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WEDNESDAY
13 NOVEMBER 2019

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STEVE'S RANT

Members Well Done say...



Not So Well Done



School NEWS



Successful Greta Army and Migrant Camp Anniversaries weekend

Hot weather, gusty winds & dusty conditions did little to deter attendees to the last weekends anniversary celebrations for the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Greta Army Camp (in 1939) and the 70th Anniversary of the site becoming a migrant camp.

The official opening on Saturday at 9:30am saw a large contingent of ex-servicemen, serving defence force personnel, marching bands, official guests & a healthy number of local residents & swathe of families & individuals who had a direct connection to the migrant camp, in attendance. The Governor-General spoke of the significance of both the usages the area had pre-WW11 and post-WW11 & the immigration program had for our country & how fortunate we are to have had it. After the official opening the Governor-General & Mrs Hurley attended a morning tea with some 100 guests. After the morning tea The Governor-General & Mrs Hurley informally wandered the grounds talking to attendees & inspecting the static displays. The President of the Central Hunter Business Chamber, Mr. Brett Wild, said that the 2-day event attracted over

8000 people & with the ethnic performances, live bands, re-enactments & aerial displays it was, in his words, "amazing". He also said that without the military aspect there would not have been a Migrant Camp. "It's important to acknowledge that one flowed to the other," he said. Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon has congratulated all those who worked so hard to ensure the Greta Army and Migrant Camp Anniversaries were celebrated in an appropriate way. "The anniversary event was appropriate recognition of the significance of two very important Commonwealth Government decisions seventy and eighty years ago," he said. "The fact that the Governor General, so many local elected representatives, and so many people from around Australia have joined us demonstrates both the significance of the Anniversaries and how widely their importance is understood". Mr Fitzgibbon said that when he and Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson moved their motion in the Parliament last year calling upon the Federal Government to ensure the Anniversaries were appropriately celebrated, they could not have hoped for more. "It's fair to say Meryl and I are not disappointed but most the credit goes to the Central Hunter Business Chamber, Cessnock Council, other sponsors, and the many people and service organisations who have worked so hard to make it such a great success".



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia giving the opening address for the Anniversary Celebrations at Greta Army/Immigration Camp last Saturday.

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SINGLETON BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019 WINNER

Nominations now open for the 2020 Australia Day Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Australia Day Awards and Cessnock City Council is calling on the community to nominate locals who deserve to be recognised. There are a number of award categories to choose from including Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Marie Callaghan Young Female Achiever, Community Event, Sport, Environment, Heritage, along with Achievement and Appreciation awards. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent looks forward to the Australia Day Awards every year and is encouraging residents to nominate people who deserve recognition for their contribution to our community.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge those in our community who give up their own time and dedicate themselves to making our community a better place to live and work.” “Our 2019 Australia Day Awards saw some outstanding people in our community recognised, including Olivia Palfreyman who was the first person to receive the Marie Callaghan Young Female Achiever Award,” added Cr Pynsent.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday 6 December 2019. Nomination forms and selection criteria can be found on Council’s website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/australiaday. The winners will be announced at a Civic

Reception held on Australia Day. More details about the event will be released closer to the date.

The call has also gone out for Singleton residents to put forward the names of fellow deserving locals, with nominations now open for the 2020 Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year. For a second year, Singleton will celebrate Australia Day with sunset community event *Twilight* on Saturday 25 January 2020 on the Civic Green, leading into the official proceedings on Sunday 26 January 2020 with a Citizenship Ceremony and the presentation of the Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year awards at the Civic Centre.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said Australia Day was an important occasion for Singleton, and next year would be extra special with the town commemorating its Bicentenary. With nominations open until Friday 29 November 2019, she is encouraging anyone who knows someone who has made a significant contribution to our community to nominate them. “It’s hard to believe it’s that time of year again when we take the time to consider the people we know who make a significant contribution to our community for no other reason than to help others,” she said.

“The Citizen of the Year awards, only 85 days away, are a great way to give our town’s best the recognition they deserve, and acknowledge the time and dedication they give to

making Singleton a better place for all of us. “We’re seeking nominations from across our local government area for everyday people who are great at what they do, contribute to our community and inspire those around them. They could be quiet achievers, leaders in their field of work, or unknown heroes. “We are fortunate to have so many people who volunteer for a range of causes and a range of reasons, as well as incredible young people who are wonderful ambassadors for Singleton. “2020 is an important year in the history of our town — the bicentennial may mark the anniversary of European settlement, but it’s also an opportunity to acknowledge the richness of our community spirit and I can’t think of a better way than our annual Australia Day awards. “It only takes one nomination for someone to be in the running for the Awards, but a nomination must be formally submitted. Head to Council’s website and submit your nomination online.” Singleton Australia Day Committee chairperson, Cr Danny Thompson said he was looking forward to plenty of nominations – as well as plenty of people coming out to celebrate.

“Australia Day is a really great occasion for us to learn more about each other, reflect on what they love about our country and to celebrate the individual contributions made by some of the outstanding people who call Singleton home,” he said. “We’re really excited to see

Twilight return for a second year, with loads of family friendly entertainment planned at the Civic Green from 6pm to 10pm on the evening of the 25th,” he said. “But the highlight of the weekend is always the official proceedings on Australia Day itself, when we welcome new Australian citizens, hear from our Australia Day guest and announce Singleton’s Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year. “It’s the day we recognise the doers who make our community better, and celebrate what makes Singleton the best place to live, work and visit.”

The Citizen of the Year Award is presented to the citizen judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to the Singleton Local Government Area for the period including but not limited to 2019 and must be 26 years or older on 26 January 2020.

The Young Achiever of the Year is presented to the young achiever judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to the Singleton Local Government Area for the period including but not limited to 2019 and must be aged 16 to 26 years of age on 26 January 2020.

All residents of the Singleton local government area are eligible to nominate. For more information or to download a nomination form, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiadayawards or hard copies are available from Council’s Administration Building.

FROM FRONT PAGE

Successful Greta Army and Migrant Camp Anniversaries weekend

..... State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP, who gave the closing address on Sunday, said that on the 9 and 10th November at a small country town called Greta was a celebration that reminded us of our past and potentially our future.

“At the end of the war again Greta was tasked once more – now to train the BCOF – British Commonwealth Occupation Forces of the Japan, the military garrison that was to serve under General Douglas MacArthur,” he said. “If it was not for a sole voice in Brett Wild the weekend celebrations would not have been possible. Brett has brought those who the site has touched together on a journey and pilgrimage that has life long lasting memories, a group of we owe a debt of thanks to,” said Clayton.

Clayton also thanked all the volunteers who helped to make the anniversary weekend such a success. More photos page 9.

• Photo above: The Governor General being introduced to Kaylem Rouse who was representing the Branxton Greta Little Athletics Club



Can you hear those sleigh bells jingling? Carols in the Park 2019

Cessnock City Council’s Carols in the Park 2019 is set to go off with a bang on Friday 6 December 2019 at Cessnock Sports Ground from 6pm. Country music star and local resident **Tara Naysmith** returns to the Carols stage as MC. The Hunter’s Santa’s Little Helpers are also back for another year of musical magic under the guidance of Musical Director Greg Patterson. Greg is well known for his outstanding contribution to big stage musicals and his wonderful work as an arranger, and has been a part of the Carols family for many years.

Of course, the night would not be complete without a visit from the man himself. Santa will rest his reindeers in the nearby vineyards and enter in style in a helicopter generously provided by Slattery’s Helicopter. As always the night will culminate in a spectacular fireworks display that is sure to delight and amaze.

This annual event continues to go from strength to strength and has become the heart of the Cessnock Local Government area’s Christmas celebrations, with an array of entertainment for the whole family.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is excited to celebrate as a community.

“It’s so special to come together as a community to mark the end of the year. We are lucky to have such a wonderful event, with great entertainment. I’m already looking forward to a visit from Santa. We know our youngest residents are already counting down the days!”

Pack a picnic or select a delicious treat from one of the hand-picked gourmet food and refreshment trucks on site. Gates open at 6pm and the carolling kicks off from 6:45pm. Carols in the Park 2019 is strictly an alcohol-free event. The event is proudly sponsored by Newcastle Permanent Building Society (our major sponsor), Cessnock City Council, Rover Motors and Slattery’s Helicopters. For more information visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Eco-friendly schools gain grant funding

Cessnock City Council has proudly supported 13 environmentally-friendly school projects through its Schools Environment Grant funding program, totalling \$4,618.

This grant funding program is open to local schools each year and is a wonderful way to support student projects aimed at enhancing and protecting our local environment.

This year, grant recipients included Honey Tree Preschool, Bellbird Public School, Cessnock Multipurpose Children’s Centre, Cessnock Kids Preschool and Early Learning Centre, Branxton Preschool, Bees Nees Early Learning, Abermain Public School, Ellalong Public School, Holy Spirit Primary Kurri Kurri, Nulkaba Public School and Cessnock High School. Each of these schools put forward fantastic environmental initiatives including recycling programs, creating edible/bush tucker gardens, purchasing a native stingless beehive and mindfulness plaques to encourage students to respect their natural environment.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this was a wonderful program and he looks forward to seeing these projects come to life in our local schools. “Protecting our local environment is so important and it is fantastic to see both staff and students at our local schools being so proactive.”

“We are proud to offer this grant program to our schools each year and encourage those who haven’t applied before, to think of a project and get your applications in next time around,” added Cr Pynsent. For more information about the Schools Environment Grant funding program, visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/initiatives/schoolsenviron>

Blast into an adventure day of family fun



If you’re looking for family fun this spring, Singleton Council’s Blast event will surely impress the whole gang on Sunday 17 November 2019.

Now in its second year, Blast will return to Civic Park with activities including an inflatable obstacle course, strongman competition, rock climbing, bubble soccer, LaserTag, camel rides and jumping castles to keep the whole family happy. The ‘Obstacool’ course will be the headline attraction for Blast in 2019, a massive, inflatable obstacle course. The cost to participate is just \$11.50, which includes unlimited goes on the course plus a t-shirt and sweatband. All other activities are free of charge.

Hunter Valley Operations has again thrown its support behind the event to partner with Council to bring Blast to life. Singleton Council’s General Manager Jason Linnane said Blast will be an adventure playground for the whole family to celebrate active living.

“The Singleton local government area is the perfect place for any kind of adventure, and Blast is a great way for people to

get out and try something new – like rock climbing, or camel riding or LaserTag,” he said.

“Blast will see Civic Park transformed into an amazing pop-up playground, including the inflatable obstacle course, designed for children big and small with a series of inflatable climbing walls, tunnels, play elements and challenges. “But most of all, we just want people to have a whole lot of fun.”

Blast will also feature the qualifying round for the 2020 State Championships of the Australian Strongman Competition, a contest that tests the strength, will and determination of athletes from all around the state.

“For anyone who loves a spectacle, the Strongman qualifying round will see men and women lift extremely heavy objects, including a truck,” Mr Linnane said.

“It’s the perfect way to kick off a day of family fun at its best, and better yet, all the activities are free apart from the Obstacool course.

“We are extremely grateful to have the support of Hunter Valley Operations for a second year in a row to assist us in producing a great community event all round, and we look forward to seeing a big crowd on the day.”

Blast will be held at Civic Park on Sunday 17 November from 10am to 3pm. Food trucks, a sausage sizzle and ice creams will also be available. To purchase a ticket for the Obstacool course, visit <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/89864>. Participants are advised to wear shoes suitable for running and comfortable clothes.

• Photo above: Community Participation Coordinator Claire Briggs and Youth Worker Hayden Moore

BRANXTON & GRETA
ARMISTICE DAY
 2019 Day of Remembrance
 "We will remember them"

1 MIN
 11 AM
 11 NOV **2019**



12,000 dead. In the four years of the war more than 330,000 Australians had served overseas, and more than 60,000 of them had died. The social effects of these losses cast a long shadow over the postwar decades. Each year on this day Australians observe one minute's silence at 11am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. Originally called Armistice Day, the 100th Remembrance Day service was commemorated in 2018. Britain held its memorial services and tributes on Sunday. Among other countries that recognise Remembrance Day are Canada, New Zealand, Belgium, France and the United States, where it is called Veterans Day. Locally, the Branxton & Greta RSL Sub-branches combined to provide a moving service at the War Memorial in Greta. About 50 people were in attendance including sub-branch members, school children, veterans & some local residents. A catafalque party from Williamtown Air Force Base were also in attendance. The Remembrance Day Address was given by the President of the Branxton RSL Sub-branch, Brian Furner OAM who spoke of the gallantry of all allied soldiers in France during WW1; the contribution Australian servicemen played & horrific human toll. It was also good to see that the sub-branches involved the local schools into their service.



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breaching of German defences at the Hindenburg Line in September. By early October the exhausted Australians were withdrawn from battle. They had achieved a fighting reputation out of proportion to their numbers, but victory had come at a heavy cost. They suffered almost 48,000 casualties during 1918, including more than



Beginning with their stunning success at the battle of Hamel in July, they helped to turn the tide of the war at Amiens in August, followed by the capture of Mont St Quentin and Pèronne, and the



On 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War. From the summer of 1918, the five divisions of the Australian Corps had been at the forefront of the allied advance to victory.

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STEVE'S RANT

'Foreign Influence Transparency' scheme

Under the Governments 'Foreign Influence Transparency' scheme the Attorneys General Department has demanded a list of documents from the organiser of a number of speakers at a conference co-hosted by the Conservative Political Actions Conference, Liberty Works and the American Conservative Unions. It sounds ominous but it was, simply, talks given by Tony Abbott, Nigel Forage and the British political activist Raheen Kassam; all staunch conservatives as you well know, or perhaps don't know. The 'Foreign Influence' body was set up to review the likes of the Chinese Communist Party activities influencing our universities and expatriate Chinese citizens or attempts to purchase political influence at all levels of Government. I suppose in an act of even-handedness this organization felt obliged to question the influence of Tony Abbott and his conservative associates because the event was co-hosted by overseas conservative organisations. That is being polite about it but the truth is the personnel in that separate statutory body are a bunch of lefty/greenie public servants, just like all the others, and have used the authority granted to them to drive their own political agenda. To threaten possible goal terms for

noncompliance is the type of thing we would expect in Singapore or Turkey. ... not here.

It is unlikely that the Attorney General directed this and it is an example of a separate Federal Government body overstepping its remit in some fit of enthusiasm to justify its existence. Never mind that it has far more pressing matters to attend to under its charter than chasing one whom I would call the quintessential Australian patriot and demanding that he register as an agent of 'Foreign Influence'. Within the same time frame, we have the Australian Water Commission releasing 30 gigalitre's of water from a dam in NSW to save the lives of a few stinking carp in the swamps in central NSW. Did they not think a better use of this water would be to make it available to struggling farmers and rural towns? This was enough water to keep three towns such as Dubbo, supplied with water for one year. There must be a Minister with oversight of this body. Possible contenders could be, the Minister for Agriculture or Minister for Environment, most likely the Minister for Environment. Between them these two ministers have oversight of seventeen principle organisations, 161 secondary bodies and another ten of some definition not specified. Within this conglomeration both Ministers have bodies concerned with fish, fish

stocks, fish licences, fish areas, fish marketing, fish sustainability and these are duplicated between salt water and fresh water fish. Both ministries have further bodies to co-ordinate their varied fish bodies. How many in total to look after fish and fishing I don't know.

