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WEDNESDAY  
30 OCTOBER 2019

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## STEVE'S RANT

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Members Well Done say...



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Not So Well Done



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## Program finalised for Greta Army & Migrant Camp Anniversary weekend

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 November



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Organisers of the upcoming *Greta Army & Migrant Camp Anniversary* weekend have finalised their program for the 2 days & what a program it is.

The two day anniversary event is to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Greta Army Camp (in 1939) and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the site becoming a migrant camp.

His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd) has accepted an invitation from the organizers, the Central Hunter Business Chamber, to give the Opening Address at 9:30am on the first day, Saturday 9th November.

There will also be 25 Food Stalls & 50 other vendors stalls. Also, Radio station @NURFM will be broadcasting from the site on both days.

Saturday 8.30 hrs - 17.30 hrs  
08.30 hrs Gates Open  
08.30 hrs Welcome music and tunes by Wine Country Music Association  
09.30 hrs Military Parade and Official Opening Governor General of Australia  
10.15 hrs Flyover Tiger Moth Aircraft

10.30 hrs Newcastle Greek Dance Group  
10.30 hrs Local Brass Bands playing tunes 1950's, 1960's and 1970's  
11.00 hrs Hunter Folk Group  
11.00 hrs Australian Armoured Vehicle Association & Military Personnel Display  
11.30 hrs Lajkonik - Polish Dance Ensemble  
12.00 hrs Sing Australia Choir  
12.00 hrs Local Brass Bands playing tunes 1950's, 1960's and 1970's  
13.00 hrs Veselka Ukrainian Dance Group  
13.00 hrs Australian Armoured Vehicle Association & Military Personnel Display  
13.00 hrs Scottish Bands playing  
13.30 hrs Jautrais Paris Latvian Dance Group  
14.00 hrs MRH 90 Helicopter Display - Royal Australian Navy  
14.00 hrs Lajkonik - Polish Dance Ensemble  
14.30 hrs Hunter Folk Group  
14.30 hrs Scottish Bands playing  
15.30 hrs Newcastle Greek Dance Group  
15.00 hrs Australian Armoured Vehicle Association & Military Personnel Display  
15.30 hrs Scottish Bands playing  
16.00 pm Jautrais Paris Latvian Dance Group  
16.30 hrs Veselka Ukrainian Dance Group  
17.00 hrs Mass Scottish Pipes and Drums  
17.30 hrs Event Close with Tiger

Moth Flyover  
Sunday 8.30 hrs - 16.30 hrs  
08.30 hrs Gates Open  
09.00 hrs Local Brass Bands playing tunes 1950's, 1960's and 1970's  
09.00 hrs Welcome address  
09.15 hrs Flyover Tiger Moth Aircraft  
09.30 hrs Balkan Ethno Orchestra  
10.30 hrs McEwan Clan Scottish Dancers  
11.00 hrs Rose, Shamrock and Thistle Folk  
11.00 hrs Australian Armoured Vehicle Association & Military Personnel Display  
11.00 hrs Local Brass Bands playing tunes 1950's, 1960's and 1970's  
11.30 hrs Rock n Roll Dancers  
12.00 hrs Voyage of Irish Dance Group  
12.30 hrs Australian Armoured Vehicle Association & Military Personnel Display  
12.30 hrs Local Brass Bands playing tunes 1950's, 1960's and 1970's  
12.30 hrs Scottish Country Dancers  
13.00 hrs Scottish Bands playing  
13.15 hrs Polish Dance School  
14.00 hrs Balkan Ethno Orchestra  
14.00 hrs Scottish Bands playing  
14.30 hrs Scottish Highland Dancers  
15.00 hrs Australian Armoured Vehicle Association & Military Personnel Display  
15.00 hrs Rock n Roll Dancers  
15.20 hrs Balkan Ethno Orchestra

15.50 hrs Polish Dance School  
16.15 hrs Mass Pipes and Drums  
16.15 hrs Closing Address  
16.30 hrs Event Close with Tiger Moth Flyover  
Other Weekend Events  
C130 Hercules Aircraft Flyover - Time to be confirmed  
\* Australian Ex Military Vehicle Collectors Society - with vehicle displays  
\* Newcastle - National Service 1951-72 Re-Enactors Unit - Drill Displays  
\* Dismounted Infantry Display from 2/17<sup>th</sup> Royal New South Wales Regiment  
\* Light Horse re-actors display  
\* Military Equipment and re-enactors on display  
\* Australian Armoured Vehicle Association - Armoured vehicle on display throughout the day  
\* Model Ships on display  
\* HMC - Hunter Multicultural onsite Museum / historical talks and displays  
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**SINGLETON BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019 WINNER**





**PUBLIC EXHIBITION NAMING OF COUNCIL ASSETS POLICY**

At its meeting of 2 October 2019, Council resolved to place on public exhibition the draft Naming of Council Assets Policy.

The public exhibition period will be from Monday 28 October to Monday 25 November 2019.

The document can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building;
- Branxton Post Office;
- Council's Public Libraries;
- Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until 4.00 pm Monday 25 November via email [recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

**INDEPENDENT PRICING & REGULATORY TRIBUNAL (IPART) ISSUES PAPER REGARDING THE HUNTER WATER CORPORATION PRICING PROPOSAL 2019 – COUNCIL SUBMISSION**

At its meeting on 2 October 2019, Council resolved to make a submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) Issues Paper regarding the Hunter Water Corporation Pricing Proposal 2019. IPART is a NSW Government Agency tasked with independently reviewing and investigating policies and practices of utilities operators such as Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) to protect consumers from unreasonable price hikes, ensuring providers remain financially viable, identify economic efficiencies and protection of the environment and associated impacts on Customers.

Council's submission primarily focuses on HWC proposal to discontinue the funding model that has been used to provide sewer services to unsewered townships. Council has for many years strongly supported the supply of sewerage services to its unsewered village areas. In 2014, at the request of the HWC, Council resolved to support the village of North Rothbury to receive back log sewerage services as a high priority.

The HWC Pricing Proposal 2019 omits any reference to the provision of sewer services to North Rothbury or other Village Areas within the Local Government Area. Council determined to make a submission which addresses the following main points:

- Objection to the discontinuation of the Environmental Improvement Charge levy as the mechanism to fund backlog sewer priorities.
- Objecting to the proposal for HWC to recover costs from its broader customer base for projects such as Recycled Water Schemes benefiting the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie LGA's while North Rothbury remains unsewered.
- Emphasising the requirement for IPART to ensure HWC proposals are based on ecologically sustainable development principles and to highlight the greater importance of sewerage North Rothbury than these other proposed projects.
- Objecting to the proposal to increase the timeframe between price review periods from 4 to 5 years thereby creating further uncertainty and potential delay to the provision of sewer to North Rothbury.
- Requesting for IPART to critically analyse the HWC survey, which was used as evidence of community support for households to pay additional fees annually for HWC discretionary projects, none of which are within the Cessnock LGA or relate to the sewerage of North Rothbury.

IPART must consider all submissions prior to producing their Draft Report in March 2020. A further public consultation and submission process will be followed prior to IPART making its final determination in June 2020.

**REGULATION OF TRAFFIC "GRAPEVINE GATHERING" BROKE ROAD & MCDONALDS ROAD, POKOLBIN SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2019 – 10:00AM TO 12:00AM**

Council advises that it has received an application from the Roche Estate to conduct the Grapevine Gathering on Broke Road & McDonalds Road, Pokolbin, scheduled for Saturday, 30 November 2019. Council intends to seek consent from Roads and Maritime Services, pursuant to Division 2 of Part 8,

of the Roads Act 1993, for the regulation of traffic, by means of temporary road closures as follows:

Saturday 30 November 2019 – 10:00am to 12:00am

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

Written submissions relating to the Regulation of Traffic should be forwarded to the General Manager, Cessnock City Council, PO Box 152 Cessnock 2325, endorsed "Regulation of Traffic – Grapevine Gathering". The closing date for submissions is 4.00pm on Wednesday 20 November 2019.

**COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU PLANNED WORK GRETA & POKOLBIN**

- WORK:** Geotechnical Investigations in preparation for road improvement works. (Flood Warning Sign to be installed by WaterNSW)
- LOCATION:** 1. **Camp Road, Greta**, beginning at Mansfield Street and extending approximately 1.4km south along Camp Road.  
2. **Deaseys Road, Pokolbin**, between the Cessnock City Council boundary with Singleton Council and Mary Annes Creek.
- TIME FRAME:** Commencing mid October 2019, weather permitting
- DISRUPTIONS:** Minor delays due to traffic control. Traffic control signs will be in place.
- INFORMATION:** Refer to Roads, Pathways, Bridges & Drainage on CCC website <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/roads> or contact our friendly customer service team on 02 4993 4100.

We look forward to serving our community with this infrastructure upgrade.

**PUBLIC NOTICE – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PER SECTION 418 (3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1993.**

In accordance with Section 418 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Cessnock City Council advises that the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 6 November 2019 will include the presentation of the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2019.

A summary of the Financial Statements is provided below:

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>Income Statement</b>		
Total Income from Continuing Operations	93,340	121,386
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	78,320	82,023
<b>Operating Result from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>39,363</b>
<b>Net Operating Result for the year</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>39,363</b>
Net Operating Result before Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	(3,047)	(5,374)
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
Total Current Assets	44,442	43,147
Total Current Liabilities	(17,272)	(17,701)
Total Non-Current Assets	853,655	773,519
Total Non-Current Liabilities	(21,591)	(22,622)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>859,234</b>	<b>776,343</b>
<b>Other Financial Information</b>		
Operating Performance Ratio (%)	(0.78)%	(3.14)%
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio (%)	67.45%	52.16%
Unrestricted Current Ratio (times)	3.05x	2.66x
Debt Service Cover Ratio (times)	6.06x	4.78x
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio (%)	2.02%	1.69%
Cash Expense Cover Ratio (months)	7.01	6.35
Buildings and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio (%)	69.50%	88.19%

In accordance with Section 420 of the Local Government Act, 1993, any person may make a submission in writing to Council with respect to the Council's Audited Financial Statements or the Auditor's Reports.

Copies of the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports may be inspected at Council's Administration Building

Or viewed at Council's website [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Submissions close one (1) week after the above Public Meeting has been held.

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT CESSNOCK SECTION 7.12 LEVY CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN & REPEAL OF SECTION 7.11 TOURISM CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 2 October 2019, Council resolved to place the Draft Cessnock Section 7.12 Levy Contributions Plan on Public Exhibition.

The purpose of the Amended Draft Section 7.12 Levy Contributions Plan 2017 is to provide a mechanism for Council to impose, as a condition of Development Consent requiring payment of a contribution.

Council's existing S7.12 Levy Contributions Plan 2017 has been amended. The purpose of the amendments is to amend the works schedule of the Plan to include a Tourist Related Project and update Legislative References. All Tourism Development will now be levied under the Section 7.12 Levy Contributions Plan.

The existing Section 7.11 Tourism Contributions Plan is to be repealed and replaced by the Draft Section 7.12 Levy Contribution Plan.

The Draft S7.12 Levy Contribution Plan is on Public Exhibition for a period of 28 days from 30 October 2019 to 27 November 2019 and can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building;
- Council's Public Libraries;
- Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Draft Section 7.12 Levy Contribution Plan. Any views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a final decision is made on whether or not the Draft Plan should be made.

In order to be considered by Council, submissions must be received by 5.00pm on 27 November 2019 and should quote "58/2017/3/2 – Cessnock Section 7.12 Levy Contributions Plan". Submissions should be addressed to The General Manager and can be submitted via:

- Email to [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au); or
- Post to PO Box 152, Cessnock NSW 2325

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.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Strategic Planning section on 4993 4241.



## Cessnock Council's Customer Service Team recognised at National Awards

Cessnock City Council's Customer Service Team received a 'Highly Commended' at the National Local Government Customer Service Awards last week in the 'Customer Service Team of the Year' category. The team were also ranked number one in the National Local Government Mystery Customer Survey for telephone, walk in and overall experience. Cessnock City Council's newly appointed General Manager, Lotta Jackson was thrilled with this announcement. "Customer service is such an important part of what we do here at Council and I would like to congratulate each and every member of the team for this wonderful achievement."

Team has undergone a major culture change recently, with the appointment of a new Manager, two team leaders and a Business Improvement Specialist. This new team structure has encouraged positive and proactive change within the team and the results have been outstanding. The customer service area in the Council's Admin Building has been revamped, new professional uniforms were chosen by the team, over 90 new procedures have been documented, a staff training plan implemented



and Customer Relations Manager, Roslyn Ashton said she is so proud of what the team has achieved. "Our team has achieved some amazing outcomes in such a short timeframe and the feedback we are getting from the community highlights that what we're doing is really working." "To be recognised at these National Awards is just incredible and we will continue to work hard to improve the customer service experience here at Cessnock City Council," added Roslyn.

and a Knowledge Management System put in place. Focused on customer service improvement, a monthly 'mystery shopper' was also introduced and the results of these are consistently higher each month. Council's Business Support

## Become a tech savvy senior



Kurri Kurri Library Monday 4 November 1pm-3pm Introduction to Android tablets Library Services Coordinator, Rose-marie Walters is encouraging local seniors to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. "It's about teaching you that technology isn't terrifying or to be avoided, but can be an incredibly useful tool when you have the skills to get the most out of your device." Each event includes a free morning or afternoon tea and bookings are essential. Book online under 'Events and bookings' at [libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au), through the event listing on our 'Cessnock City Library' Facebook page or by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.

Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries are encouraging local seniors to become more tech savvy by taking part in their upcoming fun and free technology workshops. Local seniors are invited to join one or all of these small, friendly workshops supported by expert staff to learn new skills to get connected or simply how to master your smart phone, computer or tablet. The following FREE workshops are on offer: **Be Connected Workshops - Cessnock City Library Fridays 10am-12 noon**

Friday 1 November: More Online Skills ~ In this topic, you will learn how to safely shop online and how to connect with friends and family using social networks. Friday 15 November: Connecting to Others ~ This topic will teach you how to get set up with the correct equipment to make video calls. **Tech Savvy Seniors iPad/tablet Workshops** Cessnock Library Monday 4 November 9.30-11.30am Introduction to your iPad

## Finally an answer to local Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway Resources for Regions funding



### RESTART NSW FUND RESOURCES FOR REGIONS

Since earlier this year the applicants & The News have been doing their best to ascertain whether funding from the Resources for Regions program for the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway had been successful. After many calls & media enquiry emails to the Deputy Premiers office, without any response, the answer has finally arrived & it is not good news. To recap ~ Originally it was to be announced prior to Christmas last year & then February this year. All we knew is that Singleton had missed out (again), Muswellbrook have nearly \$5million to upgrade 9 roads in their paddock & that 10 other projects have been given the green light but what they are was yet to be announced. Deputy Premier, John Barilaro, said 11 projects were to be funded in this latest round of the program. With Muswellbrook already known it left 10 projects to be announced.

Singleton asked for \$8.6m to fund their roads upgrade program which was rejected. The Deputy Premier met with the Mayor & GM to give them the bad news personally. Mayor Sue Moore said that were extremely disappointed with the outcome of Council's latest application, particularly because of the improved road safety benefits for the miners literally travelling to the coal face every day. "Add to that the level of impact our community experiences every day, and it is beyond belief that we could ever miss out on a grant program aimed to support mining-affected communities" said Sue. At that meeting Mr. Barilaro promised to review the programme. "I've asked for a review of the Resources for Regions program, to ensure maximum

support is provided to mining communities across regional NSW," said Mr Barilaro. The Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway & the Kurri Kurri CBD Upgrade were the two successful projects that Cessnock City Council endorsed in the latest round. The cycleway application was for \$2.6M, excluding the memorial aspect of \$1.2million, & the maximum Cessnock Council co-contribution (25%) was \$650,000. Cessnock Council had asked that their co-contribution be 12.5% instead of the 25%. Resources for Regions is part of the \$1.6 billion Regional Growth Fund, which is designed to support growing regional centres, activate local economies and improve services and community infrastructure for regional communities. Applicants must demonstrate that

projects will meet the statutory purpose of the Restart NSW Fund to improve economic growth and productivity in NSW. For the purposes of the R4R program, funding must be used to improve local infrastructure in regional areas that are significantly affected by mining operations. As I said the answer is bad news. Not being able to get any response from the Deputy Premier's office I instigated another pathway which was successful. It came from the office of the Hon. Taylor Martin MLC & was short and succinct .... "The Minister's office has just advised me that the application for funding for Cycle/pathway between Branxton and Greta was unsuccessful. The department has written to the Council to advise them." Very disappointing for all concerned.

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# STEVE'S RANT

## The Drought

At the beginning of this year we were being asked to pay \$20 extra at the supermarket in order to buy a bail of fodder for the drought affected stock. That petered out all to soon and I don't know of any other voluntary scheme where by we may give assistance to the farmers in drought affected areas. Recently Alan Jones highlighted the problem to his listening and viewing public when he interviewed the PM and was unable to get any response from him for the immediate problem farmers have in feeding their stock. The problem now is so dire and widespread in Queensland and New South Wales that it is beyond the means of farmers, the shires they farm in, and in fact the State Governments to do much about saving the livestock and livelihoods of rural people.

The farmers have no feed, no water, and no money to do anything but sell off their breeding stock or shoot it. Shires have no feed and no water. The little money they have is not sufficient to address their local drought concerns for they have nowhere for agistment and no source of feed. At best they can truck water to the farms and provide food relief for the farmers families, but that is it. The extent of the problem has been apparent for over a year, but unlike the dramatic effects of floods, fires and cyclones it has crept up on us and we now face a possibility of having no rural industries or communities in vast areas of Queensland and NSW. The time has long past when a *National Emergency* should have been declared and a co-ordinated Federal Government intervention



made. It is too late for many farmers but those who are left need help now. This is now a National Disaster. The immediate actions required now includes the

arrangements of agistment for stock and then the transport of that stock. Even interstate if required. Fodder must be purchased and transported into Shires where farmers can pick up what they require if agistment is not practical. Refuelling farmers trucks and plant and the trucks transporting stock and feed to be provided by issuing Government Fuel Vouchers. Defence forces should be committed to the *Emergency* by cancelling training activities and calling up the Army Reservists to employ every asset of man power and transport to load, move store and distribute fodder and water. This could commence within days if not sooner. The Parliament must do this

by appointing somebody such as General Peter Cosgrove, the retired Governor General, as director and co-ordinator with powers of command and financial delegation to pay as he goes without the stultifying interference of Federal or State bureaucrats. Joel Fitzgibbon MP must request the suspension of the days order of business in order to introduce an Emergency Act to implement an appropriate response to the National Disaster.  
*Cheers Steve.*

**for a very short trip to attend a family function (& that's another story).** The last time I was there, over 10 years ago, the city was a virtual car park with traffic clogging the very veins of the city; this despite the best public transport system, I think, Europe has to offer. Back in 2003 they introduced the London Congestion Charge in Central London to discourage private car use but I'm afraid it hasn't worked. The charge was to help reduce high traffic flow and minimise air and noise pollution in that area and raise investment funds for London's transport system. It has certainly raised funds but hasn't seemed to discourage private car usage.

