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27 NOVEMBER 2019

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STEVE'S RANT

Members Well Done say...


Not So Well Done


School NEWS



All set for 90th Anniversary "Lock Out" & "Rothbury Riot" re-enactment to be staged at North Rothbury

THE 16th December 2019 will see the 90th Anniversary of the coal miners "Lock Out" & riot at North Rothbury & to mark this historic occasion North Rothbury Tidy Town & the CFMEU (Mining & Energy) have combined to produce a three-act re-enactment & short memorial service.

It is to be performed on Sunday 15th December 2019 on the original site at North Rothbury at 3pm.

Just to recap; on 16 December 1929, New South Wales Police drew their revolvers and shot into a crowd of locked-out miners at North Rothbury, killing a 29-year-old miner, Norman Brown, and injuring approximately forty-five

miners. The incident became known as the **Rothbury affair** or the **Rothbury Lock Out & riot**, and is described as the "bloodiest event in national industrial history."

In 1929 colliery owners on the Northern New South Wales coalfields combined as the Northern Collieries Association.

On Thursday 14 February 1929 the mine employers gave their 9,750 employees 14 days' notice, that they (the miners) should accept the following new conditions:

A wage reduction of 12½ per cent on the contract rates, one shilling (\$0.10) a day on the "day wage" rate; all Lodges must give the colliery managers the right to hire and fire without

regard to seniority; all Lodges must agree to discontinue pit-top meetings and pit stoppages.

The miners refused to accept these terms, and on Saturday 2 March 1929, all miners were "locked out" of their employment.

In September 1929, the NSW State Parliament introduced an *Unlawful Assembly Act* designed to suppress the miners, which authorised police to break up any gatherings.

On 16 December 1929 about 5,000 miners demonstrated against the introduction of non-union labour into the North Rothbury mine by the conservative Bavin government, which had taken over the colliery. The government called in 70 New South Wales police officers

from districts outside Newcastle to protect the colliery and allow the entry of non-union labour. Angry miners marched to the mine gate led by a pipe band. When they charged the gate bearing clubs and firearms, the miners were met with defensive baton blows by the police and there were hand-to-hand clashes. Three shots had been fired at the police and the order to draw their revolvers and fire a volley of shots over the heads of the rioters and then into the ground.

One miner, Norman Brown, received a fatal wound from a ricocheting bullet. The youngest miner was 15-year-old Joseph Cummings, who risked his life, dodging bullets as he ran for the doctor, in a futile effort to help save Brown's life.

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph Pictorial* described the event as "the most dramatic industrial clash that has ever shocked Australia."

In June 1930, after fifteen months of living in poverty and starvation, the miners capitulated and returned to work on reduced contract wages. However, the *lockout* failed to break the resolve or organisation of the miners union.

Interestingly the word



Rothbury has been trademarked by the Fosters Group.

The re-enactment & memorial service have been designated to commence at 3pm behind the memorial in North Rothbury on Wine Country Drive.

Both the CFMEU & North Rothbury Tidy Town would like to hear from descendants of participants on that day 90 years ago & acknowledge their attendance on the day.

There will be a stall at the Twilight Markets, which will commence after the re-enactment & memorial service, where descendants

can officially register their family.

Cessnock City Council Local Studies Librarian, Kimberly O'Sullivan, has completed a thorough research trying to find any descendants of the tragically shot & killed on the day, miner Norman Brown, but to no avail.

Her extensive research has concluded that he has no descendants &, as she said, if anyone on the day purports to be a living descendant ... "it just cannot be".

The re-enactment has been written by local thespian &

author Phil Aughey & is contained in three acts.

"We have employed a number of actors & have been working hard to ensure that the sound & other effects are just right for the occasion," said Phil.

Seventy official invitations have been sent to various dignitaries & known descendants.

After the re-enactment & memorial service North Rothbury Tidy Town will be holding their annual Twilight Markets at Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park.

All people attending the re-enactment & Memorial Service will be issued with a raffle ticket putting them in the draw for a \$200 cash prize. It will be drawn at 7:30pm at the markets and you will need to be there to claim the money.



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29 High Street
GRETA NSW 2334
PH: 02 4938 7281
Email: reception@gretadental.com.au

When: Sunday 15th December 2019 at 3pm
Where: Rothbury Riot & Lock Out memorial, Wine Country Drive NORTH ROTHBURY NSW 2335

The 'Denman Run'



• Steve Carter, Reverend Nicole Baldwin, Johnathan Graves, Rebecca Fletcher and Haley Edwards at the Anglican Church • Photo above & below: Rebecca with her heavy laden ute.

Rebecca Fletcher, from Branxton, said that the purpose of the "Denman Run" was to support farmers who are struggling with the drought. "This is a way to show what we can do when we stand together to help others." Rebecca was supported by her family, friends and the Anglican Church Branxton Greta Lochinvar. On 15th October, one hundred 10 litre water bottles were transported from Branxton to Denman on the back of Rebecca's ute. Donations towards purchasing water at the

Denman IGA were received which enabled her to purchase another fifty 10 litre bottles. Spending money locally helps locals. In total 1500 litres of water was delivered to the Anglican Church Denman and was received by Denman's Lions Club president, Steve Carter for distribution. A special thanks to Catherine Fletcher, Johnathan Graves, Haley Edwards, Harry and Sofia Mears and the parish family of Branxton Greta Lochinvar for their support with this fundraiser and for their help with delivery.



Council's annual report tells a positive story

Cessnock City Council has released its 2018/19 Annual Report which highlights Council is so much more than rates, roads and rubbish when it comes to what it delivers to our community.

The 2018/19 financial year was a busy one as the staff and Councillors worked hard to achieve the objectives within the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The numbers for some of Council's services in 2018/19 were quite staggering. The Cessnock Performing Arts Centre sold 16,478 tickets, there were 176,996 visitors to local libraries, 186,749 pool visits and 92,000 visitors to Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre. The Cessnock Waste Management Centre had 43,649 visits through the gate, there were 3,518 tonnes of recoverable materials received and local garbage collections saw 1.13 million bins emptied. Council's Customer Service Team was busy responding to community members, taking 55,394 calls, resolving 24,093 customer requests and helping over 7,500 people at the counter. In the planning department, there were 937 local Development Applications determined. Federal and State Government grant funding is a way for Council to deliver large scale projects to the community and in 2018/19, Council secured close to \$13 million in additional funding. This has enabled for projects like Bridges Hill Park, the Cessnock CBD revitalisation, the Parks Shade Program and the new Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage. Council's capital works program saw nearly \$15 million of works delivered to our community which incorporates over \$5 million in road renewal jobs and close to \$2 million invested in local bridges. Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson said the annual report shows Council is in a strong position and she looks forward to another positive year. "We have some exciting projects in our operational plan and delivery program and we will continue to apply for government grants so we're able to deliver even more to our community." Residents are encouraged to check out Council's 2018/19 Annual Report by visiting www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/policies/annualreport.

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

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

| Locality | Reference | Decision Date | Property Address | Application Description |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| BRANXTON | 008/2019/00000606/001 | 4-Oct-2019 | 33 Bowen ST | Dwelling Alterations and Additions |
| BRANXTON | 008/2019/00000600/001 | 21-Oct-2019 | 71 Maitland ST | Change of Use to a Business Premises (Beauty Salon) |
| EAST BRANXTON | 008/2019/00000614/001 | 15-Oct-2019 | 17 Yates ST | Inground Swimming Pool & associated barriers |
| KEINBAH | 008/2019/00000618/001 | 11-Oct-2019 | 724 Lovedale RD | Swimming Pool |
| LOVEDALE | 008/2018/00000946/001 | 1-Oct-2019 | 307 Wilderness RD | Phased Development comprising three (3) phases, detailed as follows: • Phase 1 for the construction of a new principal dwelling, change of use of and minor alterations/additions to the existing dwelling to form the secondary dwelling, construction of two farm sheds and minor earthworks to form an unenclosed horse area for private use only; • Phase 2 for the construction of a new tourist and visitor accommodation building; and • Phase 3 for the change of use of the existing secondary dwelling to form tourist and visitor accommodation |
| LOVEDALE | 008/2019/00000182/001 | 29-Oct-2019 | 99 Lovedale RD | Construct shed to be used for agricultural purposes |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000504/001 | 8-Oct-2019 | 7 Moran PWY | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000593/001 | 8-Oct-2019 | 14 Wethered CR | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000598/001 | 8-Oct-2019 | 17 Judge RD | Retaining Walls x 2 |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000597/001 | 9-Oct-2019 | 10 Jolley RD | Retaining Wall |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000563/001 | 11-Oct-2019 | 5 Tooze CCT | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000607/001 | 23-Oct-2019 | 10 Slattery RD | Single Story Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000574/001 | 24-Oct-2019 | 13-15 Morgan ST | Roofed Deck |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000622/001 | 29-Oct-2019 | 3 Moylan VSTA | Single Story Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2019/00000565/001 | 18-Oct-2019 | 790 McDonalds RD | Earthworks involving reshaping of amphitheatre, new access road and pad |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2019/00000585/001 | 21-Oct-2019 | 80 Casuarina DR | Inground Swimming Pool |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2019/00000651/001 | 30-Oct-2019 | 136 Thompsons RD | Inground Swimming Pool |
| ROTHBURY | 008/2019/00000634/001 | 22-Oct-2019 | 1364 Wine Country DR | Alfresco Area |

FOR once, hell had no fury

Firies save North Rothbury from a fiery grave ~ hero's all of them

Imagine being shrouded in smoke, your eyes stinging with the dust, the raging heat pricking at your skin, the protective gear weighing you down - all while you are trying to battle a wall of flames.

That's what firefighters from our region faced when they travelled to North Rothbury & Greta on Tuesday 12th November as the predicted catastrophic conditions wreaked havoc in the two towns.

The emergency gave the firies little time to orchestrate a timely evacuation of residents with many unable to get out.

Those that did evacuate had packed their bags, hand-picking their most cherished items, whatever could fit in the back of their cars, and waved goodbye to their homes, hoping and praying that when they returned their living rooms, their bedrooms, their bathrooms would not be charred ruins. That their lives would carry on uninterrupted.

Their hope was justified. As soon as the fire was spotted at North Rothbury, only a short throw from the western side of Wine Country Drive North Rothbury, the North Rothbury RFS Brigade was first respondent and realizing the enormity of the situation

called disparately for back-up which arrived very shortly after.

The RFS used Wine Country Drive as a containment line & didn't take a backward step with 5 firies going down with smoke inhalation. At the zenith of the battle there were about 10 fire trucks & 2 helicopter water bombers.

The firies prevailed leaving 4 homes damaged and a very thankful community.

At about the same time Greta had a huge blaze erupt at York Street and Harper Streets & the fire at Whittingham (Singleton) was still at danger level putting enormous strain on our fire fighters to man and fight these fires.

A resident of North Rothbury, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that the RFS had saved their home and was there as it happened, unable to evacuate.

"If it wasn't for the courageous actions of the Rural Fire Service we would not have a home going onto Christmas; they were amazing," he said.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said while it was a terrifying afternoon for many, he was proud of what he saw, which was the enormous bravery of our firefighters and our

community rallying together to support one another.

"On behalf of Council, I would like to thank both residents and firefighters who were on the scene; we have such wonderful community spirit and that really shone through."

"Special thanks goes out to

the Greta Workers Sports and Recreation Club for becoming the local evacuation centre and to those who made the Cessnock Showground available to shelter livestock. People were preparing food and drinks to share with firefighters, which was heart-warming to see. Neighbours were helping neighbours. It was a huge community effort."

"While fires in the area have been downgraded to advice level, we still urge residents

to be vigilant and have a plan in place in the case of another fire event," added Cr Pynsent.

At the last Cessnock City Council meeting Mayor Pynsent put up a Mayoral Minute up that said ...

"Council acknowledges the magnificent effort of the Emergency Services at North Rothbury & Greta on the 12th November & we thank all involved for keeping our community safe with minimal property loss.



• Kelly Knox from North Rothbury RFS Brigade & Mayor Pynsent after the North Rothbury emergency

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Councillors Kanchan Ranadive and Ben Mitchell join with the Maitland community in thanking firefighters for their efforts across our region and state.



STEVE'S RANT

A lucky escape from arson

The fires on Tuesday 12 November were a little too close for comfort.

What surprised me was that until about 10am that day all seemed relatively safe. Then the FIRES-NEAR-ME (a great app & wonderful use of modern digital technology), came up with a succession of fires; Old North Road near Hermitage Road, the Golden Highway at Whittingham and Wine Country Drive near the roundabout at Huntlee but no smoke could be seen.

Just after, noting the warnings I had occasion to drive from North Rothbury to Branxton and saw no evidence of a fire near the roundabout at Huntlee. What was going on? Either we had false alarms or the Fire Fighters were so quickly on to these reports that the outbreaks had been

dealt with almost immediately leaving little evidence of a fire. This was not the case at Whittingham. Earlier that morning I spoke to a neighbour about the level of threat that had been declared and asked if he had a plan. He said his runaway stuff was already in the car but he was on dogwatch and planned to sleep that day, adding would I kick down his front door if things turned nasty. After viewing the warning on the phone I went to his house and checked him.

Fortunately, he was already awake and had cancelled going to work that night; just in case.

About ten minutes after I returned from Branxton that same neighbour stopped his car outside my place and told me that a fire was

burning at the end of Rothbury Street. Smoke started streaming overhead and getting thicker by the second. At the same time the welcome sound of fire trucks was heard coming to the rescue. We did not hang about. Runaway gear, dog and some fizzy water in the car and off to Millar Park, Branxton. As we got there and found a shady spot to park the fire at Greta was seen.