You can find on the net (excuse the pun) 1192 Separate Federal Government Bodies consuming cash. (See Michael Smith News.... Feb 2015).

A *Statutory Authority* is a generic term for an authorisation by parliament given to a person or a group of people to exercise specific powers. Laws made by statutory authorities are referred to as Regulations which become law when published in the Government Gazette. The reason parliament delegates it authority is because it does not have time or the resources to investigate, analyse draft and monitor laws for every area of society.

The power to enact regulations has been delegated by Australian Parliaments (State and/or Federal) in the various areas; consumer affairs, road and traffic safety, workplace health and safety, monetary policy and tax to mention a few.

The establishment of the statutory bodies is necessary to give governments the reach to properly administer their jurisdiction and although they come under the oversight of the appropriate minister the minister cannot make directions on how, why or when the body is to do its job. As it is said, give the job to the right person, but don't tell them how to do it.

The point I wish to make is the number of these bodies is so great it is beyond the government to adequately police what they do. What they do affects everybody in



some way and due to poorly drafted or vague wording in the establishment legislation or the appointment of poorly qualified people to the body, unintended consequences are an assured thing.

Take the example of the Human Rights Commission, and the wasted time and money that resulted from vexatious complaints concerning tweets, cartoon, and inappropriate comments which should have been dealt with by management. Recourse to a 'statutory body' was not required. The record of the Human Rights Commission is in my opinion, so bad it should be the first to be disbanded. The number of statutory bodies I gave above is four years out of date. What is the total now? Rest assured once created they do not go away. Each of them has their own growth potential, both in terms of manpower, cost, and their ability to interfere in the lives of us

all. So far we have only been talking about the federal governments jurisdiction. That is duplicated at state and territory level which then flows down through our local councils. We have mentioned duplication at the Federal level within departments and between departments. How many fish, duck and day-care centre authorities are there. If we knew the answer to that we could possibly unravel the uncertainty principle or chaos theory. I have mentioned before the need to reduce useless and disruptive legislation at all levels of government. This equally applies to the growing canker of statutory bodies which hold sway over our lives. Look particularly at the gross ineptitude of child protection authorities. Have you ever witnessed a mother having her children forcibly removed? It makes you sick.

Whilst there are many great and necessary statutory bodies the most important statutory body, I believe, would be the one that oversees the disbandment of useless or ineffective bodies.

In the last issue of The News dated 30/10/19, I outlined the devastation the current drought has wrought and made an appeal to Joel Fitzgibbon to move a motion in Federal Parliament to instigate the required response. That rant was written over a month ago and Joel was emailed a copy during the second week in October. Only now is the Government responding to the disaster with reference to saving stock. What is it about politicians? It is more important for them to bang on about trivial issues such as illegal emigrants, offending the Chinese communist party, the hoax of climate change,

or worrying about a small number of deluded Islamic women stranded in Syria than face up to real issues. Take for instance the drought, building dams to store water, building pipelines to move it to where its required and keeping their sticky fingers out of the energy market. The most serious dereliction of duty in my opinion is when a Minister dismisses a suggested program such as the Bradfield scheme in North Queensland as being "a long-discredited plan". This in the face of increasing calls for such a plan by groups including farmers, regional townships, industry and expert engineers and hydrologists. It is easy to criticise a Minister but we must remember it is the idiot public servants who advise them. These turkeys are not engineers and have no grasp of history and definitely no imagination. There only interest is to avoid controversy and the threat of having to think. 2000 years ago, the Romans completed projects of water distribution and civil works for roads and harbours which we today would be proud to claim as our own. Never mind the cities they build all with sewerage and fresh water supplies. They did not have the plant we have but slaves and artisans of great skill. More importantly they had leaders with vision and authority. Other civilisations had achieved similar wonders in Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Cambodia and India. We have done things of this nature and we can do bigger things given the leadership and foresight. Alas when presented with the opportunities of almost zero interest rates and the crying need for water infrastructure there are no visionaries.

Letters to the Editor

Drought, Dams & the Darling. The general consensus is that by 2030 the world reliance on fossil fuels will be in decline, so where will that leave countries like Australia that have relied on coal exports for the past 30 plus years. Economists and the "masters of business" agree that Australia will need to switch back to agriculture. The only problem is water. Like Africa water is in short supply in Australia, often referred to as the world's driest continent, especially in the inland regions. If we don't have a sustainable agricultural industry we may slide in the world economic ratings. What we need to do is create a water supply to sustain our inland rivers & farmers. What concerns me is all the talk by politicians of build-

ing inland dams. To me this is very naive, why would you build dams in areas that do not have reliable rainfall?

Take NSW for instance, the average inland rainfall is in stark contrast to average coastal rainfall.

Inland:
Dubbo: 639 mm
Tamworth: 680 mm
Armidale: 788 mm
Narrabri: 658 mm, this is an average of 691 per annum for these 4 inland towns.

Coastal:
Dungog: 1053 mm
Grafton: 1108 mm
Dorrigo: 2034 mm
Taree: 1244 mm, this is an average of 1359 per annum for these 4 coastal towns, almost double that of our inland cousins although I do admit that my selection of Dorrigo does skew the results. However if I exclude Dorrigo the average of 1135 per annum is still very high in comparison. Clearly it can be seen that

coastal rainfall is more reliable than inland rainfall and it should be remembered that inland droughts occur more often than coastal droughts. My next point is that dams should be built in the coastal regions where the rainfall occurs and then piped to the inland river system that feeds into the Darling River.

Sir John Bradfield, was the engineer responsible for building the Sydney Harbour Bridge back in the early 1930's & is still regarded as one of the world's greatest engineering achievements. He was also the proponent of the Bradfield Scheme in 1939. Basically what I am proposing is similar to his proposal, a proposal that after 80 years has still not got legs. The reason being is that politicians have little foresight and do not like to commit to any infrastructure that

has a completion date too far past their own political life.

It is time for politicians to develop a little back bone and do what is in the long term interest of the country. The next major drought could result in this great country going dry! Our elected representatives need

to act now before it is too late! The old quote that talk is cheap is appropriate, Tillegra Dam also needs to be revisited. Tillegra Dam if built would hold 450 gigalitres of water at capacity, which is comparable to Sydney Harbour. Imagine the

benefit this State & the inland river system would receive from a dam of this size.
Alan Humphreys, *Kalyra Murray Grey Cattle Stud & Westbrook Limousin Cattle Stud, Westbrook via Singleton. NSW Mob 0427381311.*

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

or

emailed to

thenews@hotkey.net.au

Cheers Steve.

Glencore's Community Investment Program donate \$1972.91 to Greta Playgroup



The children at Greta Playgroup had a wonderful time playing with the new toys, equipment and craft purchased with grant money, \$1972.91 received from 'Glencore's Community Investment Program.'

On Tuesday 22nd October Integra Underground Mine and Glencore representative Greg Peard attended Greta playgroup to meet the families and witness the unveiling of the purchases

made with the grant money. "Integra Underground and Glencore are proud to support Greta playgroup through the support of the purchase of supplies and new equipment. "We recognise that playgroups provide a vital community service that brings families together which can result in lifelong friendships being established," said Greg Peard.

Greta Playgroup, affiliated with playgroup NSW, is a community organisation for families with children aged 0 - 6 years. Coordinator Julie Radcliffe said that they are very grateful to Integra underground mine and Glencore for awarding us this grant money. "Playgroup provides many opportunities for children to develop and learn through play and socialising with other children.

"It also provides parents/ carers with much needed support and social interactions. "So once again thank you to Integra and Glencore for your support and also to Greg Peard for taking time out to visit us," said Julie Radcliffe. Greta playgroup meets on Tuesdays with school terms at the community hall in Water street (next to Greta community preschool), from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Bulk waste collection returns to Singleton

Singleton residents are being reminded about Council's bulk waste guidelines with the 2019 collection campaign having kicked off for urban areas last Monday 11 November 2019. Urban households placed their bulky waste to the kerbside last weekend (Saturday and Sunday 9 and 10 November) and by the front gate, in rural areas, this Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 November ahead of their collection week. Any items put out before this weekend are subject to illegal dumping guidelines.



Acceptable items are general household waste, fully dismantled swing sets and trampolines, scrap metal, rolled floor coverings up to 1.5m in length and furniture. Unacceptable items are mattresses, whitegoods, e-waste, air conditioners, green waste, hazardous solids/ liquids and batteries, commercial builders rubble and bricks, tyres, mirrors, glass table tops, window panes and sliding glass doors. "Our rangers have been monitoring urban areas over the last couple of weeks, and we have been overwhelmed by the number of notifications we have had to send to households who have put their waste piles on the kerb far too early," Mr Ihlein said.

"We have also noted that piles far exceed the allotted two cubic metres of domestic waste per household, and include unacceptable items, particularly white goods and mattresses.

"Not only is this an eyesore affecting the appearance of our town, it also promotes scavenging.

Mr Ihlein said any collections that included unacceptable items would not be collected, and fines would be applicable for waste dumped illegally.

"Failure to comply with the guidelines will mean waste piles will not be collected by our waste contractor, and if unacceptable waste is not removed from the kerb by the householder, it could result in a fine for illegal dumping," he said.

For full terms of conditions, including acceptable and unacceptable items, visit the Council Website

Federal Government steps up drought response – 7 November 2019

"People in our local government area are suffering in this drought, just as people are suffering across Australia. Yet Singleton continues to be overlooked while other areas – including our

neighbours in Muswellbrook, and rightly so – are recognised and supported through this time of hardship. Singleton has a successful and proud agricultural industry which continues to

play an important role both socially and economically, and we have farmers doing it tough who are equally deserving of government assistance. The Federal Government initiatives announced

7/11/19 are welcome support for the real people on the land who are feeling the impacts of one of the worst droughts on record, and it would be an easy demonstration of support for Singleton to be eligible for the funding available. We know there are projects that can be done in Singleton to support drought-affected properties to develop and enhance drinking water assets to build longer-term resilience and redundancy so that when the next dry spell comes, the impacts won't be so pronounced. I'm furious the people of the Singleton local

government area don't rate as being as affected as some of our neighbouring areas, and I invite the Prime Minister Scott Morrison to come to Singleton to see the impacts of this drought for himself, and to meet with the people his Government has again failed to recognise." Cr Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton

Members say



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR THE WATER PROBLEMS OF NSW REFLECT GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AS MUCH AS THEY REFLECT MOTHER NATURE

Over recent months I have had the opportunity to travel to the far flung corners and towns of our State, in my role as Shadow Minister for Water. More and more I am getting an understanding of our “grey nomads” that hook up the caravan and drive across this beautiful and diverse country of ours. I have met with farmers and Councils, store-keepers and tourist operators, locals and blow-ins. I have been shown the potential of these great places when the times are good, when there is water and money aplenty. I have heard the heartbreaking stories about times like now, when there is no water and no money and towns and communities are literally dying.



• This is photo I took from Wentworth at the bottom end of the Darling River. The farm has been in the family for 90 years and this is what is left: it is absolutely devastated.

There is no doubt that our climate is currently serving up a drought. Some are saying that this is the worst drought in history, but we only have records for the last 200 years and our continent is billions of years older than that. In historical terms that are much longer than 200 years, but much shorter than billions of years, the indigenous people have been here for 50,000 years or more and they certainly don't have a story that describes dry rivers like we have today. In very real terms, there are a handful of decisions that have been made by the women and men that form Governments at both the State and Federal level that have undoubtedly affected the current dryness of our rivers. Indeed, back in the 1990's it was then Prime Minister John Howard who correctly took action to “save” the Murray-Darling. This project needed Federal leadership because the river system spans across 4 States.

Here in NSW we have responsibility for things called Water Sharing Plans which basically decide who will get what water. These Water Sharing Plans need to be balanced with the (expected) available water storage, rainfall and the needs of the wider river system. Basically, water is made available for 3 uses – community, environment and irrigation farming. It is a fact that environmental water and water for communities goes hand in hand – because this water allows the rivers to flow which means that the environment is saved and the towns have access to river water to treat and send to homes. Meanwhile, the Government has approved private dams on farms capable of holding more water than Sydney Harbour to be built and for pumps to be used on the river that are 16 times bigger than those used previously – locals out west tell stories of the river flowing back upstream under the power of these pumps. Interestingly, the State and Federal Legislation requires that water for basic human needs is the highest priority allocation, but this relies on estimates going forward about when the next rainfall will come and how much water will be in that rainfall. What we have now is a

situation where the water in our river and dam system has been over-allocated (sold off) at a time when no decent rain has fallen for 3 years. We could build 50 new dams but this will place more pressure on the river system, deprived of these flows, and if the allocations are handled the same way, we still won't have more than 3 years of water. Maybe it's time to allocate water with a belief that there might be a 5 year, 7 year or perhaps even a 10 year drought in the future.

* * * * *

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

Cheers, Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

Senate Estimates doesn't have the media profile enjoyed by Question Time in the House of Representatives. But as an information gathering exercise, it leaves the Lower House show for dead. But will that remain the case?

In Senate Estimates, Senators grill not just the portfolio minister, but senior departmental officials and agency heads. There is no limit on the number of questions asked or the time to ask them. Questions and answers are quite conversational, and officials trying their best to defend the Government's honour – as is their job – have nowhere to hide. The exception is the capacity to take questions “on notice”.

“I'll have to take that on notice” was a phrase heard on a ridiculous number of occasions during Senate Estimates last week. It became so farcical that at one point I heard a Government Minister take a question from one of her own Senators (a Dorothy Dixer) “on notice”. There is nothing in the Senate's rules which prevents this behaviour, but it is a very bad look and I've never heard it done so often. It also reflects very badly on senior departmental officials who would, of course, prefer to answer the questions, but last week they seemed to be prevented from doing so by subtle guidance from the Government. This avoidance of accountability is a bad development within our democracy.

I recently submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request for the Report of the Coordinator General for Drought. The Government wanted to charge me a fee. Members of Parliament can be requested to pay for the work involved in finding, collating and delivering on an FOI request. This is not entirely unreasonable because the work involved can sometimes be substantial. But producing the Coordinator General's report was a matter of a photocopy at best. Last year, the Government forced me to the Federal Court over my request for the Coalition Agreement. Given it is the Agreement between the Liberals and Nationals which allows them to form a government, I reckon the community is entitled to know what deals have been done. I'm still fighting. Last week, every major

newspaper in Australia blacked-out most of the words on their front pages. They “redacted” most of the text as a protest against the Government's increasing determination to keep matter of public interest secret and to punish journalists who print secret information which has been leaked to them. A number of journalists still have jail sentences hanging over their heads having been raided by the Australian Federal Police. This understandably has media outlets and journalists concerned. We should also be concerned. Freedom of information and freedom of the press are basic foundations for any democracy. The most notorious dictators throughout history were able to rise to autocratic power in part by closing down or controlling the media.

Are there times when government secrecy is both necessary and important? Of course there is. Media outlets know when the release of information acquired would put lives at risk or undermine our national interest. When that is the case, they use or not use information accordingly. But Governments should not be attempting to suppress information just because it might cause ministers embarrassment or because it may give its opponents political advantage. Nor should they be launching police raids on the offices of trade unions without cause, as the Courts recently found the Government had done. We should all take every opportunity to push back against growing Government secrecy and abuse of power. We do not want to live in a police state.