On my way back home from the airport in Sydney I was reminded of why I find large volumes of traffic such a pain ... nearly 2½ hours to get to the F3 (admittedly in peak hour). Just as an aside for anyone thinking of visiting London; Buckingham Palace is a neat place to take a 'pitstop' on the way to some place real, but it's not really worth a prolonged visit. Guess what happens when the guard changes? Some guards leave one door and take their posts while other guards go in said door. It happens very slowly, too. It's a nice, pretty house, but there are better ways to spend your time in London.  
*Cheers, Mike*

## OPINION

**THE AGE**  
**The Age's View**

It was in July of 1873 that English explorer William Gosse became the first European to sight what he described in his diary as the "most wonderful natural feature he had ever seen". Naming it Ayers Rock, after South Australian premier Henry Ayres, he came across the spectacular red rock while unsuccessfully trying to find a safe route from central Australia to Perth. The following day, "seeing a spur less abrupt than the rest of the rock...after walking and scrambling two miles barefooted [he] succeeded in reaching the summit and had a view that repaid me for my trouble". Along with Kamran, one of his Afghan camel drivers, Gosse reportedly began his climb at the same spot that has enticed hundreds of thousands of tourists from Australia and the world to the summit of what is now also called Uluru.

On Saturday (26/10), 34 years to the day since Uluru was given back to its traditional owners, the trek to the top will be banned. "It's a big thing, a lot of the people are becoming emotional with joy," Donald Fraser, Anangu senior tribal elder and former chair of the Uluru Kata-Tjuta board, said. "The traditional owners were suffering and ended up in stress because they were treading on important place, important rock."

The decision has generated some heated debate led by Senator Pauline Hanson, who is probably voicing the concerns of some Australians. Appearing on the *Today* show, Senator Hanson was adamant that Uluru should stay open to climbers and struggled to see how the rock was any different to Bondi Beach. "This is an iconic site for all Australians. I can't see the cultural sensitivity when people have been climbing the rock all these years."

No, Senator Hanson, you don't get it. A climbing ban at Uluru is not the same as closing Bondi Beach. The traditional owners of Uluru, the Anangu, have a connection to the rock that goes back at least 30,000 years. After being kicked off the site in the early 1960s by tourist operators, they fought to return, then fought for the next 20 years to take back full ownership, which was eventually granted by the Hawke government in 1985.

The Anangu believe that during the time when the world was being formed, the Uluru climb was the traditional route taken by their ancestors when they arrived at the rock. For them, particular places on and around the rock have a sacred equivalence to a church, synagogue or a mosque. Would Senator Hanson demand that "all Australians" have the ability to override the wishes of the keepers of all sacred sites? Of course not, but that does not stop her peddling in the divisive doublespeak that feeds off racial and cultural tensions.

There is, however, genuine concern that stopping the climb will curtail tourism in the area. The national park and nearby resort provide valuable funds and jobs for the traditional owners. *The Age* hopes that tourists will keep it on their bucket lists. The magnificent beauty and remarkable geological wonder of Uluru can still be well appreciated by taking the nearly 10-kilometre walk around it or, like hundreds of people nearly every day, take in its splendour from afar at dawn and dusk.

**Uluru is for all Australians, for all people, to enjoy, as they do Bondi Beach or the Great Ocean Road. But it's time we respected the rights of the traditional owners. It's time we fully accept that the land upon which Uluru sits is their land, so their wishes should be the final word. It's time for everyone to stop climbing Uluru.**

## Letters to the Editor

We can influence the climate (?)  
Mrs Steve Rants' letter of 27th February regarding climate change, ends by asserting that: "To assume we can influ-

ence the climate of this planet is supreme arrogance, the ultimate conceit". Presumably she believes humans are too puny to possibly influence the planet's atmosphere. But firstly it has already been proven that humans can influence the earth's atmosphere. From the 1970's a steady lowering of the amount of ozone was noted, the main cause being manufactured chemicals CFCs and HCFCs. Ozone depletion increases the

likelihood of cancer among other effects. The 1989 Montreal protocol banned these chemicals and since then the ozone layer is recovering. This is proof of how even minute amounts of the wrong, man-made gas in the atmosphere can affect the whole earth. Secondly, in Mrs Rants' letter when discussing dinosaurs which lived 65 million years ago, she states: "new research indicates the gassy emissions from these giant dinosaurs may have been enough to warm the earth". "The researchers found that the greenhouse gas methane produced by all sauropods across the globe would have been about 520 million tonnes per year, a number on par with the total amount of methane currently produced by both natural and man-made sources". If 520 Mtpy emitted by dinosaurs was enough to warm the earth, then the current 520 Mtpy must also be enough to warm the earth. And why does Mrs Rants believe the dinosaur researchers but not today's climate researchers who are arguing the same effects of greenhouse gases.



Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to

**thenews@hotkey.net.au**



# Art Exhibition to highlight Branxton



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OPENING DRINKS:  
SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER, 3-5PM

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Nationally acclaimed & Branxton born artist, Todd Fuller, is about to put Branxton on display at his forthcoming exhibition in Sydney.

Called 'My Space' the exhibition is set to open on Wednesday 6th November & will run until the 24th November with the officially opening on Saturday 9th November.

"The show 'A place not like home' features regional stories and in it I have animation titled 'My Brother Call's this place God's Country' which is an 8 minute hand drawn piece (with a suite of drawings) about daily life in Branxton & I have also commissioned written pieces by Aaron Dries and Charles Croucher both from Branxton who are both highly regarded in their own professions," said Todd.

According to Todd there is a special type of magic in the towns and communities outside of Australia's metropolitan communities.

"These places, often remote, sometimes shrinking in population, sprinkled with architectural structures of the past and communities rich with quirk & charm, are a catalyst for unique Australian stories."

"These stories, and in a way these places, are a delicate balance of the bittersweet, the resilient and the bleak," said Todd.

Todd has exhibited annually with the gallery since 2011 at the age of 23, having graduated from Sydney's National Art School the previous year.

He has been awarded a number of residencies that have informed & developed his work, including time spent recently at Bundanon Trust (2018), Hill End (2017) & Grafton Regional Art Gallery (2016).

The hand drawn animations developed during his Grafton residency, *Ode to Clarence*, won the notable Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award in 2018.

Most recently, Todd was selected as a finalist in the 2019 Sulman Prize at the NSW Art Gallery for his hand drawn animations, *With whom I was united by every tie* (Captain Moonlite).

Todd's practice is multidisciplinary & multifaceted. His video artwork has portrayed narratives concerned with burden, freedom & iconography, with his most recent animations investigating perceptions of homosexuality, particularly within rural areas.

Todd's practice also includes the drawing stills from his films, and sculptures that brings the characters he develops into a 3-D form.

Todd's pieces have entered a number of collections, including Parliament House Art Collection, Artbank, Newcastle Art Gallery, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Grafton Regional Gallery, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Gympie Regional Gallery, Deakin University Art Gallery, The Elliott Eyes Collection and Sydney Harbour Trust Collection

We wish him well with his coming exhibition & would hope he has a bevy of visitors from his home town.



■ St John's ('My Brother calls this place God's Country') 2018, acrylic, chalk and charcoal on paper, 57 x 75cm.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019

A Commemorative Service will be held at the Greta Cenotaph on Monday 11th November, 2019. All members of Greta and Branxton RSL Sub-Branches, and any interested members of the public are invited to attend this combined service.

This Service will be a fitting closure to the Anniversary Weekend at Greta Army and Migrant Camp, being a way of remembering the sacrifices made by soldiers who were trained at Greta and who went on to serve with the 2nd AIF Forces, many of whom never returned to their families.

The Service is scheduled to commence at 10.45am and we ask that those attending be in place by 10.30am, as the observation of the one minutes silence must take place at 11am.

I hope this wording is satisfactory.  
Thanking you in anticipation.

*Adrienne Bevan, President - Greta RSL Sub-Branch*



■ Branxton Railway Station

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## REFLECTIONS

### "Halloween ~ to celebrate or not to celebrate?"

There are some people in our community who will celebrate Halloween on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Homes will be decorated ... that is already well under way ... costumes will be purchased or made, trick or treating will be enjoyed by some and responded to by others by offering either tricks or treats to those who knock at their doors.

And there are others who will not participate in Halloween. Perhaps it is a because of a desire not to celebrate an American holiday; perhaps it is because it is commercialised. Halloween has become a commercialised and secularised celebration, but it wasn't always that way, and it wasn't always an American holiday.

As with any celebration, the choice to participate or not, lies with each individual or family. No one should feel like that have to participate or are stopped from participating.

Let us reflect on some things about Halloween.

Halloween or All Hallows' Eve, is the evening before the Christian holy day of All Saints, which is then followed by All Souls. These are the three days that we pray especially for those who have died ... for saints, martyrs and all the faithful who have gone before us. It is believed by many, that the traditions of Halloween originated from the ancient Celtic harvest festivals and that the festivals may have had pagan roots which were converted for Christian use by the early church.

To 'hallow' is to make sacred or holy, to consecrate or to sanctify ... 'hallow' has the same meaning as saint. One definition of a saint is 'one through whom the light shines.' This is a helpful definition as it allows us to see ordinary people at their brightest and best, through whom God's love radiates throughout the world. The saints inspire us to follow their example and to allow God's light to shine through us.

So, whether we celebrate Halloween or not, let us be aware and respectful of our differences. Either way, I encourage you to pray for those who have died and are important to you ... you might even like to light a candle. The days of Halloween, All Saints and All Souls are the perfect timing for these intentional prayers.

*Every Blessing*  
*Reverend Nicole*

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# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Smaller & Smarter Cities International Symposium that was held in Newcastle. The symposium is Australia's premier forum for addressing the opportunities and challenges facing major, non-capital cities here and abroad. It was great to open the conference in my capacity as the Chair of Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils. It was an opportunity to advocate for collaboration as a region, this is key to achieving prosperity for our region. All local leaders have a responsibility to remove their blinkers and look outwardly across lines on a map to leverage opportunities on our doorstep.

Over the last five years I have seen a renewed focus on collaboration in our region. Each of the local government areas that form the Greater Newcastle Region have unique economies, a different population make up and a variety of natural landscapes. Our differences should not be seen as hurdles but should be used as a platform to be leveraged off. We can achieve better together but to do this sustainably we must work side by side strategically. For over sixty years, ten local councils have found significant benefit in working together through positive cooperation and resource sharing. The Hunter Joint Organisation is the hub for local government collaboration, which strengthens our communities by being the voice on regional strategic issues in the Hunter and delivering tailored local government solutions.

Council is pleased to announce that the hugely popular free mattress drop-off day will take place on Saturday 9 November 2019 from 8am to 12pm. The mattress drop-off will take place at the Council Works Depot carpark at 2082 Old Maitland Rd, Cessnock where residents can dispose of up to four mattresses or bases, completely free of charge.

This event is for residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area only and proof of address is required. Mattress drop-offs must also be made using a vehicle as there will be no pedestrian access. For more information,

please visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste/other\\_waste](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste/other_waste).  
*Cheers, Bob*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

I'm really proud to be the Mayor of the Singleton and I don't apologise that my major focus is on getting the best results possible for the people of our local government area, whether through Council's own operations or in terms of government investment. So the Local Government NSW Annual Conference, which I attended last week, is a great opportunity for me personally to meet and mix with colleagues from across the State to get an insight into what's happening in other areas. It's not surprising that most councils and communities are facing very similar challenges, including but not limited to State and Federal government cost shifting, drought and water security, and the need to continue to improve infrastructure. And Singleton is happy to join with other councils in Local Government NSW's campaigns for issues affecting all of us, including Save Our Recycling, which calls for State Government backing for regional plans for the future of waste and resource recovery, and to reinvest the waste levy it collects back into recycling and waste management. The conference also reinforced the great work that's being undertaken by local government for communities right across the State, and gives us another measuring stick for our own performance in Singleton. The work we're doing in a range of areas - such as finance and asset management - easily holds up next to what's happening in other local government areas. I'm also really proud of the achievements we're making in our approach to advocacy, where we are quite literally competing with every other LGA in NSW for State Government attention when it comes to the provision of infrastructure and services. It's worth noting that the population of our LGA is comparably small even to some other regional areas, let alone metropolitan areas. But our contribution to the State of NSW is well documented in the amount of mining royalties that are produced within our boundaries every year and should be

recognised. Reforms to the Resources for Regions is one of the campaigns the General Manager and I have been driving with the State Government, and it was opportune that we had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro during the conference, ahead of very positive meeting with staff from the Department of Premier and Cabinet the following day. I'm very pleased to see the progress that is being made on this front, and in speaking with Mr Barilaro it is clear that his commitment to the reform process has not wavered. The discussions we have had so far are consistent with what we have been calling for and we are confident there will be positive announcements to come later this calendar year that will bode well for all the people of our local government area.  
*Cheers, Sue*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR WHEN DID THE TRUTH BECOME SO UNIMPORTANT TO VOTERS?

I realise that most voters believe that "all politicians lie". That's not the truth and I am willing to vouch for most politicians, but certainly, there are liars among us. And of course, this makes the problem even worse because if all elected officials were liars, then you would know that you couldn't believe any of us, but if only some politicians are liars then you, the voter, have the problem of trying to figure out the impossible of who is and who isn't telling you the truth. If you go back 20 years, then any politician who misled the public or told the people a mistruth, would be expected to have his/her resignation on the desk of the Premier or Prime Minister by breakfast. There didn't need to be an inquiry, or trial by media, it was simply the expected standard that truth is essential. Sadly, over the past 20 years, truth has been twisted into an unrecognisable shape by a simple word - spin. And Premiers and Prime Ministers are as guilty as anyone of using plenty of spin when they front the media. Pretty soon, spin was being spun so hard that it became lies and misinformation. There is a whole host of lies being told in the political sphere today. I guess the question is, if voters knew

who was lying to them then how would the voters find that out from a source that they actually did believe and what would be the consequence next time voters went to the ballot box. If voters honestly and sincerely care about the truth then that must be reflected when they vote because if it's not, then the message to politicians will be that the truth doesn't matter.

**A FRIGHTENING MISUSE OF POWER SENDS US HURTLING TOWARDS A POLICE STATE** While I generally avoid using this column to talk about Federal issues, there are currently two things happening in the space of national politics that cannot be ignored if we care about democracy. One is the issue of who works at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). This body is charged with the responsibility of reviewing decisions made by Australian Governments and Government bodies. It is essential that this body be independent of political influence of any kind. It should strike shock and fear into each of us that the AAT is currently being "stacked" with persons linked to the current Federal Coalition Government - in particular the Liberal Party. No one should be frightened by someone belonging to, or serving, a political party, but what is concerning is that the intended independence of the AAT might take an ideological shape the simply reflects the Government. Secondly, the broader media has this week taken aim at Government and Police action that has launched searches of news outlets that were inconvenient to Government. It is quite shocking that the Government would be so afraid of a truth being told. And rest assured, the message being received by other news agencies and reporters is that they should tread very carefully around some issues or topics sensitive to Government or else face the wrath of those with the ultimate power. If Australians want to continue to live in a place where people get a fair go and where those in authority can be questioned, then Australians should be paying very close attention to what is happening at the very top of the decision making process in this country right now.

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

## Members say

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**The Branxton Greta Vineyards News**



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

## CASH BOOST ON OFFER FOR OUR LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS

A boost to grassroots sports development or upgrades to local sporting facilities in Upper Hunter electorate are just some of the projects eligible for funding, in the latest round of the NSW Government's Local Sport Grant Program. If you have a project that will boost training for coaches, promote grassroots sport or enhance existing facilities you should apply now. The NSW Government's Local Sport Grant Program also supports local sports clubs in our Upper Hunter electorate which play a critical role in bringing our community together. Funding is now available throughout NSW with \$85,000 being allocated to electorates which are considered regional drought affected areas and \$35,000 has been allocated to all other electorates.

The Local Sport Grant Program is now in its fifth year and provides benefits for social sporting events, the delivery of physical and mental health programs and nurturing the dreams of young talented athletes. Sport's important role in helping rural communities struggling through the drought is driving the NSW Government's latest round of Local Sport Grants. With the worst drought on record, increasing pressure on NSW families, sport's ability to bring communities together has never been more important. I encourage sporting groups in the Upper Hunter electorate to apply. The Local Sports Grant Program closes on the 25 November 2019.

For more information visit <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/localsport> or phone 13 13 02.  
**28 MILLION FOR NEW MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE IN NSW**

Local councils, community groups and industry in the Upper Hunter electorate community are eligible to apply for a share of \$28 million of funding to improve maritime facilities as part of the third round of the Boating Now Program. This investment is a great opportunity for our region to secure funding for projects that will provide better facilities and amenity for our community. Funding can be used to improve maritime access and safety, modernise facilities for a more enjoyable boating experience, and improve community places. The NSW Government has invested \$70 million in the Boating Now program since 2015 and delivered over 200 projects across NSW. The Boating Now Program funds collaborative projects

that support economic and community benefits across the state.