What is going on? High wind, dry conditions, low humidity and very high temperatures do not of themselves start fires. I cannot accept that the fires started on Tuesday the 12th were not deliberately lit. I heard the fire at Whittingham was due to a vehicle accident but there was no other reason for the fires at North Rothbury and Greta that I could ascertain, than arson.

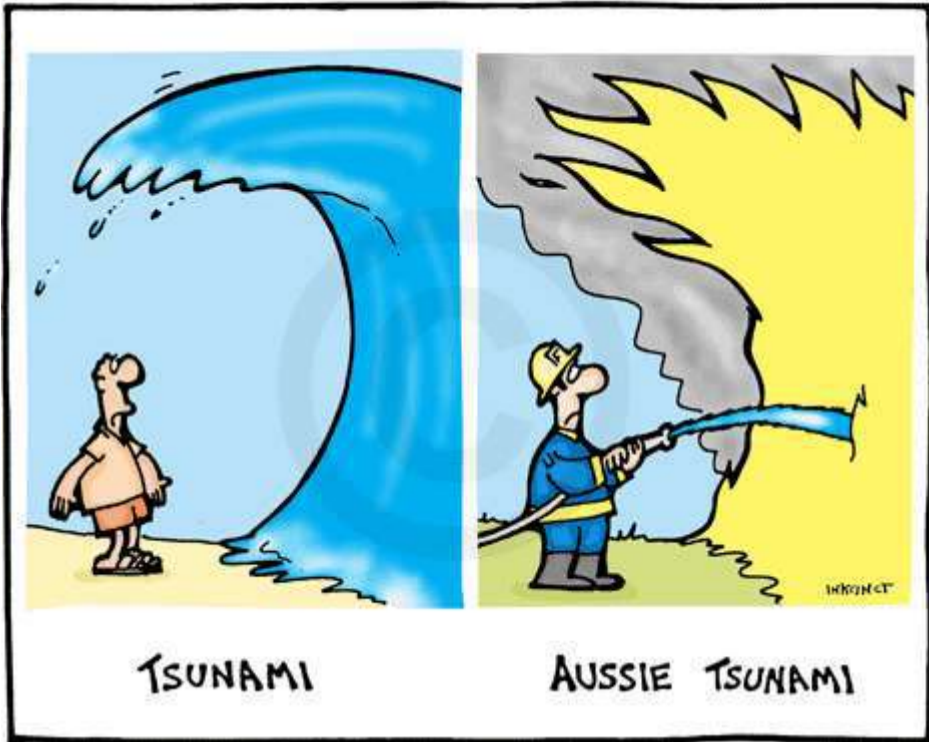
This is yet to be established but I fear there is no other cause; a pitiful situation. We await some official explanation with baited breath. In the meantime, those wonderful Australian patriots, *The Greens*, blame Scott Morrison for all the fires. Just as well Tony Abbott is

"I cannot accept that the fires started on Tuesday the 12th were not deliberately lit."

out of politics, for no doubt it would be his fault.

Such are the side benefits of being Prime Minister of Australia. Well done ScoMo. You have taken the heat off the State Governments. (No pun intended). The dereliction by the States in allowing statutory authorities to stop fuel reduction and not properly fund Departments responsible for National Parks and State Forests to do this is a recurrent theme on the media.

Still, this does not stop the arsonist. What we do applaud is the anticipation of the danger shown by the NSW State Government in obtaining Fire Fighting units from Victoria. We had CFA Units from the Yarra Valley assisting in North Rothbury. What great people they are and what wonderful people we have in our own RFS. The dramatic front page of the Daily Telegraph on Wednesday the 13th said it all. Evidently this fire season is



far from over and constant vigilance is required by everybody until we get rain. Stating the obvious I suppose but what I am leading to is the aftermath and will we ever act on the recommendations of every post fire investigation made since the Black Friday fires in Victoria in 1939 and what our indigenous peoples have known for thousands of years; fuel reduction in the landscape when it is able with safety must become habitual. The frequency and type of burn to achieve this are already well understood but are not undertaken for many reasons. We don't have one overriding authority which can manage it; State or Nationwide. There is no plan to allocate resources to do this. Each State has Rural Fire Services which are organised, equipped and capable of doing this but are prevented by regulation, the dichotomy between conservation of wildlife and habitat and hazard reduction and the growing influence of The Greens and their fellow travellers who have stopped fuel reduction.

If one drove down the New England Highway last week, through choking thick smoke & avoiding the many dead animals on the road, it's obvious that if the undergrowth had been burned or cleared in small sections, most of these would have had time to get out of the way. As it stands the macabre murder and I say murder of our local animals horrifically burned alive are a result of the interference and unsolicited involvement of the 'inner city lovelies'. Do-gooders don't meddle in what you don't understand. Your participation is not welcome. We live here you don't. We cannot pussy-foot around this any longer just as we cannot delay building more water diversion schemes. All that is needed is the leadership and will. Future drought and bushfires will still occur but we will be better able to handle these problems if we move now. We don't need more investigations or reviews. The experts know what is needed but we don't ask them; we let the Global Warming Cult decide. What futility. Keep the water up to your

garden trees. They need it now. Cheers Steve. PS .. These events outlined above are only what I was aware of. Apparently, there were many other outbreaks in the valley.



with **Mike Lowing** Cessnock City U3A is holding a round table discussion on Thursday December 5 at 2pm in the North Hall, Church Street Cessnock. The 'spark' for the discussion is very current: "Is it okay to talk about climate change while we're busy fighting fires?" They have ex-teachers and heads, retired cattle growers and viticulturists; ex-publicans and media representatives – a wide ranging level of experience across many years and conditions.



GRETA FESTIVAL THANKS. On behalf of the Branxton RSL Sub-Branch I would like to thank local RSL Sub Branch members who did a great job assisting with the Greta Festival recently. The Festival, on the 9th and 10th of November, celebrated 80 years of the Greta Army Camp and 70 years of the Greta Migrant Camp. The Festival was held on the original site on Camp Road,

Greta. Obviously, an event of this nature takes a massive effort to organise and thanks must go to Bret Wild and Helen Scott for their hard work. We saw over 9,000 people through the gates over the weekend. As part of the organising for the event, I would like to thank those RSL Sub Branches in the area who financially supported the

Governor's morning tea, and a special mention goes to Leanne Cooper, Steve Weiss, Bob Keegan, Nancy Boyce and Rod Styles for their outstanding efforts over the weekend. Our grateful thanks also go to Hunter Electric's, Pete Butcher, who provided his electrical expertise over the 2 day event. Also, many

thanks to Murray Johansen for donating the use of his golf cart for the site safety officers use, during the festival. We also gratefully thank Joe the Piper, from Greta for organising the Pipes & Drums bands for the weekend. RSL members Chris Fredricks and Jim Phyllis for their Light Horse re-enactment and in keeping

the tradition alive. To Rod styles for his co-ordination of the Governors Parade & thanks to Neill Bell, Rod Styles, Lester & joy Bootes for their assistance with Armistice Day Poppy sales during the event. To stall holders Greg Ingle, Paul Thrift and their families for the excellent displays of military memorabilia.

Finally, thank you to Greta Sub-branch who provided the local Armistice Day service on the 11th of the 11th. To those not mentioned consider yourself thanked. If you failed to enjoy yourself, least said, soonest mended. Brian Furner OAM President Branxton RSL

They extend a cordial invitation to our community, friends at government levels, the media and business organisations, to join them and contribute to what could be a lively debate. There is no head table. All opinions will be canvassed and vigorously protected.

A reminder to all those stallholders who wish to book a site at the North Rothbury Twilight Markets to be held after the 90th Anniversary Commemoration Re-enactment of the Rothbury Riot on Sunday 15th December 2019. The re-enactment will be staged at the Rothbury Riot Memorial site on Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury & will commence at 3pm. The Twilight Markets will be held from 4pm until 8pm. To book a stall please contact Helen on 0412 455 041. Limited spaces. Cheers, Mike



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

or

emailed to

thenews@hotkey.net.au

COMMENT

I have learnt that there are, on average, 62,000 fires in Australia every year. Only a very small number strike far from populated areas and satellite studies tell us that lightning is responsible for only 13 per cent. Not so the current fires threatening to engulf Queensland and NSW. There were no lightning strikes on most of the days when the fires first started in September. Although there have been since, these fires – joining up to create a new form of mega-fire – are almost all man-made.

Having seen the catastrophic ferocity & velocity of bushfires first hand at North Rothbury on the 12 November I can say that without our volunteer 'firies' North Rothbury would have been burnt to cinders. After the emergency I did my own enquiries & found exactly where the fire started; no lightning or glass fragments just a criminal with a match or lighter. From the start of the current bushfires fires some weeks ago at Taree & further North of the state I resolved myself to the fact that they were a result of arsonists; we had the same conditions here in the valley with virtually no fires.

At the time I disagreed with RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons for not telling the public that the majority had been the work of arsonists. I suspect his rationale was to not encourage 'copy cats'. If the general public had been made aware we would have had all Australians alert to the fact & keeping their eyes open.

The below article was written by Shelley Lloyd & is quite confronting. **Bushfires deliberately lit by 'cunning, versatile criminals', more common in school holidays, expert warns**

The rate of deliberately lit fires escalates rapidly during the school holiday period,

according to an expert in arson investigations.

The warning comes after emergency services personnel spent recent weeks battling out-of-control bushfires that raged across parts of Queensland. Dr Paul Read, co-director of the National Centre for Research in Bushfire and Arson, said the great majority of bushfires are deliberately lit by "cunning, furtive and versatile criminals".

"About 85 per cent are related to human activity, 13 per cent confirmed arson and 37 per cent suspected arson," he said.

"The remainder are usually due to reckless fire lighting or even just children playing with fire."

Dr Read said holidays and summer were a bad combination when it came to fire starters.

"School holidays are a prime time for fire bugs, but especially over summer," he said.

"The kids have got time to get out there and light, and the most dangerous adults choose hot days."

Taskforce Overcross, which was set up by police this month, found 23 bushfires were thought to have been deliberately or carelessly lit, with action taken against 21 juveniles and nine adults.

The bushfire in the Gold Coast hinterland that destroyed 11 properties and the historic Binna Burra Lodge is still under investigation.

Two teenagers were charged over the Peregian Springs blaze and there have also been "suspicious" fires at Geebung on Brisbane's northside, Pimpama on the northern Gold Coast and in central Queensland.

Backpackers who accidentally started the Stanthorpe and Applethorpe fires on the Granite Belt will not be charged.

Police dealt with a 12-year-old boy under the Youth Justice Act, over a deliberately lit fire that destroyed bushland in Logan

and two 14-year-old girls were also questioned over a bush-fire that came close to homes at Ormeau on the north Gold Coast. Dr Read said while it was disturbing that so many children have been involved in lighting the recent fires, it's not surprising and sometimes not malicious.

"Children with autism can have a fascination with fire and we also have kids who are victims of child abuse, neglect and depression and often the fire lighting is a cry for help," Dr Read said.

"There is another group that is just experimenting with fire play and it gets out of hand."

"The fourth group is the difficult group who are truly malicious and heading toward developing full-blown adult psychopathy. This is the group that really needs to be handled by the justice system."

Older arsonists 'more concerning'

Dr Read, who is also a Research Fellow at Melbourne's Monash University, said he was more concerned about older arsonists, who are likely to light fires on high fire danger days and closer to populated areas.

"These people are above the age of 30 and get more dangerous the older they get," he said.

"What we're dealing with are people who are pretty embittered with life, some of low intelligence and others who have issues with violence, alcohol and drugs."

"They suffer depression and sometime have personality disorders, sparked by relationship breakdowns or the loss of a job."

Dr Read said there was no simple answer as to why



• Police tape at the recent North Rothbury fire. It was the work of an arsonist

people deliberately started fires.

"They say that the typical arsonist is a versatile criminal and they can be really hard to profile," he said.

"The more dangerous fire bugs will come out on the high fire danger days ... they're cunning, they know where to light and they know how to light a fire."

A 53-year-old man was arrested and charged in Palm Grove on Thursday after allegedly trying to start a fire near Cedar Creek Falls.

Seventeen houses have been destroyed since the fire crisis began last week and multiple

fires are still burning around the state.

Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll said Taskforce Overcross aimed to prevent, disrupt and investigate suspicious fires across Queensland.

"Some of the behaviour ... has been unfortunately reckless and other behaviour has been purposeful,"

Commissioner Carroll said. "The consequences of some of these fires are dire

"People can die, buildings and residents are being destroyed ... these are not usual conditions, they're actually quite dangerous."

Commissioner Carroll said

Donate and bring joy to a family this Christmas



Cessnock City Council is running its annual Christmas Gift and Food Appeal with donations being accepted from Monday 25 November 2019. This year all donations will go to Soupz On, Cessnock Food wars and Hunter Hands of Hope. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging the community to give what they can this festive season.

"We have many vulnerable people in our community who are doing it tough. A small donation could go a long way in helping them enjoy this special time of year with their loved ones."

"If you would like to donate we are receiving toys, toiletries and non-perishable food items."

Council hopes the community will show their support and give generously to the appeal before it ends on Thursday 12 December 2019.

Donation drop off points include; under the Christmas tree in Council's administration building and over the counter at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries.

For health and safety reasons, please ensure all donations are new and unwrapped.

police would be relentless in investigating suspicious fires.

"Arson is a very serious offence that can lead to life imprisonment."

Dr Read praised the formation of the taskforce. "I absolutely commend that, it is very responsive," he said.