Cheers, Joel



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

What a wonderful couple of weekends for the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA)! On the first weekend of November we hosted more than 150 visitors for the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KABNSW) 2019 Sustainable Communities - Tidy Town Awards and on Sunday the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix. The Tidy Town Awards kicked off with a BBQ at the Cessnock Men's Shed and our visitors had the opportunity to experience all we have to offer during local tours on Saturday. The event culminated with the awards presentation at Pokolbin Hall where Murrumbidgee was named the KABNSW 2019 Overall Tidy Town Award.

Congratulations to the community of Murrumbidgee. In 2018 we were named the NSW Tidiest Town and this was a reflection of our fantastic community members. It is wonderful to see the Murrumbidgee community working closely together despite the tough times they are enduring in the midst of a harsh drought. It is a reminder of how getting community involved and engaged makes for successful community outcomes. Hosting the awards was a big effort and we could not have done it without the huge amount of community support we received. A big thank you to all the community groups who were involved including members of the Cessnock Tidy Town, Kurri Kurri Tidy Town, Wollombi Tidy Town, Cessnock Men's Shed, Cessnock Branch- Country Women's Association and the Rotary Club of Cessnock. Council was also supported by Tara Naysmith, Auntie Cynthia, Trinity Woodhouse and Reece Hamilton. Well done! It was a real team effort. For more information about these awards visit <https://kab.org.au/>. Congratulations to the organisers of the Postie Bike Grand Prix. This event now six years on is much loved and is becoming a huge attraction. It was a great day watching the riders zoom around the track in an attempt to cross the line first. Well done to all competitors. Council is a proud supporter of this unique event. Last week I had the opportunity to appear in front of the Senate Select Committee, with an inquiry into Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas. It was an opportunity to advocate for more investment in the Cessnock LGA to see an increase in local jobs and more training. There needs to be a commitment from the Australian Government to training and investing in future talent relative to the needs of jobs of the future. In our LGA it is tough being a young person, with only so many jobs available yet many young people looking for work locally. One apprenticeship position could easily receive over 100 applicants. We want to retain our talented young people and have them contribute to our local economy.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Last week's announcement that the Two More Trains for Singleton campaign had indeed achieved what the name called for put a big tick on Singleton's Advocacy Agenda. Council has wholeheartedly supported the community's

push for increased passenger train services between Singleton and Newcastle, and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole's welcome news that two additional services will start from 5 January 2020 was the result of a long 10 years of meetings, petitions and letters.

As well as delivering another two hours in Sydney and Newcastle for commuters seven days a week – and making public transport a more viable option for those who were previously forced into their cars – I hope that we can take this announcement as an indication the Government is taking all of the issues raised in our Agenda under serious consideration. With two elections in quick succession early this year, I spent a lot of time highlighting what we need from all levels of government to meet the needs of our local government now and into the future, both personally and through 40 formal letters sent to the members of the new cabinets. As a result, we continued our positive relationship with the Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her Government.

The General Manager and I also met with the new NSW Labor and Opposition Leader Jodi McKay in August, and she already had a copy of our Agenda before we even set foot in her office. Significant progress is being made on other items on our Agenda, with Council extending the maintenance contract with Roads and Maritime Services to look after the New England Highway road corridor through Singleton to create welcoming gateways to the township. Council has also held productive meetings with the Deputy Premier John Barilaro about reforms to the Resources for Regions program.

As the biggest contributor of mining royalties in NSW, Council's position is that a reliable sum of funds should be allocated according to the level of mining impact. Mr Barilaro, to his credit, took the time to meet with us personally after another disappointing outcome from our latest Resources for Regions application with a personal commitment that a review would be undertaken. He also delivered on his promise for an alternative funding source to deliver our \$8.5 million Roads Upgrade program.

But of course, there are still a number of important issues on our list, not least the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway which has been the subject of regular updates by the Roads and Maritime Authority. And, we hope, to be the subject of another Government announcement, like the one we saw from Mr Toole, soon.

Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

State Matters NSW DIGITAL DRIVER LICENCE GOES LIVE STATEWIDE

NSW drivers can now go wallet less and use a Digital Driver Licence on their smartphone for proof of identity and proof of age for pubs and clubs, and for roadside police checks, with the technology officially going live.

I encourage drivers in the Upper Hunter electorate to download the DDL and give it a go. Smartphones have become de facto wallets and we're using world leading technology so that drivers can use digital licences in everyday scenarios. The DDL is hosted securely on the new Service NSW app, locks with a PIN and can be accessed offline. It will provide additional levels of security and protection against identity fraud, compared to the plastic driver licence.

The NSW Government is working closely with other sectors to have them come on board and accept the DDL. This includes nightclubs, restaurants, hotels, petrol stations, supermarkets, convenience stores and tobacco retailers. Watch this space. Drivers who opt-in are encouraged to carry their plastic licence in the initial stages.

For more information about how to recognise and accept the DDL visit <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/digital-driver-licence>

To get a DDL, licence holders will need to create a MyServiceNSW Account at www.service.nsw.gov.au and download the Service NSW mobile app on their smartphone. The DDL will always be opt-in only.

Cheers, Mike

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News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Stop flu hitching a ride home from your holidays

NSW Health is urging those travelling to the Northern Hemisphere this festive season to get a flu shot before they leave to avoid falling ill on holiday, or bringing the virus back to Australia. NSW Health's Acting Director of Communicable Diseases, Dr Christine Selvey, said that the early start to this year's very long flu season was probably due to a large jump in summer flu numbers.

"More than 7000 patients in NSW were diagnosed with flu in the first three months of 2019 but the true number is likely higher, as many people don't present for testing," Dr Selvey said.

"Getting the flu while you're travelling overseas will not only spoil your holiday but it can also put your family and friends at risk, particularly infants and the elderly, when you arrive back home.

"People are great at getting their flu jab ahead of our own winter but often forget when they fly to the Northern Hemisphere at Christmas that they are travelling into another winter season.

"The effectiveness of the flu vaccine starts to diminish after a few months, so to ensure you are covered over the holiday season, it is best to get another jab two weeks before leaving Australia."

Dr Selvey said it is safe to have two flu shots in one year and it is particularly important for travellers aged 65 and over, pregnant women, children aged six months to five years, Aboriginal people and people with certain medical conditions who are all eligible for the free flu vaccine.

"It takes a fortnight after receiving a flu shot for your body to develop adequate protection. Your GP may also suggest other shots you might need, like a measles or typhoid vaccine, or anti-malaria medicine," she said.

The flu shot currently being used in the Northern Hemisphere is not generally available in Australia so getting the Southern Hemisphere flu shot is the best option to protect yourself prior to travel.

Around 2.5 million doses of Government-funded flu

vaccines have been distributed across NSW in 2019.

The NSW Government will invest about \$130 million in the 2019-20 Immunisation Program budget, including Commonwealth and state vaccines, \$2.6 million for free flu shots to children up to five years and a \$1.5 million immunisation and flu awareness campaign.

NSW Health again urges against consuming CORE Powerfoods



NSW Health has again warned consumers to return or dispose of CORE Powerfoods frozen microwave meals after Core Ingredients expanded the recall of their frozen meal products due to a link with cases of Salmonella. Fifteen people in NSW are among 46 people across Australia who are believed to have fallen ill after consuming the products. The recall includes eight varieties of CORE Powerfoods frozen meals, 310g or 350g - Going Nuts, Deep South Chilli, Muay Thai Meatballs, Holy Meatballs, Naked Chicken, Seismic Chicken, Old School, and Smokey Mountain Meatballs. The recall is for all these products with best before dates from 5 March 2020 to 4 October 2020.

The products have been available for sale at; Independent retailers in NSW, ACT, QLD, VIC, SA, NT and WA; IGAs/Metcash stores nationally; Coles nationally and selected Woolworths metro stores in Victoria. NSW Health Enteric and Zoonotic Diseases Manager Keira Glasgow advised consumers not to consume the products, and either dispose of them in the garbage or return the products to the place of purchase for a full refund. Proof of purchase is not required for recalled

products. "Salmonellosis can be quite severe and people sometimes have to be hospitalised to manage dehydration, particularly in young babies, elderly people and those with weakened immune systems," Ms Glasgow said. "Salmonellosis symptoms include fever, headache, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Symptoms usually start around six to 72 hours after the contaminated food is eaten and usually last for four to seven days, but can continue for much longer. "It is important that people do not prepare food for others while they are

unwell with salmonellosis and, as a precaution, for 48 hours after symptoms have passed." Ms Glasgow said food must be cooked thoroughly to kill Salmonella bacteria. Frozen food should always be cooked thoroughly following manufacturer instructions. "Microwaves are a quick and convenient way to cook food, however, if they are not used correctly, they can cook food unevenly. When using a microwave to cook food, make sure the food is heated until it is piping hot all the way through." Those affected by the current outbreak reside across NSW, including in greater Sydney, Illawarra, the Central Coast, Newcastle, Northern NSW and the Murrumbidgee. NSW Health is working closely with other States and Territories to investigate other infections of this unusual Salmonella type, Salmonella Weltevreden, that are thought to be associated with this product. The cause of the contamination is still under investigation. For more information on salmonellosis go to:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Salmonellosis.aspx>

FREE microchip for your furry friend



Cessnock City Council is proud to once again offer local residents a free microchipping day for their furry friends on Saturday 7 December from 9am to 2pm in the Council Admin Building carpark.

Microchipping your pet is one of the most important things you can do as it ensures they are easily returned home if they become lost, rather than being unnecessarily Impounded.

This is a great opportunity for community members to get their dog or cat microchipped, free of charge. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is pleased to see this wonderful initiative being rolled out in our community once again.



"Our free microchipping days are always so popular and I encourage anyone who has a dog or cat that needs a microchip to come on down and get it done."

"Council Rangers are not there to pass judgement about your dog not being microchipped, but rather see it as an opportunity to engage the community in a positive discussion about responsible pet ownership."

It is important to note that Council Rangers will not microchip litters of puppies as they are at high risk of not being vaccinated or vet checked. Please also ensure your dog is on a lead and your cat is contained on the day. For more information on being a responsible pet owner, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals.

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Keep a jar of this pickled radish and beetroot around and serve it on sandwiches or next to a crackling pork!

- Ingredients**
- 2 medium beetroots, peeled, thinly sliced crossways, rinsed, drained
 - 4 radishes, thinly sliced
 - 1/2 tsp fennel seeds
 - 4 whole cloves
 - 1/2 tsp mustard seeds
 - Pinch of dried chilli flakes (optional)
 - 1 cup (250ml) white wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar
 - 1/3 cup (75g) caster sugar
 - 2 tbs sea salt flakes

Method

Step 1
 Place beetroot and radish in a heatproof jar. Combine fennel seeds, cloves, mustard seeds and chilli flakes, if using, in a small saucepan over high heat. Cook, tossing, for 30 secs or until aromatic. Add vinegar, sugar and sea

Pickled radish and beetroot



salt flakes. Cook, stirring, for 1-2 mins or until the sugar dissolves.

Step 2
 Carefully pour the vinegar mixture over the beetroot mixture. Seal and turn upside down for 2 mins. Set aside to cool completely.

Step 3
 Place in the fridge for 1-2 days to develop the flavours. Store in the fridge for up to 1 week.

Delicious!

Out & About

with Mike Lowing



Last weekend the Silky Oak Festival was held on the grounds of the ex-Greta Army Camp & the ex-Greta Migrant Camp. The two day anniversary event was to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Greta Army Camp (in 1939) and the 70th Anniversary of the site becoming a migrant camp. Photos are a random selection of many taken by The News & other contributors.



At Left: His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd) & Mrs. Hurley on their arrival prior to the official opening.

Directly below: Mrs Hurley, centre, being shown one of the many military vehicles on show.

Second below: volunteers from North Rothbury Tidy Town and some wonderful help from the local Anglican Parish manned the ticket office on both days.



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Above: Mrs Hurley enjoying a ride in one of the military vehicles on display

Above: His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd) & Brett Wild, President of the hosting body, The Central Hunter Business Chamber on their way to morning tea.




WITH

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

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THE TASMANIAN DAM CASE

Commonwealth v Tasmania decided in the High Court of Australia on 1 July 1983 the decision is a landmark in Australian constitutional and environmental law. The case centred on the proposed construction of the Franklin Dam on the Gordon River in Tasmania, which was supported by the Tasmanian government, but opposed by the federal government and environmental groups. The dam would have flooded a large section of the Franklin River in South-West Tasmania. In 1981 the area in which the dam was proposed was nominated for listing under the World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Committee declared the area a World Heritage site in 1982. The listing of the area as a World Heritage site by itself would not have prevented construction of the dam, to stop the dam required incorporation of the protection of the area under international law into Australian domestic law. In the midst of a growing national controversy in 1982 the Tasmanian government passed laws allowing the dam to proceed and the Tasmanian

Hydro-Electric Commission commenced preliminary works for the construction of the dam. The newly elected Labor federal government passed the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983* (Cth), which, in conjunction with the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975* (Cth) enabled them to prohibit clearing, excavation and other activities within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Tasmanian government challenged these actions and refused to halt construction of the dam. It argued that the federal government did not have power under the Commonwealth Constitution to stop the dam. The Commonwealth Government commenced proceedings in the High Court for an injunction and declaration of the validity of its laws on 4 April 1983. The case revolved around several major constitutional issues, the most important being the constitutional validity of the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983*. The division of

powers between the Australian federal government and the individual state governments is defined mainly by section 51 of the Australian constitution. The federal government had taken a range of actions, which they claimed were authorised under specific subsections of section 51, the Tasmanian government disputed these claims. A four to three majority of the seven members of the High Court held that the federal government had legitimately prevented construction of the dam, and that the *World Heritage Act* was authorised under the "external affairs" power. Although other parts of the Act were invalid, the provision banning the construction of dams was valid. The legal debate over the extent of the "external affairs" power continued for a decade in a series of cases in the High Court in which the wide view of the external affairs power prevailed. It is now firmly established that under section 51(xxix) of the Australian Constitution the Australian Government has the power to enact legislation that is reasona-

bly capable of being considered appropriate and adapted to fulfill Australia's international legal obligations. Due to the large number of international obligations that Australia has accepted under international treaties, the external affairs power in section 51(xxix) gives the Australian Government a very wide constitutional power to make laws on many subjects, including protecting the environment. Large parts of Australia's main national environmental law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), depend for their constitutional validity on the decision in the Tasmanian Dam Case regarding the external affairs power. *Cheers, Kerri*

Double Bay, Balgowlah, Mona Vale and Auburn have returned some of the highest vacancy rates, all in excess of 5%. **The Hunter** Vacancies in the Hunter region rose 0.8% for the month of October, from 1.0% to 1.8%. Newcastle experienced a significant jump of 1.3% to 2.5%, the highest rate for the area since January this year. Other parts of Newcastle also rose by 0.4% to 1.4%. **The Illawarra** Overall, vacancies in the Illawarra rose by 0.2% to 2.4%. This was due to most areas in the region reporting an overall rise of 0.6%, however Wollongong bucked the trend, dropping 0.3% to 2.5% following September's high of 2.8%. **The other regions** The Central Coast

The Army & Migrant Camp anniversary year is nearly over but Greta Museum will continue to open and exhibit Army & Migrant Camp photos and memorabilia.