This program is about investing the revenue from boat licence and registration fees back in to projects that directly benefit boaters. The Program is part of the NSW Maritime Infrastructure Plan 2019 - 2024, which sets out the approach to NSW Government investment in maritime infrastructure to deliver the best possible benefits to boaters and communities across the state. Projects previously funded in Upper Hunter Electorate include:

- Upgrade carpark and signage at Tocal Boat Ramp
- Support Study of boating facilities requirement at Paterson River

Expressions of interest can be made from Friday 25 October 2019 via <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/key-build-program/boating-now/>  
**Contact:** My Email address; [upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@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'

One of the aspects that I love most about being a Councillor is that you never stop learning. No two days are the same and you're constantly faced with problems and challenges; some of which you can resolve fairly easily, others take time and a great deal of work, effort and lobbying, but its a great feeling when you're able to secure a win for the community, no matter how big or small. The past couple of weeks have been a great example of what local government can achieve, individually and also as a collective. Firstly, I attended the annual Local Government NSW (LGNSW) conference where we debated our priorities and the various challenges facing the local government sector, some of which I've written about previously, including cost-shifting from the State Government, the waste and recycling crisis, impacts from the drought and the general financial sustainability of councils into the future. These are critical issues which have real implications on local government's capacity to continue to provide the services, infrastructure and support that their communities desire and deserve. We've had some wins recently, thanks to the lobbying efforts of LGNSW and

our Shadow Ministers around the de-funding of public libraries by the Berejiklian Government (a shared responsibility of both State and Local) and the Government's back down on the Fire & Emergency Services Levy (a State tax to which Local Government is forced to contribute). The next item in our sights is recycling and we launched that campaign at the conference. I've spoken on the issue extensively both in the Council Chamber and in this column, but its imperative that we finally get some movement on this. The financial and environmental consequences of the status quo are too great to ignore. My second event was the International Cities Town Centres & Communities Conference, which brought together experts from around the world who focus on the revitalisation of villages, town centres and how local government can better engage the community on what it is they actually want. It can be very easy for a bureaucracy, no matter how good their intentions, to talk to a community about what is best for it, rather than empower them to make those decisions themselves. A Councillor's job no doubt, is to make decisions on behalf of the people they represent, but those decisions deliver better outcomes when they are informed by the broader community, rather than just the few squeaky wheels. I believe Cessnock Council engages well, particularly in relation to our community and recreational facilities, but there is always room for improvement. And what this Conference taught me was the importance of projects being driven by an activated and engaged community, rather than a top-down approach where the only time people have a say is during the public exhibition period. This all seems like a no-brainer, but it can be easy to work in a silo and press on with your own priorities and agenda, rather than ensuring community buy-in from the very beginning and allowing them to take ownership of and pride in the projects Council seeks to deliver. This is a lesson to all of us in local government, both elected representatives and employed staff, as a reminder of why we came to this sector and why we love doing what we do for our community.  
*Cheers, Melanie*

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# Pharmacist Advice

## Adult vaccination



In adulthood it is important to ensure on-going protection against vaccine preventable diseases. The following information provides advice on specific diseases that are important to be protected against in adulthood.

**Shingles**  
Shingles is a painful blistering rash caused by reactivation of the varicella zoster virus – the same virus that causes chickenpox. **A single dose of shingles vaccine is recommended and funded for adults at 70 years of age. Adults 71-79 years of age are also eligible under a five-year catch up program until 31 October 2021.**

**Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)**  
Measles outbreaks occur in some communities mainly as a result of unvaccinated travellers and visitors importing the disease from overseas. It is therefore important to ensure that you are adequately protected and the following should be considered:

- most people born before 1966 will have been exposed to wild measles virus and therefore do not require vaccination
- people born after 1966 require two doses of MMR vaccine (at least one month apart).

**Whooping cough (Pertussis)**

It is important that adults are vaccinated against whooping cough to ensure adequate protection against this disease. Despite whooping cough immunisation programs being in place, epidemics can occur every three to four years, but in vaccinated populations the outbreaks are smaller. Whooping cough vaccination in adults also offers protection for babies who are too young to be immunised in their first few weeks of life. Anyone can be affected but it is more severe (and can be fatal) in small babies. A history of having this disease does not mean life-long immunity, therefore vaccination is still necessary. All persons who have received a course of diphtheria, tetanus and

whooping cough vaccine as a baby (usually given at 6-8 weeks, 4 months and 6 months of age) require booster doses at 4 years, 12 years (in the NSW School Vaccination Program) and 50 years of age. All adults aged over 65 years of age require a booster dose if 10 years have passed since their last dose. If you are unsure, please discuss your vaccination needs with your doctor.

Whooping cough vaccination during pregnancy  
Free whooping cough vaccine is available for pregnant women. The vaccine is usually given to pregnant women at 28 weeks (can be given anytime between 20-32 weeks) of each pregnancy and should be given as early as possible (from 20 weeks) to women who have been identified as being at high risk of early delivery. It is available through antenatal clinics, general practitioners (GPs) and Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs). International studies have found that whooping cough vaccination during pregnancy is safe and effective for both the mother and baby. Vaccination is best given at 20-32 weeks to provide time for antibodies to be produced and passed on to the baby to provide protection until it is able to have its own vaccinations from 6 weeks of age. Family members and carers who will have close contact with babies in their first weeks of life should receive a whooping cough vaccine, either from an appropriately trained pharmacist or on prescription from a GP, at least two weeks before having contact with the baby unless they have received a dose in the previous 10 years and all children should be up to date with their vaccinations. For more information, please see Protect Your Newborn From Whooping Cough.

**Pneumococcal disease**  
A single dose of pneumococcal vaccine is recommended for adults at 65 years of age. Adults who have not received a dose at 65 years of age should have a single catch-up dose as soon as possible. Adults who have a medical condition (for example, cardiac, liver and

congenital diseases) are at risk of catching this disease and should discuss this with their doctor as soon as possible as they may require additional vaccinations to ensure that they are adequately protected.

**Influenza**  
Annual seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended for any person aged 6 months and over who wishes to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza. Fact sheets about influenza disease and influenza vaccination and frequently asked questions (FAQs) about influenza vaccines are available. Australian Government advice and recommendations on the National Influenza Vaccination Program are available from the Australian Government's Immunisation website, as are links to Australian Government resources (including factsheets, posters and brochures). NSW Health and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) have prepared a webinar on influenza.

**Q fever**  
Q Fever is caused by a bacterium, *Coxiella burnetii*, that can be spread to humans from cattle, sheep and goats. Workers in the meat and livestock industries are most at risk of Q Fever. More information about Q Fever is available on the Q Fever Facts website, including a dedicated section for health professionals with links to educational resources. Please contact Seqirus Pty Ltd on 1800 008 275 for log-in details to access these resources if you are a health professional. The Australian Q Fever Register holds information on the Q Fever immune status of individuals, accessible to registered organisations (primarily meat processors and medical practitioners). The Register holds details of Q Fever vaccination providers in a number of Australian states. To find contact details for Q Fever vaccination providers in NSW, contact your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055, or the customer service line of the manufacturer/distributor, Seqirus Pty Ltd, on 1800 008 275.



photo taken with her. Next year is the 60 year Diamond Jubilee. Amazing facts that in 2018 over 48,000 disadvantaged children living in 94 communities across Australia were recipients of a Smith Family Learning For Program. Our little club supports five of these children. Our donna-lou Fashion Parade raised money for those children and many thanks to all those who attended and supported us that day. It was a great success! Thank you to Evelyn Thrift who has

Bethany Oldfield and her sister Marcia attended the VIEW NATIONAL CONFERENCE on the Sunshine Coast in September. For three days they were entertained by many impressive happenings and joined 629 other VIEW members. They were given a program and a sample pack. The 3 day convention was held at the Novotel Twin Waters resort.

Di Morrisey a well known author was one of the inspirational guest speakers along with astrologist, Professor Lisa Harvey Smith.

Bethany and Marcia had many opportunities to liaise with others with social occasions such as a Mystical Masquerade Ball and a Gala Dinner. Black cat masks were worn by Bethany and Marcia.

National President Elect, Ann Louise O'Connor from Pokolbin, Hunter Valley attended and the girls had their



■ Marcia, Ann Louise & Bethany

SINCE 1925

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## FUNERAL SERVICES

Paul and Janelle Smyth and their staff take great pride & personal satisfaction in providing a dignified & timeless service, continuing a tradition started more than 90 years ago on February 2, 1925 by Paul's grandfather, Cecil R Smyth.

A complete set of our hearses, from 1925 to the present day

*Serving Branxton, Greta & surrounds*

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organised a pool party at her place for Melbourne Cup day. Just reminder to RSVP by 1st November to Evelyn. A special reminder to all VIEW members to bring donations for the Christmas hamper raffles that Cathy kindly puts together each year. Thank you also to Yvonne Bell who spoke about her wonderful and interesting solo travel adventure in India. Brave girl - you kept us smiling and thinking maybe we could be brave and try solo travels too! I read a funny quote by Will Rogers "live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip".  
*Peace and love to everyone*  
Judy Spillard



## Fast Mex shaking beef

*Delicious!*



**For quick midweek meal, try our fast Mex shaking beef, served with charred corn and chipotle chilli sauce.**

- Ingredients**
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
  - 1/2 teaspoon caster sugar
  - 2 tablespoons tequila
  - 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
  - 500g beef scotch fillet, cut into 2cm pieces
  - 60ml (1/4 cup) extra virgin olive oil
  - 2 corncobs, husks and silk removed
  - 300g (3 cups) finely shredded red cabbage
  - 4 radishes, thinly sliced
  - 1 small red onion, cut into thin wedges
  - 1 small bunch fresh coriander, leaves picked
  - 4 whole pickled jalapeños in brine
  - Chipotle chilli sauce, to serve
  - Soft tortillas, to serve
  - Lime wedges, to serve
- Step 1**  
Combine the garlic, sugar, 1 tbs tequila and 1 tbs lime juice in a glass or ceramic bowl. Stir until the sugar dissolves. Add the beef and toss to combine. Cover and set aside for 10 minutes to marinate.
- Step 2**

Meanwhile, heat 1 tbs oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the corn and cook, turning, for 4-5 minutes or until slightly charred. Transfer to a board and use a long sharp knife to remove the kernels in large pieces.

**Step 3**  
Combine the cabbage, radish and onion in a large bowl. Add 1 tbs oil and the remaining 1 tbs lime juice. Season. Toss to combine.

**Step 4**  
Heat remaining 1 tbs oil in a large frying pan over high heat until smoking. Add the beef mixture in a single layer. Cook for 2 minutes, without stirring or turning.

**Step 5**  
Shake pan to toss beef. Cook for a further 2 minutes. Add the remaining 1 tbs tequila. Cook for a few seconds. Divide the beef, cabbage mixture, corn, jalapeños and coriander among plates. Drizzle with sauce. Serve with warmed tortillas and lime wedges.





On the 12 October 19 Branxton Lions held a raffle at the Branxton IGA & the raffle was drawn by Nicole Gibson from the Branxton Crib Box Café. The first prize winner was Karita Rossman of North Rothbury; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner was Nicole Spears also of North Rothbury. Prizes

were donated by Ivanhoe Wines from Pokolbin and Branxton Crib Box Café. We also held a sausage sizzle at Bunning's Singleton on the 5th of October. This event was sponsored by Singleton Bunnings; thank you Bunnings Singleton. At Hungerford Winery we




• The raffle drawn by Nicole Gibson from the Crib Box Café Branxton with Lion Ken Meany



• The Lions group at Bunnings

attended a weekend on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> of October by way of a sausage sizzle. Branxton Lion members would like to thank all our sponsors and the fantastic public support by buying our raffle tickets. Cheers,  
*Ken Meany Branxton Lions Publicity Officer*

**LOWER BELFORD**



**NEWS**

The Lower Belford CWA recently held their annual meeting. The results are President Mrs Jill Bowman; Secretary Mrs Agnes Meany; Treasurer Mrs Jill Bowman; Handicraft Mrs Edith Shearer; Ag/and Environment Mrs Maree Lewis; Cultural Mrs Meredith Hunter; International Mrs Janette Casey; Cookery Mrs Meredith Hunter; Publicity Mrs Agnes Meany.

Our meeting days are 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month @ 10 am, At 45 Corinda Drive Lower Belford Anyone welcome to come and see what CWA is all about and meet new friends. Our small hall is in the middle or cow paddocks & very unique. Our allocations for the year are for drought relief. One of our own was in desperate need so the CWA Lower Belford donated 10 bales of lucerne for their animals. Our Secretary has put in for a grant for our new Wambo room for a stainless steel kitchen. We are hopeful. We will have our cookery day soon all our members will have our cakes judged. Also we will have our usual Christmas raffle with about 7 Christmas hampers; tickets will be sold at IGA Branxton. Money we raise goes to different charities. We are a great group of ladies; come and make new friends.

*Agnes Meany Publicity Officer.*  
\* For information please call Jill on 49304824 or Agnes 64747027



• Family day at Hungerford Wines



Volunteer Awardees Ron Hungerford, second from left, & Tony Ernst with Joel Fitzgibbon MP & Cessnock Deputy Mayor Melanie Dagg.

**SILKY OAK FESTIVAL 2019**

# CELEBRATING GRETA ARMY & MIGRANT CAMP

**9TH & 10TH NOVEMBER 19**

Visit [www.gretaarmycamp.com.au](http://www.gretaarmycamp.com.au) for more info & to buy tickets.

BRING THE FAMILY ALONG.  
2 day event at Camp Road, Greta NSW 2334. Tickets available online.



**MILITARY SHOW & PARADE**  
There will be a military parade, air show and pipe and brass bands.



**KIDS ZONE**  
Our kids zone includes a jumping castle, balloons, clowns and more!



**MARKET & FOOD STALLS**  
Unwind with our international food stalls and local market stores.

**Hosted by the Central Hunter Business Chamber and the Hunter Multicultural Communities Inc. This family friendly event on the 9th & 10th of November 2019 will include:**

Military Parade / Tanks / Armoured Vehicles / Military Vehicles / Military Displays / Light Horse Demonstration / Helicopters & Aircraft / Massed Pipes, Drums & Brass Bands / Ethnic Dancing & Music / Cultural Demonstrations / Food & Wine Tasting / Celebration of History / Colour, Diversity & Multiculturalism / Market stalls / International Flavoured Food Vans / Kids Fun Zone & More!

*This event is an alcohol & pet free zone.*










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

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**Difference Between Joint Tenants and Tenants in Common**

When people purchase property together it is important to consider the division of ownership. If two or more people acquire a property together, it can be either as joint tenants or as tenants in common. These types of ownership have different legal and financial effects on the rights of the registered proprietor should one of the parties exit the property ownership, either by death or by selling the property.

If you're buying a property with another person it is important to understand *how* you're going to own your property.

When parties own property as joint tenants, this means that all joint tenants have equal ownership and interest in the property and a right of survivorship exists.

The right of survivorship means that if one of the joint tenants dies, the property is not an asset of the deceased estate and it will automatically pass to the surviving joint tenant. This happens regardless of any contrary intentions in the will of the deceased. Therefore, it is important to consider the way a property is owned when preparing wills and an estate plan.

Unless you specify otherwise when you are purchasing the property, the law assumes that your purchase is a joint tenancy. The joint tenancy will come to an end if the property is sold or if one joint tenant transfers their interest to the other joint tenant making them the sole proprietor. A joint tenant does not have the right to transfer or sell their interest in the property however one of the joint tenants may unilaterally sever the joint tenancy. This can be done to protect the interest of one of the joint tenants in the case of a relationship breakdown to ensure that the former spouse does not retain a right of survivorship.

When parties own property as tenants in common it means that two or more people co-own a property in defined shares. The shares owned by each tenant in common can be equal or unequal. The shares could be 50/50 or 99/1 or any combination, provided that the shares add up to 100% ownership.

A tenant in common can sell their shares in the property or give them away in a will. This means that there is no right of survivorship. If a tenant in common dies, their interest in the property is an asset of their deceased estate. This means it can be transferred only to a beneficiary of the estate, or be sold or otherwise dealt with by the legal personal representative of the estate.

Ownership as tenants in common may be preferred for personal reasons for example by those who are in a blended family or people who contribute very different amounts towards the purchase of a property. The nomination of tenants in common may be not for personal reasons, but for taxation reasons such as investors buying property together.

There are important differences between a joint tenancy and tenants in common. Therefore you and you need to consider the effect of the ownership type on estate planning and selling the property in the future as well as the financial implications of each type of ownership.

*Cheers, Kerri*



**Rental vacancy rates down across the board**

	Sep-19	Aug-19	Jul-19	Jul-19	Jun-19	May-19	Apr-19	Mar-19	Feb-19	Jan-19	Dec-18
<b>SYDNEY</b>											
Inne	3.1%	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%	3.7%	2.9%	3.2%	3.0%
Middle	3.0%	3.5%	4.1%	4.1%	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	3.1%	3.6%	4.2%	5.1%
Outer	2.7%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.3%	3.5%	3.1%	3.5%	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>HUNTER</b>											
Newcastle	1.2%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%	1.4%	2.1%	2.1%	2.5%	1.9%
Other	1.0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.8%	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%	1.5%	1.6%	1.8%	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>ILLAWARRA</b>											
Wollongong	2.8%	2.4%	1.6%	1.6%	2.1%	3.3%	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%	3.9%	2.7%
Other	1.5%	2.3%	3.3%	3.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.1%	1.4%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

The September REINSW Residential Vacancy Rate Report reveals Rental vacancies in Sydney have dropped to their lowest rate this year, down a substantial 0.7% on August. Middle Sydney saw McKibbin, "with a reduction in the available rental supply, we could see

the biggest drop of 0.9% compared to August, followed by Outer Sydney (down 0.8%) and Inner Sydney (down 0.3%). It was a trend mirrored by the Hunter which is experiencing its lowest vacancy rates in years at just 1%. The Illawarra followed suit with a drop of 0.1%, but Wollongong continues to buck the trend, with rental vacancies up by 0.4%. "We haven't seen Sydney's vacancy rates this low since October last year," says REINSW CEO Tim

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

**2019 ANNIVERSARIES**

*Happy Anniversary*

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

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

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

upward pressure on rents." "The Hunter continues to prove popular, with just 1% of rental properties there left unoccupied, while the Illawarra is back to July's low rate of 2.2%. "We do typically see vacancies decrease in the warmer months, so we can expect rates to remain low across New South Wales into the new year."