"This taskforce will have the ability to collaborate with other departments, police and firefighters and even the community. Arson is a very furtive crime and it's usually the community that has suspicions and that information needs to get to police."

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REFLECTIONS

"Advent ~ A season of waiting and preparing"

As we begin our journey of Advent, we are reminded that only the Father knows the day and the hour of the coming of the Son of Man. The disciples (and that includes us) nor the angels nor even Jesus himself know when that will be. It is of no surprise that Jesus says to his disciples, "Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" [Matthew 24.42]. It is a challenge to be ready, to be prepared and to be found waiting.

Advent gives us both time and space to reflect more deeply on how prepared we are ... as we wait for the birth of Jesus. As we prepare for our Christmas celebrations, when we celebrate and remember the birth of the Saviour of the world, let us also take time to wait with the disciples, with the prophets and with Mary.

Those of us who have young family, or are young at heart, often have Advent Calendars which help us to count down to Christmas. The chocolate that we find behind each number on the Advent Calendar, is a treat and reminds us of God's gifts to us. Many of us also use Advent Wreaths, which are rich in symbolism, to decorate our doors and tables.

The Advent Wreath

What does its symbolism mean?

The Circle: Symbolises God's everlasting love for His people, a love which gives us Jesus so that we may know the extent of his love.

Evergreens: Represent the eternal life to come and the new life Christ brings to the world.

The Candles: The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. One more is lit each Sunday reminding us to shine with joy and hope because Jesus will soon be here. Three candles are purple. The candle for the third Sunday is pink.

Purple: Recalls to us the Baptist's message, "Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand." We must prepare by turning from anything that will separate us from Christ when he comes.

Pink Candle: Represents our hope and joy in Christ.

Christ Candle: This 5th candle in the wreath is white and is placed in the centre of the wreath. This candle is known as the Christ candle. Its colour represents purity, and it symbolises the birth of Christ bringing God's light into the world.

May this Advent Season be a blessing to all, drawing us deeper into His story.

Every Blessing, Reverend Nicole

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SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. LOVING OUR COMMUNITY.

Members say



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

The real meaning of a catastrophic fire danger came into very sharp focus for our area over the past week, forcing many of us to evaluate very rapidly what is most important to us. Like all local councils, Singleton Council did everything possible to support the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Police and the emergency services as they lead the response to several incidents across our region, battling extreme and unprecedented conditions to save hundreds of homes and prevent the further spread of bushfires.

It does not seem enough to say thank you to all of those emergency services personnel, Council staff and the agencies who were on the ground and literally at the firefront in dangerous conditions. It is due to your courage and dedication that there were no further losses, and why many of us are still able to sleep in our own beds. We owe you a great debt. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with everyone who was affected by the fires in the Singleton and neighbouring local government areas, as well as across NSW.

But if there is anything positive to come out of last week's catastrophic conditions, it is to commend everyone in our community who accepted and took appropriate action, and the wonderful way the people of Singleton always support each other in times of need. Like the way we have all banded together in the face of the worst drought on record. Last week's conditions highlighted, yet again, the consequences of drought as many local property owners feared first of all the arrival of a bushfire, and secondly whether there would be any water to fight it.

So as the smoke settles and the hot, dry conditions move into summer, it's more important than ever that proper recognition is given to all areas experiencing drought.

No one could begrudge new initiatives for drought-affected areas announced by the Federal Government recently. But I am furious Singleton continues to be left off the list for eligibility – and I am far from giving in. I will continue to lobby on behalf of our farming community. People in our local government area are

suffering in this drought, just as people are suffering across our region and across Australia. We know there are projects that can be done in our LGA to support drought-affected properties to develop and enhance water assets to build longer-term resilience and redundancy so that when the next dry spell comes - or the next bushfire - the impacts won't be so pronounced.

I invite Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack to come to Singleton so that he can meet personally with the mums, dads and kids who are our farming families, to look at their faces and tell them that they're just not doing it tough enough.

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

It's been twenty years since a Coalition Government, led by John Howard, deregulated Australia's dairy industry. Howard did not act precipitously. Rather, he took the next steps in a long period of necessary reform beginning with Labor Primary Industries Minister, John Kerin. Not long after, the big supermarket chains saw opportunity, using fresh milk as a loss-leader in a strategy to build market share at the expense of the corner store. It was a strategy that by 2011 gave birth to the "dollar milk" so despised by dairy farmers.

Long caught in a cost-price squeeze, our dairy farmers are leaving in droves as the drought adds to their woes. Their production costs continue to rise while the price of fresh milk and cheese remain stubbornly low.

In the Parliament this week, Labor teamed with Pauline Hanson's One Nation and others in a second attempt to save our dairy farming families by supporting a Bill which largely mirrored the policy Labor took to the 2019 election; a proposal to introduce a Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price.

The concept is a simple one. An independent regulator would regularly assess the cost of producing milk within each dairy region. It would then set a minimum farm gate price just above that cost. A Mandatory Code of Conduct would protect farmers from the power of the big processors while still allowing farmers to negotiate the best price for their milk – though no less than the price

set by the regulator. Pauline Hanson's Bill failed in the Senate last week 30 votes to 31. Liberal and National Party Senators voted together to defeat the proposal. The vote took place the same day it was becoming clear that the Morrison-McCormack Government is not even capable of implementing a Code of Conduct to manage the power imbalance between our farmers and the processors who purchase their milk.

Finally dragged screaming to support a Code, it's been twenty months since the implementation process began. Sadly, last week we learned the Government is working hard to water-down its own draft Code. The more enlightened farm leaders advise that the amended draft Code would be worse for farmers than not having a Code at all. The Code is supposed to level the playing field for dairy farmers by - amongst other things - stopping claw-back provisions in contracts which retrospectively cut payments to farmers. When asked four times on ABC radio this week to explain the dilution, Agriculture Minister, Bridget McKenzie, declined to do so four times.

It is not overreach to suggest that without change, we could lose our dairy industry and find ourselves importing our drinking milk. Already we import around half of the dairy products we consume. Yet Scott Morrison refuses to act and National Party MPs are either unwilling, or unable, to stand up for our farmers and to him. Former Leader Black Jack McEwen will be rolling in his grave!

Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR OUR CATASTROPHIC FIRE DAY WAS FORTUNATELY NOT CATASTROPHIC

I want to thank and applaud all efforts made by everyone last week for what could have been a terrible Tuesday. While we most certainly had some fire events, the preparations and response by fire services and community allowed us to get on top of the problem as quickly as possible with a minimum of damage.

One of the beauties of our region is the vast amount of bushland – privately owned and natural, Crown Land, State Forests and National Parks. With this beauty comes significant fire risk during our hot dry summers.

Controlling fires inside of our urban, cleared, residential areas is possible, but controlling fires in our rugged bushland is far more problematic. Fortunately, last week, our fires did not get into this largely uncontrollable fire land.

It is important to note that by and large the strategy for fire in bushland is to allow it burn until it is a threat to life and property. So don't expect our brave fire men and women to be tracking deep into our bush to fight the fire, unless there is a strategic advantage to this in perhaps building a fire break.

There has been some chatter about the need to do more back-burning to prevent the worst of the fires by eating up their fuel before they start. There is some real common sense to this, especially in areas where bush and housing meet. There will no doubt be (I hope) a greater focus on this in the future.

One really important message from last week's events is that we now have the ability and willingness to advise the wider community of these catastrophic days. Generally, the classification of catastrophic is only used on days when the humidity (moisture) in the air is very low, land very dry, temperatures high and winds strong. As we all saw last week, the use of a catastrophic fire rating has a significant impact on community with schools and other services closed down and large numbers of people off work to look after their families. For business owners, this is a pretty big hit to their operations. For large government agencies it makes it hard to deliver basic services. Governments, and all political parties, are very aware of all of this so no one will be using the rating of catastrophic lightly. It will only be used in the most extreme and dangerous of circumstances.

So finally I urge this caution; please don't be fooled by the absence of a terrible, widespread, catastrophic fire event in our local area last week; please don't fall into a state of emergency warning fatigue. The very next time that we get these same warnings, likely to be again during this summer, please take note of all warnings and please make all necessary preparations as if your life depended on it, because it might. The tragic events on the mid-north coast last week could just as easily have been right here, in our neighbourhood. And maybe next time they will.

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

You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers Clayton



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

On behalf of the community thank you to our local firefighters for their fast action during the catastrophic fire conditions we experienced. Fires along Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury, York Street and Harper Street, Greta were escalated to emergency warning. The blazes threatened dozens of homes forcing residents to evacuate. Thanks to the swift action of our local fire fighters the fires were soon downgraded. After speaking with fire fighters first on scene at North Rothbury it was overwhelmingly clear the fact they were on site so quickly is the only reason more damage was not done to property. It is a stark reminder that the closure of local fire stations is not an acceptable outcome for the community. Council will continue to lobby for the Weston Fire Station to remain open.

Unfortunately we are just at the start of the fire season and must all remain vigilant. To stay up-to-date with the latest information, residents are encouraged to download the Fires Near Me

App www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me. It was extremely clear that our community pulls together in times of need. At the last Council meeting a Mayoral minute was adopted officially thanking the Rural Fire Service and all of those community members who helped each other out. Bimbadgen and the Mushroom Group must be acknowledged for their huge show of community spirit in offering free tickets to Rob Thomas to firefighters, their families and those impacted by the fires. What a wonderful way to show support to our local community.

There was an exceptional turn out last Wednesday to the Cessnock Walks Kawuma where our community came together in solidarity to raise awareness of the impacts of domestic and family violence. It was positive to see over 600 people standing together against domestic violence. Let us always stand together on this issue and reduce the rates of violence in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). It is everyone's business and priority to see positive change.

Last week Council attended the public hearing into prices for Hunter Water from 1 July 2020-21 held by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW (IPART). It was an opportunity to make our voice heard for the residents

of North Rothbury and other villages across LGA that do not have sewerage services. There needs to be a planned approach by the NSW Government and Hunter Water to address the backlog that currently exists across the state. A user pays model is not equitable. The idea that a resident would have to pay \$63,000 per property to get sewerage connected is incomprehensible. Following the public hearing IPART will release a draft report in March 2020. For more information

visit www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Water/Reviews/Metro-Pricing/Prices-for-Hunter-Water-Corporation-from-1-July-2020.

The Carols in the Park are just days away! Gates open at 6pm and the carolling kicks off from 6:45pm. Remember it 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 Aerologistics Helicopters.

Cheers, Bob



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

It's been a anxious time over the past couple of weeks and I'd like to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the firefighters and emergency workers who ensured no homes were lost in the recent fires at North Rothbury and Greta. Josh and I packed up the kids and the dog on that Tuesday afternoon and took off to my parents, just to be on the safe side. But leaving the house was still quite concerning, so I can't even begin to imagine how those under direct threat were feeling. The outpouring of support from members of the public and their assistance with evacuations exemplified the wonderful community in which we live. I spoke about this in the Chamber last week and it's something we should all keep in mind as we head into, what will no doubt be, another hot and long summer with a growing bushfire threat. So remember to look out for your family, friends and neighbours and do not litter in anyone who litters dangerous items like lit cigarettes or who you see acting suspicious.

I'd like to give a special shout out to the organisers of the Greta Army Camp and Greta Migrant Camp Anniversary celebrations. It was a hugely successful weekend with a great turn out and it was lovely that our LGA could again host Governor General Hurley and Mrs Hurley. His

Excellency mentioned Greta during his Remembrance Day address at the Australian War Memorial. We should all be so proud of the legacy created by the people who resided at the camps, and their contribution to peace, democracy, multiculturalism and nation building. I hope your Christmas shopping is well underway (I haven't started yet!). But it's important to remember that Christmas can be a particularly difficult time of year for those who are doing it tough. That's why Cessnock Council is again running it's annual Gift & Food Appeal, with donations accepted until 12 December. A special gift could be enough to put a smile on the face of one of the many vulnerable people living in our community, so please consider donating by placing your new and unwrapped items under the Christmas Tree at Council's Admin Building.

Cheers, Melanie



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

BUSHFIRE CLEAN UP

I welcome the commitment by the NSW Government of \$25 million in order to help with the clean-up costs of the recent bushfires which have devastated much of NSW.

After seeing and hearing the amazing actions of communities during this period, that it is now time for the Government to do its part.

The NSW Government is providing disaster recovery relief to help communities get back on their feet as soon as possible.

The funding will help pay for the clean-up of hazardous materials including the removal of asbestos-contaminated material released as a result of the bushfires, concrete slabs, and all dangerous debris including destroyed homes and trees.

The NSW Government will also waive waste levy fees for residents disposing of bushfire-generated waste at nominated facilities saving households thousands of dollars. Building materials, furniture and any other bushfire generated waste is included.

The exemption of waste levy fees applies until 29 February 2020 on debris and waste created by these bushfires.

Both Cessnock & Singleton LGA are included.

Cheers, Michael

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News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Air pollution

Air pollution: an overview
It is well known that air pollution can be harmful to our health. The air we breathe can contain a variety of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere outdoors (also called ambient air) as well as into the air indoors. Air pollution can contain a mixture of solid particles, liquid droplets and gases from a variety of sources such as industry, motor vehicles, heating appliances, and tobacco smoke. Air pollution can also be generated by natural events such as bush fires and can contain wind-blown dust, pollen and mould spores. The composition of air pollution can vary greatly, depending on the season, the weather and the types and numbers of sources. At the levels measured in Australia, the effect of air pollution on any individual's health is generally very small. However, because everyone is exposed to air pollution the total effect across the whole population can be substantial. In Australia, it is estimated that about 1% of the total burden of disease is due to air pollution.