We also have some local family and coal mining histories and many other interesting images and artefacts from the local area's past.

So call in, any Wednesday or Saturday 11am – 3pm, to see Greta Museum, in the former Greta Council Chambers at 96 High Street, Greta.



Daily Thoughts

Just pray for a tough hide and a tender heart. --**Ruth Graham**
 Treat others how you want to be treated. --**Unknown**
 The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green. --**Thomas Carlyle**
 Having a dream is what keeps you alive. Overcoming the challenges makes life worth living. --**Mary Tyler Moore**
 Whatever your cross, whatever your pain, God always sends rainbows after the rain. --**Unknown**
 Any person capable of angering you becomes your master. He can anger you only when you permit yourself to be disturbed by him. --**Epictetus**

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 107,020 residential rental properties.

first-in, best-dressed and with only 10,000 positions available nation-wide, there will be a lot of hopefuls who miss out. Secondly, price thresholds apply. In Sydney and other regional centres such as Newcastle, Wollongong and Lake Macquarie, the government will offer loan guarantees on properties worth up to \$700,000. In other rural areas across New South Wales, the cap will be \$450,000.

Who is eligible? Applicants must have earned less than \$125,000 in the previous financial year as a single or \$200,000 as a couple. There will be no specific guarantees per state or territory, so if you are prepared when the changes come into effect, you have a chance of success. There is still little information on how the application process will work, but it would be wise to have as many documents ready as possible, before the proposed launch date of the 1 January 2020. **Reactions to the scheme** There's been mixed reactions to the scheme, many economists have suggested it doesn't quite go far enough. It is an

Helping hand for first home buyers

While \$700,000 can get you a lot of house in Lake Macquarie, it doesn't get you quite as far in Sydney.

State/Territory	Capital city and regional centres	Rest of the State
NSW	\$700,000	\$450,000
VIC	\$600,000	\$375,000
QLD	\$475,000	\$400,000
WA	\$400,000	\$300,000
SA	\$400,000	\$250,000

Recent Corelogic data revealed most Millennials find raising a deposit the most significant obstacle to buying a home, but that could be about to change with the introduction of a new Federal scheme. The First Home Buyers Deposit Scheme offers 10,000 people the chance to secure a property with just a five-per-cent deposit. First raised as a pre-election promise, this 500-million-dollar plan would see the Morrison Government act as guarantor for low and middle-income earners who qualify for the scheme, allowing them to bypass costly mortgage insurance – and years of saving. But the plan does come with a series of catches. Firstly, this scheme is

How far does \$700,000 get you in Sydney? Within 10km of the city, you could purchase a unit in Ryde, Gladesville, Castle Cove or Earlwood. If you're willing to look within the 20km range, your options increase. Those that qualify for the scheme could buy a unit in Belrose, Bankstown, Auburn, West Ryde, Banksia, Enfield and Greenacre. If it's a house you're looking for, you're going to be looking at least 25 kilometres out of the CBD. Fairfield Heights, Smithfield, Warwick farm, Ashcroft and Lalor Park all have median house prices that fall under the threshold.

opinion also held by REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin. "Anything that can assist first home buyers to achieve their dream of owning their own home is welcomed," said McKibbin, "however, the scheme is limited to 10,000 purchases which is grossly less than those requiring assistance. "The first home buyers problem needs to be resolved, that however will only come from a collective will to do so by all three levels of Government."

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	Oct-19	Sep-19	Aug-19	Jul-19	Jun-19	May-19	Apr-19	Mar-19	Feb-19	Jan-19	Dec-18
SYDNEY											
Inner	2.7%	3.1%	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%	3.7%	2.9%	3.0%
Middle	4.2%	3.0%	3.0%	4.1%	4.1%	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	3.1%	3.6%	4.2%
Outer	3.9%	2.7%	3.0%	3.4%	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Total	3.9%	2.9%	3.0%	3.9%	3.9%	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%
HUNTER											
Newcastle	2.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.4%	2.1%	2.1%	1.9%
Other	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Total	1.8%	1.0%	1.4%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%
ILLAWARRA											
Wollongong	2.3%	2.8%	3.4%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	2.2%	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%
Other	2.1%	1.0%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	1.4%	1.0%	1.0%
Total	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%

Vacancy rates buck the trend in month of October

In a surprising turn for the rental market, vacancies in Middle and Outer Sydney have risen a considerable 1.2% in the month of October. The rise in vacancies was also mirrored throughout the Hunter region and Illawarra, which both saw a jump in the number of unlet properties. In contrast, vacancies in Inner Sydney have dropped for the third straight month, pointing to continued demand for inner-city living. "Feedback from Sydney real estate agents is they're noticing less people coming to rental home opens," says REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin. "In September, some agencies

reported renting their highest number of properties in years and are now finding the market has slowed." Mr McKibbin says agents have also reported oversupply and rental prices as contributing to the rising rates. "We are hearing the term oversupply in Sydney, as well Albury and the Central Coast. "In the Illawarra and Hunter, many agencies say they are having to drop rents in order to attract tenants." **Sydney data** The total rate of vacancies in Sydney across the month

of October was 3.6%, a rise of 0.7% on September. Inner Sydney was the only area which saw a decrease in rates, down 0.4% to 2.7%, a low not seen since November last year. Vacancies in Middle Sydney rose to 4.2% from 3.0%, while Outer Sydney is sitting at 3.9% up from 2.7%. Beachside living is proving to be popular as we head into the warmer months, with vacancies low in Clovelly, Coogee, Balmoral and Bondi. North Sydney has also experienced a shift, following a high last month of 6%. Vacancies there have halved, with local real estate agents saying they have seen an uptake in enquiries. Mascot, Darling Point,

experienced a major shift, with a 1.4% rise in unlet dwellings. Local agents are reporting an increased supply in available housing, which is pushing downward pressure on rents. Coffs Harbour also saw a jump in vacancies, up 0.7% on September. In contrast, Murrumbidgee, the Mid-North Coast, Central West and South Eastern Region all saw a dive in rates. **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



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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~~ \$389,000



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



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.

NORTH ROTHBURY



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 \$250 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 ~ 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ono

BELFORD

Vacant Building Block 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved
Lot 1 DP 1205549
Well over half an acre of good level block.

ASKING \$160,000 ONO

NORTH ROTHBURY

Vacant building block

A 809 square metre lot which is relatively flat; an easy build-on.
Wonderful views from the back to the north overlooking Huntlee & the mountains to the north.

ASKING \$135,000





Michael Fuller APM, announced Leading Senior Constable Vidler as the winner at an awards function last Friday evening at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney. Earlier in the evening, she was awarded 'Regional NSW Field Operations Police Officer of the Year'. Leading Senior Constable Vidler served as Richmond Police District's Police Rescue Coordinator, where she managed a team of eight officers through several emergencies. She received a unit citation for her bravery and rescue response during the Lismore floods of 2016 and 2017.

Leading Senior Constable Vidler was also one of the first officers in the state to undertake remote pilot training as an NSW Police Force drone operator. As well as her dedication to policing, Leading Senior Constable Vidler is a volunteer with the State Emergency Service (SES) and is the current Deputy Controller in Lismore. Commissioner Fuller congratulated Leading Senior Constable Vidler for her devotion to her work and the wider community. "Leading Senior Constable Vidler has shown incredible passion for policing and protecting the community in every facet of her career," Commissioner Fuller said.

"Not only is she an incredibly capable police officer, she has the knowledge and skills to perform specialist roles in marine rescue, bomb appraisal, land search, and drone operation. "To Leading Senior Constable Vidler, and all officers nominated this year, thank you all for your dedication to the job and the community of New South Wales," Commissioner Fuller said.

Senior Constable Sheree Gray – Hunter Valley Police District – Rotary Community Award



Senior Constable Sheree Gray

Senior Constable Sheree Gray has performed her

duties as Youth Liaison and Crime Prevention Officer at Hunter Valley Police District for the past 18 years. During this time, she has built a strong connection with the local community and is an ambassador for promoting partnerships between police and the public. An initiative Senior Constable Gray assisted in developing is the 'My Law Week' program, which began as lectures presented to students on drugs, alcohol and internet offences and has evolved into a theatrical

'License to Drive' program, the 'Kids in our Community' program, the 'Next of Kin' program and the annual Graffiti Removal Day.

Pair charged over alleged importation of MDMA – Hunter region

Thursday, 31 October 2019 11:12:20 AM

A man and a woman will face court today charged with allegedly importing MDMA into the Hunter region. In September 2019, an international package was intercepted which allegedly contained 500gm of 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-benzylcathinone, commonly known as MDMA. Detectives from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District then commenced an investigation into the importation and supply of MDMA in the area. Following extensive inquiries, last week, a search warrant was executed at a home on Tarrango Street, Clifftleigh where a 32-year-old woman was arrested. Later that day, a 30-year-old man returned to the home and he was subsequently arrested. Both were taken to Maitland Police Station and charged with attempt possess commercial quantities of unlawfully imported border controlled drug and supply prohibited drug. They were refused bail to face Maitland Local Court last week.

Two arrested for drug and weapons offences – Singleton Heights

A man and a woman have

been arrested in relation to drug and weapons offences in the state's Hunter region. Officers attached to Hunter Valley Police District and Rural Crime investigators established Strike Force Axels to investigate property theft in the Upper Hunter.

Following extensive inquiries, Hunter Valley PD officers with the assistance of Strike Force Raptor North executed search warrants at two properties on Madden Parade and Wentworth Avenue, Singleton Heights. During the searches, police allegedly located and seized methylamphetamine, steroids, cannabis and a taser.

A 36-year-old man was arrested and taken to Cessnock Police Station. He was charged with three drug offences and refused bail to face Cessnock Local Court last week.

A 57-year-old woman was arrested and taken to Singleton Police Station. She is expected to be charged later today.

Investigations under Strike Force Axels are ongoing.

Youth charged with Skys Law following police pursuit – Hunter Valley

A 17-year-old youth has been charged after a police pursuit in the Hunter Economic Zone, Pelaw Main Hunter Valley last week.

Police will be alleging in court that the young person was seen driving a PT Chrysler Cruiser through the Hunter Economic Zone, Pelaw Main, about 6.15pm

on 30 October 2019 at excessive speed.

Police attempted to stop the vehicle, however, the driver failed to comply, and a pursuit was initiated.

The vehicle continued onto Hospital Road, Kurri Kurri before tuning left onto a dirt track where it was met with dense bushland.

The vehicle quickly reversed and crashed into two police vehicles – causing minor damage – before it sped away.

The pursuit was terminated, and a description of the vehicle was broadcast via police radio.

The Cruiser was found soon after in Hebburn Road, Pelaw Main and officers called for the vehicle to be seized.

While waiting for a tow truck, the 17-year-old alleged driver returned to the scene with a support person and spoke with police.

He was arrested and taken to Cessnock Police Station where he was charged with Skys Law and drive manner dangerously.

He was granted conditional bail and will appear in Kurri Kurri Local Court on Tuesday 26 November 2019.

Anyone with information about the supply of prohibited drugs is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.

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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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CWA NEWS

Branxton/Greta CWA were very happy to cater for the Cancer Council High Tea held at the Branxton Community Hall on Wednesday, 16th October. Congratulations to Helen Scott and the Cancer Council on achieving another successful day and raising money to assist the Cancer Council with their various cancer programs. Our view from the kitchen was a wonderful "sea of colour" and the table settings were again a lovely welcome for the 140 guests. Also, Congratulations and thanks to our co-ordinator, Marie Shearer, who did a lot of "behind the scenes" work before the event, as well as working a job, and kept us going on the day. We would happily welcome anyone interested in raising money to help others in need, or assist in any other ways, and also making new friends. Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or like any information, or attending any of our functions, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.



Red Hat Ladies looking wonderful and enjoying the day.



BGCWA Ladies preparing to serve the delicious scones made by Marie.

Successful weekend hosting NSW Tidy Town Awards

Cessnock City Council hosted more than 150 visitors over the weekend for the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KABNSW) 2019 Sustainable Communities - Tidy Town Awards. The awards recognise accomplishments of regional councils and their communities actively working towards sustainable practices across NSW. The weekend kicked off with a welcome BBQ on Friday night at the Cessnock Men's Shed which included a Welcome to Country by Aunty Cynthia. On Saturday visitors had the opportunity to experience all we have to offer enjoying local tours. Highlights of the tours included a visit to wine country, historic Wollombi and the Kurri Kurri Murals.

The event culminated with the awards presentation at Pokolbin Hall on Saturday night where Murrurundi was named the KABNSW 2019 Overall Tidy Town Award. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated Murrurundi on their achievement. "In 2018 we were named the NSW Tidiest Town, this was a result of not only Council initiated projects but also because of our fantastic community projects. It's wonderful to see the Murrurundi community working closely together despite the tough times they are enduring. It's a reminder of how getting community involved and engaged makes for successful community outcomes." The Cessnock Local

Government Area also enjoyed success with awards received for: Dockets for Lent - United Against Homelessness - Cessnock Our Organics Bin, Garden Blitz Wollombi School Education Trust Plants for Health Project - Honey Tree Preschool Council would like to acknowledge the hard work of all the community groups who were involved in the awards including members of the Cessnock Tidy Town, Kurri Kurri Tidy Town, Wollombi Tidy Town, Cessnock Men's Shed, Cessnock Branch- Country Women's Association and the Rotary Club of Cessnock. Council would also like thank the following community members for their



contributions:
Tara Naysmith - MC
Aunty Cynthia - Welcome to Country
Trinity Woodhouse - Entertainment
Reece Hamilton - Entertainment

• Photo: Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent handing over the award to Murrurundi to Josh Brown and Ron Campbell.

Dollar for Dollar grants announced

Cessnock City Council is proud to announce 26 local community based organisations have been successful in the latest Community Dollar for Dollar grant scheme, totalling more than \$67,500.

The Grant Scheme is about Council supporting community, cultural, sporting and environmental projects that improve and enhance community life across our local government area.

This year, there were a number of deserving recipients in each category including the Wollombi Sculpture in the Vineyards event, Early Links Inclusion Support Service for music therapy, Branxton Community Hall for the installation of solar panels and Kurri Weston Cricket Club to upgrade the wicket square.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated all recipients and said this funding is so important for our local community-based organisations.

"This annual grants program has supported some exciting initiatives in the past and this year is no different."

"It is a wonderful opportunity for these community organisations to get things done that they might not have been able to without the extra funding boost," added Cr Pynsent.

For more information about Council's dollar for dollar grants, including a full list of grant recipients, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar.