**Sydney data**  
 Total vacancies across Sydney now sit at just 2.9%. It's a significant shift for the rental market, with vacancies previously hovering above 3% since November 2018. Since August, vacancies in Outer Sydney have dropped from 3.5% down to 2.7%, Middle Sydney is down to 3% from 3.9%, while vacancies in Inner Sydney are down from 3.4% to 3.1%. Chatswood, Auburn and Arndell park saw the largest decrease in vacancies, while in stark contrast, Neutral Bay, North Sydney, Denistone, Forestville and Kurrajong all experienced vacancy rates in excess of 5%.

**Hunter data**  
 Vacancies in the Hunter are down to just 1%. It's a low that hasn't been seen since before REINSW started collecting vacancy data in April 2016. In Newcastle, rates are down to 1.2% from 1.5%, while other regions in the Hunter are down to 1% from 1.4%.

**Illawarra data**  
 Total vacancies in the Illawarra decreased to 2.2% down from 2.3%. While most of the Illawarra experienced a dive in vacancies, Wollongong climbed for a second month. The number of unoccupied properties in the coastal city is now at 2.8%, a 1.2% jump since July.

**Other regional NSW areas**  
 More than 50% of the other regions also experienced a decrease in vacancies. The South Eastern region experienced the most dramatic drop, down from 4.1% to 1.2%. The Northern Rivers also saw a

large fall from 2.1% to 1.6%. On the opposite end of the spectrum was Coffs Harbour, which saw a vacancy increase of 1.6%, up from 1.3% to 2.9%. **Residential vacancy rate percentage**  
 The REINSW Residential Vacancy Rate Report is based on the proportion of unlet residential dwellings to the total rent roll of REINSW member agents on the 15th of each month. Carried out monthly, the research – a survey of REINSW member agents conducted by Survey Matters – collects the total properties on agency rent rolls, the number of properties that were vacant on the 15th of the month, and the postcode in which a majority of agents' rental properties are located. The suburb-level rates reported by agents are weighted based on ABS Census 2016 Dwelling Characteristics. The August report is based on survey responses covering 120,509 residential rental properties.

**A lack of property development in NSW set to impact supply and house prices**



The Reserve Bank of Australia governor Philip Lowe has acknowledged that lower interest rates had pushed up Sydney housing prices during the 2012 to 2017 boom. "I think that's pretty clear," he acknowledged when

recently addressing our federal politicians. But he went on to say there were other things that were "probably more important over the past decade". "They go to population growth and the slow response to that on the supply side," he said. Lowe pinpointed that population growth picked up in Australia quite a lot and it took almost a decade for the rate of growth of the supply to respond to that. He added he was raising the topic in the context of the next phase in the housing market "Because what we're seeing at the moment is quite strong population growth, which I think is good, but the additions to supply of the housing stock are slowing right down. "New development is slowing down, and one of the issues we're going to keep a very close eye on over the next little while is what the supply of housing is doing "If developers cannot get financed, the supply of housing will slow a lot and we will be sowing the seeds for the next upswing." The property market is a dynamic entity, always evolving. One of the great

stands at around 25.4 million, up 404,000 in 2018. The ABS calculates one birth every 1 minute and 40 seconds, one death every 3 minutes and 19 seconds, one person arriving to live in Australia every 56 seconds and one Australian resident leaving Australia to live overseas every 1 minute and 53 seconds, leading to an overall total population increase of one person every 1 minute and 13 seconds. NSW's population sits at just over eight million, up 1.6 per cent last year. Capital city growth accounted for 79 per cent of Australia's total population growth. The capital city with the largest increase in population was Melbourne (119,400 people), followed by Sydney (up 93,400 to around 5.2 million) and Brisbane (50,100). The fastest growing Sydney localities were around Riverstone, Marsden Park, Cobbitty, Leppington, Rouse Hill and Beaumont Hills. Taking a look at dwelling approvals, Australia's new housing pipeline currently is at a five-year low. The rolling yearly total sits around 199,000, official figures show. The peak was 232,000 approvals in 2015. NSW's approvals peaked in 2017 at around 70,000. Housing markets are not homogeneous across states and territories, or even in neighbouring suburbs. The relationships between housing markets and the broader demographic shifts are complex although conventional wisdom repeatedly does suggest house prices are primarily influenced by the factors headlined by interest rates, building supply and population growth. When house prices move in an "abnormal" way it is often because one or more of these drivers have become distorted relative to their "normal" settings. Sometimes you can see it coming, but often even the most seasoned observer only sees in it the rear vision mirror. *Jonathan Chancellor*





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# For Sale



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BRANXTON



### Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

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

~~ASKING \$399,000~~ **ASKING \$389,000**

## SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"

### Unit 8 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It also feature security gating. The unit is next to Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just short drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.



**ASKING \$320,000**

\* The dwellings may provide accommodation only for the following persons: 1. seniors or people who have a disability; 2. people who live within the same household with seniors or people who have a disability; 3. staff employed to assist in the administration of & provision of services to housing provided under that policy. "Seniors" is defined as persons aged 55 years & over.



BRANXTON

### 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



Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road,  
Vacant blocks

ASKING: \$420,000 each

## East Branxton



### Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

Are you seeking your first home or maybe an investment. Well this is the opportunity to buy at a low price. A brick and tile two bedroom unit with a large open living area and large bedrooms. The property has its own private outdoor space and internal access to the garage. Updated Bathroom and Strata managed with low fees. It is currently tenanted at \$280 per week. Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway

**ASKING \$275,000**

## North Rothbury



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

This brick & Tile family home on a very large fully fenced block (885sm) features  
\* Spacious living area \* New kitchen \* Builtins in all bedrooms  
\* New bathroom \* Reverse cycle split air conditioning  
\* Large single lock-up garage \* Set on 885sm fully fenced block with magnificent views to the north.

INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

**ASKING \$399,000**

## Building Blocks

**NORTH ROTHBURY**  
Vacant building block ~ 809m<sup>2</sup>

Vacant Building Block  
Fantastic visage

**ASKING \$130,000 ono**

## BELFORD

Vacant Building Block  
2559m<sup>2</sup>

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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REAL ESTATE

M: 0412 566 041 P: 4938 3300



### Crime Stoppers and NSW Police Force join the eSafety Commissioner to keep children safe online

Crime Stoppers and the NSW Police Force have joined forces with the eSafety Commissioner to launch a Child Protection campaign to combat child sexual abuse and unwanted contact online.

The campaign will run as a pilot in NSW and is the first time a joint initiative between Crime Stoppers, NSW Police and eSafety has taken place. Aimed at parents and carers, the education and awareness campaign will focus on two key crime areas: child sexual abuse material and unwanted contact online.

In the 2018-2019 financial year, eSafety's Cyber Report Team finalised statutory investigations into more than 8,000 images and videos depicting child sexual abuse. Over 99 percent of these investigations were completed within two business days and notified to the Australian Federal Police or the INHOPE network.

Crime Stoppers, the NSW Police Force and eSafety are asking the community to be vigilant online. If someone suspects or sees something related to online child sexual abuse it should be reported immediately so action can be taken.

Predators are increasingly gaining access to children online through popular apps, games and social media sites to solicit sexual images or video, or harm them physically.

Research by eSafety has revealed one in

four young people have been

contacted by a

stranger online. The joint campaign will help parents and carers understand the warning signs of unwanted contact, protect their child's privacy online, and to report suspicious activity.

Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher said the campaign is an important initiative to encourage parents and carers to consider the online safety of children in their care.

"The online safety of children is a shared responsibility - everyone has a role to play in combating predatory behaviour online, such as unwanted and harmful contact from strangers. There's a clear obligation on companies to design, develop and deploy all their products and services with user safety in mind, but I also urge all parents and carers to educate themselves about the risks children can face when using the internet," Mr Fletcher said.

"The information available through the eSafety Commissioner, NSW Police and Crime Stoppers as part of this campaign are valuable resources to help parents and carers have much needed conversations with the children in their lives about staying safe online."

The eSafety Commissioner, Ms Julie Inman Grant, wants everyone to be more aware of the dangers to children online, and the strategies for reducing risks and reporting suspect online behaviour.

"Child abuse and exploitation can happen online. The predator could be a stranger, online 'friends' your child has not met face-to-face, or someone they actually know," Ms Inman Grant said.

"We are asking parents to talk to their child before a predator does and make sure that parents are armed with the right responses & strategies."

NSW Crime Stoppers CEO, Peter Price AM, said we cannot underestimate the valuable contribution the community plays in helping to stop, solve and prevent crime.

"Reporting these crimes enable authorities to shut down the illegal content and catch the offenders. We are asking parents to closely monitor their child's online activity. If they see or suspect anything of a suspicious or uncomfortable nature, say something," said CEO, NSW Crime Stoppers, Mr Peter Price AM. Crime Stoppers in conjunction with eSafety have developed a series of

Education Fact Sheets on its website, [www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au) for parents and carers to download. The Fact Sheets will provide more detailed information on reporting child sexual abuse material and prevention strategies to keep children safe online.

"With many crimes there are usually witnesses but online crimes happen in the privacy of a child's phone or computer. We rely on parents and carers to report what they see or know. A preferred outcome is prevention, so parents please monitor your child's online activity and educate them on how to spot the danger signs," Mr Price said. "We know that a whole-of-community approach is necessary to effectively tackle criminal behaviour."

### Man dies after house fire near Maitland

Emergency services remained at the scene of a fatal house fire near Maitland last week.

Shortly after 8.30pm (Tuesday 22 October 2019), emergency services were called to Peppertree Circuit, Aberglasslyn, following reports a house was on fire.

Fire fighters attended and extinguished the blaze, however; the home sustained extensive damage. The body of a man was located inside.

A woman and a 13-year-old teenage boy sustained minor injuries and were taken to John Hunter Base Hospital as a precaution.

Officers from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District established a crime scene and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the blaze. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined.

A report will be prepared for the information of the Coroner.

### Man arrested after breaking into government building - Cessnock

A man has been arrested after allegedly breaking into and damaging a government building in Cessnock yesterday.

Just after 5pm (Saturday 19 October 2019), it is alleged a man threw items towards the glass door of the Vincent Street building. It is further alleged he kicked the door until the glass smashed and he was able to gain access.

The man entered the building, causing minor damage inside the foyer, before leaving.

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended, and an investigation commenced.

About 5.40pm a 39-year-old man was located in a supermarket carpark and was arrested after a short struggle with police.

He was taken to Cessnock Police Station and charged with break and enter, destroy/damage property and resist police.

He was refused bail and appeared in Newcastle Local Court on Monday 21 October 2019.

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**'The News'**  
**4938 1773**

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# Local Men's Shed have special morning tea in memory of Keith Wilton Brown

A special morning tea was held at the Branxton Greta Men's Shed on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to honour their past member Keith Brown. Keith joined the shed in 2012 & looked after the garden with other members growing & sharing vegetables. In recent years he found it difficult to work but would come over, each day if required, and water the garden beds. Later on he would come and sit on the old park bench and talk with the members who had taken over from him growing the vegetables. Keith passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the age of 88 so in his memory a new park bench has been built so members can sit and admire the garden. Three of Keith's children, Andrew, John and Catherine attended the morning tea and unveiled the table and the plaque which is affixed to the table top. Vale & RIP Keith Brown.



Geoff Jones displaying the unrestored & restored tractor



The completed project: the Howard Kelpie tractor



The memorial plaque



Andrew, Catherine & John admiring the retired tractor



Kevin Bell giving a welcome to Keith's family



John, Catherine & Andrew admiring the plaque in memory of their late father



Enjoying a relaxing cuppa

## I bet you didn't know this ....

The Chinese invented playing cards in AD 1000 - so herewith some interesting facts and observations about "playing cards": Did you know that the traditional deck of the playing cards are a strikingly coherent form of a calendar? Very intriguing indeed! There are 52 weeks in the year and there are 52 playing cards in a deck. There are 13 weeks in each season and there are 13 cards in each suit. There are 4 seasons in a year and 4 suits in the deck. There are 12 months in a year so there are 12 court cards. ( those with faces namely Jack, Queen, King in each suit.) The red cards represent Day, while black cards represent the Night. Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and



© CanStockPhoto.com - csp61201776

the Kings = 13, then add up all the sums of 1 + 2 + 3 + ...to 13 = 91. Multiply this by 4, for the 4 suits, therefore 91 x 4 = 364,

Add 1 that is the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365 being the days in a year? Is this construct a mere coincidence or the sign of great intelligence? Of interest is the sum of the letters in all the names of the cards, e.g., add up the letters in "one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King" = 52! The Spades indicated ploughing or working. The Hearts indicated love for the crops. The Diamonds indicated reaping the wealth. The Clubs indicated protection and growth. Also, in some card games 2 Jokers are used - indicating the Leap year. This mathematical perfection is mind blowing !

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# Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

**2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325**

**WHAT'S ON**



Friday 1st NOV

**MINUTE BY MINUTE**

Melbourne Cup Day Tues 5th Nov



Friday 8th NOV

**THE WAY**

**Sweeps**

**Entertainment**

**Harvest Bistro Open**

## Miller Park Sports Club

**6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 4938 1226**



Every Thursday & Sunday

\$1200 as at Sun 27/10

\$3600 Thurs 10/10



**TUK TUK Thai & Aussie**

**BUFFET LUNCH \$20/head**

**MELBOURNE CUP DAY**

**Bookings essential**



\$700 Wed 30/10

\$1100 Sun as at 27/10



**FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS**



**Every Friday & Sunday**



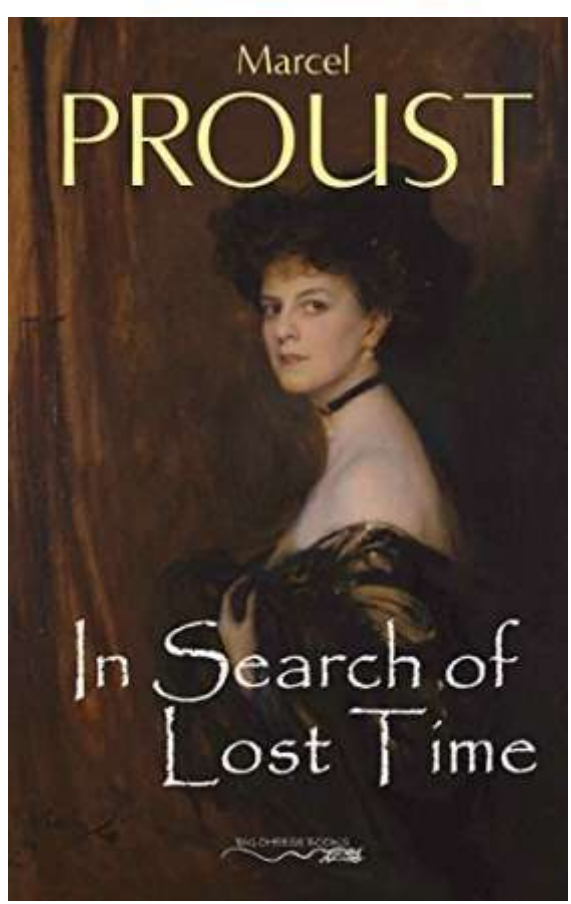
**WED**

**4PM - 6PM**

**SOCIAL BOWLS**

**4pm Wednesdays**





by Marcel Proust

**The greatest fiction book of all time**

Swann's Way, the first part of A la recherche de temps perdu, Marcel Proust's seven-part cycle, was published in 1913. In it, Proust introduces the themes that run through the entire work. The narrator recalls his childhood, aided by the famous madeleine; and describes M. Swann's passion for Odette. The work is incomparable. Edmund Wilson said "[Proust] has supplied for the first time in literature an equivalent in the full scale for the new theory of

modern physics." This book is on the following lists:

- 1st on The 25 Favorite Books of 100 Francophone Writers (Telarama)
- 1st on Robert McCrum's top 10 books of the twentieth century (The Guardian)
- 1st on The 100 Greatest Novels (greatbooksguide.com)
- 1st on El Pais Favourite Books of 100 Spanish Authors (El Pais)
- 2nd on The Greatest 20th Century Novels (Waterstone)
- 2nd on For The Love of



**ABOUT .....**  
**Valentin Louis Georges Eugène Marcel Proust** (/pru:st/; French: [vɑ̃tɑ̃lɛ̃ ʁoʒɛs ɛyʒɑ̃ ʁu:st]; 10 July 1871 – 18 November 1922), known as **Marcel Proust**, was a French novelist, critic, and essayist best known for his monumental novel *À la recherche du temps perdu* (*In Search of Lost Time*; earlier rendered as *Remembrance of Things Past*), published in seven parts between 1913 and 1927. He is considered by critics and writers to be one of the most influential authors of the 20th

century. Proust was born in the Paris Borough of Auteuil (the southwestern sector of the then-rustic 16th arrondissement) at the home of his great-uncle on 10 July 1871, two months after the Treaty of Frankfurt formally ended the Franco-Prussian War. He was born during the violence that surrounded the suppression of the Paris Commune, and his childhood corresponded with the consolidation of the French Third Republic. Much of *In Search of Lost Time* concerns the vast changes, most particularly the decline of the aristocracy and the rise of the middle classes, that occurred in France during the Third Republic and the *fin de siècle*. Proust's father, Adrien Proust, was a prominent pathologist and epidemiologist, studying cholera in Europe and Asia. He wrote numerous articles and books on medicine and hygiene. Proust's mother, Jeanne Clémence (Weil), was the daughter of a wealthy Jewish family from Alsace. Literate and well-read, she demonstrated a well-developed sense of humour in her letters, and her command of English was sufficient to help with her son's translations of John

Books (For The Love of Books)

- 2nd on Le Monde's 100 Books of the Century (Le Monde)
- 3rd on In Which These Are the 100 Greatest Novels (ThisRecording.com)
- 3rd on Pour une Bibliothèque Idéale (Raymond Queneau)
- 4th on Greatest Prose Works of the 20th Century (Vladimir Nabokov)
- 4th on The Novel 100: A Ranking of the Greatest Novels of All Time (The Novel 100)

**REVIEW.....**  
**In Search of Lost Time**, also translated as **Remembrance of Things Past**, novel in seven parts by Marcel Proust, published in French as *À la recherche du temps perdu* from 1913 to 1927. The novel is the story of Proust's own life, told as an allegorical search for truth. It is the major work of French fiction of the early 20th century. In January 1909 Proust experienced the involuntary recall of a childhood memory when he tasted a rusk (a twice-baked bread, which in his novel became a madeleine) dipped in tea. In July he retired from the world to write his novel, finishing the first draft in September 1912. The first volume, *Du côté de chez Swann* (*Swann's Way* also translated as *The Way by Swann's*), was refused on several occasions but was finally issued at the author's expense in November 1913. Proust at this time planned only two further volumes. During the war years he revised the remainder of his novel, enriching and deepening its feeling, texture, and construction, enhancing the realistic and satirical elements, and tripling its length. In so doing he transformed it into one of the most profound achievements of the human imagination. In June 1919

*À l'ombre des jeunes filles en fleurs* (*Within a Budding Grove*, also published as *In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower*) appeared simultaneously with a reprint of *Swann*. In December 1919 *À l'ombre* received the Prix Goncourt, and Proust suddenly became world famous. Two more installments appeared in his lifetime and had the benefit of his final revision: *Le Côté de Guermantes* (1920; *The Guermantes Way*) and *Sodome et Gomorrhe* (1921; *Cities of the Plain, or Sodom and Gomorrah*). The last three parts of *À la recherche* were published posthumously in an advanced but not final stage of revision: *La Prisonnière* (1923; *The Captive*), *Albertine disparue* (1925; *The Sweet Cheat Gone*, originally called *La Fugitive*), and *Le Temps retrouvé* (1927; *Time Regained*, or *Finding Time Again*). The first authoritative edition of the entire work was published in 1954.