How does air pollution affect your health?
Exposure to air pollution may cause a wide range of health effects. These vary from mild symptoms such as irritation of your eyes, nose and throat, to more serious conditions such as lung (respiratory) and heart (cardiovascular) diseases. Depending on the particular pollutant, short-term exposure has different health effects to long-term exposure. Short-term exposure exacerbates, or makes worse, pre-existing illnesses such as asthma, chronic bronchitis (also called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD) or heart disease. Longer-term exposure can actually cause the development of respiratory and heart conditions and shorten someone's life. Read more about specific adverse health effects in Common air pollutants and their health effects, Who is affected by air pollution and Simple steps to protect your health.

Who is affected by air pollution?
Everyone can be affected by air pollution especially when exposed over prolonged periods of time. However, some groups of people may be more susceptible than others in

regards to exposure to air pollution. Different pollutants may affect these groups differently. For example, several of the pollutants may trigger symptoms in people with asthma, whereas people with heart disease are most likely to be affected by particle pollution. The following people are more likely to be affected:

People with asthma: exposure to air pollution might worsen your symptoms or trigger asthma attacks. Use your reliever medicine and check you have an up to date asthma action plan.

- **People with lung disease,** such as chronic bronchitis (also called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD): exposure to air pollution might worsen your symptoms. Use your reliever medicine and see your doctor if symptoms don't resolve.
- **People with cardiovascular (heart) disease:** exposure to air pollution might induce symptoms such as palpitations, chest pain or shortness of breath. If your symptoms persist or are severe, you should seek urgent medical advice from your doctor or nearest Emergency Department. People can be more susceptible to some type of air pollution in certain life stages:
- **Unborn babies (pregnant women):** exposure to high levels of air pollution over longer time periods (ie weeks to months) may be linked to adverse pregnancy outcomes such as reduced birth weight or preterm birth. **Children** are likely to be more vulnerable to exposure to air pollution compared to adults for the following reasons:
 - * Their lungs are still growing and developing
 - * Their immune and metabolic systems are still developing
 - * They suffer from frequent respiratory infections
 - * They are more active outdoors than adults and therefore breathe in higher doses of outdoor pollutant
- However, most evidence suggests that this is more likely in situations when concentrations are elevated over long periods of time and not just over a few days. There is so far no evidence that short-term increases in air pollution have permanent effects on the developing lung. Some children are especially vulnerable. This includes children with underlying

chronic lung conditions such as asthma and cystic fibrosis.

Older adults: Older people are more likely to be affected by air pollution, perhaps due to generally weaker immune systems, or undiagnosed respiratory or cardiovascular health conditions. As people age, their bodies are less able to compensate for the effects of environmental hazards. Air pollution can aggravate heart disease and stroke, lung diseases such as chronic bronchitis (also called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD) and asthma.

Simple steps to protect your health
In Australia, state and federal governments are working closely together to keep the air as clean as possible. There are also steps individuals can take to reduce air pollution in the community such as choosing 'cleaner' domestic heaters and reducing the number of trips in the car. In order to limit your exposure to air pollution, there are a number of simple steps you can take such as:

Check your local air quality index (AQI) to find information on current air pollution levels in your area

Know when and where air pollution may be bad
Ozone is often worst on hot summer days, especially in the afternoons and early evenings

Particle pollution can be bad any time of year. It can be especially bad when the weather is calm, allowing air pollution to build up. Particle levels can be high near busy roads, during rush hour, and when there is smoke in the air from wood heaters, hazard reduction activities or during bush fires. Dust storms will also generate high levels of particle pollution.

Avoid exercising near busy roads and industrial areas. If you experience symptoms, or tend to be susceptible to air pollution consider the following: Substitute your exercise with a less intense activity (e.g. walk instead of jog)

Reduce the time you are exercising outdoors
In summer, plan your most vigorous activities for the morning
See your doctor if symptoms are severe or do not settle after reducing exposure

Reduce your air pollution inside your home
Don't smoke indoors

- Regularly ventilate

your home to remove indoor pollutants and build up of moisture. Turn on exhaust fans, particularly when bathing, showering, cooking, doing laundry and drying clothes. Don't use wood-fired stoves and wood-burning heaters (fire places) in your home if possible. If you do use a wood-burning heater, follow the recommendations on our factsheet on wood-burning heaters to minimise air pollution

Don't use unflued gas heaters if possible. If you do use an unflued gas heater, follow the recommendations on our factsheet on unflued gas heaters

Install a kitchen exhaust fan above your gas cook top if possible

Consider limiting burning candles and incense

Don't use ozone generators for managing indoor air pollution or odour problems.

If you suffer from asthma, other respiratory conditions such as chronic bronchitis (also called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD), or cardiovascular disease, make sure you have your reliever medicine handy.

Council focused on securing a sewerage solution for North Rothbury at IPART NSW public hearing

Cessnock City Council focussed on a solution oriented approach at today's public hearing into prices for Hunter Water from 1 July 2020-21 held by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW (IPART).

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent advocated for the residents of North Rothbury and other villages across the Cessnock Local Government Area that do not have sewerage services. Mayor, Cr Pynsent was clear there needs to be a planned approach by the NSW Government and Hunter Water to address the backlog that currently exists across the state when it comes to sewerage services.

"We need to work together to come up with an approach that is equitably funded for those who are missing out on this basic service. It's evident the existing mechanism will not allow for the backlog to be addressed. It's also overwhelmingly clear that our residents should not be asked to pay a hefty bill to secure a sewerage service."

"I thank IPART and Hunter Water for providing the opportunity to raise issues at the public hearing regarding their decision to remove the Environmental Improvement Charge that previously allowed costs for delivering backlog sewerage services to be shared across all wastewater users in the lower Hunter. Council believes in North Rothbury's case that the user pays model is not equitable. The idea that a resident would have to pay \$63,000 per property to get sewerage connected is incomprehensible."

"We now have an opportunity to come up with a better approach. Council will continue to work with you on this and on behalf of our residents to get a positive outcome."

Following the public hearing IPART will release a draft report in March 2020. For more information visit <https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Water/Reviews/Metro-Pricing/Prices-for-Hunter-Water-Corporation-from-1-July-2020>.

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Cranberry sangria



Sangria recipes
Sweet, fruity and refreshing, a cool glass of sangria is the ultimate drink to enjoy on a hot summer's night. A punch, sangria is traditionally made with red wine and chopped fruit, plus other ingredients such as orange juice or brandy. Luckily, you don't need to travel to Europe to enjoy this classic drink, as easy sangria recipes are here at your fingertips! Browse our collection of the best sangria recipes and you'll be enjoying a delicious, tangy beverage in no time.

Ingredients
1 cup ice cubes
1/4 pineapple, peeled, thinly sliced, cut into wedges
1/2 small orange, thinly sliced, cut into wedges
1 passionfruit, quartered
500ml (2 cups) cranberry juice
500ml (2 cups) ginger beer
1/2 cup fresh mint leaves
Pomegranate seeds, to serve

Step 1
Divide the ice cubes among 4 large serving glasses. Top with the pineapple, orange and passionfruit.

Step 2
Divide the cranberry juice and ginger beer among the glasses. Top with the mint leaves and pomegranate seeds

Delicious!



MONDAY, 11TH NOV –
The Annual Land Cookery/
Product Promotion
(Australian Honey) Day
was a warm, welcoming
and relaxing day for the
approx. 30 guests and
members at the McAuley
Hall, Branxton. Roslyn
Shearer (Cookery Officer)
and Trish Walker (Cookery
Judge) were very busy with
the judging, whilst
everyone enjoyed a lovely
morning tea and catching
up with friends.

Mr Joe Spellman and his
daughter, Fiona, from
"Belford Bushlands", gave
an interesting and
educational talk on his
Honey Business and the
process involved. He also
won 1st and 2nd prize for his
honey at the Singleton
Show in September this
year. Congratulations, Joe
and thank you and Fiona for
your time.
A Minutes Silence was held
at 11.00am in remembrance
of all who lost their lives,
not only in the First World
War but ALL Wars since.
Their bravery and sacrifice



1st and 2nd Prize Winning Honey at 2019 Singleton Show. Congratulations, Joe.

will never be forgotten.
Marie Shearer also asked
all in attendance to say a
silent prayer for ALL the
brave fire fighters, fighting
the bush fires.
Results of the Land
Cookery Competition were
announced by Roslyn and
Trish and Certificates
presented to the appropriate
winners. Will only name
1st places due to restriction
of space and the fact that
they will be going onto
Hunter River Group section
in March 2020.
Noeleen Bendeich - Steam
Pudding; Petticoat Tail
Shortbread; Honey
Jumbles; Strawberry Jam.
Roslyn Shearer – Fruit
Cake; Orange/Ricotta
Gluten Free Cake; Donna
Latter Mem. Choc. Cake.;
Peach Blossom Cake.
Marie Shearer – Date Loaf.
Martin Shearer – Sultana

Cake.
Kerrie Bendeich – Lime &
Buttermilk Cake.
Leanne Bendeich –
Traditional Sponge.
Declan Shearer – Cinnamon
Tea Cake (Section 11 (a))
Zac Shearer – Decorated
Butter Biscuits (Section 11
(b))
Congratulations to all
placegetters and all the best
to above for Hunter River
Group next year.
A delicious lunch was then
enjoyed by all, followed by
a wonderful selection of
slices and tea and coffee.
Hopefully all enjoyed the
day as much as we did.
We would happily welcome
anyone interested in helping
to raise 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 Ph.
0402015850 or email
[branxtongre-
tacwa@hotmail.com](mailto:branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com)

Denise McGoldrick,
Publicity Officer.



Trish Walker, assisted by Roslyn Shearer, judging the Cookery Competition.



Joe Spellman and daughter, Fiona, Guest-speakers on Honey. Thanks again

For Sale

BRANXTON



Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit
Are you seeking your first home or maybe an investment. Well this is the opportunity to buy at a low price. A brick and tile two bedroom unit with a large open living area and large bedrooms. The property has its own private outdoor space and internal access to the garage. Updated Bathroom and Strata managed with low fees. It is currently tenanted at \$260 per week. Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway

ASKING \$275,000

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
REAL ESTATE
M: 0412 566 041 P: 4938 3300



ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
 PLAN & REPEAL OF CHAPTER B2 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION & ADVERTISING
 OF THE CESSNOCK DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2010

At the Council Meeting of 20 November 2019, Council resolved to adopt the Community Participation Plan (CPP) and Repealed Chapter B2 Public Notification and Advertising of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010.

Council advises that the Community Participation Plan became effective from **21 November 2019**

The intent of the CPP is to make it easier for the community to understand when they can get involved in planning matters. It provides guidance on how the community can have a say on the different types of planning matters for which Council is the Planning Authority. The CPP only applies to matters legislated by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Strategic Planning section on 4993 4183.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT CESSNOCK
 LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT 2036

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 20 November 2019 Council resolved to place the Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 on public exhibition.

The Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 is a requirement of the NSW State Government and must be prepared by Council by 1 July 2020. The Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 will inform local plans, including amendments to the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011* and development standards in the *Cessnock Development Control Plan 2011*. The document will give effect to regional and district plans and will be used to identify where further strategic planning is needed for the LGA. The document outlines a vision for land use planning in the LGA to 2036 and details how population growth, employment, housing, the environment, heritage and other unique features of the LGA will be managed and prioritised in the future.

Once adopted the Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 will replace the *City Wide Settlement Strategy 2010*.

The Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 is on public exhibition for a period of **10 weeks from 27 November 2019 to 5 February 2020** and can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building;
- Council's Public Libraries;
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Council will also be holding community information sessions to discuss the Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 and obtain community feedback. Details of the location and times of the Community Information Sessions will be published in the *Cessnock Advertiser* and on Council's website.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036. Any views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a final decision is made on the Draft Plan.


In order to be considered by Council, **submissions must be received by 5.00pm on 5 February 2020 and should quote "59/2015/1/2 – Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036"**. Submissions should be addressed to The General Manager and can be submitted via:

- Email to council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au; or
- Post to PO Box 152, CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Submissions are NOT kept confidential. Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with Privacy Laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. **Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission.**

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Strategic Planning section on 4993 4100.

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au
62-75 Vincent St, Cessnock
02 4993 4100




WITH

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

SHAW & BUNNER

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



ARSON ~ BUSHFIRES

At least two people are dead, several remain missing and more than 150 homes have been destroyed in the past several weeks as bushfires have surged out of control along the Eastern Coast of Australia.

With most of the country in severe drought, total fire bans are being enforced across every jurisdiction, but that doesn't stop people from doing the wrong thing. In far northern New South Wales over the weekend, two youths were arrested after allegedly setting a fire in scrubland at Kingscliff by gathering paper, dry leaves and vegetation and setting it alight with a cigarette lighter.

A man walking past saw the smoke, and the boys – who fled towards the beach. He tried to put the fire out himself before calling the fire brigade. Firefighters managed to put the fire out quickly, but the damage could have been much worse in the hot, dry conditions.

Police eventually caught two young teens who they believe started the fire. Aged 13 and 14, the boys have been dealt with under the Young Offenders Act.

A large percentage of fires are deliberately lit.

Estimates from the National Centre for Research in Bushfire and Arson suggest that of the 60,000 bushfires that occur each year in Australia, about 13% are started deliberately, and 37% have 'suspicious' origins.

The crime of deliberately starting a fire is taken very seriously. It is a very dangerous crime – one that can cause extensive damage quickly, and which can seriously injure and kill people and animals, and a crime that is not always easy to solve. However, advances in science and forensics are making headway in this area. Last year the New South Wales parliament passed laws to increase the penalties for bushfire arson offences from 14 years to 21 years.