Included in the 2019 grant recipients were:

- **Branxton Community Hall Committee: Installation of solar panels at Branxton Community Hall - \$5,455**
- **Greta Community Preschool: Refurbishment of existing storeroom - \$2,727**
- **North Rothbury Tidy Towns: Purchase water cart trailer for ride on mower - \$1,672.73**

DRESS IN PINK HIGH TEA FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

This year, Helen Scott of North Rothbury hosted their 5th Annual 'High Tea for Women's Cancer' and from these events they have raised over \$12,000 and are pleased to announce that these funds will stay in the local area to help with transport and other needs of the patients. They had an amazing event with 140 guests travelling from all over; Lemon Tree Passage,



Toronto, Wallsend, Maitland, Raymond Terrace, Thornton, East Maitland, Newcastle and of course our own surrounding areas. Each of their guests received a small gift when entering the event. The fashion parade from Sue's Clothing was the highlight of the day, with local models and Sarah Farley from 2NURFM as the MC for the event. Helen said that we must not forget the delicious food that was catered by Branxton Greta CWA ladies; the mini and veggie quiches, delicate sandwiches, slices and the scones (to die for). The table and stage displays was once again unique. Helen said she would like to thank their many guests; Branxton Greta CWA ladies, Dawn from Sue's Clothing, our local models and the volunteers from Cancer Council. "You all had an integral part in this amazing event. Some of the raffle prizes were donated by Colleen Anderson, Di Ryder from Raymond Terrace & Branxton Pharmacy and I donated some things," said Helen.

■ Photo Above: Our local models on the day

SPORTS RESULTS

FROM PAGE 23

Greta/Branxton made 114 batting first, with skipper Sam Dagg (23no), Adam Woodcroft (23), Will Howden (13) and Doug Engel (12) all making starts. Chelmsford were all out for 104 in reply, with Corey Stone (4-30 off 8), Jeremy Brown (2-29 off 5), Engel (2-37 off 8) and Riley McKewen (2-0 off 2.1) sharing the wickets.

Cricket Report - Week 5

Week five of Cessnock District Cricket saw first grade record a good win, with every other grade unfortunately going down.

First grade defeated Bellbird by 39 runs at Bellbird's Carmichael Park. Batting first, Greta/Branxton posted a modest 9-176, with veteran Darren "Pop" Thomson leading the way with a crisp 49. Greg Andrews was next best with 39, with Darren Holz (16no), skipper Joey Butler (16) and Martin Shearer (21no) showing the top order how it's done.

Bellbird were skittled for 137 in reply, with Shearer completing an exceptional all-round game with 6-45 off 8.2. He was well supported by Thomson who also



with Mark Bercini

completed a fine all-round game with 2-29 off 10.

Second grade were soundly beaten by 72 runs by Bellbird at Miller 1. Bellbird posted 9-197 batting first, with Hayden Regan the Blues' best in a cameo appearance with 5-26 off 7. Daniel McCann also bowled tidily with 2-7 off 2. Greta/Branxton were all out for 125 in reply, with Andrew Bercini in his comeback game striking the ball nicely for 46. Will Regan was the only other batsman in double figures with 20.

Third grade Blue were also soundly defeated at the hands of Wine Country by seven wickets at Miller 2. Greta/Branxton managed just 92 batting first, with club president Sean Wright (23), skipper Mal Hedger (18) and Andrew Wright (11) making starts. Wine Country took their time in reply, reaching the target in the 34th over after losing the three wickets. These belonged to Jarrad Wilkinson (2-15 off 6) and Dave Seabrook (1-23 off 10).

Third Grade White went down by 96 runs against Bellbird at Baddeley 1. Bellbird made a healthy 5-224 batting first, with Dan Minchin the best of the Greta/Branxton attack with 2-12 off 4.5. Greta/Branxton were all out for 128 in reply, with Cory Stephenson (45) and Jamie McNamara (32) amongst the runs.

Fourth Grade were thumped by 138 runs by Bellbird at Bellbird. The home side amassed 9-230 from their forty overs, with Jeremy Brown (4-63 off 10) and Garren Allerton (3-61 off 8.4) the main wicket takers for Greta/Branxton.

Points Tables

First Grade Mulbring 28, Greta/Branxton 24, Peden's Hotel 20, Bellbird 16, Wine Country 12.

Second Grade Bellbird 32, Greta/Branxton 28, Chelmsford Hotel 24, Denman Hotel 24, Wine Country 20, Peden's Hotel 16.

Third Grade Bellbird 35, Peden's Hotel White 27, Greta/Branxton Blue 24, Greta/Branxton White 24, Mulbring 24, Peden's Hotel Blue 24, Wine Country 23, Denman Hotel 19.

Fourth Grade Cessnock Hotel 35, Supporters 35, Bellbird White 24, Bellbird Maroon 23, Peden's Hotel 23, Chelmsford 19, Greta/Branxton 19, Wine Country 19.

Club Championship Greta/Branxton 240.65, Bellbird 234.02, Peden's Hotel 191.38, Wine Country 160.75.

Cheers, Mark

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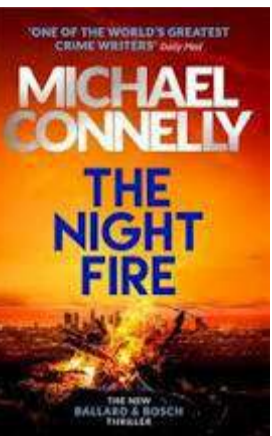
WED

4PM - 6PM



SOCIAL BOWLS

WED'S 4PM



soldiers who crawled through narrow Viet Cong-built tunnels in pursuit of the wily and deadly Communist guerrillas. He later joined the LAPD and for more than 30 years he was a stubbornly independent and dedicated detective whose personal credo was “Everybody counts, or nobody counts.” In Mr. Connelly’s novel “The Late Show,” the author introduced Renee Ballard, an attractive, 30ish, smart and tough detective who was banished from Robbery-Homicide, the elite division that investigated the most complex, serious and media-covered cases, such as the Manson murders, to the night shift after she accused her lieutenant of making a physical pass at her. The daughter of a Hawaiian surfer, she is part Polynesian and sleeps mostly in a tent on Venice Beach with her dog after her night shift. (the character is based on LAPD Detective Mitzi Roberts, a consultant on the “Bosch” TV series). With Harry Bosch retired from the LAPD, he and Ballard team up — him on the outside and her on the inside — and they agree to take on cases that interest them and do not appear to interest any one else.

Heeding the fire that make a good detective

The Washington Times In Michael Connelly’s latest crime novel, he brings together his character Hieronymus “Harry” Bosch and his other character Renee Ballard together. His defense attorney character Mickey Haller from “The Lincoln Lawyer” also appears in a minor role in the novel. For those unfamiliar with the popular series, Harry Bosch, now pushing 70 in real-time, was raised in an orphanage after his prostitute mother was murdered and he went on to serve in the Vietnam War as a “tunnel rat,” one of the

“The Night Fire” begins with Harry Bosch attending the funeral of his old mentor, John Jack Thompson. “John Jack — he was always called that — was a good man who gave forty years of service to the Los Angeles Police Department in uniform and as a detective. He put many bad people away and taught generations of detectives how to do the same,” Mr. Connelly writes in the opening of the novel. “One of them was Bosch — paired with the legend as a newly minted homicide detective in Hollywood Division more than three decades earlier. Among other things, John Jack had taught Bosch how to read the tells of a liar in an interrogation room. He once told Bosch it took a liar to know a liar but never explained how he had come by that piece of wisdom.” John Jack’s widow gives Harry Bosch a 20-year-old “murder book” that her husband stole from the LAPD when he retired. She asked her husband’s old partner to return the murder book — a thick three-ring binder used by homicide detectives as a formal case file that includes an investigative chronology, crime scene and victim photos, medical reports and other evidence — to the LAPD. But something about the unsolved murder interests Harry Bosch and he passes the murder book on to Detective Renee Ballard. He tells her that John Jack taught him “the rule.” The rule was to take every case personally and get angry, which builds a fire and gives a detective the edge to go the distance every time out. He told Renee

Ballard that she had the fire that made her a good detective. The victim covered in the murder book was a 24-year-old drug addict, gay man and ex-con named John Hilton who was shot to death while sitting in his parked car in an alley controlled by an LA drug-trafficking gang. But why John Jack Thompson stole the murder book and why he appeared to have done nothing with the murder book was a mystery to Harry Bosch. Earlier, Renee Ballard had been called to the scene of an arson-murder case in which a homeless man who lived in a tent with a kerosene heater was found burned to death. And Harry Bosch aids his half-brother, Mickey Haller, get a mentally-ill man cleared of a charge of stabbing a judge to death, despite his DNA on the judge’s finger and a signed confession. When the LAPD detective sees Harry Bosch in the courtroom, he blames him for letting the man he believed killed the judge off. He told Harry Bosch that the case was “CBA,” meaning the case was closed, so Harry Bosch figured it was up to him to discover the true murderer of the judge. Both Harry Bosch and Renee Ballard are juggling several cases throughout the novel, just as real detectives do, but in the novel the cases converge. “The Night Fire” is a well-written mystery, crime thriller and police procedural. Michael Connelly’s many fans of the book series, as well as new readers who love crime fiction, will enjoy this novel. • Paul Davis covers crime, espionage and terrorism.



California in 1987 with his wife Linda McCaleb, whom he met while in college and married in April 1984.^[4] After moving to Los Angeles, Connelly went to see the High Tower Apartments where Raymond Chandler’s character Philip Marlowe had lived (in *The High Window* (1942)), and Robert Altman had used for his film *The Long Goodbye* (1973). Connelly got the manager of the building to promise to phone him if the apartment ever became available. Ten years later, the manager tracked Connelly down, and Connelly decided to rent the place. This apartment served as a place to write for several years.¹ After three years at the *Los Angeles Times*, Connelly wrote his first published novel, *The Black Echo* (1992), after previously writing two unfinished novels that he had not attempted to get published. He sold *The Black Echo* to Little, Brown to be published in 1992 and won the Mystery Writers of America’s Edgar Award for best first novel. The book is partly based on a true crime and is the first one featuring Connelly’s primary recurring character, Los Angeles Police Department Detective Hieronymus “Harry” Bosch, a man who, according to Connelly, shares few similarities with the author himself. Connelly named Bosch after the Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch, known for his paintings full of sin and redemption, such as the painting *Hell*, a copy of which hangs on the office wall behind Connelly’s computer. Connelly describes his own work as a big canvas with all the characters of his books floating across it as currents on a painting.


ABOUT Michael Connelly (born July 21, 1956) is an American author of detective novels and other crime fiction, notably those featuring LAPD Detective Hieronymus “Harry” Bosch and criminal defense attorney Mickey Haller. Connelly is the bestselling author of 31 novels and one work of non-fiction. With over 60 million copies of his books sold worldwide and translated into 40 foreign languages, he is one of the most successful writers working today. His very first novel, *The Black Echo*, won the prestigious Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for Best First Novel in 1992. In 2002, Clint Eastwood directed and starred in the movie adaptation of Connelly’s 1998 novel, *Blood Work*. In March 2011, the movie adaptation of his #1 bestselling novel, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, hit theaters worldwide starring Matthew McConaughey as Mickey Haller. His most recent #1 New York Times bestsellers include *Two Kinds of Truth*, *The Late Show*, *The Wrong Side of Goodbye*, *The Crossing*, *The Burning Room*, *The Gods of Guilt*, and *The Black Box*. His books, which have been translated into 39 languages, have garnered him many awards. Connelly was the President of the Mystery Writers of America from 2003 to 2004.¹ Connelly was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the second oldest child of W. Michael Connelly, a property developer, and Mary Connelly, a homemaker. According to Connelly, his father was a frustrated artist who encouraged his children to want to succeed in life² and was a risk taker who alternated between success and failure in his pursuit of a career. Connelly’s mother was a fan of crime fiction and introduced her son to the world of mystery novels. At age 12, Connelly moved with his family from Philadelphia to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School. At age 16, Connelly’s interest in crime and mystery escalated when, on his way

home from his work as a hotel dishwasher, he witnessed a man throw an object into a hedge. Connelly decided to investigate and found that the object was a gun wrapped in a lumberjack shirt. After putting the gun back, he followed the man to a bar and then left to go home to tell his father. Later that night, Connelly brought the police down to the bar, but the man was already gone. This event introduced Connelly to the world of police officers and their lives, impressing him with the way they worked. Connelly had planned on following his father’s early choice of career in building construction and started out at the University of Florida in Gainesville, at the Rinker School of Building Construction, studying construction management. After earning grades that were lower than expected, Connelly went to see Robert Altman’s film *The Long Goodbye* (1973). The film, based on Raymond Chandler’s eponymous 1953 novel, inspired Connelly to want to become a mystery writer. Connelly went home and read all of Chandler’s works featuring Philip Marlowe, a detective in Los Angeles during the 1940s and ‘50s, and decided to transfer to the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, major in journalism, and minor in creative writing. After graduating from the University of Florida in 1980, Connelly got a job as a crime beat writer at the *Daytona Beach News Journal*, where he worked for almost two years until he went to the *Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel* in 1981. There, he covered the crime beat during the South Florida cocaine wars. He stayed with the paper for a few years and in 1986, he and two other reporters spent several months interviewing survivors of the 1985 Delta Flight 191 plane crash, which story earned Connelly a place as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. The honor also brought Connelly a job as a crime reporter at the *Los Angeles Times*. He moved to

The New York Times Best Sellers

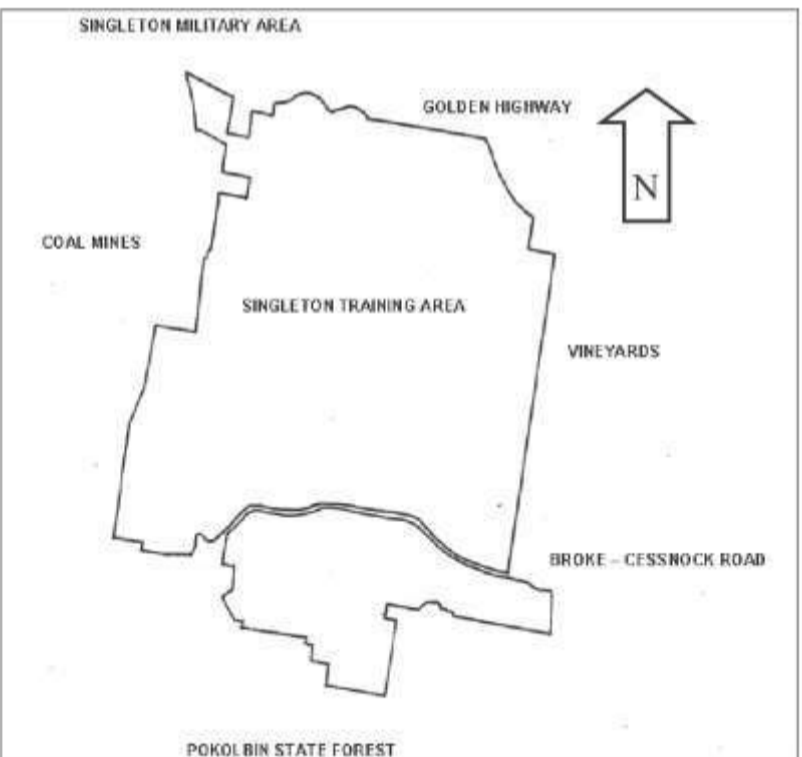
Combined Print & E-Book Fiction **(10 November 2019)**

1. New this week
THE NIGHT FIRE by Michael Connelly
Harry Bosch and Renée Ballard return to take up a case that held the attention of Bosch’s mentor.
2. 2 weeks on the list
THE GUARDIANS by John Grisham
Cullen Post, a lawyer and Episcopal minister, antagonizes some ruthless killers when he takes on a wrongful conviction case.
3. New this week
THE DESERTER by Nelson DeMille and Alex DeMille
Two members of the Criminal Investigation Division must bring back a Delta Force soldier who disappeared.
4. New this week
THE BURNING WHITE by Brent Weeks
The fifth book in the Lightbringer series. When Chromeria is threatened, Kip Guile pulls forces together for one last fight.
5. New this week
AGENT RUNNING IN THE FIELD by John le Carré
A veteran of Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service, who is assigned to command a lesser band of spies, hatches a covert operation.
6. 59 weeks on the list
WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Della Owens
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.
7. 3 weeks on the list
THE 19TH CHRISTMAS by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro
In the 19th installment of the Women’s Murder Club series, detective Lindsay Boxer and company take on a fearsome criminal known only as “Loman.”
8. 5 weeks on the list
THE DUTCH HOUSE by Ann Patchett ~ A sibling relationship is impacted when the family goes from poverty to wealth and back again over the course of many decades.
9. THE INSTITUTE by Stephen King ~ Children with special talents are abducted and sequestered in an institution where the sinister staff seeks to extract their gifts through harsh methods.
10. THE TESTAMENTS by Margaret Atwood ~ In a sequel to “The Handmaid’s Tale,” old secrets bring three women together as the Republic of Gilead’s theocratic regime shows signs of decay.