The novel begins with the middle-aged narrator's memories of his happy childhood. The narrator tells the story of his life, introducing along the way a series of memorable characters, among them Charles Swann, who forms a stormy alliance with the prostitute Odette; their daughter, Gilberte Swann, with whom young Marcel falls in love; the aristocratic Guermantes family, including the dissolute Baron de Charlus and his nephew Robert de Saint-Loup; and Albertine, to whom Marcel forms a passionate attachment. Marcel's world expands to encompass both the cultivated and the corrupt, and he sees the full range of human folly and misery. At his lowest ebb, he feels that time is lost; beauty and meaning have faded from all he ever pursued and won; and he renounces the book he has always hoped to write. At a reception

Ruskin. Proust was raised in his father's Catholic faith. He was baptized (on 5 August 1871, at the church of Saint-Louis d'Antin) and later confirmed as a Catholic, but he never formally practised that faith. He later became an atheist and was something of a mystic. By the age of nine, Proust had had his first serious asthma attack, and thereafter he was considered a sickly child. Proust spent long holidays in the village of Illiers. This village, combined with recollections of his great-uncle's house in Auteuil, became the model for the fictional town of Combray, where some of the most important scenes of *In Search of Lost Time* take place. (Illiers was renamed Illiers-Combray in 1971 on the occasion of the Proust centenary celebrations.) In 1882, at the age of eleven, Proust became a pupil at the Lycée Condorcet, but his education was disrupted by his illness. Despite this he excelled in literature, receiving an award in his final year. Thanks to his classmates, he was able to gain access to some of the salons of the upper bourgeoisie, providing him with copious material for *In Search of Lost Time*.  
 CONT. PAGE 22

after the war, the narrator realizes, through a series of incidents of unconscious memory, that all the beauty he has experienced in the past is eternally alive. Time

is regained, and he sets to work, racing against death, to write the very novel the reader has just experienced. In his quest for time lost, he invented nothing but

altered everything, selecting, fusing, and transmuting the facts so that their underlying unity and universal significance would be revealed.

## 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.

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

## WARNING NOTICE

# DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

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

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

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

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

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

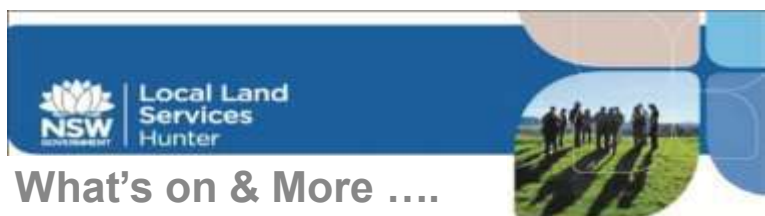
Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

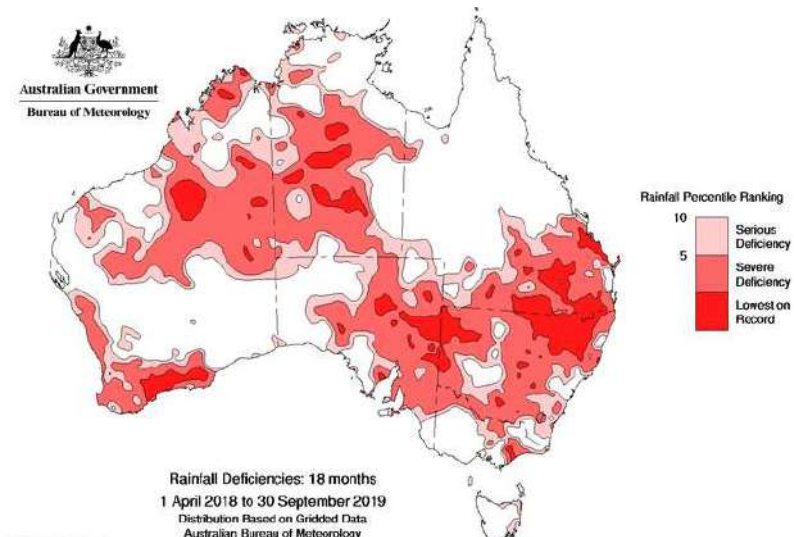
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What's on & More ....

Extended dry conditions over eastern Australia



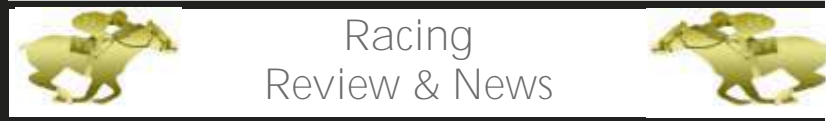
18-month rainfall deficiencies

Rainfall deficiencies have affected most of the New South Wales, Queensland and South Australian parts of the Murray–Darling Basin since the start of 2017. These longer-term deficiencies extend to parts of the New South Wales coast, particularly in the Hunter and Illawarra districts, and to much of the eastern half of South Australia from Adelaide northwards. The deficiencies have been most extreme in the northern Murray–Darling Basin, especially in the northern half of New South Wales and adjacent southern Queensland, where areas of lowest on record rainfall extend from the Great Dividing Range west as far as Dubbo and Walgett. Some of the largest rainfall deficiencies have occurred in the upper catchments of some of the major tributaries of the Darling, including the Macquarie, the Namoi–Peel, the Gwydir, and the Border Rivers.

When compared to other 33-month periods commencing in January, the 33 months from January 2017 to September 2019 has been the driest on record averaged over the Murray–Darling Basin (34% below the 1961–1990 average), as well as over the northern Murray–Darling Basin (40% below average) and for the state of New South Wales (34% below average). All three regions have also been the driest on record for the 21 months from January 2018 to September 2019, whilst the 27 months from July 2017 to September 2019 rank second in all three regions; only the 1900–02 peak of the Federation Drought has been drier. The last 33 and 21 months have also been the driest on record averaged over the Border Rivers, Macquarie–Bogan, Namoi, Gwydir, and Castlereagh catchments, with the last 21 months also the driest on record for the Moonie, Condamine–Culgoa, and Lower Murray catchments. Another area of longer-term rainfall deficiencies affects Gippsland, in eastern Victoria, and the east coast of Tasmania. Both the West Gippsland and East Gippsland districts have had their driest 33 months on record. Rainfall for the period commencing January 2017 has been lowest on record for much of Gippsland, extending roughly from east of around Sale to around Point Hicks. Rainfall deficits in 2019 in this region have mostly been less extreme than in 2017 and 2018, but have still been sufficient to reinforce deficiencies at multi-year timescales.

The dry conditions of the last three years have been particularly acute during the cool season, which is important in many regions for generating runoff. Rainfall for the period from April to September was less than 50% of average in all three years in 12 of the 30 rainfall districts of New South Wales. The Central Western Plains (North), which encompasses Nyngan, Trangie, Gilgandra and Coonamble, has had less than one-third of its average cool-season rainfall in all three years.

- \* September rainfall was below to very much below average for most of Australia
- \* Rainfall deficiencies have continued, with moderate increases in some areas
- \* Long-term rainfall deficiencies, record-low for some periods, continue to severely limit water resources across the Murray–Darling Basin
- \* Root-zone soil moisture was below average for September for most of Australia
- \* Water storages in the northern Murray–Darling Basin extremely low, with no significant inflows during September
- \* Above average September rainfall in Sydney failed to replenish its major water storages



Racing Review & News

Aidan O'Brien sounds Melbourne Cup Horn at The Valley

Brad Waters  
Hunting Horn is now entrenched in the Melbourne Cup field after winning Saturday's Group II Moonee Valley Gold Cup (2500m).

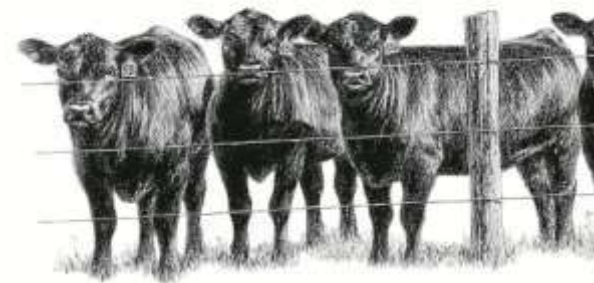
Hunting Horn has been a pacemaker for Magic Wand in some recent gallops at Werribee but the son of Camelot showed plenty of fight when outslugging his rivals under champion British jockey Ryan Moore. Hunting Horn was backed from \$5.50 to \$4.20 before



•Ryan Moore and Hunting Horn power to victory in Saturday's Moonee Valley Gold Cup. Photo: Darryl Sherer

beating the \$3.80 favourite Mr Quickie while another international, Downdraft (\$3.90) was third. The five-year-old was 20th

in the Melbourne Cup order of entry before his win but should move up in the standings after earning \$300,000 in



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 22nd October 2019

An increased penning with another large sell off of yearlings. There were more young calves, some very good heavy grown steers and a fair supply of cows. The quality and condition of the offering showed a great deal of variation. Lightweight young cattle plentiful. The usual processors operated, while there was a little less feedlot competition. Restockers were selective in their purchases. Market trends varied through the young cattle. Small calves purchased by restockers met a substantially cheaper market trend, with some breed related change. Plain quality and condition light weight yearlings to restockers also sold to cheaper trends with some significant breed related price change. The better quality yearling steers to restock and feed saw a market trend up to 10c/kg dearer. There was little but quality related price change in the feeder weight yearling heifers. A couple of very good quality heifers attracting a higher price. Well finished yearlings suitable to the trade sold firm to 5c/kg dearer for the heifer portion. There was no comparable quote on the steers. The quality of the heavy grown steers contributed to a dearer market trend with weight for age and quality accounting for the spread in price. Well finished grown heifers sold to a cheaper trend with age related price change. There was strong competition in the cow market with the market trend firm to slightly dearer. The negative price change in the well finished heavy weights directly attributable to a drop in quality. Heavy bulls experienced little but quality related price change.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 23rd October 2019

Consignments increased as the quality remained mixed, with the bulk in the penning entering the younger categories. Cow numbers increased for approximately 86 head and the usual buyers competed in a firm to dearer market, however the better finished prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers trended cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock gained 8c and sold from 220c to 286c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers increased by 12c and received from 208c to 258c/kg. The ideal weighted yearling steers to the lot feeders improved 8c, with the better end making from 240c to 308c/kg. The yearling heifers remained firm, with only quality in places contributing to any price variations. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers trended 8c cheaper, with the best selling to 338c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to the processors received from 230c to 270c, as the lighter weights to the lot feeders made from 225c to 286c/kg. The older heifers sold to 252c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, with the plainer 2 score pens making from 196c to 225c/kg, depending on weight. The better covered heavy weights sold from 230c to 252c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 22nd October 2019

Numbers lifted and considering the drought conditions experienced throughout the supply area the quality penned was very good. The majority were younger cattle, with the cow categories well represented and they tripled in number for a total of 265 head. Overall the market trended dearer. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock gained 8c and ranged from 190c to 290c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers improved 6c making from 174c to 255c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeders trended 3c dearer, with the medium weights receiving from 240c to 298c, as the heavier drafts topped at 302c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed gained 5c and sold from 200c to 276c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold well, with the best reaching 334c/kg. The heavy weight grown steers were scarce in the pens, with the younger drafts reaching 288c, as the older heifers made from 228c to 265c/kg. Cows trended 8c to 13c dearer, with the plainer 2 scores receiving 190c to 220c, while the better covered heavy weights ranged from 232c to 262c/kg. There were high yielding heavy weight bulls penned, with prices lifting 9c, as the best reached 270c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 21st October 2019

It was a reduced penning this week with young cattle well supplied. The quality of the offering overall was mixed. There were some very well finished cattle presented alongside a fair number of plainer condition cattle, not having had access to crops or supplementary feed. The usual buyers were in attendance. There were varying trends through the young cattle with both breed and quality playing a role in price change. Light weight yearling steers to restockers experienced strong gains with breed a factor in the plainer condition lines. The heavier weight classes saw a firm to slightly dearer market trend with feedloters selective in their purchases. There were price improvements of up to 6c/kg on the preferred cattle. Light weight yearling heifers to restockers also sold to dearer trends. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed sold to cheaper trends with significant decline in places. There was strong demand from processors for the well finished heifers. This resulted in medium and heavy 3 scores experiencing strong gains. Well finished heavy grown steers were also well received by processors with the market trend firm to slightly dearer. Similar condition grown heifers attracted increased competition to post strong gains. There were mixed trends through the cow market with the plainer condition medium weight selling firm to slightly dearer. Well finished cows met weaker competition to sell to a cheaper trend of 10c/kg and more in some cases where the quality was not as good. The heavy bulls experienced little change

through, he's had some tough assignments. He's a stakes. O'Brien's representative TJ Comerford said the Irish master stayed up to watch the race. Comerford said Hunting Horn's pre-race behaviour increased his confidence in the horse getting the desired result. "He settled in lovely," Comerford said. "I was on the phone to Aidan and I told him that this was the best he has ever behaved (pre-race). He's normally a bit on edge. "If you have seen him in the morning you'd see that he's a bit on his toes but that's just him. "Nothing bothers him he doesn't sweat. That is just his way. It was a great result." Moore said the race panned out perfectly for Hunting Horn, whose previous best win was in a Group III race at Ascot last year. "He's a lovely colt. He's had very good form all the way

through, he's had some tough assignments. He's a Camelot and they have a little bit of brilliance," he said. "He travelled very strong and they've got a good quicken." Hunting Horn is now a \$21 chance in Melbourne Cup betting. Mr Quickie's jockey Luke Nolen felt the gelding didn't stay - the Phillip Stokes-trained galloper will now either head to the Mackinnon Stakes or the spelling paddock  
**Melbourne Cup 2019: Likely field and current Order of Entry**  
**1. MER DE GLACE (JPN)** Hisashi Shimizu 56kg  
**2. SURPRISE BABY (NZ)** G 5 Paul Preusker 53.5kg  
**3. STEEL PRINCE (IRE)** Anthony Freedman 52.5kg  
**4. CROSS COUNTER (GB)** Charlie Appleby 57.5kg  
**5. MARMELO (GB)** Hughie Morrison 56kg  
**6. MIRAGE DANCER (GB)** Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young 55.5kg  
**7. SOUTHERN FRANCE (IRE)** Ciaran Maher & David Eustace 55.5kg  
**8. CONSTANTINOPLE (IRE)** David & B Hayes & T Dabernig 52.5kg  
**9. MASTER OF REALITY (IRE)** Joseph O'Brien 55.5kg  
**10. IL PARADISO (USA)** Aidan O'Brien 52.5kg  
**11. LATROBE (IRE)** Joseph O'Brien 55kg  
**12. ANGEL OF TRUTH** Gwenda Markwell 53.5kg  
**13. MUSTAJEER (GB)** Kris Lees 55kg  
**14. ROSTROPOVICH (IRE)** David & B Hayes & T Dabernig 55kg  
**15. ISPOLINI (GB)** Charlie Appleby 55kg  
**16. VERRY EL-LEEGANT (NZ)** Chris Waller 52kg  
**17. MAGIC WAND (IRE)** Aidan O'Brien 53.5kg  
**18. HUNTING HORN (IRE)** Aidan O'Brien 55kg  
**19. TWILIGHT PAYMENT (IRE)** Joseph O'Brien 55kg  
**20. PRINCE OF ARRAN (GB)** Charlie Fellowes 54kg  
**21. FINCHE (GB)** Chris Waller 54kg  
**22. RAYMOND TUSK (IRE)** Richard Hannon 54kg  
**23. SHRAAOH (IRE)** Chris Waller 53.5kg  
**24. VOW AND DECLARE** Danny O'Brien 52kg

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**21. FINCHE (GB)** Chris Waller 54kg  
**22. RAYMOND TUSK (IRE)** Richard Hannon 54kg  
**23. SHRAAOH (IRE)** Chris Waller 53.5kg  
**24. VOW AND DECLARE** Danny O'Brien 52kg

through, he's had some tough assignments. He's a Camelot and they have a little bit of brilliance," he said. "He travelled very strong and they've got a good quicken." Hunting Horn is now a \$21 chance in Melbourne Cup betting. Mr Quickie's jockey Luke Nolen felt the gelding didn't stay - the Phillip Stokes-trained galloper will now either head to the Mackinnon Stakes or the spelling paddock  
**Melbourne Cup 2019: Likely field and current Order of Entry**  
**1. MER DE GLACE (JPN)** Hisashi Shimizu 56kg  
**2. SURPRISE BABY (NZ)** G 5 Paul Preusker 53.5kg  
**3. STEEL PRINCE (IRE)** Anthony Freedman 52.5kg  
**4. CROSS COUNTER (GB)** Charlie Appleby 57.5kg  
**5. MARMELO (GB)** Hughie Morrison 56kg  
**6. MIRAGE DANCER (GB)** Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young 55.5kg  
**7. SOUTHERN FRANCE (IRE)** Ciaran Maher & David Eustace 55.5kg  
**8. CONSTANTINOPLE (IRE)** David & B Hayes & T Dabernig 52.5kg  
**9. MASTER OF REALITY (IRE)** Joseph O'Brien 55.5kg  
**10. IL PARADISO (USA)** Aidan O'Brien 52.5kg  
**11. LATROBE (IRE)** Joseph O'Brien 55kg  
**12. ANGEL OF TRUTH** Gwenda Markwell 53.5kg  
**13. MUSTAJEER (GB)** Kris Lees 55kg  
**14. ROSTROPOVICH (IRE)** David & B Hayes & T Dabernig 55kg  
**15. ISPOLINI (GB)** Charlie Appleby 55kg  
**16. VERRY EL-LEEGANT (NZ)** Chris Waller 52kg  
**17. MAGIC WAND (IRE)** Aidan O'Brien 53.5kg  
**18. HUNTING HORN (IRE)** Aidan O'Brien 55kg  
**19. TWILIGHT PAYMENT (IRE)** Joseph O'Brien 55kg  
**20. PRINCE OF ARRAN (GB)** Charlie Fellowes 54kg  
**21. FINCHE (GB)** Chris Waller 54kg  
**22. RAYMOND TUSK (IRE)** Richard Hannon 54kg  
**23. SHRAAOH (IRE)** Chris Waller 53.5kg  
**24. VOW AND DECLARE** Danny O'Brien 52kg