In New South Wales, there are four distinct offences within the Crimes Act 1900 which deal with the destruction of property by means of fire.

Causing a bushfire
The offence of "causing a bushfire" is contained in s 203E of the Crimes Act, which says that you may be charged with this offence if you deliberately cause a

fire, and you are reckless as to whether that fire may spread to vegetation or public or private land. However, you will not be charged with an offence under this section where you started the fire under the direction of a fire fighter, or as part of your employment as a fire fighter, or where you caused the fire in the course of "hazard reduction operations" – i.e. back burning. Because of the serious consequences that may result from bushfires, the maximum penalty for this offence is 25 years imprisonment.

Section 100(1) of the Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW) outlines the crime of deliberately lighting fires, mandating a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and/or a fine of \$11,000 for any person who, without lawful authority:

- sets fire or causes fire to be set to the land or property of another person, the Crown or any public authority, or
- being the owner or occupier of any land, permits a fire to escape

from that land under such circumstances as to cause or be likely to cause injury or damage to the person, land or property of another person or the land or property of the Crown or a public authority.

The law also says that setting a fire when there is a total fire ban is to be considered an aggravating factor when sentencing, prescribing a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment and/or a \$120,000 for any person who commits an offence "knowing" there is a total fire ban in place.

This legislation also makes it clear that any person who, "without lawful authority, leaves (temporarily or otherwise) any fire they have lit or used in the open air before

the fire is thoroughly extinguished is guilty of an offence." This attracts a maximum penalty of 12 months in prison and a fine of \$5,500.

It's important to note that if a person actually dies as a result of a deliberately lit fire, then the offender could be charged with other serious offences such as manslaughter.

Currently investigations into suspicious fires are being conducted by detectives from individual police area commands and police districts, with assistance from specialist officers attached to Strike Force Tronto & investigations do include North Rothburys' fire on the 12th November

international students. Hmlet has big plans for the Australian market and is looking at expansion into Brisbane and Melbourne. And while co-living may not overtake traditional renting any time soon, it is a trend Crown Group has also seen fit to invest in. The developer is building a co-living apartment complex in Waterloo, complete with 374 units. Crown Group chief executive Iwan Sunito told Domain, they travelled to Hong Kong to see how the concept was working there. Co-living has taken off across the globe, with major success in the UK, US and Asia.

For some, it's tipped as the answer to end urban loneliness, for others, the concept seems strange and lacking in privacy. Despite this, the potential for growth exists. As Paul says, "the pool of people renting is getting bigger and bigger ... if we can get even five per-cent of the renting population to see co-living as their go-to solution, it's a multi-billion-dollar industry."

Cracking down on shoddy builds

Following the disastrous defects which forced the evacuation of the Opal and Mascot Towers, the New South Wales government has moved to introduce new laws, which will better protect future apartment owners.

The *Design and Building Practitioners Act 2019* (NSW) will dramatically increase the accountabilities for builders and designers, including a requirement to register plans for key elements such as fire safety and waterproofing, to ensure they are compliant with the Building Code of Australia.

The *Design and Building Practitioners Bill 2019* [NSW] (Bill) proposes that a select few builders and designers will need to be registered practitioners and provide a compliance

declaration where required. The supporting regulations (which are yet to be developed) may require registered designs and compliance declarations to be electronically lodged. Further to this, the NSW government has advised the changes also allow for the prevention of the issuance of an occupancy certificate or registration of a strata scheme, if serious breaches are believed to have occurred.

The Bill also carries a provision that a duty of care is owed to homeowners. This provision would make it easier for those impacted by shoddy work to sue for compensation – however these reforms will only apply to buildings yet to be constructed. When introducing the Bill, Minister for Better Regulation Kevin Anderson said it marked a monumental step in the reform of the building and construction industry. "People should feel confident they can enter the housing market in NSW, knowing their home has been designed and built in accordance with the Building Code of Australia, which is what this Bill is designed to do," said Anderson.

"We are sending a clear message to industry and the wider community that things must change. Let there be no misunderstanding of the NSW Government's intention to bring confidence back to the high-rise apartment market in NSW."

Failure to comply with the new laws could result in fines up to \$330,000 or even the possibility of up to two years imprisonment. **Engineers Australia responds** Engineers Australia believes the Berejiklian government hasn't gone far enough with the Bill. They're calling for a compulsory registration scheme for all engineers, rather than a select few, arguing it is in the best interest of consumers and

the community. They would like to see a separate engineers registration bill introduced to Parliament in 2020, with registration a pre-requisite to practicing as an engineer here in New South Wales

NSW Real Estate Agents Fighting to Change Perception

The 2019 Ethics Index results released by the Governance Institute of Australia has placed Real Estate as the third most unethical occupation, behind State and Federal politicians. For REINSW President Leanne Pilkington, this data poses a direct challenge to the entire industry.

"We cannot accept these statistics and roll over. It is clear we need to work to improve the way we are viewed by society. "I am proud to say at REINSW we are working on just this, with the Pathway to

Professionalism (P2P) movement. "Just yesterday, over 100 agents from across the state gathered at our Industry Summit to discuss our commitment and drive to improve consumer sentiment.

"Agents need to realise in order to change the perception of the Australian public, we need to take the Pathway to Professionalism and improve as an entire cohort."

Leanne says while perceptions won't change overnight, they will change if agents commit to do better. "We need to recognise where we are going wrong and improve.

"REINSW has run its Industry Summit for seven years and growing the professionalism of our industry has dominated most of them. "What was clear at yesterday's event is agents are prepared to work together and collaborate in order to improve our industry.

"Shifting consumer sentiment is only going to happen when we can demonstrate that our focus is completely on the consumers and what their needs are."



Co-living... is it the future of renting?

Co-living. For many Australian's it's a foreign concept, but what once could have been brushed off as a fad – has become anything but. On Friday, Co-living operator Hmlet opened its largest offering yet – an 82-room warehouse conversion in the heart of St Peters.

Describing co-living as 'a social lifestyle driven by shared values of mobility, sustainability and social responsibility,' Hmlet has already seen major success in Sydney, opening nine locations since its launch in January. Co-living comes in all shapes and sizes. It draws in tenants with it's 'no strings attached' message, offering fully

furnished rooms without the lengthy leases.

In this latest St Peters build, Hmlet is offering single bedrooms from \$370 a week, with a shared bathroom, communal kitchen/dining and shared community space.

For those who are more cashed up, there are entire apartments up for rent – from \$800 per week.

It's a tidy sum, but Hmlet Australia Managing Director Chrystan Paul says it's what you get for the money, that counts. "You have to look at it as what you're getting for \$370 a week", says Paul. "For \$370 a week you're

getting a fully furnished bedroom within a fully furnished apartment. You're getting all-inclusive bills, including high-speed internet and electricity. "You're also getting one clean a week. On top of that you're getting access to a community, a concierge and you're not having to lock yourself in to a 6 month or 12-month contract"

The minimum stay in a Hmlet property is three months – a draw card which is proving popular with the 25-35 age demographic. Paul says they cater to a lot of different people... but most fall into four categories.

"We're catering to expats, who can come to Australia and move in straight away, they don't have to be hassled with the likes of having to buy furniture, set up internet, find flatmates. That's been a solid part of our demographic."

"A similar demographic is interstate travellers; they may be from Melbourne or Perth and have moved for a job."

Paul says locals, frustrated with the traditional methods of renting also take up a significant chunk of their rooms, along with

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.




Helen Lowing,
Licencee-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

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www.domain.com.au



'We work together.
There's no them and us.'



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Mining *Network*

Australia's mining industry employs more than 220,000 people, supporting families and communities across the country and contributing billions of dollars every year to keep our economy strong.

Become a Friend of Australian Mining today and help us provide a stronger voice for mining communities.

Sign up at www.minerals.org.au



There's more to
Australian Mining

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



BRANXTON

Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

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

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



BRANXTON

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





Commissioner Smith said. Police are using proactive strategies and techniques to target potential bushfire arson and reduce the occurrences and impacts of bushfire arson. "Bushfires can be catastrophic, and any report of a deliberately-lit fire is treated extremely seriously," Assistant Commissioner Smith said. "Profiles on people deemed to pose a risk in relation to potential bushfire arson are prepared each season and provided to individual police area commands and police districts. "This process continues using additional intelligence collected throughout the danger period." Investigations into suspicious fires are being conducted by detectives from individual police area commands and police districts, with assistance from specialist officers attached to Strike Force Tronto. The bushfires include:



Crime scene area taped off after the fire on 12th November at North Rothbury

The NSW Police Force is urging the community to be vigilant and report suspicious activity as investigations continue into the cause of bushfires across the state. Strike Force Tronto, comprised of detectives from the Financial Crimes Squad's Arson Unit, has been working closely with individual police area commands and police districts to provide specialist assistance and advice to police on the ground. Since August this year, legal action – which ranges from cautions through to criminal charges – has been taken against 54 people for 69 bushfire-related offences. State Crime Commander, Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith, said detectives use a range of proactive techniques and strategies in the lead-up to and during the bushfire danger period. "Since the Emergency Declaration on Monday (11 November 2019), Strike Force Tronto has provided expertise to four police area commands and 12 police districts," Assistant

- Katoomba – Blue Mountains PAC
- Moonbi – Oxley PD
- Kanooka and Hooka Creek Road – Lake Illawarra PD
- South Turrumurra – Kur-ring Gai PAC
- Loftus – Sutherland PAC
- **North Rothbury and Muswellbrook – Hunter Valley PD**
- Inverell and Ebor – New England PD
- Awaba and Morrisett – Lake Macquarie PD

- Worrigea – South Coast PD
 - Balgownie – Wollongong PD
 - Glenreagh – Coffs Clarence PD
 - Tallong – Hume PD
 - Cowra – Chifley PD
 - Congarinni and Carrai East – Mid North Coast PD
 - Lane Cove – North Shore PAC
 - Pioneer Park – Riverina PD
- Assistant Commissioner Smith said the community has an important part to play in investigations. "Information provided to police from members of the public can help identify and apprehend an arsonist and could help the police to prevent bushfire arson occurring," Assistant Commissioner Smith said. "If you see someone acting suspiciously, contact police, and if you see a bushfire, members of the public should always phone Triple Zero (000)." Penalties relating to bushfires under the NSW Crimes Act, the Rural Fires Act, and Rural Fires Regulation include:

- Damaging property with the intention of endangering life – up to 25 years imprisonment;
 - Manslaughter – up to 25 years imprisonment;
 - Starting a bushfire and being reckless as to its spread – up to 21 years imprisonment;
 - Lighting a fire when a total fire ban is in place – up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a \$5500 fine;
 - Not putting out a fire that you have lit – up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a \$5500 fine;
 - Failing to comply with a bush fire hazard reduction notice – up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a \$5500 fine;
 - Light or use a tobacco product within 15metres of any stack of grain, hay corn, straw or any standing crop, dry grass or stubble field – up to a \$5500 fine.
- For more information on bushfires, monitor www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call the Bush Fire Information Line on 1800 679 737. Strike Force Tronto is the lead investigative body on suspicious or deliberately-lit bushfires which lead to death, serious injury or significant property loss.

For Sale


BRANXTON "SUTTON GROVE"

Something for everyone

As you enter this lovely family estate you will see wide open spaces. 5 good size bedrooms, all with built-ins & main with walk-in robe & ensuite. There are multiple living areas with a large covered decking off the family area & covered BBQ area. Other features include ducted air conditioning, all gas cooking, 18 metre shed with toilet & 3-phase power, lovely gardens, water tank & dam.

All this on .8HA (Approx 2 acres)

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



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

M: 0412 566 041 P: 4938 3300

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

NORTH ROTHBURY



A large family home with everything you could ask for



Features include 3 good sized bedrooms all with builtins, open plan living; sitting room, dining room, modern kitchen, separate lounge room & ensuite to main. The living area opens onto outside entertainment area deck. Large carport & large shed completes the true picture.



ASKING \$439,000



WALKING TOWARDS THUNDER
By Peter Fox
Published by Hachette Australia on 27 August 2019

'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.'

Former Detective Chief

Inspector Peter Fox is a hero in many people's eyes. A police officer with 36 years' service in the Hunter region, he rose to national prominence in 2012 for his major role in speaking out for the victims of abuse within the church. He had been at the coalface fighting these heinous crimes for decades. He had worked with the victims and supported their



• Local author Peter Fox

families. He knew an enquiry was long overdue. His decision to become a whistle blower helped trigger Prime Minister Julia Gillard's historic decision to establish a far-reaching Royal Commission into the sexual abuse of children in institutions. He had no idea what speaking up would unleash. Peter's dedication and focus cost him his career, his health and also affected his wife's health. He and his family were threatened. Former friends shunned him. But the victims and the families that he supported consider him their champion. To them he is a hero.

"Walking Towards Thunder" details the cumulative horrors our police face every day, it reveals the cover ups and the way sexual predators were moved around. It shows the backlash he faced and the lengths those in power will go to avoid facing the truth. Confronting and inspiring, this is an unforgettable story.

ABOUT . . .
Former Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox is a 36-year veteran of the NSW Police Force, during which time he investigated countless child sexual abuse cases in the Hunter Region of New South Wales. In November 2012, Peter Fox put his job on the line and went public with claims of systemic cover-up of institutional child abuse. His voice helped prompt the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. As a whistle-blower, Peter has made many enemies and many have tried to discredit him. However, the victims and their families are strong in their support of the man who was always there for them, and who helped give them a voice. Peter continues to fight for victims and speak out against those who took advantage of their power to target and silence victims of abuse.