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.

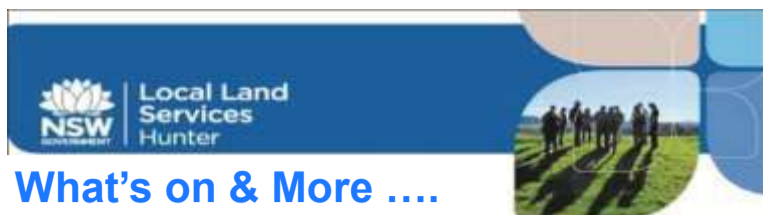
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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



What's on & More

THREE DAY SICKNESS WARNING

Hunter and Mid Coast cattle producers are being asked to consider their management approach to Three Day Sickness, this spring. Hunter Local Land Services animal health surveillance activities has found our region's herds have had very little exposure to the virus over the previous two hot dry summers.

District Vet Dr Lyndell Stone said Three Day Sickness, also known as Bovine Ephemeral Fever (BEF), is a viral disease of cattle transmitted by mosquitos and midges.

"The low exposure over the last two summers creates infection risks for mature, pregnant, lactating and finished cattle and these animals may benefit this year, more than any other year, from Vaccine protection during Spring before mosquitos potentially arrive over summer carrying the virus," said Dr Lyndell Stone.

"In our region, particularly, closer to the coast, it normally arrives in mid to late summer, only occasionally skipping a year.

"Such regular virus appearance, in the past, means each year's crop of weaners are generally infected whilst young and then have good lifelong protection against the inflammatory effects of the virus."

However, the very minimal distribution of the virus over the previous two years could mean our herd is more severely affected when the virus does arrive, as herds have a higher proportion of non-immune stock. In addition, when cattle are older, heavier, pregnant and lactating when first infected they are generally more severely affected than young cattle. In this situation, vaccination by November may be an important part of on farm cattle management.

"Cattle when first infected, develop strong long-term immunity against further infection," said Dr Stone.

"Young animals generally suffer less severe illness, but the impact of the virus when older animals are first infected can be more severe.

"When this situation has occurred in the past, producers have presumed that they are seeing a more severe variant of the virus, however, the virus is actually very stable and hasn't changed over the years."

The virus causes lameness and fever. Cattle can become recumbent, and it can affect bull fertility and cause abortion in breeders. There is also a considerable management burden looking after recumbent cattle.

Hunter Local Land Services monitors the distribution of this and other mosquito and midge borne viruses through sentinel herds at Taree, Maitland, Singleton and Scone. Monthly blood sampling results of the sentinel herds confirm this situation. The dry weather seems to have changed the normal seasonal and regular infection pattern, so that herds in the Mid Coast and Hunter farming areas have missed their normal exposure to the virus two years running.

The District Vet team is advising producers may need to consider vaccinating their older and/or higher value stock towards the end of this year against a 2020 BEF season.

The vaccine is available from private veterinary practitioners.

Racing Review & News

Vow and Declare was the horse no one wanted. Now he's a Melbourne Cup champion

Shannon Molloy, news.com.au

Just two years ago, a chestnut gelding named Vow and Declare took a trip to a sale yard to be put up for auction.

His owner Paul Lanskey watched on as an air of disinterest fell over the Inglis Sales, with his young horse being passed in on a low bid of \$45,000.

It was \$15,000 under what he wanted, and so the Noosa businessman put Vow and Declare back in the float and drove him home.

The horse was sired by the stallion Declaration Of War out of the dam Gebblitz, and Lanskey had had some track success with the horse's half-brother Lycurgus.

He'd named the horse after his father, who was known to disappear to the pub on the odd occasion and then announce on his return "I

vow and declare I only had six beers", Lanskey decided to take a punt on his racing chances.

Craig Williams rides #23 Vow and Declare to win the 2019 Melbourne Cup. Picture: Getty

Lanskey offered shares in a syndicate to family and friends, signing up 13 owners who were happy to give the "clumsy" Vow and Declare a go.

One of those investors was Mr Lanskey's nephew, Anthony Lanskey, the principal of Gympie State High School, who roped in one of his old mates, the town's deputy mayor Bob Leitch.

Over the coming year, at his first three races, Vow and Declare looked to be something of a disappointment and hopes weren't overly high for his career. "He didn't run a place in his first couple of runs," Anthony Lanskey told the *Gympie Times*.

But trainer Danny O'Brien sensed he was on to something special, telling *The Age* recently that the horse had clear "class and a bit of stamina".

Just over 12 months ago, that promise he sensed was put on full display.

"It wasn't until he won on Oaks Day this time last

year that we thought, 'hang on, we might have something good on our hands here'," Anthony Lanskey said.

That punt, as well as the gamble of those 13 owners who backed a horse that no-one wanted at the Inglis Sales in 2017, has paid off with today's sensational Melbourne Cup win.

Jockey Craig Williams wins the Melbourne Cup on Danny O'Brien-trained Vow and Declare.

At the weekend, in an interview with the *Herald Sun*, O'Brien was confident in the four-year-old's chance at the Cup, although conceded it was a strong international field.

"This is the one ... it is a very elusive target, more and more so with the internationalisation of the race in the last decade," O'Brien said.

"There are very few Australian connections that even get a look at it these days."

Today's win, described as "one for the ages", came about in large part because the horse "ticks every box", O'Brien said.

"He is bred in Australia, he is owned by Australians, he is ridden (Craig



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 5th November 2019

The numbers remained steady with calves, yearlings and particularly cows well represented. The quality of the offering was good, with some very well bred lines available. The condition of the offering showed great variation with good supplies of well finished cattle penned. Restockers and feedlotters were also well catered for, with plainer condition cattle in fair numbers. Most of the usual buyers were in attendance with demand high and competition strong through most categories. Market trends through the young cattle were dearer overall. Restockers motivated by recent rain competed strongly on light weight cattle. The calves sold to a dearer trend of up to 10c/kg. Vealers to restockers also sold to dearer trends. There were some strong price gains through the light weight yearling steers to restock, with breed a factor in some cases. A modest increase in supply of heavy feeder steers sold to dearer trends as buyers competed strongly for weight. There were dearer trends through the yearling heifers, with light weights well supplied. Medium weight feeder heifers were up to 5c/kg dearer. Well finished heifers to the trade saw a dearer trend of as much as 10c/kg. A small number of heavy grown steers attracted keen processor competition, as did well finished grown heifers, which sold up to 14c/kg dearer. The cow market was strong throughout, with processors competing to secure requirements. Only the plainest condition cows were purchased by restockers. Market trends were firm to slightly dearer for all cows purchased by processors. Quality was also a contributing factor, with a number of high yielding pens on offer. Heavy bulls sold to a dearer trend, with yields also improving on the top end.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 6th November 2019

The overall breed and quality was plainer, week-on-week, as the majority in the penning were younger cattle and suitable for the restockers and lot feeder orders. The prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers were limited in supply, however the few penned were well-bred and high yielding. There were approximately 90 cows offered, with breed and quality the main contributor to any price variations. The better-bred end of the over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock sold firm and reached 306c, while the plainer mixed breeds sold cheaper to average 254c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers to the restockers remained firm making from 180c to 248c/kg. Those to the processors lifted in quality, this week and received from 212c to 246c/kg. Yearling steers throughout all weight ranges and purchased by the restockers and lot feeders made from 238c to 310c, as the heifer portion to the restockers and lot feeders received from 206c to 264c/kg. The high yielding younger drafts to the butchers sold at a premium and reached 346c/kg. Grown steers mainly sold to the lot feeders from 280c to 295c, with the older heifer portion gaining 15c to reach 272c/kg. Cows trended 5c to 8c dearer, with the plainer 1 and 2 scores making from 150c to 238c, depending on weight and cover, as the heavy weights sold from 238c to 258c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 246c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 5th November 2019

With the supply area receiving from 20-30mm of rainfall, numbers decreased, as the quality in the penning was fair to good. The majority were younger cattle, with percentages in prime condition and grain assisted, while the bulk were in store condition and more suited for the restockers and lot feeder orders. There were approximately 135 cows in the penning and the market trend was firm to dearer. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers gained 6c, making from 230c to 286c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers improved 3c and sold from 210c to 246c/kg. The better bred yearling steers to the lot feeders remained firm, with the popular breeds topped at 316c before averaging from 267c to 276c/kg. The yearling heifers to the lot feeders also maintained firm prices and received from 228c to 270c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers improved 8c in value, with the best topping at 338c/kg. The older heifers trended 12c dearer and made from 260c to 268c/kg. The plainer cows lifted 10c to 20c and made from 170c to 232c/kg. The better covered heavy weight cows improved 13c to 18c and received from 236c to 257c, while the heavy weight bulls gained 8c and reached 280c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 4th November 2019

An increased penning saw young cattle, including calves well supplied. There were plenty of cows along with some very good heavy steers and heifers. Overall the quality and condition of the offering was very mixed. Plain condition cattle from the Tablelands were plentiful, while there was a good supply of crop finished cattle from the local area. There was reduced processor competition. Demand was strong for the most part, making up for the absence of any buyers. Restocker competition was strong on the young calves resulting in dearer market trends. There was quite a price difference between the male and females in some cases, not in others. Yearling steers to restockers and feed sold to dearer trends through all classes, with breed and quality accounting for some price change. Medium and heavy weight feeders were as much as 15c/kg dearer in places. Good quality light weight yearling heifers in plain condition attracted strong restocker competition to record a significantly dearer market trend. Medium weight feeder heifers suffered from reduced competition to show a firm to 7c/kg cheaper market trend. Well finished 3 score heifers to the trade saw little but a quality related price change. An improved quality penning of heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend with processor demand high. That was also the case for the well finished grown heifers. The plainer quality grown heifers displaying sufficient frame to feed attracted strong feedlot competition. It was a very strong cow market with processors competing strongly. Medium weights sold firm to slightly dearer. The well finished heavy weight cows were as much as 14c/kg dearer with an improvement in quality. Very high yielding bulls sold to a dearer trend.

Williams) and trained by Australians, I think he is the only one in the race who can say that."

Vow and Declare's owners will now share in the massive \$4.4 million prize.

"We've only got a small piece of it, but have been enjoying the ride for sure," Anthony Lanskey told the *Gympie Times* yesterday. "It's been a bit of a whirlwind really and its gone pretty quickly."

Melbourne Cup 2019: Four jockeys reprimanded for breaking the rules

Frankie Dettori did a bad, bad thing and he felt like crying. Instead of lifting a trophy he's chased all of his career, one of the world's greatest hoops was punted out of the

places for careless riding and slapped with an eight-day ban.

Dettori returned to scale with his head bowed after veering his mount, Master of Reality, into the path of Il Paradiso in the home straight.

"I feel like crying," the veteran jockey said, after he looked set to end a 25-year search for an elusive Melbourne Cup before it all fell apart.

It was the third time in 17 Melbourne Cup appearances Dettori had been second across the line following Central Park in 1999 and Max Dynamite in 2015, but a win had never felt further away.

At a subsequent stewards inquiry, Dettori pleaded guilty for what was deemed a low-range offence. He will begin the ban immediately and will have

to delay the start of a four-week contract to ride in Japan.

Dettori wasn't the only jockey reprimanded in a race won by Vow and Declare in a thrilling finish. New Zealand's Michael Walker, whose horse Prince of Arran was promoted to second after the protest against Dettori, was punished for excessive whipping for the second year in a row at the Melbourne Cup.

He was fined \$10,000 and suspended for seven race meetings after being found to have struck Prince of Arran 12 times before the 100m mark — seven more than the limit.

Walker admitted he'd received a text message sent pre-race warning all jockeys about whip use but got caught up by the possibility of winning the

Cup.

"It's a Melbourne Cup," he told chief steward Robert Cram. "I was just seeing if I could win the race. It's not like a maiden at Echuca, it's the Melbourne Cup. My style, my thoughts ... all changed. I thought I was going to get there. But at the end of the day I broke the rule."

"There's not much I can say. I broke the rule. I'm not one that generally breaks the rule in regards to the whip."

Brett Prebble was also banned for six meetings for whipping Steel Prince 10 times before the 100m mark before finishing in ninth place. Jamie Spencer was hit with a severe reprimand for whipping Raymond Tusk on successive strides, which is also against the rules.



Computer Tips & Tricks Everyone Should Know

Productivity Hacks for your PC & Mac

By Julio Franco

Many hardcore computer users might consider themselves above learning new tricks, but there are always new ways to sharpen your skills on the PC and we bet that you will find at least one useful thing here that you didn't know before. We've compiled some of the most handy computer tricks you should be taking advantage of. The ultimate goal is to help you become more productive by shaving valuable seconds off your workflow. Of course, you can always pass along these tips to your not-so-savvy friends and family members to help them become better PC users as well.

General Tricks

Bring back a closed tab

This one is too useful to be missed. Accidentally closed a tab? Simply press Ctrl + Shift + T to reopen the most recently closed tab and get back to what you were doing (Cmd + Shift + T on Macs).

Window snapping and multiple monitor control

Pressing the Windows Key + Arrow Keys will cause a window to quickly snap to each side of either monitor. Alternatively, hitting Shift + Windows Key + Arrows will cause the window to jump to the other monitor. While pressing Windows + P will allow you to quickly set up a second display or projector. As mentioned before, in macOS we favor leveraging the power of Mission Control to handle virtual desktops, switching between apps, and peaking at your desktop beautifully. Though Macs don't support window snapping out of the box, a \$0.99 app called Magnet comes highly recommended.

Password-protect files A simple way to lock down access to certain files is to create an encrypted archive. Odds are you already have installed a copy of 7-Zip, WinRAR, or The Unarchiver (Mac) or some equivalent. Create a new archive, select to encrypt its contents and password protect them.

Undo everywhere to fix those little mistakes Did you know you can undo almost any action? Ctrl + Z is the ultimate hot key, and for sure you knew about it already, however note that undo doesn't just apply to typing. If you accidentally delete or move a file, you can hit Ctrl + Z to bring it right back to where it was (Ctrl + Y will redo whatever you undid).

