 21st September
The 2 Person Ambrose Championship attracted a field exceeding 100 for the Men's and Mixed Championship. Steve Piggot and Robert MacBeth combined for an 8 under 63 to win the Scratch with Phousang Sihpanya and Hieu Le winning the handicap section with 59.25 net. Julie Van Den Berg and Russell Calderwood won the Mixed with 72 Scratch with Jennifer and Bruce Chambers the handicap section with 66.75 net. The daily event played in conjunction resulted in a win the Everglades pair Kory Botting and Shayden Binder with 58.75 from Phousang Sihpanya and Hieu Le 59.25 and 3rd to Phil Darcy and Peter Franks with 59.5. Ball winners were: Steve Piggott / Robert MacBeth 60, Don Bradley / Paul Adams 60.25, Richard Bennett / Stephen Marchant 61.25, Geoff Boyd / Michael Goldman 61.25, Stephen Applebee / Alex Pitsch 61.25, Alan Provensano / Dan Olsen 61.5, Wayne Barber / Ken Harris 61.5, Anthony Stewart / Trent Hill 62, Peter Fisher / David Agnew 62, Paul Botting / David Mark Grimish 62.25 c/b and the Mixed Teams winner was Julie Van Den Berg and Russell Calderwood with 65.5 from Jenny and Bruce Chambers with 66.75. The Individual Stableford has been won by Justin Woodbine on countback from Craig Smith after both returned 40 points.

Branxton Golf Club Saturday Comp.
Saturday, 14 September STABLEFORD

Field: 56
Grades A Lee Heuston 40
Grades A David Hollis 38
Grades A Lee Hunt 38
Grades B Errol Munzenberger 42
Grades B Neil Jordan 40
Grades B Richard Crooks 40
Grades C Darrell Fletcher 38
Grades C Douglas Elphick 38
Grades C Col Hughes 37
NTP 2/11 A 2nd Michael Simpson 420cm
NTP 4 A 4th Lee Heuston

185cm
NTP 9/18 B 9th Neil Jordan 53cm
NTP 13 C 13th Darren Mathers 550cm
Balls 17 Distributed down to score: 33
Lee Heuston continued his fine form to win Saturday's Stableford with an outstanding 40m pts—a near par round from this fine player, a member of this year's victorious A Grade Pennant team. Dave Hollis has also found his mojo, finishing second with an excellent 38 pts with Lee Hunt playing well to finish third, on a countback. Errol Munzenberger has just returned from a brief holiday in northern NSW and the Gold Coast where he played a few rounds of golf on some fine courses—it obviously agreed with him as he won B Grade with the day's best score of 42 pts—a great round. Neil Jordan and Richard Crooks finished in the minor placings with very solid rounds of 40 pts each. Darrell Fletcher also recently returned from a holiday—this time down south in Victoria—and again the break did him some good in winning C Grade with his 38 pts, just ahead of Doug Elphick and Col Hughes. 33 pts was needed to win a ball with Neil Jordan posting the shot of the day with his shot to the 9th finishing only 53 cms away—a great shot.

Saturday, 21st September STABLE FORD
Field: 56
Grades A Lee Heuston 37 c/b
Grades A Greg Noble 37
Grades A David Matt 36
Grades B Geoff Jones 45
Grades B Ed Garland 41
Grades B Murray Johanson 39
Grades C Glenn Lockwood 37 c/b
Grades C Brian Connelly 37
Grades C Rodney Moylan 36
NTP 2/11 L Heuston 100cm
NTP 4 M Barrett 239cm
NTP 9/18 D Hollis 93 cm
NTP 13 D Kinch 86cm
Balls 17 Distributed down to score: 33
A good field of 56 players enjoyed the pleasant conditions on Saturday on a day where 33 pts was needed to win a ball and the DSR was a 69. Lee Heuston continues to play well, winning A Grade on a countback with his 37 pts, just ahead of another very consistent golfer, Greg Noble, who had the same score. Dave Matt finished third with his solid 36 pts. Geoff Jones had a day to remember, winning B Grade with the day's best score of 45 pts—an outstanding round showing that he may well be a dark horse in the upcoming club championships. Eddie Garland also had an excellent round finishing runner up with his 41 pts with Club Captain Murray Johanson third with his very pleasing 39 pts. Glenn Lockward won C Grade with his 37 pts, also on a countback from Brian Connelly with Rod Moylan third with 36 pts. The shots of the day belonged to Dave Hollis and Dave Kinch who managed to hit their ball closer than a metre on their respective holes. Dave Kinch's shot to the difficult 13th is especially impressive.

Do you REMEMBER when....