## That Virus Alert on Your Computer? Scammers in India May Be Behind It

You know the messages. They pop up on your computer screen with ominous warnings like, "Your computer has been infected with a virus. Call our toll-free number immediately for help." Often they look like alerts from Microsoft, Apple or Symantec. Sometimes the warning comes in a phone call. Most people ignore these entreaties, which are invariably scams. But one in five recipients actually talks to the fake tech-support centers, and 6 percent ultimately pay the operators to "fix" the non-existent problem, according to recent consumer surveys by Microsoft. Law enforcement authorities, working with Microsoft, have now traced many of these boiler rooms to New Delhi, India's capital and a hub of the global call-center industry. On Tuesday and Wednesday, police from two Delhi suburbs raided 16 fake tech-support centers and arrested about three dozen people. Last month, the Delhi authorities arrested 24 peo-

ple in similar raids on 10 call centers. In Gautam Budh Nagar, one of the suburbs, 50 police officers swept into eight centers on Tuesday night. Ajay Pal Sharma, the senior superintendent of police there, said the scammers had extracted money from thousands of victims, most of whom were American or Canadian. "The modus operandi was to send a pop-up on people's systems using a fake Microsoft logo," Mr. Sharma said. After the victims contacted the call center, the operator, pretending to be a Microsoft employee, would tell them that their system had been hacked or attacked by a virus. The victims would then be offered a package of services ranging from \$99 to \$1,000 to fix the problem, he said. Such scams are widespread, said Courtney Gregoire, an assistant general counsel in Microsoft's digital crimes unit. Microsoft, whose Windows software runs most personal computers,

gets 11,000 or so complaints about the scams every month, she said, and its internet monitors spot about 150,000 pop-up ads for the services every day. The company's own tech-support forums, where people can publicly post items, also see a steady stream of posts offering fake tech-support services. Although American authorities have busted such scams in places like Florida and Ohio, the backbone of the illicit industry is in India — in large part because of the country's experience running so many of the world's call centers. India's outsourcing industry, which includes call centers, generates about \$28 billion in annual revenue and employs about 1.2 million people. "The success of the legitimate industry has made it easier for the illegitimate industry there," Ms. Gregoire said. As in any con, experience helps. "You have to convince them they have a problem," she said. "You have to have the touch." For tech companies, combating the impersonators is complicated by the

fact that many legitimate tech-support operations, including some of Microsoft's, operate from India. The scam is quite lucrative. Researchers at Stony Brook University, who published a detailed study of fake tech-support services last year, estimated that a single pop-up campaign spread over 142 web domains brought in nearly \$10 million in just two months. Najmeh Miramirkhani, lead author of the research paper, said the network of entities involved in the scams was complex, with some making their own calls and others running the sites but outsourcing the calls to India. Many of the scammers also share data with one another. "This is an organized crime," she said. Microsoft said it was working with other tech industry leaders such as Apple and Google, as well as law enforcement, to fight the scourge, which is migrating beyond the English-speaking world to target other users in their local languages. In the 16 countries surveyed by Microsoft, people in India and China were the most likely to pay the con artists. The problem extends beyond fake tech support, too. In July, the Justice Department said 24 people in eight states had been convicted for their roles in a scheme to use Indian call-center agents to impersonate tax collectors at the Internal Revenue Service. The thieves duped more than 15,000 people out of hundreds of millions of dollars. Thirty-two contractors in India were also indicted. Mr. Sharma said that in a similar con broken up by his department, call-center agents had impersonated Canadian tax authorities. Like the I.R.S., Microsoft and other legitimate technology companies do not call their users out of the blue. Nor do they send security alerts to the screen telling customers to call them.

**Ms. Miramirkhani had some simple advice to avoid being conned: Don't pick up the phone.**

*By Vindu Goel and Suhasini Raj*

# MOVIE REVIEW

## Joker

"Joker" centers around the iconic arch nemesis and is an original, standalone fictional story not seen before on the big screen. Phillips' exploration of Arthur Fleck, who is indelibly portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix, is of a man struggling to find his way in Gotham's fractured society. A clown-for-hire by day, he aspires to be a stand-up comic at night...but finds the joke always seems to be on him. Caught in a cyclical existence between apathy and cruelty, Arthur makes one bad decision that brings about a chain reaction of escalating events in this gritty character study.



*This article contains spoilers for "Joker."* Before "Joker" opened last weekend, much was being made of how its tale of a murderous villain echoed news stories of mass shooters and incel threats, and how the film might encourage unbalanced viewers to commit acts of violence. As it turned out, it mainly inspired audiences to open their wallets for the biggest October opening ever. After watching the film, I could understand the concerns: Directed by Todd Phillips and starring Joaquin Phoenix as the deranged clown Arthur Fleck, the title character, "Joker" is simultaneously a well-made film in its own right and a blatant mash-up of "The King of Comedy" and "Taxi Driver." It nods at classism and winks at the Bruce Wayne family mythos, but at its core the movie is about a mentally ill loner. Still, what struck me most is that what the film wants to say — about mental illness or class divisions in American society — is not as interesting as what it accidentally says about whiteness. For it is essentially a depiction of what happens when white supremacy is left unchecked. It shows the delusions that many white men have about their place in society and the brutality that can result when that place is denied. The fact that the Joker is a white man is central to the film's plot. A black man in Gotham City (really, New York) in 1981 suffering from the same mysterious mental illnesses as Fleck would be homeless and invisible. He wouldn't be turned into a public figure who could incite an entire



city to rise up against the wealthy. Black men dealing with Fleck's conditions are often cast aside by society, ending up on the streets or in jail, as studies have shown. And though Fleck says he often feels invisible, had he been black, he truly would have been — except, of course, when he came into contact with the police. They'd be sure to see him. Though Fleck is pursued and investigated by Gotham's finest, his whiteness acts as a force field, protecting him as he engages in the violent acts of the latter half of the film. Consider his appearance on the live talk show hosted by Murray Franklin (Robert De Niro). A black man acting as strangely as Fleck does would not have been allowed to go on the air. But the white Fleck is given access, and bloodshed soon follows. Or look at how Fleck interacts with others. He is frequently in conversation with people who occupy a lower rung in society than he does: a state-appointed therapist he sees early on; a protective mother who chastises him for playing peekaboo with her son on the bus; his possible love interest, a neighbor who lives in the same building; and the psychiatrist he sees in Arkham Asylum. Every one of these characters is a black woman with whom he eventually has confrontations. Phillips consistently places Fleck in an oppositional or antagonistic position to these women. I don't know if this is intentional on Phillips's part, but it is significant. When we learn that his relationship with the neighbor (played with artful restraint by Zazie Beetz) was merely a figment of his troubled imagination, the way he leaves the apartment implies that this realization has led Fleck to kill her and perhaps her child. After his final conversation with the Arkham doctor, his bloody footsteps suggest that he kills her as well. Fleck kills white men because he cannot access their status and is ostracized by them, but his black female victims are so invisible that the film does not bother to show their deaths. We as viewers can and should take note of them. There are other ways that whiteness informs Fleck's character. He anticipates he'll be treated as a son by the Wayne family, and assumes he'll be given medical records just by asking the hospital orderly (played by the great Brian Tyree Henry). The privileges that come with Fleck's race set him up for these unrealistic expectations. When they're not met, the consequences are deadly. Whiteness may not have been on the filmmakers' minds when they made "Joker," but it is the hidden accomplice that fosters the violence onscreen. *The NYT*



# Bingo and DINNER

AN EVENING OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

2ND  
WEDNESDAY  
OF THE  
MONTH

6 PM  
DINNER

7 PM  
BINGO

at the Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club

2 West Street, Greta, NSW, 2334

Anglican  
Church





# Low interest rates are part of a vicious circle keeping older Australians at work

Greg Jericho

*Older people staying in work highlights the consequences of fiscal policy that has forced the Reserve Bank to cut interest rates*



A rising retirement age and falling interest rates have led to an increase in the number of over-65s working. Photograph: Marc Romanelli/Getty Images/Blend Images

One consequence of the government's desire for the Reserve Bank to do most of the work to stimulate growth has been the fall in interest rates, making life tough for savers – especially those who were planning to retire.

Right now, there is a greater percentage of adults in the labour force than ever before. A large reason for that is the increase in women entering the workforce, but another important factor is pressure on older workers putting off retirement.

As of July this year the retirement age in Australia is 66 years. After two years, it will rise again to 66-and-a-half, and in July 2023 it will reach 67.

The main reason for the policy decision to raise the pension age was the ageing of our population – a trend which can be clearly seen in a comparison of two age groups.

Forty years ago, the number of 15- to 19-year-olds roughly matched the number of Australians over the age of 65. Now, around 4 million people are over 65, with just 1.5 million aged 15-19.

Forty years ago, working with someone over 65 was pretty rare. On the current trend, within a couple years there will be more over-65s in the workplace than 15- to 19-year-olds.

There are a couple reasons for this. Firstly the rise in the schooling age and the general increase in the importance of education mean more teenagers stay in school than in the past, and secondly, those over 65 are now much more likely to work.

In 1979 fewer than 7% of those over 65 were in the labour force; now over 14% are.

The big rise began in the early 2000s, coinciding with the mining boom. Between 2004 and 2012, both men and women over 65 increased their participation quite steadily. But then the rate of men working levelled off. From 2012 until the middle of 2017, the participation of men over 65 remained around 17%, while the rate for women over 65 rose from 7% to over 9%. Then, from the middle of 2017, coinciding with the first rise in the pension age from 65 to 65-and-a-half, the participation rate of men over 65 took off. The retirement age is not the only factor in play, however. In the past two years, we also saw a very strong rise in the participation rate of men aged 60-64 – an increase not in step with the trend among younger men.

The rise in the participation rate of women is steady across all ages – if anything, it is more pronounced among women in their 20s and 30s. But for men, it is all about older workers.

What was also happening in 2017 was that earning income from the interest on term deposits became much less viable.

Throughout the mining boom years, and even through the global financial crisis, life was pretty good for those with superannuation nest eggs earning interest in term deposits.

Between 2002 and 2012, the average real interest rate you could get for “special” term deposits of a

minimum \$10,000 was 2.6% – that is, 2.6% points higher than the inflation rate.

That is a very sweet deal. A 2.6% real return for essentially no risk? Sign me up!

But by 2017, the falling cash rate (set by the Reserve Bank) had caused term deposit rates to fall so far that they were barely above inflation. In 2017 the average term deposit rate was 2.3% while inflation was running at 1.9% – a mere 0.4% real return.

Now, the average term deposit rate is even lower – around 1.3% below the most recent inflation rate of 1.6%.

That's an investment that will make your money worth less in real terms than it was when you gave it to the bank.

It does not make for a fun retirement – and certainly not a situation that has you thinking you can afford to retire if you are nearing 65. And so the confluence of a rising retirement age and falling interest rates has led to an increase in the number of over-65s working.

This has an impact on a broader level. One of the reasons the Reserve Bank and the treasurer thought the recent solid employment growth would lift wages was they believed it

would lead to a fall in the unemployment rate. But greater participation means you need more new jobs just to keep the unemployment rate steady; as a

result the rise in participation has meant the recent job growth has not been enough to lower unemployment and put upward pressure on wages.

Had the over-65 participation rate remained where it was in August 2017, the overall participation rate would be 0.3% points lower. That translates to significant gain in the number of older workers whose jobs could be filled by younger people looking for work (or for more hours).

There is nothing wrong with older people staying in work, and it sure as heck is not their fault that wages growth is lower than it should be. But it highlights the real consequences of fiscal policy that has forced the Reserve Bank to cut rates rather than hold them higher due to growth being buoyed by fiscal stimulus. In effect, it sets up a vicious circle where lower rates reinforce low wages growth, which is one of the reasons that lower interest rates are needed.

And it means retiring will continue to be a tough choice for many.

• Greg Jericho writes on economics for Guardian Australia

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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**

For the young man on the homemade motorbike in North Rothbury; Lounge chair, little wheels, a lawn mower engine and Harley handlebars, legs stuck out. Brilliant!

To the person driving the red Holden down Dalwood rd East Branxton on Tuesday afternoon, and the person driving up Dalwood rd on Tuesday night at 11pm in the dark sports car with the wing on the back. If you want to drive like total fools at 100kmph plus go and do it near were your family and kids live not near my family; its 50kmph. I've passed your number plates on to police. So, expect a visit. I think I speak on behalf of the residents on Dalwood rd East Branxton when I say .... grow up and think for a change!

Thanks to those dog owners who keep their pets on a leash while walking in North Rothbury on Mayne and Scott streets. Their pets do not spook the 'roos who often graze there. When rounded up by a dog and very scared, the kangaroos are a traffic hazard on both these streets, for cars and kids on bikes.

To North Rothbury Tidy Town members who turned up for the recent Wine Country Drive clean-up. The clean-up did not take too long but what a difference it made to the ambiance of the hamlet. Thank you and well done.

**FREE Classifieds** Classified's Classified's

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

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

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

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

**For Sale:** Concrete mixer, electric on wheels \$120 P: 4930 7671

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

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

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

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

**For Sale:** Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with

canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077

**For Sale:** Aviary bred Rainbow & Scaly Lorikeets. \$20ea or \$45ea with new cage P: 0421 102 711

**For Sale:** Alpacas Ph 0400697148

**For Sale:** Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809

**Riding Lessons:** agjstment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

**Seamstress:** Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057

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

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

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

**Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

**Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

**Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

**Work Wanted:** Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

**Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

**Work Wanted:** Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

**Work Wanted:** Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

**Work Wanted:** Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

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

**Dates for your diary**

FRI 31 OCT — Closing date (5pm) for applications "2020 Housing NSW Scholarship Program. Go to [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/scholarships](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/scholarships)

SAT 2 NOV — Trinity House Centenary Community Fair in the grounds of the Anglican Church Lochinvar: market stalls, sausage sizzle, Devonshire Tea, displays & entertainment The New Empire Ragtime & dance Orchestra - FREE ENTRY 11am ~ 3pm 'all Welcome'

SAT 2 NOV — 12PM Wollombi Valley Country Fair @ Wollombi Village. There's lots to see and do at this wonderful event in the country. Come down to Wollombi Village to taste the delights and take in the sights with local produce stalls, art and craft, street performers, musical entertainment, kids animal farm and lots more. Don't miss the cake competition and lantern parade

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.

SAT 9 NOV — Branxton's annual 'Country at the Camp' music festival at the Drovers Camp, Elderslie Road, Branxton

SAT 9 NOV — Cessnock City Council's hugely popular free mattress drop-off day will take place on from 8am to 12pm.

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 - Celebrating the 80th Birthday for the Greta Army Camp and 70th Birthday for the Greta Migrant Camp at Camp Rd, GRETA NSW. The event will have military parade, military vehicles, tiger moths flyovers, plane flyovers, ethnic dancing and food, brass and pipe bands,kids zones, camel rides, helicopter rides, something for everyone. Tickets available thru sticky tickets.

TUE 12 NOV — An Australian Landscape in Acrylics - with Annie Palmer @ The Hunter Artisan Gallery & Cafe - East

**Dates for your diary**

Maitland 10am

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.

SAT NOV 23 — 3pm ~ 8pm 'Olive Tree Christmas Twilight Market' @ Maitland Regional Art Gallery

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.

THUR 5 DEC — The NSW Seniors Christmas Concert Times: 10:30am and 2pm Location: Tamworth Capitol Theatre, Level 1, Centrepoint, 374 Peel Street, Tamworth

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

## Our Best Tips For Gardening in Drought Conditions

**Be prepared for when the weather gets steamy. Get tips for keeping your garden alive when extended periods of hot, dry weather arrive.**

*By BH&G Garden Editors*

A drought can be a gardener's worst nightmare. When a hot, dry weather pattern settles in, it affects your landscape in a variety of ways. There's nothing you can do to prevent a drought, but there are some strategies you can enact to help minimize the effect it has on your yard.

### Impacts of a Drought

The most obvious way a drought affects your garden is the way it makes your plants look: Healthy green foliage wilts, develops crispy brown edges, or dies completely; flowers fade more quickly or fail to appear at all; plants (even weeds) grow more slowly. Drought weakens your

plants, increasing how susceptible they are to attack from insects and disease. It also makes plants less winter-hardy, especially if the drought occurs in fall as plants are going dormant. The hot, dry conditions have a lasting effect, too—trees and shrubs, in particular, can take several years to fully recover from drought.

### What to Do During Drought

Although you can't change the temperature outside, there are some things you can do to help your garden in times of drought.

### Water Your Garden

It's the most obvious strategy, of course, but to stay healthy, most garden plants like about an inch of moisture per week. In most cases, it's better to apply the water weekly or every other week. It's a bit of a waste to give your plants less water more frequently: Doing so discourages the roots from growing as deeply into the soil



(where it stays moister longer) as they can, and it's also inefficient as more water is lost to evaporation.

### Apply Mulch

A 2- to 3-inch-deep layer of mulch over the soil when drought gardening can do wonders: It keeps the soil cooler and shields the ground from direct sun. The benefit is that

moisture stays in the soil longer, where it's more available to your garden plants. Run a soaker hose underneath your mulch to

maximize water savings: Water will be delivered directly to the ground (reducing evaporation) and slowly (reducing water loss to runoff). It will also keep plant foliage dry, which helps prevent many common fungal diseases such as black spot on roses.