YouTube keyboard shortcuts

If you thought using the spacebar to pause a YouTube video was effective (except when focus is elsewhere and it doesn't work), instead try using **K** for

pausing, while **J** and **L** will step backward/forward 10 seconds. **M** works for mute. Super handy.

Find your Wi-Fi password

In Windows, go to the "Network and Sharing Center." Right click on the Wi-Fi network connection icon > Wireless Properties. Click on Show Characters box to show your Wi-Fi password.

In macOS all passwords are stored in the Keychain app. Use Spotlight to find "Keychain Access." Open the app and find your Wi-Fi network name in the list of saved credentials. Double click it and then click the box to show your password (it will require your OS level password).

Adopt a Clipboard manager

Once you're used to relying on a clipboard manager, the productivity boost works out similarly as how you become more efficient with multiple monitors or virtual desktops. For Windows try ClipClip. For macOS use Flycut.

Screenshot like you mean it

Simply hitting print screen on your keyboard is the easiest way to capture a screenshot. But Windows and macOS provide several other ways to screenshot, many of which are better options. But then, there's grabbing a screenshot and annotating. We love Monosnap for doing just that thanks to its simplicity, speed, and cross-platform support.

Grab a photo from your phone

How often have you found yourself wanting to take a picture and move that immediately to your workflow in your PC.

Mac users

Apple simplified this for macOS/iPhone owners with Continuity Camera. In any supported app, simply go to the top menu: select Edit > Insert From Your iPhone or iPad > "Take Photo" or "Scan Document." This will activate the camera on your iPhone, take a photo and it will automatically show up on your desktop. **Windows** Microsoft developed a side project to do the same with iOS and Android phones, though it's unfortunately not well maintained. Two good alternatives are AirDroid and Portal, or simply sync with Dropbox or Google Photos.

Windows Power User Menu

You can open a quick list of common power user destinations in Windows by right clicking the bottom left of the start button on Windows 8 and 10 which opens a context

menu with shortcuts to power options, the event viewer, device manager and so on. This menu is also accessible by pressing the Windows key + X.

Easily extract images from a Word (.docx) file Change the file name from .docx to .zip and open the file. The pictures will be in one of the directories.

Enable 'Night Mode' on all your devices

If you often work at night or simply like to read on a screen before going to sleep, this can be a game changer. We recommend using F.lux on both Mac and Windows, although both operating systems have some support for this already built-in. Same goes for your mobile devices.

Find/delete large files

wasting space A handy tool called Space Sniffer can be used to easily find which files and folders are taking up the most space on your drive. From there, you can delete them and open up a ton of storage space. Other Windows alternatives (free) include WinDirStat and TreeSize. On macOS you can use Finder or Siri to find large files with no third party app, but we like to use GrandPerspective.

Delete the Windows. old folder.

If you have plenty of free space and don't mind the untidiness, you can simply ignore the folder and it should be deleted automatically 30 days after the update. But if you are strapped for storage space, you can use Windows' own tools to remove it with ease.

Command prompt here

In the Windows File Explorer, type "cmd" into the address bar and it will open the command prompt in that directory **Reduce the number of programs running at startup** If your PC is taking too long to boot, it's probably because you have far too many programs running at startup. It's easy to reduce these and it will make your PC launch noticeably faster. Make sure you research what you are turning off as some processes might be needed by third party programs you have installed.

Windows: Open the task manager (Ctrl + Shift + Esc) and head to the startup tab to configure what programs you want to launch with your system.

Windows 7 and prior: Open run (Windows key + R) and enter *msconfig* to access a window with a similar startup section.

macOS: Go to System Preferences > Users & Groups > Select your user and click on the Login Items tab. You can

remove or hide startup applications from here.

Windows hidden "god mode" folder

Windows offers a centralized Control Panel for all of the OS settings, making it easy for users to tweak everything from desktop background to setting up a VPN. To enter this mode, create a new folder with this exact name (copy and paste it): **God Mode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}**. The folder icon will change to a Control Panel-style icon, and you will be able to jump in and change all kinds of settings.

Typing Tricks

Paste the plain text of what was copied

When you copy text from any source, programs will usually include any formatting that comes with it. To paste this as plain text, press Ctrl + Shift + V instead of the standard Ctrl + V, and the system will paste unformatted text. This also works on Mac: Cmd + Shift + V.

Note that many but not all programs follow this parameter, particularly Microsoft programs like Word or Outlook don't, which is annoying. There are a few alternatives that go beyond copying and pasting in Notepad: **1)** Ctrl + Alt + V will show a 'paste special' dialog box. **2)** Ctrl + Spacebar will remove formatting in already pasted text. **3)** Download Puretext and choose a hotkey to always paste plain text with it.

Delete an entire word Instead of deleting a single letter, pressing Ctrl + Backspace will delete the entire word behind the cursor. This makes deleting text quicker if you screw up a whole word.

Move cursor to beginning of the next or previous word

Moving the cursor around manually while typing is a great way to make your work take longer than it needs to. To speed up the process, move the cursor around with keyboard shortcuts. To move it to the beginning of the previous word, use Ctrl + Left Arrow. To move it to the beginning of the next word, use Ctrl + Right Arrow. In macOS you can accomplish the same using the Option key. To select words/paragraphs as you're going, hold Shift + Ctrl + Arrow (up or down will select entire bodies of text).

Emoji keyboard If you're addicted to using emoji, know desktop OS support them natively just like mobiles do. On Windows press the Windows key + . (period) and on macOS Cmd + Control + Spacebar. An Emoji panel will appear so you can carry on as usual using all the expressions you want.

CONT NEXT EDITION



FORD V FERRARI



Academy Award-winners Matt Damon and Christian Bale star in *FORD v FERRARI*, based on the remarkable true story of the visionary American car designer Carroll Shelby (Damon) and the fearless British-born driver Ken Miles (Bale), who together battled corporate interference, the laws of physics, and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary race car for Ford Motor Company and take on the dominating race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966.

Christian Bale and Matt Damon play 1960s racing legends Ken Miles and Carroll Shelby, respectively, in James Mangold's drama about Ford Motor Company's efforts to beat Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The characters can seldom compete with the cars in auto racing movies, but that's not the case with *Ford v Ferrari*, a full-bodied and exciting true-life story in which the men behind the wheels are just as dynamic as the machines they drive.

Fronted by fine lead performances by Christian Bale and Matt Damon as, respectively, racing legends Ken Miles and Carroll Shelby, this is a well-built vehicle in every respect that should make a good run through theaters and have a substantial home-viewing afterlife.

This is a racing saga with strong dramatic and historical underpinnings. In the world of international racing heading into the 1960s, nobody could touch Ferrari, the ne plus ultra of fast carmakers. During a company downturn, Henry Ford II and his lieutenant Lee Iacocca, who played a big role in introducing the Mustang and Ford Pinto, got it into their heads to produce a race car that could displace the Italians, which seemed like a joke at the time. But they made it happen.

Applying solid craftsmanship of their own, screenwriters Jez Butterworth, John-Henry Butterworth and Jason Keller have hammered together a solid three-act structure that invites quick viewer investment in some hard-nosed but likable people, provides combative character dynamics among very competitive drivers and executives and gives the central figure, Miles, welcome full treatment when it comes to his racing smarts, ambitions and family life.

With director James Mangold showing a sure hand throughout, some amusing early scenes contrast the corporate culture at Ferrari and Ford. Dedicated to quality, prestige and class, Enzo

Ferrari presides over his empire like a cross between a medieval lord and a mafia boss and looks down on Ford as a prince would a peasant. If anything, however, Ford is an even more terrifying figure, a large man who makes underlings quake in his presence. Tracy Letts is fantastic in this role; when he's onscreen, you can only watch him. However, Ford can sometimes surprise with his edicts, and he instructs his ruthless protégé Lee Iacocca to do whatever is necessary to give the

company a winner. The interlude of corporate interplay in which the Ford team travels to Italy to propose a merger busts with humorous absurdity, as the presumption that these two cultures could ever co-exist under one roof is shown for what it is.

Appealingly, the men who might be able to give life to Ford's dream are quickly drawn with both virtues and flaws plain for the eye to see. After a successful racing career of his own, Shelby embarked on a variety of automotive projects but signed onto Ford's project of creating a hot car that could win the 24 Hours of Le Mans, which Shelby had won in 1959. For his part, Shelby endured any number of speed bumps in enlisting Miles for the wacky but enticing Ford project. At the outset, Miles, a British émigré, is working as a lowly mechanic in Los Angeles, where he lives with his spry wife Mollie (a luminously sympathetic Caitriona Balfe) and engaging young son Peter (Noah Jupe). It's not hard to deduce that Miles hasn't gotten further in life because he's a temperamental hard-head, easily riled and prone to rough stuff; he and Shelby at one point get into a knock-down, drag-out fight. But Miles is talented and really knows his cars, so

Wuuuows taskbar rapping

he and Shelby become Ford's unlikely ticket to racing greatness. The drama's mid-section reveals the hard knocks and combustion, both mechanical and human, that went into the development of a car that could beat the Italians, and how it got done in one year. The film's lively dynamics owe much to the bristly nature of nearly every relationship and interaction in the film. Miles is an unpredictable live wire with everyone except his wife and son; Shelby always seems to be

juggling more balls than can reasonably be kept aloft at any given moment; the demanding Ford and Iacocca keep everyone off-balance and on their toes; and the looming deadlines and danger

inherent in the profession itself provide a constant sense of unease over both professional and personal mortality. An excellent interlude in which Miles does test runs on the tarmac at LAX provides insights into what goes into a driver's relationship with his car.

Naturally, the third act is devoted to the 1966 24-hour French driving marathon, in which two drivers take turns piloting their cars through day, night and, in this case, no small amount of rain. It's a race Shelby had won in 1959, while Miles had already prevailed in the current year's Daytona and Sebring competitions. It's a difficult race to dramatize because of its length and changing drivers, and this one in particular possesses its own peculiar problem because of the way it finished. But it also has its enormous satisfactions, and the entire team that put it together must be saluted.

Bale and Damon seem enthusiastically immersed in the colorful characters they play here and they spar well together very engagingly, both when in cahoots and at odds. The practices and attitudes, if not the ability, of big industry are placed in a pretty withering light, albeit with frequent wit, and all hands here have put in strong jobs of work that pay off onscreen.

3.9/5

3.9/5

3.9/5

3.9/5



Notes from a grassy knoll in Dallas

By Robert Gott | November 4, 2019 |

Crime writers Sulari Gentill, Robert Gott, Jock Serong and Emma Viskic have begun their US tour, On The Run: Australian Crime Writers In America, and have promised a daily update of proceedings. In this installment ROBERT GOTT takes in Dallas, and compares America's history of political assassination with our own.

Dallas, Texas. Dallas doesn't mean 'Dallas'. I've never seen a single episode of the TV series and Larry Hagman will always mean 'I Dream of Jeannie' to me. Dallas is Dealey Plaza, the grassy knoll, Zapruder, and the Warren Commission. It's Love airfield, JFK, Jackie Kennedy's pink Chanel suit and Lee Harvey Oswald. It's also Lee Harvey Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. I've asked around, and nobody remembers that she released an album. I have it. I bought it back in the 70s, because for many of my generation the JFK assassination was very definitely, as the young people say, a thing. I read Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgement* and I rushed to judgement. I wasn't obsessive about it, but I was interested enough to be unable to walk by a record shop (remember them?) without buying *Mrs. Marguerite Oswald - The Oswald Case: Mrs. Marguerite Oswald Reads Lee Harvey Oswald's Letters From Russia* (1964). While other people were sitting around listening to Led Zeppelin and Uriah Heep, I was rocking to Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, and committing bits to memory as if they were song lyrics. "I go from place to place without any pay. Many people have written to say that I am trying to commercialise on my son's death. I will have royalties from this record. This is the way I earn my income."

Mrs. Oswald's strongest claim for Lee Harvey's innocence rests on his response in one of his letters to her, when she had sent him the wrong magazines. "He thanks me even though they were the wrong magazines. This is a good boy. This is a polite boy. This is not a boy who would assassinate the president of the United States." Perhaps the Warren Commission



wasn't alerted to this compelling evidence. How long will it be before the expression 'grassy knoll' requires a Google search to retrieve its meaning? Dealey Plaza is one of those places that functions in a culture as a memory site. These are places where memories coalesce into an agreed understanding of what happened here, and what it means. Except, of course, Dealey Plaza is a disputed site. President Kennedy was assassinated here. Beyond this indisputable fact, there is no agreement. One shooter? Two? Three? I'm fascinated by memory sites and how they appear to govern our collective sense of who we are, and yet how ungovernable they actually are. In my teenage years the Texas School Book Depository was as familiar as the Great Pyramid of Giza. I never imagined that I would one day stand beneath it and be disappointed by its banality. It's a brown box, solid, not unattractive, with a seventh floor that looks like an architectural afterthought. Oswald's window is on the sixth floor, at the far right end (from the observer's point of view). It was so familiar to me, and here it was. How is it that this ordinary structure out-competed



more glorious architectural wonders for my attention? The chiselled name above the entrance reads, 'Dallas County Administration Building', and not 'Texas School Book Depository', but it is the latter name that sits fixed in our collective memories. There's something about its rhythm - Texas School Book Depository - with those final two syllables sounded out.

I'd always imagined that the landscape of Dealey Plaza, pinned in place by Oswald's window, Zapruder's vantage point and the grassy knoll, was a wide, sweeping sort of place. It's surprisingly compact, and I thought that even I might stand a chance of making the shot from that window. It no doubt looks more challenging from the actual position. The picket fence on top of the grassy knoll, the place where a second shooter may have blown out the back of Kennedy's head, has been replaced several times, with bits of the original occasionally coming up for sale.

On the expressway two white crosses have been painted to mark the points of the first and second shots. It's a busy road with cars coming at speed from around a blind corner. People like to have their photograph taken on the second cross, the place in the Zapruder film where Kennedy's head bursts like an exploding melon. They dash out into the road, stand on the 'X', grin and dash back,

evading traffic. I don't know what the casualty rate is, but for me, this is simply the living embodiment of natural selection. If you get hit by a car, well, that's very sad for your family and

friends, but on the upside, it limits the passing on of the gene that made you stupid. Australia has no real history of political assassination. Most people, surely, would recognise the name Lee Harvey Oswald. If you begin typing it, auto-complete does the rest. How many

Australians would recognise the name Peter Kocan? On June 21, 1966, he fired a shot from a sawn-off rifle, at point blank range, through a car window at Arthur Calwell, who was the leader of the Australian Labor Party. Kocan was an admirer of Lee Harvey Oswald and he believed that assassinating Calwell would turn him,

Kocan, from a nobody into a somebody. Oswald's bullet, if it was Oswald's bullet, blew out Kennedy's brain. Kocan's bullet was stopped by the thick glass and lodged harmlessly in Calwell's suit lapel. Calwell suffered minor cuts from the shattered glass.

Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby. Kocan was awarded the Australia Council's Writer's Emeritus Award in 2010 after a distinguished career writing fiction and poetry.