The New York Times Best Sellers

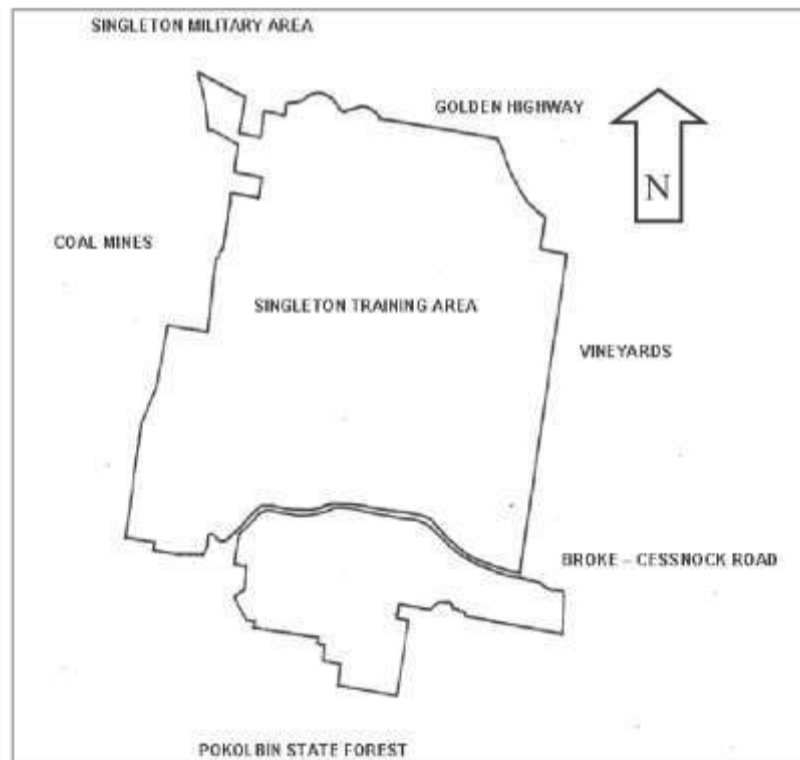
Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (10 November 2019)

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



A Taste of Tamworth

Saturday 25th January 2020

Take the worry out of driving!!!

The Rotary Club of Maitland invites Hunter residents to join them for a day trip to the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Get in early and reserve a seat on the lovingly restored vintage train.

Cost of Ticket includes:

- Return train travel
- Hot breakfast (a bacon/egg roll, orange juice and/or tea coffee)
- Complimentary Tea & Coffee on the return journey

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

Rotarian Earl on 0422 479 757

email: checkman@bigpond.net.au

Payment can be made by Credit Card or Direct Deposit into the Maitland Rotary Club Bank Acct

Profits from the day will be distributed to the "Rotary Shelter Box Australia"

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

WHAT'S ON

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



\$1100 Wed 27/11

\$1500 Sun as at 24/11

Friday 29th NOV

MARRIAH BAND

Friday 6th DEC

HUMMDINGER



Harvest Bistro

Authentic Chinese Cuisine



Open Wed—Sun

12pm to 2.30pm

5.30pm—9pm



FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS

Hams incl. this Sunday

Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 4938 1226



Every Thursday & Sunday

\$700 as at Sun 24/11

\$4000 Thurs 28/11

TUK TUK Thai & Aussie

BUFFET DINNER \$20/head

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

BOOKING ESSENTIAL



Every Friday & Sunday

Hams incl. this Sunday

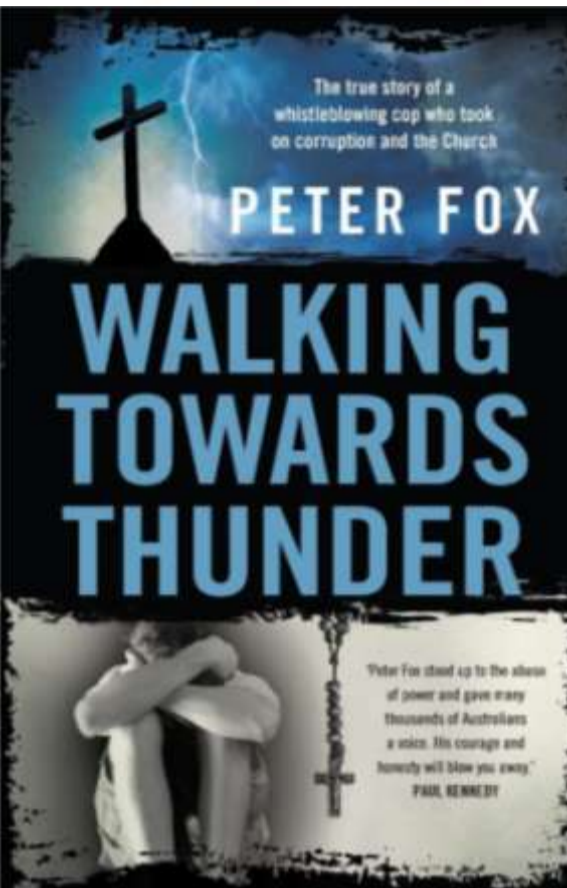
WED

4PM - 6PM



SOCIAL BOWLS

WED'S 4PM



WALKING TOWARDS THUNDER
By Peter Fox
Published by Hachette Australia on 27 August 2019

'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.'

Former Detective Chief

Inspector Peter Fox is a hero in many people's eyes. A police officer with 36 years' service in the Hunter region, he rose to national prominence in 2012 for his major role in speaking out for the victims of abuse within the church. He had been at the coalface fighting these heinous crimes for decades. He had worked with the victims and supported their



• Local author Peter Fox

families. He knew an enquiry was long overdue. His decision to become a whistle blower helped trigger Prime Minister Julia Gillard's historic decision to establish a far-reaching Royal Commission into the sexual abuse of children in institutions. He had no idea what speaking up would unleash. Peter's dedication and focus cost him his career, his health and also affected his wife's health. He and his family were threatened. Former friends shunned him. But the victims and the families that he supported consider him their champion. To them he is a hero. "Walking Towards Thunder" details the cumulative horrors our police face every day, it reveals the cover ups and the way sexual predators were moved around. It shows the backlash he faced and the lengths those in power will go to avoid facing the truth. Confronting and inspiring, this is an unforgettable story.

ABOUT . . .
Former Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox is a 36-year veteran of the NSW Police Force, during which time he investigated countless child sexual abuse cases in the Hunter Region of New South Wales. In November 2012, Peter Fox put his job on the line and went public with claims of systemic cover-up of institutional child abuse. His voice helped prompt the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. As a whistle-blower, Peter has made many enemies and many have tried to discredit him. However, the victims and their families are strong in their support of the man who was always there for them, and who helped give them a voice. Peter continues to fight for victims and speak out against those who took advantage of their power to target and silence victims of abuse.

The New York Times Best Sellers

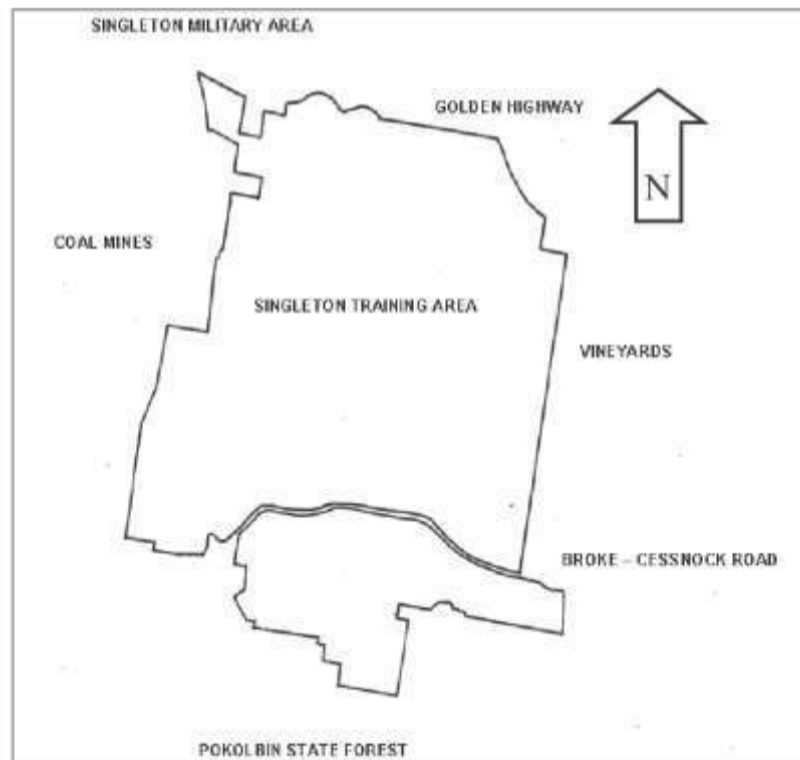
Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (10 November 2019)

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



A Taste of Tamworth

Saturday 25th January 2020

Take the worry out of driving!!!

The Rotary Club of Maitland invites Hunter residents to join them for a day trip to the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Get in early and reserve a seat on the lovingly restored vintage train.

Cost of Ticket includes:

- Return train travel
- Hot breakfast (a bacon/egg roll, orange juice and/or tea coffee)
- Complimentary Tea & Coffee on the return journey

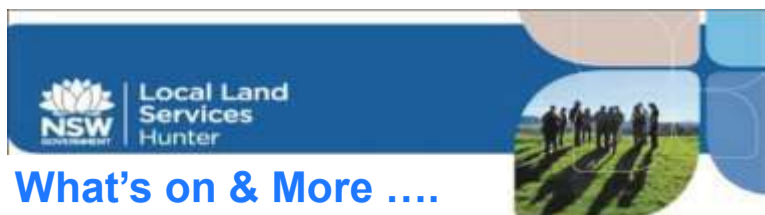
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

Rotarian Earl on 0422 479 757

email : checkman@bigpond.net.au

Payment can be made by Credit Card or Direct Deposit into the Maitland Rotary Club Bank Acct

Profits from the day will be distributed to the "Rotary Shelter Box Australia"



What's on & More

COMING EVENTS....

Low Stock Stress Handling -Tocal

Details

Want to learn advanced stock handling methods that will improve your profits and wellbeing of your stock?

GRAHAME REES is an industry leader in low stress handling techniques and he is coming to the Hunter to run three courses for local producers and industry.

If you are a producer or farmhand, stock agent or saleyard staff member this a fantastic training opportunity that can assist you to improve your WHS management.

RSVP here: <https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/m7lvr2i1f2swaq/>

When

12 Dec 2019 - 13 Dec 2019

Where

Tocal Agricultural College
Tocal

SUMMER FEED AND FODDER ADVICE

Did you get our Summer Feed and Fodder Advice newsletter that recently went out? Our Agricultural Extension and District Vet teams captured some important advice about preparing for summer and ensuring you have enough feed on hand for the months ahead, including an update on recent prices and availability of popular fodders.

Some tips to remember:

In your planning processes for the next three-six months, please consider:

- Do you have enough fodder on hand to get through summer?
- If not, what fodder is available considering that feed prices will continue to remain high as feed is in high demand and hard to source.
- The costs associated with feeding stock for the summer period and where the fodder will come from as it is getting increasingly difficult to obtain.
- The lack of water supplies is now at a critical level in some areas.
- In dams that still retain water, quality has also been severely impacted by the ongoing hot and dry conditions.
- There are significant animal health issues that arise from poor quality water, including problems caused by blue green algae.
- It is important to remember that animals being handfed or lactating and hot weather also increases water needs (up to 100 litres a day per animal).
- Please also consider temperature stress and ensure adequate shade or shelter is available, especially for vulnerable animals like young stock.

ARE YOU GOING AWAY THIS SUMMER?

If you are going away over summer have you made emergency evacuation plans for your livestock? Please complete a Bushfire Survival Plan and ensure you have notified a neighbour or someone who can act on your behalf or move your livestock in case of fire, flood or even water shortages through failed pumps etc. Unfortunately livestock get caught in natural disasters as well, especially if owners are not present to be able to evacuate or care for them at short notice.

Also if you own sheep or goats and plan to go away on holidays for a number of weeks over the holiday period, please ensure that you animals have been adequately drenched before you leave, and that you have arranged for a neighbour (or similar) to keep an eye on them during your absence. If weather conditions over the Christmas period favour survival of worm eggs and larvae on pasture, enormous worm burdens can build up in your animals over a period of just a few weeks. If these worm burdens involve numbers of blood sucking Barber's Pole Worm, your sheep and goats may develop a fatal anaemia before you return from holidays.

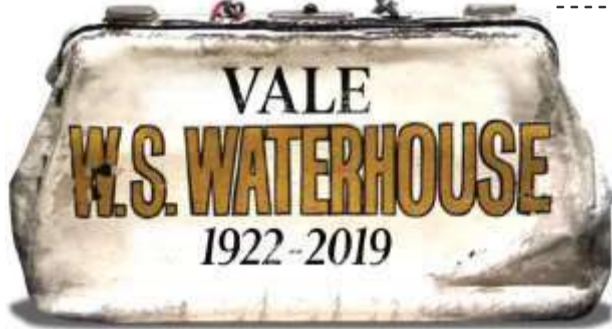
Racing Review & News

An extraordinary Life

Family patriarch Bill Waterhouse, once the biggest bookmaker in the world, has died at the age of 97.

The father of high-profile bookmaker Robbie Waterhouse and father-in-law of leading trainer Gai Waterhouse died surrounded by his family on Friday 22nd November. "He was a fighter to the end," Robbie Waterhouse said. "He lived a good life - legendary across so many fields.