### Stop Fertilizing

If you apply fertilizers (organic or synthetic), it's helpful to stop at the onset of a drought. Fertilizers encourage plant growth; the more a plant grows, the more moisture it needs. If fertilizer salts build up in your soil because they're not naturally leaching out with rain or irrigation, they can build up and burn plant roots, causing further damage.



times, but getting those weeds out of the garden is especially important during drought. The reason: Weeds' roots steal valuable moisture from the soil.

### Deadhead Your Flowers

Removing spent blooms before they have a chance to set seed saves energy for your plants: They don't need to put extra energy (which they need water for) into producing seeds.

### Planning a Drought-Tolerant Garden

The above tips are meant to help keep

### Pull Weeds

It might not be fun at the best of an existing garden healthy during a drought.



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A great experience



Chris & Tyler on the interchange bench.



Maitland District U/12 Rep team played Newcastle in front of the Knights last Saturday. Chris Mackay & Tyler Goodyer represented

the Greta Branxton Colts. Unfortunately they were well beaten by a big strong Newcastle side but all of the team enjoyed the huge atmosphere and the experience of playing at Newcastle's Energy Stadium. The Colts under 9 team also enjoyed the same experience when they played a curtain raiser before the Knights V Dragons match on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of June.



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826



# GIVE US A BREAK

## DUMPING ISN'T GIVING

**STOP DUMPING** Take your garbage to the Waste Management Centre.

CHARITY OPERATORS ARE NOT GARBAGE SERVICES

A NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the Waste Levy

**REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING 131 555**



## Emergency Phone Numbers

### Dial 000

FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE

It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need—fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.

When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct.

**ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED**  
For non-life threatening calls.....  
Police Assistance Line (PAL)..... 131 444

### Police

Branxton..... 4938 1244  
Lochinvar.... 4930 7209  
Ambulance... 131 233  
NSW Fire Brigade  
Branxton..... 4938 3396

### Rural Fire Brigades

Belford..... 6574 7149  
Broke..... 6579 1491  
Greta..... 4015 0000  
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000  
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000  
Rothbury.... 4015 0000  
Pokolbin.... 4991 1733  
Rothbury.... 4991 1733  
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000  
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000  
Rothbury.... 4015 0000  
Pokolbin.... 4991 1733  
Rothbury.... 4991 1733  
Scotts..... 136 240  
Flat..... 6575 1200  
Central..... 4015 0000  
(Cessnock)...

### Electricity

Energy Australia..... 131 388  
Hospitals  
Maitland.... 4939 2000  
Cessnock... 4991 0555  
Singleton... 6572 2799  
SES .....132 500  
Crime Stoppers  
1800 333 000  
Poisons Info ..... 131 126  
Hunter Water  
1300 657 000  
Ausgrid ..... 131 388  
Gas Emergencies . 131 909  
Lifeline .....131 114  
Mental Health Line  
1800 011 511  
Domestic Violence Support  
4990 9609  
Centrelink Self Service  
136 240  
Medicare ..... 132 011  
Native Animal Rescue  
0418 628 483



# School News



## Kirkton Public School

### FLORA AWARDS

FLORA Awards recognize students who have shown our school values of friendship, learning, opportunity, respect and achievement in the classroom and in the playground.. When students collect 20 FLORAS, they reach a bronze award. An additional 20 allows students to achieve a silver award. A further 20, a Gold Award and another 20 a Principal Level.

At our assembly we had two students achieve the first silver awards for the year—Dannon and Paige. Congratulations!



### Principal's Award

Frances—enthusiasm for learning

### K/1/2

Isabella— Settling in well and displaying school FLORA values.

Cali—articulate use of language in reading and writing activities. 4/5/6

Sabastien—enthusiasm and effort in writing learning tasks.

Lachlan— enthusiasm and participation in mathematics lessons.

### Healthy Eating Star—Felina



## Branxton Public School

Our students have begun the last term of 2019 with enthusiasm! It will be a busy term with

performances, excursions, Carols, Presentation Day and all the Year 6 activities. Orientation visits will happen for Year 6 at the high schools and for our Kinders for 2020.

Two of our ATSI students attended a special award evening on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, at Maitland Grossman High School. The Pathway Awards, or now known as the "Wanay Kuwaykuway" Awards are held annually to recognise the achievements of our ATSI students. "Wanay Kuwaykuway" means "proud child/children" in the Wonnarua language. On the night, Patrick and Gracie received an Education and Leadership Award along with a book. Unfortunately, Georgia and Chaysse were unable to attend however, they received their award and book at school during an assembly. Congratulations to all of our students!

Congratulations also to the Term 3 Star Reader Challenge book winners. The blue Star Reader challenge was distributed to students last week. Students who complete the challenge this term will go in the draw for a free book later in the term.

Passion project will continue in Term 4 with dedicated helpers from Stage who are showing initiative and giving up their time to support other students. Activities will kick off in Week 2.



■ Infants' Star Readers



Passion Project Helpers



Primary Star Readers

There is an information session for parents about our NAPLAN results on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 2:15pm in the Library. All welcome.

**Dates for the Calendar**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
November – 1<sup>st</sup> Kinder  
2020  
Orientation Visit and Parent Information Session

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

YOUR friendly team

# The News

Mike Lowing: *Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator*  
Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing  
The "Branxton Greta Vineyards News" is bound by an industry code of ethics. If you have a complaint, contact the newspaper first. If the matter is unresolved, then call The Australian

Press Council on 1800 025 712. Complaints about advertising should be directed to the Editor and if the matter isn't resolved contact The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission on (02) 9230 9133.

### Deadlines

"The Branxton Greta Vineyards News" appeals to all advertisers to adhere to the Friday 2PM biweekly deadline which includes all editorial items as well. If you know you will be late please let our office know so that we can save space for you. This newspaper does not accept reports, advertisements or other instructions over the phone. We do accept items by Email.

PHONE: (02) 4938 1773 or after hours (02) 4938 3451

MOB: 0412 566 041 0414 757 826

Email: [thenews@hotmail.net.au](mailto:thenews@hotmail.net.au)

Office: 12 Clift Street, Branxton, NSW 2335



### RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS  
REAL ESTATE  
P: 4938 3300





# Fire bug crackdown: standard non-parole period almost doubles



Michael Johnsen, Member for Upper Hunter has welcomed news that in a crackdown on dangerous bushfire bugs, the standard non-parole period for convicted arsonists has increased from five years to nine years to help protect lives and property across the Hunter Valley community.

Mr Johnsen said the Government has passed legislation to implement the recommendation of the Sentencing Council to help ensure those who commit bushfire offences spend more time behind bars. "With another hot and dry summer around the corner, it is important there are strong laws in place to

protect our farmers and communities who are already battling drought," Mr Johnsen said. "My message to would-be firebugs is to stop and think about the children and families who could be killed or injured and the huge economic and emotional toll of being homeless and having to

rebuild homes and farms from scratch. "This comes as a result of the NSW Attorney General asking the Sentencing Council to review the standard non-parole period. "As a result of the review, the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* has been amended to increase the standard non-parole period for the bushfire offence under section 203E of the *Crimes Act 1900*. The offence applies to the charge of intentionally causing a fire and being reckless about it spreading on public land or someone else's property. "The tougher standard non-parole period builds on the Government's introduction of a tougher penalty for the bushfire offence, which increased the maximum penalty from 14 to 21 years in November last year. "There is no excuse for starting a bushfire, which is why the longer standard non-parole period, on top of tougher maximum sentences, reflects the seriousness of the crime. Acting NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Rob Rogers welcomed the latest reforms that will make firebugs more accountable. "Our firefighters already have a difficult and dangerous job responding to fires and keeping people safe, let alone having to risk their lives because of reckless behaviour," he said. "The drought means the state is on high fire alert, so it is important people remain vigilant." As part of its review, the Sentencing Council received submissions from stakeholders including the Law Society of NSW, Legal Aid NSW, NSW Police Force, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Rural Fire Service Association. The majority of which agreed the bushfire offence's standard non-parole period should be increased.

# Business from biodiversity brainstorm



community," added Karinda. This event is free to attend and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP via [www.try-booking.com/BGDLQ](http://www.try-booking.com/BGDLQ). For more information, call Council's Sustainability Officer, Karinda Stone

on 4993 4100. This workshop forms part of Cessnock City Council's 'Our Bushland' campaign and has been made possible by funding from the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

**They said it ....**  
Capitalism is the astounding belief that the most wickedest of men will do the most wickedest of things for the greatest good of everyone. *Keynes*

Democracy encourages the majority to decide things about which the majority is ignorant. *John Simon*

**Cessnock City Council is calling on local businesses to take part in a brainstorming workshop to discuss how Cessnock's biodiversity can be used to market our area and broaden activities available to visitors.**

The workshop will take place at the Pokolbin Community Hall from 5.30pm to 7pm on Tuesday 12 November and all interested businesses are encouraged to come along and take part. This facilitated workshop will provide an opportunity for businesses to discuss how Cessnock's unique biodiversity could be used to increase visitation to the region as well as share ideas on how nature-based activities could value-add to the attractions that already exist. Cessnock City Council's Sustainability Officer, Karinda Stone is encouraging local businesses to come along and join the conversation. "Cessnock's local biodiversity is significant and unique due to our temperate climate, significant forested areas and the fact that we're on a migration path for many Australian and overseas birds." "For these reasons, we have an opportunity to position ourselves in the nature-based tourist market and this workshop will allow us to brainstorm ideas with the local business

## FROM PAGE 16 Valentin Louis Georges Eugène Marcel Proust

Marcel Proust (seated), Robert de Flers (left) and Lucien Daudet (right), ca. 1894 (Photo P.16) Despite his poor health, Proust served a year (1889-90) in the French army, stationed at Coligny Barracks in Orléans, an experience that provided a lengthy episode in *The Guermantes' Way*, part three of his novel. As a young man, Proust was a dilettante and a social climber whose aspirations as a writer were hampered by his lack of self-discipline. His reputation from this period, as a snob and an amateur, contributed to his later troubles with getting *Swann's Way*, the first part of his large-scale novel, published in 1913. At this time, he attended the salons of Mme Straus, widow of Georges Bizet and mother of Proust's childhood friend Jacques Bizet, of Madeleine Lemaire and of Mme Arman de Caillavet, one of the models for Madame Verdurin, and mother of his friend Gaston Arman de Caillavet, with whose fiancée (Jeanne Pouquet) he was in love. It is through Mme Arman de Caillavet, he made the acquaintance of Anatole France, her lover. Proust had a close relationship with his mother. To appease his father, who insisted that he pursue a career, Proust obtained a volunteer position at Bibliothèque Mazarine in the summer of 1896. After exerting considerable effort, he obtained a sick leave that extended for several years until he was considered to have resigned. He never worked at his job, and he did not move from his parents' apartment until after both were dead. His life and family circle changed markedly between 1900 and 1905. In February 1903, Proust's brother, Robert Proust, married and left the family home. His father died in November of the same year. Finally, and most crushingly, Proust's beloved mother died in September 1905. She left him a considerable inheritance. His health throughout this period continued to deteriorate. Proust spent the last three years of his life mostly confined to his bedroom, sleeping during the day and working at night to complete his novel. He died of pneumonia and a pulmonary abscess in 1922. He was buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

**You are invited!**  
**Trinity House Centenary Community Fair**  
in the grounds of the Anglican Church, Lochinvar  
**FREE ENTRY ~ ALL WELCOME**

Market Stalls  
Sausage Sizzle Cold Drinks  
Devonshire Tea Displays

Entertainment by: The New Empire Ragtime and Dance Orchestra

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
11am to 3pm

Enquiries: Reverend Nicole 0481 269 892

Anglican Church

### NOTICE FOR EVERYONE WITH A CONNECTION TO THE GRETA CAMP



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

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

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

## Greta Museum

Honours the sacrifices of our local Service People - Come in to see our displays and photographs, about them and many other subjects.  
Open Wed. & Sat. 11- 3pm  
96 High Street Greta NSW 2334



**Open 7 days**  
**8am - 8pm**

**4990 3485**

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock (opposite ALDI)



# SPORTS RESULTS

## RESULTS GOLF

### HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

**Sunday 13th October**  
Scott Conti has won the Weekly Challenge with a 47 point mauling of the course from Anthony Bower 42 and Craig Smith 3rd with 40 points on c/b. Ball winners were: Craig Rhodes v40, Luke Johnston 39, Mathew Cluff v38, Brad Pringle 38, Jashua Udbinac v37, Graeme Mankelow 37, Wayne Thompson 36, Steve Abel 36, Ryan McGregor 35 and William Angus v35 c/b

**Monday 14th October**  
Hunter Valley Ladies held their open day with a good field in attendance with super weather turned on for their day. The winning duo from the Aberdeen GC were Maureen Irwin and Fay Konieczny with 45 points in the 2 Ball Stableford event from Pamela Minch and Sheree Piskrz from Muswellbrook GC 2nd with 44 and Leesa Robinson and Sue Williams (HV) 3rd with 43 on countback to Sue Miller and Jan Hurley from Pacific Dunes 4th, Judy Miller and Cath Goodsell Aberdeen GC 5th, Vicky Holt and Glenda Williams (HV) 6th, Kim Abercrombie and Wendy Wilkinson Merewether 7th, Christine Tancred and Julie Van Den Berg (HV) 8th, Jeanette Irwin (HV) and Ruth McCarthy Branxton 9th and Jenny Chambers (HV) and Kathy Schmierer Toronto GC 10th. Nearest-the-Pins (4th) Kathy Schmierer, (10th) Kath Goodsell, (3rd) Maureen Donaldson, (8th) Sharon Blackett, (17th) Kim Robinson. Longest Drive Div 1: Kim Abercrombie, Div 2: Leesa Robinson, Div 3: Sue Miller. Straightest Drive Div 1 Melita Watson, Div 2 Senone Stephenson, Div 3 Maureen Irwin.

**Tuesday 15th October**  
The Tuesday Stableford proved to be a slug out between zero markers with Jason Cowburn getting the better of Brent Watson by 1 shot after both returned sub Par rounds which yielded 41 and 40 points, 3rd went to Lindsay Self also with a 40 point round. Ball winners were: Wayne Cowan 39, David Peel 39, Scott Conti 36, Ian Newell 36, Shawn Parish 36, Graeme Flynn 36, Phousang Sihapanya 36, Wayne Burgess 36, Chris Taggart 35, Scott Goldman 35, Peter Franks 35, Robert Logue 35, Wayne Barber 35, Ryan Wilson 34 and Amy Olsen v34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bill Freeman (3rd) Robert Hannah (4th) Conner Walton (8th) David Peel (10th) and Bob Prentice (17th)

**Wednesday 16th October**  
Lorraine Clack has produced a great round of 39 points to win the Ladies Stableford from Glenda Williams with 37 points on countback. Next week the Ladies will play an Individual Stable-

ford  
**Thursday 17th October**  
The Vets 4BBB Par event went to Wayne Barry and Darrell Preston on countback to Steve Rawlings and John Pascoe after both had returned +12. The Individual winners on the day were Wayne Berry on countback to Richard Craft with +7 returns with Robert Hannah 3rd on +6 c/b. Ball winners were: Robert Logue +6, Steve Rawlings +5, Graeme Flynn +4, Peter McIntyre +4, Ryan Wilson +3, Terry Webb +3, Rod Williams +3, William Edwards +3, Kerry Bartlett +3, Tom Bell +3, Noel Ellenor +3, Murray Flannigan +2, David Peel +2, John Grayson +2, Bill Mitchell +2, Kerry Porter +1, Greg Burke +1, Dave Fury +1, Paul Adams +1, Wayne Cowan +1, Ken Harris +1, Garry Marsden sq, Peter Threadgold sq, Garry Hill sq, Ross Cameron sq, Neil Peterson sq, Peter Fisher sq, Bill Freeman sq, Chris Taggart sq, Anthony Neale sq, Clive Anderson sq, Doug Wand -1, Darrell Preston -1, John Pascoe -1 and Ken McLaughlan -1 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bill Freeman (3rd) Noel Ellenor (4th) Tom Bell (8th & 10th) and Danny Schofield (17th). Next week the vets will play a Medley Stableford

**Saturday 19th October**  
Julie Van Den Berg will long remember the outstanding round she had to win the Monthly Medal and to claim top prize in the Girls Goblet playoff with 63 net on countback, a round which included an 'Ace' on the Par 3 3rd hole and the NTP also on the tough 8th. The Mug of Mugs champion has gone to Kevin Smith with 71 on countback to Andrew Zok. The daily Stroke event provided some great rounds most of which were completed before to strong wind arrived in the late morning. A Grade went to Wayne Barber 63 with Peter McIntyre 2nd with 70 on countback, B Grade to Ben Pomplun of Forster-Tuncurry with 67 net from Peter Huckfelt 70 and C Grade to a very happy Lindsay Clarke with 66 net with Glenn Williams runner up with 68 net. Ball winners were: Murray Flannigan 69, David Peel 70, Bill Mitchell 71, Ron Higginbottom 71, Trevor Collins 71, Jeff Shanahan 71, Lorraine Clack 71, Dale Troy 71, Angello Wood 71, Dean Freebairn 71, Kevin Smith 71, Richard Craft 71, Joel Fitzgibbon 71, and Andrew Zok 71 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Julie Van Den Berg (3rd & 8th) Angello Wood (4th) Jason Mould (10th) and Peter McIntyre (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford

**Sunday 20th October**  
Ryan McGregor has won the Weekly Challenge with 43 from Steve Piggot 40c/b, with Matt McKendry in 3rd with 40. Ball winners were: Scott Conti 37, Craig Rhodes 36, Jai Kumar 35, Justin Woodbine 35 and Marjo Kummeling v34 c/b

**Tuesday 22nd October**  
Kurri GC visitor Grant Andrews has won the Tuesday Stableford with 43 points from Paul Smith 42 and Ian Smith 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners were: Todd

Battle 38, Lindsay Self 38, Wayne Burgess 38, Steve Piggot 38, Dean Morison 37, Mark Makin 37, David Peel 37, Brent Watson 36, Shawn Parish 36 and Gary Arnold 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bob Prentice (3rd) Brent Watson (4th & 10th) Gary Arnold (8th) and Wayne Barber (17th)

**Wednesday 23rd October**  
Joy Provenzano came home with a 'wet sail' picking up 9 points on the last 2 holes to claim the Ladies Stableford on countback to playing partner Maureen Donladson when both had 39 point rounds, 3rd went to Toni Fisher with 36 points also on countback. Ball winners were: Jeanette Irwin 36, Lorraine Clack 36, Dianne Oakes 35, Robyn Dunlop 35 and Isabel Skeates 34 c/b. Next week the Ladies will play Par.