Coalfields United Australian Football Club reunion

The news Issue No 52 23rd Sept. 1999 Page 36



A large number of former CUAFC members held a reunion last weekend at the NAFL Grand Final at the Number 1 Sportsground in Newcastle. From all reports the day was a great success with many travelling long distances to be there. A great number of friendships were renewed and it appears that it may become a regular event. Laurie Ockwell from Greta did a great job in organising the day and was well rewarded by the large turnout.

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The NEWS SPORT

WARATAHS RETURN TO THE HUNTER IN 2020

The NSW Waratahs will return to McDonald Jones Stadium for the second consecutive year, taking on the Auckland Blues on Saturday 8 February. The match will kick-off at 7.15pm following a move by SANZAAR to bring Friday and Saturday night starts forward across the competition.

It will be the opening fixture for Michael Hooper's men on home soil, following an away trip to Christchurch to start their 2020 campaign. The match in Newcastle is one of several around the state, part of NSW Rugby's strategy to take the game to new areas during the redevelopment of the Sydney Football Stadium. New South Wales Rugby Union (NSWRU) General Manager of Rugby, Tim

Rapp who grew up in Singleton, said the Hunter was an important region for rugby in New South Wales. "It's [Newcastle and the Hunter] a huge participation area for our sport," Rapp said. "There's a proud rugby history here in Newcastle and for NSW Rugby to bring another game to the area is a great initiative. "With the support of Andrew Hore [CEO] and our Board, we took the step of bringing the game to McDonald Jones Stadium last season and the community were fantastic with their support – it was an easy decision to come back in 2020. "The facilities for both players and fans are some of the best in the country, and bringing an opponent like

the Blues here is an exciting prospect." The current squad features a couple of players with Newcastle connections with Andrew Tuala and Harry Johnson-Holmes both playing for the Wanderers out of No.2 Sportsground. They'll be looking to show their teammates around 'Newy' on their visit to the area ahead of the Round 2 clash, with the squad set to engage with the community in the lead up to their clash with the Blues. City of Newcastle Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz said the return of the NSW Waratahs to Newcastle was indication of the City's ability to attract and retain high-quality sporting fixtures. "This is further indication of the confidence that major

sporting codes and clubs are showing in Newcastle as a location of choice to stage domestic and international fixtures," Cr Winney-Baartz said. "Our ability to continually attract and retain some of the country's best live sporting and entertainment events shows just how committed we are to making our city the best it can possibly be. "We look forward to working with Venues NSW and McDonald Jones Stadium to make this match one of the standout features of the City's 2020 sporting calendar." The NSW Waratahs match in Newcastle has been made possible thanks to the support of Venues NSW and Newcastle City Council.

LOCAL COAL MINERS PREPARE TO LACE UP BOOTS FOR THEIR WEST-PAC RESCUE HELICOPTER

Coal miners throughout the Hunter Valley and beyond have begun training in preparation for this year's A-Plus Contracting Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Day in support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Each year the event continues to grow in popularity and this year a record 400 coal mining employees will make up the 23 teams that will represent their respective mines and compete in the rugby league competition at

Singleton's Pirtek Park on October 19. This year, several new teams will be joining men's competition with teams even travelling from Lake Macquarie, Mudgee and Narrabri. As well as the much-anticipated "Women of Mining Series" which will see 30 of the regions female miners hit it out in a best of three series. Last year the day raised \$85,000 for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service with a record breaking number of spectators attending and all signs point to another successful event this year. Event Organiser and the Service's Community Liaison Officer, Danny Eather believes that this year's competition is shaping up to be the best so far. "With the addition of the new teams to the event from mine site both in the Hunter Valley and beyond, there is a lot of interest in what the new teams will bring to the day's games. Equally it reinforces the importance that the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service has in providing vital lifesaving assistance in the regional communities" said Mr. Eather. "As a Service, we are extremely grateful for the

continued support we receive from our local mining community, who ensure that the Rescue Helicopter can continue to fly 24-7, especially when we average over 1,500 mission yearly throughout Northern NSW from our three bases in Newcastle, Tamworth and Lismore." He added. In the meantime, representatives from all teams with gather at the Imperial Hotel, Singleton next Friday (Sept 27) for a team briefing and draw the all-important team pools for the day's competition draw. **About the event:** The A-Plus Contracting Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Day is an annual fundraising event for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The event will take place at Pirtek Park, Singleton on Saturday 19th October with the first game kicking off at 8.30am. Thank you to event partners A-Plus Contracting, Jennings Print, Mine Super, Pirtek, Slater & Gordon, Tyre Doctor, Aletek, NSW Mining, Mader NSW, Yancoal Mount Thorley Warkworth, Bowers Heavy Haulage, Coal Services, Hunter Isuzu, Hunter Valley Operations, Oiltest and At The Coalface.



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