"It was an extraordinary life. "He was a barrister and bookie. He was the leading bookie at the dogs, trots and gallops and it was amazing he was at the top of four or



five different industries during his different careers. "He was the biggest importer of liquor into Australia in the 1940s. He had the biggest hotel in the 1950s. "He would have also been one of the longest serving diplomats in the country as the consul-general to Tonga since 1970." Waterhouse is survived by his wife of 65 years, Suzanne and children Robbie, Louise and David and several grandchildren and

great grandchildren. Born William Stanley Waterhouse, the qualified barrister was a colourful racing figure who carved his name as a bookmaker, particularly during the 1960s and '70s. He was the first Australian bookmaker to stand at Royal Ascot in 1967. Waterhouse was never far from controversy and will be remembered for his alleged role in the Fine Cotton 'ring-in' scandal. In 1984, Waterhouse and

son Robbie were stripped of their bookmaking licences when the Australian Jockey Club alleged they had prior knowledge of the infamous scandal. Bill Waterhouse always maintained his innocence and in 2002 had his bookmaking licence reinstated in order to train his grandson Tom, who became the fourth generation of the family to stand as a bookmaker on Sydney tracks, in the business.



He retired from bookmaking in 2010 at the age of 88. Robbie Waterhouse confirmed the passing of his father on Twitter on Friday morning. "Very sad that we have lost my father, Bill Waterhouse," he wrote. "He left us peacefully with his family by his side. He was in great spirits till the end. He enjoyed a great day with all his great-grandchildren last Sunday."



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 19th November 2019

There was little change in the overall numbers. Cows were again put forward in large numbers, while young cattle including calves were well represented. Quality was fair to good with condition very mixed. There were quite a few well finished cattle presented, a credit to producers. The usual buyers were in attendance with demand varying throughout. Restockers were active on good quality young calves with the market trend as much as 23c/kg dearer. There were increased numbers of vealers with the market also showing dearer trends, some of the better quality heifers experiencing strong gains. Plain quality lightweight yearlings sold to cheaper trends. Better quality lightweight yearling steers sold to a slightly dearer trend with increased demand from restockers. Medium and heavyweight yearling steers to restock and feed sold firm to 10c/kg dearer. Market trends through the good quality yearling heifers were firm to slightly dearer on the back of keen restocker and feedlot competition. The plainer quality heifers sold to cheaper trends. Well finished heifers to the trade sold 6c to 8c/kg dearer. Well finished grown heifers sold to cheaper trends with demand from processors weaker. The plainer quality and condition heifers attracted less competition from restockers and feedlotters, selling to cheaper trends also. Weight of numbers impacted the cow market with the well finished medium and heavyweights bearing the brunt. They saw a cheaper trend of 8c to 16c/kg. The plainer condition cows were less affected. Heavy bulls remained firm.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 20th November 2019

Numbers doubled, as the quality on average was on the plainer side. The younger cattle were well supplied, with the majority yearlings, as the bulk was suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders. Grown steers were well supplied, however the well finished pens suitable for the processors were scarce in the pens. Cows made up the majority of the older cattle, with approximately 330 head in the penning. The better bred and popular breeds of the younger cattle sold well, however the plainer mixed breeds contributed to an overall cheaper market. The over 200kg vealers returning to the paddock eased 10c, with the steers making from 222c to 288c, as the heifer portion sold from 156c to 234c/kg. The better bred and popular breeds of the yearling steers sold to solid competition and reached 308c for the lighter drafts, while the medium and heavy weights made from 200c to 306c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed topped at 270c, however the majority trended considerably cheaper and averaged from 188c to 240c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers were limited in supply and yield on average was considerably lower, with the best topping at 324c/kg. Grown steers to the lot feeders and identified with 2 teeth sold to strong competition and reached 300c, while the majority sold around the 236c to 256c/kg range. The heavy weight steers and bullocks to the processors decreased 20c and received from 236c to 255c/kg. The grown heifers also eased 20c, with the best reaching 240c/kg. Cows trended considerably cheaper, with the plainer drafts selling as much as 30c to 40c lower, to sell from 120c to 210c/kg. The better finished heavy weights sold 20c cheaper and made from 210c to 242c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 230c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 19th November 2019

Consignments increased, with the vealers reduced in number, while the yearlings were well supplied. Grown steers and bullocks were scarce in the pens, while the cows were well represented with approximately 350 penned. There was a good yarding of bulls, with some carrying a high yield potential. The market was firm to a shade cheaper, however breed and quality contributed in places. The over 200kg vealers to the restockers lost 8c, as the steers made from 215c to 292c, while the heifer portion received from 192c to 242c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeders remained close to firm, with the medium weights ranging from 260c to 288c, while the lighter weights topped at 302c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed improved 10c, with an extra buyer at the rails, prices made from 254c to 278c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers were higher yielding this week and the best topped at 344c/kg. Grown heifers improved 2c and received from 250c to 260c/kg. Cows lost 3c, with the plainer 1 and 2 scores ranging from 190c to 238c, as the better covered heavy weights received from 230c to 265c/kg. Heavy weight well muscled bulls reached 300c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 18th November 2019

There was a sharp increase in numbers with heat, wind and fires covering the drawing area. Young cattle and cows made up the bulk of the offering. There was a fair supply of young calves and limited numbers of well finished grown cattle apart from cows. Overall, the quality and condition of the offering showed a great variation. There were large numbers of very plain condition cattle penned with a break in the season not coming. Most of the usual orders were in place, a little less processor activity. There were strong restocker orders, mostly from the far south. Market trends varied through the young cattle with calves selling to a cheaper trend, as much as 8c/kg. Light weight vealers and yearlings saw the benefit of those Southern restocker orders with market trends significantly dearer. There were breed related price improvement in the vealer steers. The standout was the improvement in prices for the very plain quality and condition light weight yearlings, both steers and heifers. The better quality yearling steers to restockers and feeders in all weight classes sold to a slightly cheaper trend. C muscle yearling heifers to restockers and feeders sold on a firm to slightly cheaper market trend. The plain quality and condition heifers significantly dearer. Well finished heavy grown steers sold to a cheaper trend, with reduced competition from processors. The trend was similar for the well finished grown heifers. There was little but quality related price change in the cow market with the usual processors competing. The high yielding C muscle cows remained firm. Demand for heavy bulls was very strong with the market trend as much as 18c/kg dearer.

Waterhouse was known for his boldness and willingness to go head-to-head with leviathan punters such as Ray Hopkins, "Hong Kong Tiger" Frank Duval and "The Filipino Fireball" Filipe Ysmael. His fearless attitude led to him losing \$1 million in a single day in 1968 and he subsequently became widely regarded as the biggest gambler in the world. "King of the bookies" Former big bookmaker Dominic Bernie learned by pencilling for Waterhouse and saw his calmness under pressure. "Bill's success was due to his intelligence and courage," Bernie said. "Like all successful bookies, he had confidence in the prices he was betting.

He always armed himself with clever opinion markets which allowed him to anticipate market movements before they occurred. "I've seen him lay columns of bets on a favourite, and naturally many of them won. But over time, more lost than won, and Bill will be renowned as a very successful satchel swinger." Known as the "king of the bookies" for his dominance of the betting ring, Waterhouse was reported to often hold more than the Totalisator during his prime. "Bill was a giant in the bookmaking profession. He was fearless, controversial and a great character when the track was the only place," Racing NSW chief executive Peter V'landys said in tribute to Waterhouse. • Photo above left: The Late Bill Waterhouse



Six Tips to Safely Shop Online

Here are six tips that can help you keep yourself safe while shopping online.

1 – Use a secure device. Use your own personal devices to shop online instead of using publicly accessible computers. This way, you can avoid using devices that are infected by malware that can record your account credentials or intercept your payment information. Install an antivirus and antimalware to ensure that your device is free from such malicious software. Interestingly, you can purchase security solutions at sizable

discounts throughout the Christmas season. Privacy-oriented solutions like Reason Cybersecurity can help protect your PC against malware like key-loggers and information stealers that scan for and intercept your financial data. It can also secure your webcam and microphone from hackers that try to spy on you using these peripherals. Reason also has a safe browsing plugin that will warn you if the website you're visiting is fraudulent. Its paid Premium version is usually on sale during the holidays at, up to, 70 percent off. You may want to include it among your first key purchases in this Christmas year's sales events.

2 – Check your connection aside from using a secure device, you should also shop online using a secure Internet connection. Avoid connecting via public Wi-Fi hotspots. But should you find yourself using a public hotspot, make sure that you are connected to a website via secure sockets layer (SSL). SSL connections encrypt the data being transmitted between your computer and the server. To check if you're connected through SSL protocol, the website URL should read "https" rather than just "http." Most browsers will also display a "lock" icon beside the address bar to indicate that you are connected through SSL. Alternatively, you can also use virtual private networks or VPNs to secure your connection. VPNs offer

even better encryption than plain SSL especially against man-in-the-middle attacks where hackers can hack Wi-Fi hotspots and routers and intercept data being sent



and received through them. Fortunately, like other digital solutions, VPN subscriptions are also put on sale. Popular providers like ExpressVPN typically offer significant discounts for subscriptions during the Christmas sale season. 3 – Shop only at reputable stores and channels. Another way hackers try to dupe consumers is by putting up fake online stores and ecommerce apps. Often, these fake stores would offer products and services at massive discounts which would draw unsuspecting buyers in. Unfortunately, for victims, not only will their orders not be fulfilled but their payments and payment information would most likely be stolen. To avoid these scams, it's best to shop only at the digital channels of reputable businesses. Bigger online stores and marketplaces like Amazon, DJ'S & Ebay have robust infrastructures that offer customers stronger data protection than other smaller online channels. Just make sure that the app you're using to shop is the official and legitimate one of the brand itself. Install the apps through your device's official app store to ensure that they've been checked and verified for legitimacy.

4 – Be mindful clicking those links marketers will also be bombarding you

with campaigns promoting their respective brands during this sale season. You will most likely get a lot of emails from various merchants and marketplaces highlighting their numerous

deals. Most of them will include links that, when clicked, will bring you straight to their product pages. Hackers are well-aware of the effectiveness of these marketing strategies. To exploit this, hackers can cleverly disguise their phishing emails to make them appear as if they come from legitimate sources. When you click on links inside these phishing emails, you'll likely be redirected to a fake site designed to trick you into giving up your information or fool you into installing malware. So be very mindful of the emails that you open and the links that you click.

5 – Monitor your card and bank statements. Online shopping typically requires you to use cashless payment methods such as using credit or debit cards or transferring funds from your bank account so there's really no way for you to avoid transmitting your financial information online. This makes it hard to determine if your financial information has been compromised until someone actually tries to use it. Most fraudsters and scammers will "test" if stolen card information works by making small purchases. Monitor your accounts and statements for any suspicious charges and transactions no matter how small they are. If your bank or card issuer provides the option for you to be notified through text or email every time your card is used,

enable the feature. Most card issuers now also have the option to require one-time passwords for every online transaction. Immediately dispute charges and file for chargebacks just in case your

card information actually gets used by fraudsters. 6 – Don't be pressured into buying. One way to keep yourself safe from falling for scams or your data from being stolen by hackers is to skip the sales season entirely. Many consumers fall into the trap of buying during sales even if they have little to no use for the items they'll be purchasing. Remember that you'd only be saving money if you'll be able to make full use of your purchase. Don't be pressured into buy anything if you don't really want it. Another way to avoid potential losses is to just buy small ticket items instead. It isn't uncommon for parcels and packages to get lost somewhere due to the high volume of deliveries that logistics companies and their couriers handle during this season. It's easier to get refunded for smaller amounts. And, if ever things really go awry and you don't ever receive your order, you'd only be out for a small amount until the matter gets resolved. Safe shopping this Christmas. However, it's important for you keep in mind that nothing is entirely without risk. Hackers are actively looking for ways to target online shoppers. Pay attention to security when buying things online so you'll be able to avoid falling victim to these criminals. This way, you may actually maximize the massive discounts that merchants give and get a lot of value from your purchases during this season.

MOVIE REVIEW

Fisherman's Friends



A fast-living, cynical London music executive (Danny Mays) heads to a remote Cornish village on a stag weekend where he's pranked by his boss (Noel Clarke) into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen (led by James Purefoy). He becomes the ultimate 'fish out of water' as he struggles to gain the respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band and their families (including Tuppence Middleton) who value friendship and community over fame and fortune. As he's drawn deeper into the traditional way of life he's forced to re-evaluate his own integrity and ultimately question what success really means.



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When it comes to sea shanties, I'm very much of the school that a little goes a long way. I'm fine with a stirring chorus or two of *What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor?* but by the time we've got around to *Blow The Man Down* or *Boney Was A Warrior* for the second time, I've had enough. I suspect I'm not entirely alone in that. Well, the good news is that *Fisherman's Friends* – a film that has sea shanties at its core – gets the amount of hearty, slightly nasal male singing just about right. We're surprised and delighted when this unlikely-looking group of Cornish fishermen bursts into a harbourside chorus – wow, these guys can actually sing – but as we head deeper into the second hour, we're quietly relieved that there are one or two non-singing storylines to hold our potentially flagging interest.