**Thursday 24th October**  
Excellent weather and course condition has once again led to great scoring in the Vets Stableford with Stephen Clark winning Division 1 with 40 points on countback to John Stewart, Peter Fisher has produced the 'round of the day' with 45 points to claim Division 2 from Gary Arnold with 42 on countback and Anthony Neale with 44 points has won Division 3 from Terry Webb with 41. Ball winners were: Peter Attewell 42, Kevin Smith 42, Darrell Preston 40, Ray Newton 40, Peter Payne 39, Wayne Burgess 39, John Harrison 38, Julie Van Den Berg 38, Kerry Bartlett 37, John Grayson 37, Gunther Shilko 37, William Edwards 37, John Pascoe 37, Dale Macklinshaw 36, Don Bradley 36, Greg Amlöh 36, Robert Hannah 36, Mark Fullbrook 36, Graeme Flynn 36, Wayne Berry 36, Graham Morris 36, Alick Bender 35, Alan McKenzie 35, Rex Talbot 35 and Paul Ireland 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Julie Van Den Berg (3rd) Peter McIntyre (4th) David Blackburn (8th) Don Bradley (10th) and William Davey (17th) Next week the Vets will play American Stableford

**Saturday 26th October**  
The combination of heat and high wind took toll on the Saturday Competition with the early starters getting the best of it which reflected in the scores. Reid Browne from Howlong GC received the top gong from Peter Huckfelt after both returned 40 points, Garry Marsden claimed 3rd with 38 also on countback. Ball winners were: Mike Carter 38, James Ellis 38, David Crowley 37, Graham Morris 36, Kerrie-Anne Skinner 36, Paul Neuss 36, Glenn Williams 36, Hieu Le 35, Ron Higginbottom 35, Brendan Smith 34, Wayne Barber 34, Denis Corke 34, Sue Peel 33, Simon Nicholson 33, Russ Lightfoot 33, Michael McNab 32, Mark Williams 32, David Peel 32, Russ Calderwood 32, William Harden 32, Paul Bullock 31, Phil Douglas 31, Lorraine Clack 31, Jill Ramsden 31, Adrian Chomiszak 31, Lloyd Barrett 31, Ray Newton 31, Wayne Drayton 30 and Peter Milas 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jeff Morton (3rd) Jeremie Morton (4th) John Parish (10th) and Kerrie-Anne

Skinner (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford

### BRANXTON GOLF CLUB Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019 KCE SPONSORS DAY 6x6x6 STABLEFORD + SINGLE IN CONJUNCTION

Field: 64  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Jarrod Makin/  
Mick Martin/ Geoff Jones/  
Mark Makin 93pts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place David Kinch/ John  
Martin/ Michael Carling/  
Nick Wheeler 88pts c/b  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Douglas Elphick/  
Ben Elphick/ John Burgess/  
Garry Hill 88pts  
4<sup>th</sup> Place Kevin Walton/ Ben  
Porter/ Richard Turnbull/  
Steve Ross 88pts  
Single Winner  
Daryl Sheppard 42pts  
Single 2nd Place  
Mark Makin 39 pts c/b  
Single 3<sup>rd</sup> Place John Martin  
39 pts c/b

A good field enjoyed the KCE sponsored day at Branxton on Saturday, with intermittent heavy showers making conditions rather challenging for all players. The main event was a 6x6x6 teams event, with the best of 4 scores counted for the first 6 holes, the two best scores for the next 6 holes and the 3 best scores for the last 6 holes. The team of Jarrod Makin, Mick Martin, Geoff Jones and Mark Makin won the day with an excellent 93 pts, 5 pts clear of the rest of the field. The place getters all had 88 pts which was decided on countback. Daryl Sheppard, a recent product of the Marcus Ryter coaching school, having had a few lessons these last couple of months after developing some poor golfing habits, won the day's singles event with a very pleasing 42 pts. Mark Makin was runner up with his 39 pts, with John Martin third with the same score. All players out of the place getters won a ball in the ball competition with prizes also won with nearest the pins and long drives. Some honourable mentions included 2017 Club Champion, Joshua Tracey whose drive down the 6<sup>th</sup> was only 120 metres from the green—an unbelievable drive. Local veteran, Eddie Barrett hit his tee shot to within 22 cms of the pin on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a near hole in one as it finished behind the hole. A final reminder to all members that the Club Championships will be held over the next two weekends. If anyone is able to help the club with spotting during the championships, please contact the pro shop.

### Saturday, 19 October 2019 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS RD 1 - STABLEFORD

Field: 59  
Grades A David Hollis 42  
Grades A Cody Fletcher 39  
Grades A Cameron Johanson 38  
Grades B Roger Yandle 42  
Grades B Harrison Skinner 38  
Grades B Richard Crooks 38  
Grades C Kevin Walton 42  
Grades C Robert McMillan 39  
Grades C Lee Jackson 39  
NTP 2/11 B 2nd Roger Yandle 78cm  
NTP 4 A 4th Cody Fletcher 178cm  
NTP 9/18 B 9th Harrison Skinner 240cm

NTP 13 B 3th Ed Garland 54cm

Balls 18 Distributed down to score: 34

### Sunday, 20 October 2019 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS RD 2 - STABLEFORD

Field: 53  
Grades A Darren Maskell 38  
Grades A Tony Seamer 38  
Grades A Rodney Wilton 38  
Grades B Murray Johanson 37  
Grades B Benjamin Bridge 35  
Grades B Benjamin Porter 34  
Grades C Robert McMillan 40  
Grades C Rodney Moylan 39  
Grades C Mick Lutovac 38  
NTP 2/11 A 2nd Cody Fletcher 75cm  
NTP 4 A 4th Greg Gillard 117cm  
NTP 9/18 A 9th Darren Maskell 144cm  
NTP 13 A 13th Tom Foster 700cm

Balls 16 Distributed down to score: 33

The Branxton Club Championships began over the weekend with the last two rounds scheduled for next weekend. In A Grade the defending Club Champion, Cameron Johanson, has started beautifully, holding a 5 shot lead after two rounds at only 1 over par (70.71). Rod Wilton has also made a very impressive start (73.73) followed by Cody Fletcher (70.77), Josh Tracey (75, 74) and Isaiah Wolferstan (76.73). Rod Wilton and Tony Seamer currently lead in the nett on 136, followed by Dave Hollis 137, Cameron Johanson 137. In B Grade Ben Bridge has a slender lead on 171 (86.85), just ahead of Club President Richard Crooks on 172 (83.89), Nick Wheeler 174 (85.89) and Steve Ross 174 (86, 88). 13 players are within 9 shots in this very competitive grade. The Nett competition is even more competitive with Richard Crooks and Nick Wheeler in front on 142, followed by Reece Caldwell and Ben Bridge on 143, Murray Johanson on 144, and Troy McCaw and Zac Hayes on 145. C Grade is very close with Lee Jackson in the lead on 184 (91.93), followed by Robert McMillan on 185 (93.92), John Martin 186 (95.91), Barry Turner 187 (94.93) and Rod Moylan 188 (96.92). The C Grade nett has Robert McMillan well in the lead on 133, 5 shots clear of Lee Jackson (138) and Kevin Walton 142. The Vets Championships has Robert McMillan in front with 79 pts, just ahead of Tony Seamer (76 pts), Rod Moylan 72 pts, and Kevin Walton 72 pts.

The individual winners each day recorded some very impressive scores with Dave Hollis winning A Grade on Saturday with 42 pts, after a scintillating start of 3 under after 4 holes. Cody Fletcher 39 pts and Cameron Johanson 38 pts played some great golf. In B Grade Roger Yandle also had 42 pts, a wonderful round from this local veteran. Runner up was Harrison Skinner on 38 pts and Richard Crooks with the same score. Amazingly, C Grade was also won with 42 pts, with Kevin "Doc" Walton producing the goods, followed by Robert McMillan and Lee Jackson

with 39 pts. Some great scores on the first day of the championships. On Sunday, Darren Maskell won the A Grade with 38 pts, on a countback from Tony Seamer and Rod Wilton. In B Grade, Club Captain won with his 37 pts, just ahead of Benjamin Bridge (35) and Benny Porter (34). In C Grade Robert McMillan had the score of the day with his 40 pts, ahead of Rod Moylan (39) and Mick Lutovac (38). The shots of the day belonged to Eddie Garland on Saturday (only 54 cms from the pin on the difficult 13<sup>th</sup>) and Roger Yandle only 78 cms away. On Sunday, Cody Fletcher's shot to the 2<sup>nd</sup> looked really good, finishing only 75 cms away from a difficult back left pin.



with Mark Bercini

### Cricket Report - Week 1

The Cessnock District Cricket competition commenced last Saturday, with first grade picking up a well-earned victory, fourth grade were well beaten, while second grade and the "grudge" third grade Blue vs third grade White games were washed out at Miller Park.

First grade co-skipper Nathan Holz provided the highlight of the round with his century against a rejuvenated Peden's Hotel to set up a healthy target for his team at East End. Holz promoted himself to the top of the order, and caressed twelve boundaries and cleared the gutter on one occasion in a run-a-ball ton for his team. It was Holz' first top grade hundred in the forty over format, and this ground has become a bit of a favourite of his, as just last year he scored a century in the T20 game against Mulbring at the same venue. Greta/Branxton compiled a very healthy 5-254 from their mandatory 40 overs after being sent in to bat. Holz' match winning century was well supported by Greg Andrews who remained unbeaten on 51, along with Josh Dagg (48) and co-skipper Joey Butler (31) who were also very productive.

The Piranhas were reeling at 3-24 in reply, but an 86-run fourth wicket stand got them right back in the ball game. Quick wickets in succession swung all the momentum back Greta/Branxton's way, and when man-of-the-moment Holz took a screamer of a catch on the long off fence to dismiss the dangerous looking Daniel Russell for 82, this signaled the start of the end for the home side, and they were eventually all out for 196 in the 36th over to hand the Blues a 58-run victory. For Greta/Branxton it was seamers Connor Thomson (4-35 off 8) in just his second top

grade game, and East Maitland import Kyle Hall (4-26 off 9) who kept a lid on things. Veteran Darren Thomson also bowled a tidy spell with 2-39 off 10. Fourth Grade were soundly beaten by 103 runs at the hands of Cessnock Hotel at Baddeley 2. Cessnock Hotel piled on 7/212 batting first, with Correy Stone picking up where he left off last year with 4-25 off 10 with the two-piece. Greta/Branxton were all out for 109 in reply, with newly appointed club social events coordinator Doug Engel smacking a quick-fire 30. Mitch Bradford was the other batsman to make an impression with 24.

### Points Tables

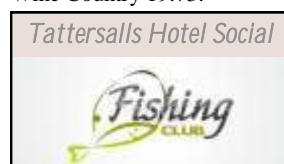
**First Grade** Greta/Branxton 7, Mulbring 7, Bellbird 3, Peden's Hotel 3, Wine Country 0.

**Second Grade** Bellbird 4, Chelmsford Hotel 4, Denman Hotel 4, Greta/Branxton 4, Peden's Hotel 4, Wine Country 4.

**Third Grade** Bellbird 7, Peden's Hotel White 7, Greta/Branxton Blue 4, Greta/Branxton White 4, Mulbring 4, Peden's Hotel Blue 4, Denman Hotel 3, Wine Country 3.

**Fourth Grade** Cessnock Hotel 7, Peden's Hotel 7, Supporters 7, Wine Country 7, Bellbird Maroon 3, Bellbird White 3, Chelmsford Hotel 3, Greta/Branxton 3.

**Club Championship** Greta/Branxton 51.09, Bellbird 36.36, Peden's Hotel 35.04, Wine Country 19.73.



The Tatts Hotel Fishing Club September Lake St Clair trip on 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September proved to be a success after Glenbawn was scrapped this year after low catches the two previous years.

Robert "the horse" Barnes took out highest points for the weekend with 76.5 points. He ended up with a mixed bag of Catfish, Bass, and Silver Perch. He pipped Troy "The yellowbelly king" Fields (76.3) and their kids also had good catches- Lachlan Chown (62.4), Tom Fields (62) and Kye Barnes (52.7). The Jacobs family also caught a few each lead by Fiona (28.4) filthy at Husband Andrew (20.5) for not letting them bring back any of their Catfish to weigh in. Lewis Jacobs scored 19.6 with his 2 Bass.

The October Open 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October saw poor weather and not many lines wet. Kye Barnes survived the conditions and fished all night through the rain at Hawks Nest scoring 29 for his 4 Bream. The Jacobs family (obviously enjoyed fishing the freshwater in September) headed back there and Lewis scored 35 for his 4 Bass and Fiona 27.1 with her 3.

Upcoming dates to remember 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November is Seal Rocks, and you need to book early, 29<sup>th</sup> November -1<sup>st</sup> December is our last weekend of the year (Open) and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December is the Christmas Party/Presentation.

Cheers, Steve



# The NEWS SPORT

once again, filled the minor placings. John Martin won C Grade with his 39 pts, an effort good enough to secure him the championship in his grade, with Rod Moylan and Ted Zawirski in the minor placings. The shot of the day belonged to Club President Richard Crooks on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. 33 pts was needed to win a ball on a perfect weather day.

## Club Championship Results

**A Grade Scratch:**  
**Winner: Cameron Johanson 291** **Runner Up: Joshua Tracey 292**  
**Nett: Dave Hollis and Rodney Wilton 277**  
**B Grade Scratch:**  
**Winner: Ben Bridge 345** **Runner Up: Steve Ross 347**  
**Nett: Troy McCaw and Zac Hayes 289**  
**C Grade Scratch: Winner: John Martin 370** **Runner Up: Rod Moylan 373**  
**Nett: Winner: Robert McMillan 279** **Runner Up: Lee Jackson 290**  
**Seniors Champion-Stableford Winner: Rod Moylan and Rod Wilton 146**  
**Mug of Mugs: Winner: Dave Hollis 277** **Runner Up: Robert McMillan 279**

## Cameron Johanson takes Branxton Golf Club's 2019 Club Champion title

The Club Championships were decided over last weekend, with all grades coming down to the wire after 4 arduous rounds of golf. In A Grade, Cameron Johanson successfully defended his champion's tag by defeating the 2017 champion, Joshua Tracey, by one shot in an absolutely titanic struggle. It came down to the last putt, a tricky 3 footer for Cameron, to win the title, after some quality golf saw the lead change throughout the afternoon. Both players were magnificent in the way they played with some tremendous shot making and a wonderful competitive camaraderie a testament to their battle for supremacy. Their embrace at the end

typified their respect for each other and it was a wonderful demonstration of how sport can be played. In B Grade, the competition was no less intense, with Ben Bridge holding on for a two stroke win over Steve Ross. Ben's perfectly played chip shot on the last cemented his final win. In C Grade, John Martin held off the challenges of Rod Moylan and Dave Hodges, to win by 3 shots. Again, John's shot to the last, a perfectly played iron to the middle of the green followed by two well weighted putts, ensured his win, after Rod Moylan hit a great wedge shot himself to within 12 inches of the hole to thrill the awaiting crowd. Rod Moylan and Rod Wilton

(third in A Grade) shared the Seniors title, with Dave Hollis taking out the Mug of Mugs, a title for all the previous year's monthly medal winners. This year's championships proved to be one of the best for many years, with the dry course complemented by some beautifully manicured greens. Well done everyone and congratulations to all winners.

### Full details as follows:- **Saturday, 26 October 2019** **CLUB CHAMPS RD 3 - STABLEFORD**

Field: 65  
 Grades A Daryl Sheppard 37  
 Grades A David Matt 36  
 Grades A Cody Fletcher 36  
 Grades B Troy Mc Caw 34  
 Grades B David Hodges 34

Grades B Stephen Ross 33  
 Grades C Col Hughes 37  
 Grades C Michael Carling 35  
 Grades C Rodney Moylan 35  
 Balls 20 Distributed down to score: 31

On Saturday, Daryl Sheppard enjoyed playing with such quality players as club champion, Cameron Johanson and the long hitting Cody Fletcher as they dragged him along so well, he won the A Grade stableford with 37 pts when the westerly winds were so strong it was hard to stand up. Cody Fletcher played beautifully for his 73, a score which included a 409 m drive down the 7<sup>th</sup> and a 3 wood onto the green on the 12<sup>th</sup>—a hole in which he eagled last week by again driving the green. Cameron

played very solidly for his 75. Dave Matt continued his very consistent form to finish runner up with 36 pts, just ahead of Cody Fletcher on countback. Troy McCaw won B Grade with a very solid 34 pts, just ahead of Dave Hodges and Steve Ross. Col Hughes controlled the winds very well to win C Grade with his 37 pts, with Mick Carling and Rod Moylan filling the minor placings. The shot of the day belonged to Cameron Johanson on the 13<sup>th</sup>, with his shot finishing only 54 cms from the pin. 31 pts was needed to win a ball.

### **Sunday, 27 October 2019** **CLUBS CHAMPS RD 4 - STABLEFORD**

Field: 49  
 Grades A Lee Heuston 40  
 Grades A Joshua Tracey 36

Grades A Alex Hannah 35  
 Grades B Zac Hayes 41  
 Grades B Benjamin Porter 39

Grades B Roger Yandle 38  
 Grades C John Martin 39  
 Grades C Rodney Moylan 39  
 Grades C Ted Zawirski 38  
 Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 33

On Sunday, Lee Heuston, another member of the 2019 victorious A Grade Pennant Team won the day's event with an outstanding 40 pts, a near par round from this talented golfer. Joshua Tracey and Alex Hannah filled the minor placings. In B Grade Zac Hayes put the "cat amongst the pigeons" with his excellent 41 pts, delivering a warning sign to the B Grade seeded group before they started play. Ben Porter and Roger Yandle,



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