How long will it be before the expression 'grassy knoll' requires a Google search to retrieve its meaning? Eventually the number of people for whom it means nothing will outnumber the people like me for whom it has immediate, evocative resonance. If you don't think this could possibly happen, the history of memory sites suggests otherwise. They have a way of falling out of the collective imagination. For the people who built Stonehenge it must have seemed that its meaning would never, could never, be lost, and yet now, all we have are theories about its original purpose; and worse, we have phoney Druids who lay claim to it, despite the fact that it predates Druidism by two thousand years.

Dealey Plaza looks unchanged from the way it looked in 1963, apart from signage, which is discreet. This is not an accident or the result of neglect. A great deal of money has been spent to freeze it in time. It is a perfectly ordinary place made extraordinary by a few ghastly seconds on November 22, 1963.



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

and

NOT SO

To the organisers of last weekends anniversary celebrations at the ex-Greta Army Camp/Migrant Camp. We went Saturday morning and returned again on Sunday for what was a fantastically organised event. The highlight was the arrival of the Governor General & his wife on Saturday and his address that put the whole weekends activities into perspective. Our Sunday highlight was getting our young children onto the camels for a ride which they will remember for a long time. The military memorabilia was amazing, the marching bands & ethnic entertainment was also thoroughly entertaining. The days were hot & dusty but didn't spoil our enjoyment ... well done/cannot wait for the 100years!

It's a shame to see politics', jealousy & double standards come into our children's school of learning at such an early age. Surely their stability, comfort & learning for their future should be first & foremost in everybody's mind. From a very dumbfounded father who thought everyone had rights no matter what their age.

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

"How long will it be before the expression 'grassy knoll' requires a Google search to retrieve its meaning?"

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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 respay. 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: 2000 Holden Rodeo LXTRF9 Dual Cab lpg/petrol (WSE547) rego 27/6/20. 156,239 bull bar ute liner canopy silvergrey \$2950 neg. olwynca@gmail.com P: 0249387430

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: Alpacos Ph 0400697148

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

Riding Lessons: agistment, 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

Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Braxnton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred

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

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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 NOV 15 — Braxnton Public School - 2nd Kinder 2020 Orientation Visit

FRI NOV 15 — Braxnton Public School - PBL Assemblies

THUR NOV 21 — Cessnock View Club Monthly Meeting/ Luncheon. Cessnock Leagues Club, Darwin Street, Cessnock @10am. **Guest speaker 'Supporting 7 Learning for Life students' All welcome**

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

SAT NOV 23 — Mulla Villa Farm's Open Day 10am - 3226 Great North Rd, Wollombi NSW 2325. Come and enjoy a great day out for the whole family. Free Entry, Market Stalls, Live Demonstrations, Over \$3000 worth of prizes up for grabs, Live Music, Free Tours, Sausage Sizzle, Plus so much more! So as the beach boys say: If you just want to come and have fun fun fun 'Til your daddy takes your iPhone away, then smash that like button and spread the word. Call up your old high school friends and share the news. Stop strangers in the middle of the street and tell them how excited you are about our open day. This is a day you don't want to miss.

TUE 26 NOV — Braxnton 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 — Braxnton Lions Club meeting at Braxnton 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 — Braxnton Lions Club Seniors dinner at the Braxnton Community Hall @ 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,

Dates for your diary

NSW

TUES 10 DEC — Braxnton Public School - Presentation Day

TUES 10 DEC — B/G CWA Mthly Mtg - Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxnton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.

FRI 13 DEC — The Magic Christmas Circus @ 111 Mount View Rd, Cessnock NSW. Join us under the little big top at Cessnock Showgrounds this festive season and celebrate with 90 minutes of circus fun, excitement and thrills for the entire family! BOOK NOW www.christmascircus.com.au OR text or call 0403 09 XMAS to reserve your tickets today! Witness incredible illusions by world-class magician BennyO and stunning feats of skill, strength and beauty by some of Australia's most renowned performers

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.

.... FOR PLANNING AHEAD

WED 25 DEC — Christmas Day

TUE 31 DEC — New Years Eve

SUN 26 JAN 2020 — Australia Day

SAT 25 APL 2020 — ANZAC Day

SUN 10 MAY 2020 — Mothers day

MON 8 JUN 2020 — Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

SUN 6 SEPT 2020 — Fathers day

MON 5 OCT 2020 — Labour Day Public Holiday

In The Garden

How to revive your lawn

Get off the grass and give your lawn a glorious springtime treatment! - by Better Homes and Gardens

The secret to having a gorgeous summer lawn is to give it TLC in spring. As temperatures rise and the soil warms, grass begins to flourish. With a little effort you'll see that pallid, post-winter patch transform itself into a lustrous green sward - so the grass really will be greener on your side of the fence!

Check for weeds
Before you start feeding your lawn, it's important to give weeds the flick - otherwise you'll end up feeding them too! Small lawns can be hand-weeded, but for larger areas it's easier to use a herbicide formulated to kill the weeds but not the grass. These products are available from nurseries as ready-to-use sprays or as concentrates that can be mixed up and applied via a watering can or spray bottle.

De-thatch
Lawns can become spongy over time as a layer of dead grass, known as thatch, builds up at the base of the grass. The problem with thatch is it prevents water and air from

getting through to the roots. So in early spring, before you fertilise, remove the thatch layer by going over the entire lawn with a metal-tine rake. Press down firmly as you pull the rake in long, even strokes to remove as much thatch as possible. The result is a cleaned-up lawn, ready for aerating and feeding.

Aerate your grass
Aerating your lawn helps the soil breathe and, when done before fertilising, ensures thorough absorption of nutrients. It's an important process because, over time, lawns compact due to regular use: they're walked on, played on and enjoyed as a leisure zone. For the most basic aeration technique, use a large garden fork, sinking prongs in about 5cm deep, to work across the lawn in



rows, or, use spiked aerator shoes and walk across your lawn in rows 15-20cm apart. If you have a large lawn to cover, hire a spiked roller to get the job done.

Give it a feed!
Having cleaned up and aerated the lawn, the next step is to feed it. This is when you'll really see changes. Granular lawn foods are the best choice at this time

of year, especially those that offer long-term gentle feeding, such as Yates Lawn Master or Scotts Lawn Builder Plus Organics. Spread them evenly by working in sections across the lawn and water in well after application. Later in the season (late spring and early summer), you can quickly green up the lawn by using one of the hose-end liquid

lawn fertilisers - these are great for using before parties and other social events.
Mowing heights
Lawns don't appreciate being mown too low (aka 'scalping'). While you might think you're saving yourself work, you're actually creating unhealthy turf. Exposing the soil causes the ground to dry out quickly and creates space for weeds to invade, so lift your mower to a height suited to the particular type of turf you're growing. Here's a general guide:
Note Use the upper

height measure for winter mowing and the lower for summer.
Couch 15-30mm
Buffalo 30-50mm
Kikuyu 30-50mm
Queensland Blue Couch 15-30mm
Carpet Grass 30-50mm
Zoysia 15-30mm



FROM Page 16

ABOUT

Michael Connelly
Sometimes they are bound to collide, creating cross currents. This is something that Connelly creates by bringing back characters from previous books and letting them play a part in books written five or six years after first being introduced. Connelly went on to write three more novels about Detective Bosch - *The Black Ice* (1993), *The Concrete Blonde* (1994), and *The Last Coyote* (1995) - before quitting his job as a reporter to write full-time.
Harry Bosch and Connelly received a good deal of publicity in 1994, when President Bill Clinton came out of a bookstore carrying a copy of *The Concrete Blonde* in front of the waiting cameras. A meeting was set up between the two at the Los Angeles Airport.
In 1996, Connelly wrote *The Poet*, his first book not to feature Bosch; the protagonist was reporter Jack McEvoy. The book was a success and earned Connelly comparisons to author Thomas Harris by reviewers. In 1997, Connelly returned to Bosch in *Trunk Music* before writing another book, *Blood Work* (1998), about a different character, FBI agent Terry McCaleb. *Blood Work* was made into a film in 2002, directed by Clint Eastwood, who also played McCaleb, an agent with a transplanted heart, in pursuit of his donor's murderer. The book came together after one of Connelly's friends had a heart transplant, and he saw what his friend was going through with survivor's guilt after the surgery. When asked if he had anything against the changes made to fit the big screen, Connelly simply replied: "If you take their money, it's their turn to tell the story".^[8]
Connelly wrote another book featuring Bosch, *Angels Flight* (1999), before writing *Void Moon* (2000), a free-standing book about Las Vegas thief Cassie Black. In 2001, *A Darkness More Than Night* was published, in which Connelly united Bosch and McCaleb to solve a crime together, before releasing two books in 2002. The first, *City of Bones*, was the eighth Bosch novel, and the other, *Chasing the Dime*, was a non-series novel.^[9] In 2001, Connelly left California for Tampa Bay, Florida, together with his wife and daughter, so that both he and his wife could be closer to their families. His novels still took place in Los Angeles. In 2003, another Bosch novel, *Lost Light*, was published. With this book, a CD was released, *Dark Sacred Night, the Music of Harry Bosch*, featuring some of the jazz music Bosch listens to.^[10] Connelly says he prefers listening to rock and roll, jazz, and blues. While writing he listens exclusively to instrumental jazz, though, because it does not have intrusive vocals, and because the improvisational playing inspires his writing.^[11] *The Narrows*, published in 2004, was a sequel to *The Poet* but featured Bosch instead of McEvoy.
Together with this book, a DVD was released called *Blue Neon Night: Michael Connelly's Los Angeles*, in which film Connelly presents some of the places in Los Angeles that are frequently featured in his books.
The Closers, published in May 2005, was the 11th Bosch novel. It was followed by *The Lincoln Lawyer* in October, Connelly's first legal novel: it features defense attorney Mickey Haller, Bosch's half-brother. The book was made into a film in 2011, starring Matthew McConaughey as Haller. After releasing *Crime Beat* (2006), a non-fiction book about Connelly's experiences as a crime reporter, Connelly went back to Bosch with *Echo Park* (2006).^[12] This book sets its opening scene in the High Tower Apartment that Connelly rented and wrote from.^[13] His next Bosch story, *The Overlook*, was originally published as a multi-part series in the *New York Times Magazine*. After some editing, it was published as a novel in 2007. In October 2008, Connelly wrote *The Brass Verdict*, which brought together Bosch and Haller for the first time. He followed that with *The Scarecrow* (May 2009), which brought back McEvoy as the lead character. *9 Dragons*, a novel taking Bosch to Hong Kong, was published in October 2009. *The Reversal* (October 2010), reunites Bosch & Haller as they work together under the banner of the state on the retrial of a child murderer. The Haller novel *The Fifth Witness* was published in 2011.
The Drop, which refers in part to the "Deferred Retirement Option Plan" that was described in the novel *The Brass Verdict* (2008), was published in November 2011. The next Bosch novel was *The Black Box* (2012). Connelly's subsequent novel, a legal thriller, was a return to Haller: *The Gods of Guilt* (2013). His next book returned to Bosch in *The Burning Room* (2014), and then Connelly used Haller as a main supporting character in the Bosch novels *The Crossing* (2015) and *The Wrong Side of Goodbye* (2016).

If you require assistance please call
0414 757 826



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REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING **131 555**

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FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE	Brantxon... 4938 1244	Energy Australia... 131 388
It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need - fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.	Lochinvar... 4930 7209	Hospitals
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.	Ambulance ... 131 233	Maitland... 4939 2000
ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	NSW Fire Brigade	Cessnock... 4991 0555
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	Rothbury... 4991 1733	Lifeline131 114
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Mental Health Line
	Bishops Bdg	1800 011 511
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support
	Rothbury... 4015 0000	4990 9609
	Pokolbin... 4015 0000	Centrelink Self Service
	Rothbury... 4991 1733	136 240
	Scotts	Medicare 132 011
	Flat... 6575 1200	Native Animal Rescue
	Central	0418 628 483
	(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	

School News



Branxton Public School

Congratulations to the 95 students who participated in the Stage 3 Canberra Excursion. They were constantly complimented on their excellent behaviour and manners. Their enthusiasm and participation in activities at every venue made it a fabulous four days. Thank you to all parents for their co-operation and support in preparing students for the excursion. Special thanks to the four parents who accompanied us on the excursion. Their assistance with students and groups every day and night was invaluable and helped make the excursion such a success.



* Stage 3

4 and they are to be commended on an outstanding job. We were all very excited to meet the Kinder students for 2020. The Kinder teachers and children had a fun time in the Library and enjoyed listening to the Year 5 Buddies reading a story. Next week we will be meeting in the Kinder rooms and will get to know each other even better.

Dates for the Calendar
 Friday 15th November – 2nd Kinder 2020 Orientation Visit
 Friday 15th November – PBL Assemblies
 Tuesday 10th December - Presentation Day

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



* Sport Day



* SRC

In Week 3 students attended the 'Activate Inclusion Sports Day' hosted by Variety Children's Charity and Sports NSW. It was fantastic day for our students. They engaged in modified sports such as Soccer, Hockey, Netball, AFL, Basketball and Cricket. Well done to all students who participated. Next Wednesday we are holding a special ceremony to turn the soil and unveil the score board for the Jerome Brecard Sports Court. Mrs Brecard, their two boys and other family members will be present. We will also have an Oz Tag round robin tournament between his family, staff and students. The P&C are providing a sausage sizzle lunch for all students. This is not a fundraising day. It is simply an acknowledgement of Mr Brecard's place in our hearts, and also a reminder to keep our own health in check!

Congratulations to our SRC committee on a fabulous year. They held their last SRC meeting in Week



* Sport Day

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.

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Office: 12 Cliff 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

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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/BGDLO. 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.

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate



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Come in to INSPECT

what's new in your local museum!



(Wood rimmed child-safe magnifying glass that really works)

Greta Historical Museum

96 High Street Greta

Open 11am-3pm

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Greta Museum

Open Wed. & Sat. 11- 3pm
The Army & Migrant Camp anniversary year is nearly over but Greta Museum will continue to open and exhibit Army & Migrant Camp photos and memorabilia.

We also have some local family and coal mining histories and many other interesting images and artefacts from the local area's past.

96 High Street Greta
NSW 2334



Open 7 days

8am - 8pm

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202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

LET'S PLAY BOWLS CHAMPIONS

Let's Play Bowls is an annual event that has been played and won by three Greta Workers Juniors in 2019!

Greta Workers entered the team into the Primary School Competition held at Raymond Terrace Bowling Club, where the Greta boys won their qualifying games, making way for last weeks Final against Raymond Terrace Primary on their home ground. The Greta boys lost their first set 5-6, won the second set 10-0 and won the one-end shoot out 2-0.

To the delight of their parents and Greta Workers, the boys have worked hard training each week to achieve this accolade. The team collected a cheque for \$1000 for their efforts. Greta Workers has a group of five junior members ranging from the ages of 11 to 13 who train each Tuesday at 3.30pm. Greta is always looking for more juniors. Any wishing to have a go at Lawn Bowls should ring the club for more information (coaching is free).



Winners are Grinners & a \$1000 better off!
Left to Right: Jace, Angus and Luke

Branxton Greta Little Athletics take Edgeworth Challenge Cup 2019

ON the 3rd November 2019 the Branxton Greta Little Athletics Club added another feather to their hat by taking home the Edgeworth Challenge Cup 2019. 41 members of the local club competed in a number of track & field events



against 10 other Hunter Valley based clubs.

Well done & congratulations to all.

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