The result is an easy-going, gently moving, flagrantly commercial treat that will surely go down as one of the most crowd-pleasing British films of the year. And yet it definitely does not start out that way, struggling to shake off the impression that this has been casually, almost carelessly put together. For starters, the casting seems just a little too adventurous for its own good. This, after all, is based on the true story of a group of Cornish fishermen who, back in 2010, became singing sensations. And yet of the three leading characters, two are played by character actors well known for normally employing their own very different accents: David Hayman, a Scot, and Dave Johns, a Geordie. Throw in Londoner Noel Clarke playing an American record company boss and that's an awful lot of 'acting' going on. Combine that with a rather clumsy script and a young director making only his second feature film, and you have a movie that definitely takes a while to hit its stride. Never mind, we can always admire the scenery, which just happens to be Port Isaac, the picturesque fishing village made famous by TV's *Doc Martin*. Slowly, however, the film gains its sea legs, helped by very nice performances from the three actors most naturally suited to their roles: Somerset-born James Purefoy, who plays the singing group's grumpy but still ruggedly handsome leader, Jim; Bristolian Tuppence Middleton, who plays his very pretty and conveniently divorced daughter, Alwyn; and Londoner Daniel Mays, the

record company talent-spotter initially tricked into signing up the Fisherman's Friends but who rapidly becomes convinced the ageing boy band has real potential. Ah, but can Danny land them a record deal? Purefoy, in particular, is terrific, authentically growling out lines about 'bloody emmets' (a derogatory Cornish term for incomers) and how 'when you cross the Tamar bridge, you know you're not in England any more'. He must be quietly relieved, however, that in a screenplay that really does contain the line 'Aye, it's time to open that bottle of old Jamaica rum', delivering duties fell to Hayman, who, happily by then, has also won us over. As for the likeable Mays, who has built a successful career playing supporting character roles, it's touching and rather lovely to see him relishing the chance to play the romantic lead for once. Even the screenplay comes good. Having bungled the stag-weekend prank that gets the story rolling and underwritten the circumstances leading up to the group's disastrous first performance, the writers serve up an enjoyable final third that moves, entertains and, alongside themes of friendship, loyalty and life-changing love, contains a perfectly judged sufficiency of sea shanties – just enough and no more. Weigh, hey and blow this critic down, but they get there in the end. Aye, Jim lad, they do



Rating: ★★★★★

No trivial matter: Our soul at stake if we stay silent on China

by Chris Uhlmann

The Sydney Morning Herald

EDITORS' CHOICE

One of the defining features of Mark's Gospel is how thick the Apostles are. From the outset of the short text, Jesus is on the road to the Cross. He bluntly tells his disciples that he is going to die and, if they choose to follow him, they will too. They don't get it. Or, rather, they wilfully refuse to get it because this is not the glorious mission they imagined they had joined.

Canadian theologian Bernard Lonergan coined a term for it: "scotosis" – an inability to learn through painful insights.

Everyone can be guilty of it; when pet theories or hopes collide with harsh reality, change can be almost physically painful. Happily, the 21st century provides myriad ways to ignore uncomfortable facts by curating your own truth.

Want to believe that Barack Obama was really born in Kenya? There are whole networks dedicated to cultivating your ignorance. Suspect that blood-drinking, flesh-eating, shape-shifting extraterrestrial reptilian humanoids walk among us with the sole aim of enslaving the human race? Then stuff *The Biggest Secret* in your Christmas stocking and start surfing the outer reaches of the internet.

The beauty of democracy is you still get to believe whatever rubbish takes your fancy as long as you cause no great harm.

There are alternatives. Take China. There, the Chinese Communist Party is keen to police people's thoughts. There the uncomfortable truth of the Tiananmen Square massacre has been airbrushed from post-'89 mainland minds.

And the party gets really quite cross when anyone raises it.

Frankly, there is such a long list of things the party

probably have spotted this as an excellent opportunity to get two pests to tone it down. But no. Both were denied visas and the Chinese embassy issued a withering statement saying the men's observations were unwelcome, unwarranted and disrespectful. But there was a ray of hope.

"As long as the people concerned genuinely repent and redress their mistakes, view China with objectivity and reason ... the door of dialogue and exchanges will always remain open."

"Repent" is an interesting word to aim at a Christian like Hastie. He knows it's a demand that he recant and radically recast his soul in order to win the favour of someone who casts themselves as a redeemer. Alas, in this case, it would mean signing up to a series of lies about the present and past.

Many here do. Business people, academics and former politicians can be heard parroting party propaganda about China's 5000 unbroken years of history. That blithely ignores the Cultural Revolution, when the party sought to erase history by expunging the Four Olds: Old Customs, Old Culture, Old Habits, and Old Ideas.

Then there is the whole "we lifted 700 million people out of poverty" canard. That would be after the party abandoned its catastrophic reorganisation of society under the Great Leap Forward that led to 36 million deaths.

It is one thing for Beijing to spout propaganda; it is entirely another to rebroadcast it here and label everyone who doesn't toe the party line recalcitrant or hysterical.

"When pet theories or hopes collide with harsh reality, change can be almost physically painful."



• Former prime minister Paul Keating delivered a speech recently arguing that the anti-China phobias of Australian spy agencies were having a disproportional influence on foreign policy.

gets cross about and then bans that it's quite hard to keep up. And it has noticed that many people in Hong Kong and a handful of our politicians are troublesome when it comes to unfettered remembering and unhelpful questioning. Take Andrew Hastie MP and Senator James Paterson. They have an unfortunate habit of banging on about the illegal annexation and militarisation of islets in the South China Sea. They also point to evidence of Beijing's interference in Australia's politics and the industrial-scale theft of intellectual property. And don't get them started about the detention of upwards of a million Uighurs in the police state that is China's western province of Xinjiang.

The good folks at the locally based China Matters think tank also reckon it's unhealthy to obsess about such things and invited these two hawks to spend some time patting the pandas. So Hastie and Paterson signed up for a bit of Beijing-based exposure therapy.

Anyone but an intractable commissar would

This is no trivial matter. We are bartering for our soul: the right to continue as an imperfect sovereign democracy or to enter the land of the great forgetting and silence that the party demands.

It would be so easy to repent and go quietly. But that would shout our consent to a party that will, inevitably, use all the tools of modern technology to forge and spread a nasty totalitarian surveillance state.

Near the end of Mark's Gospel there is a passage where the book once abruptly finished before, centuries later, a dissatisfied monk decided to add a couple of sunnier verses. The original ending was desolate but shone a light on human frailty. It spoke of the moral weakness of the disciples after they had born witness to the resurrection: "And they said nothing to a soul, because they were afraid."

Chris Uhlmann is political editor for Nine News.

THE NEWS | No.511 | WEDNESDAY 27 NOV 2019

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

and

To all our emergency services who on Tuesday 12th November 2019, in catastrophic bushfire conditions, contained a large bushfire at North Rothbury. The Rural Fire Service stopped the fire and saved the village of North Rothbury from devastation. A particular huge thanks to Capt Sonia & her North Rothbury brigade who were first responders ... I was a first-hand witness and the training, courage & determination not to let it past their containment line (Wine Country Drive) was inspirational. To those fire fighters who succumbed to smoke inhalation we hope you are OK. *From the residents of North Rothbury & North Rothbury Tidy Town.*

To the arsonist, pyromaniac & criminal who started the North Rothbury bushfire, and it appears many others, we all wish & hope you are caught, tried & convicted & that 'Big Bubba in the Bathhouse' welcomes you to your hoped-for incarceration!!!! #charges should also include attempted murder.

To the Crib Box Café Braxton who are showing their support for our local fires, Greta & North Rothbury, by donating all profits from their Crib Box Rocks The Carpark event. Their staff will be working 'wage free' on the evening. They are seeking local businesses & residents to either donate some cash or donate a prize for their raffle P: 4938 1346...The News will be giving a full page advert as a raffle prize. All help will be acknowledged (*The Editor The Braxton Greta Vineyards News*).

A "Thumbs Up" for the Central Hunter Business Chamber for making it possible for Greta RFS to raise \$3900 from the gold coin parking at the recent Greta Army & Migrant Camp Celebrations. Without the opportunity that would have not been possible.

FREE Classifieds Classified's Classified's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Sale: 2000 Holden Rodeo LXFTR9 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: Alpaca's Ph 0400697148

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

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Sale: 'Around the Fence' pottery and plant sale on the corner of Russel & Bridge street Braxton 7th December 8am

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 sl70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Braxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 04137161296 Fred

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dates for your diary

FRI 29 NOV — THU 5 DEC - Branxton Public School Intensive Swimming

WED 4 DEC - Branxton Lions Club meeting at Branxton Golf Club @ 7 pm. Any information please call secr. Dr Alan Beckley 49381203 Or Ken Meany 65747027. Contact Marie Shearer 0402 015 850 for any information.

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

SAT 7 DEC - Branxton Lions Club Seniors dinner at the Branxton Community Hall at 6 pm. Any information please call secr. Dr Alan Beckley 49381203 Or Ken Meany 65747027.

SUN 8 DEC - Where Pigs Fly Open Day - Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Location: Where Pigs Fly Animal Sanctuary, Laguna, NSW

TUES 10 DEC - Branxton Public School - Presentation Day

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

THU 12 DEC - Branxton Public School Sports Assembly

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

Dates for your diary

TUE 31 DEC - New Years Eve

SAT 25 JAN 2020 - Maitland Rotary Club annual "A Taste of Tamworth" day train trip to the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Contact Rotarian Earl on 0422 479 757.

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

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE WHAT'S ON? 14 Feb. 2020 Roy Orbison Reborn starring Dean Bourne. Come and relive the sound, the voice & all the magical hits of music legend Roy Orbison in an international production starring the world's No 1 Roy Orbison tribute star Dean Bourne.

In The Garden

Pruning Trees in Spring – Is it OK to do?

As you've been admiring all the fresh green growth in your yard this spring, perhaps you've noticed something else, too. Like excessive growth of a tree or shrub that you want to cut. Generally, the best time to prune most trees is when they're leafless in winter. But as you know, with each rule of thumb, there are exceptions.

Your Guide to Pruning Trees in Spring

If you can prune your trees before they begin growing, that still counts as dormant pruning and is the ideal time to prune because of these benefits. Once trees start budding or blooming in spring, though, double-check that pruning now won't put your tree in harm's way.

Can I do any pruning after trees have leaves and buds in

spring?

In general, pruning in spring can limit the tree's bloom potential for the year. Plus, trimming in spring can leave cuts on trees that leave them more vulnerable to an insect infestation or disease.

But, you *can* safely do some tree pruning in spring—as long as you don't remove any more than 10 percent of the tree's branches.

Your goal with spring pruning should be one of two things.

- **Pruning for safety:** Remove any dead, dying or decaying branches to keep your tree (and home) safe.
- **Minimal pruning for aesthetics:** Cut or remove branches to shape your tree a bit.

Are there any trees that are



better to prune in spring?

Yes! If you've just planted a new tree, cut off any broken, defected or damaged limbs.

Should you prune young trees? Why?

New trees need help finding their way during their early years. Without your guidance, young trees can start to branch out in the wrong direction.

To wrangle their wild tendencies, prune them to provide a stable structure.

While forest trees compete for sunlight in close quarters, urban trees have plenty of light - sometimes all to themselves. Newly planted trees happily soak up the sun, causing multiple branches to grow that compete with one another to become the "leader."

Despite having many strong branches, this makes the tree overall weaker. Without a defined trunk, trees lack the central frame needed to withstand storm damage. Plus, this could cause future structural issues, which can be costly to fix later.



How do you train young trees with pruning?

To make room for the leading limb, arborists select a central branch that's free of damage, wounds or defects. Then, they identify competing stems to shorten or remove. Riding your tree of rival branches is called structural or subordinate pruning. The goal is to encourage the tree's leader to grow by trimming competing branches. Training your young tree to grow the right way is simple and quick. Plus, this small step can often prevent expensive or damaging structural corrections later.

As always, before DIY-ing this

project, consult your arborist to avoid severe or long-term damage from an improper cut. Rule of thumb: no more than 25% of the canopy should be removed at a time.

Any tips on when to prune young trees?

When you first plant a tree, trim away any broken, defected or damaged branches to prevent future issues. Then, wait. Two to three years after planting, you'll see tree branches sprout into competition. You can also prune maple, walnut and birch trees in late

spring or early summer. When pruned in winter, they tend to ooze sap. The sap does little to no harm, but some people think it's too messy! Trimming these trees after they have all their leaves for the season reduces sap bleeding.

And, finally, prune these trees once they're done blooming for the season in spring:

- Apricot trees
- Chokecherry trees
- Crabapple trees
- Dogwood trees
- Flowering cherry trees
- Flowering plum trees
- Juneberry trees
- Lilac trees
- Magnolia trees

Are there any trees I should never prune or trim in spring?

Remember: pruning trees in spring can leave them more vulnerable to insect infestation and diseases.

That's why you **don't** want to prune these trees in spring, summer or early fall:

- Oak trees to reduce the chance of oak wilt (if oak wilt is in your area)
- Elm trees to reduce the chance of Dutch elm disease
- Sycamore trees to reduce the chance of anthracnose
- Honeylocust trees to reduce the chance of stem cankers



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826



GIVE US A BREAK

DUMPING ISN'T GIVING

STOP DUMPING Take your garbage to the Waste Management Centre.

CHARITY OPERATORS ARE NOT GARBAGE SERVICES

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

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING 131 555



Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000

FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.

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

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

Police

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

Rural Fire Brigades

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

Electricity

Energy Australia..... 131 388

Hospitals

Maitland... 4939 2000
Cessnock... 4991 0555
Singleton... 6572 2799
SES132 500
Crime Stoppers
1800 333 000
Poisons Info 131 126
Hunter Water
1300 657 000
Ausgrid 131 388
Gas Emergencies . 131 909
Lifeline131 114
Mental Health Line
1800 011 511
Domestic Violence Support
4990 9609
Centrelink Self Service
136 240
Medicare 132 011
Native Animal Rescue
0418 628 483

School News



Branxton Public School

This Thursday 28th November is our annual Carols by Torchlight. Gates open at 6pm, with Santa arriving at 6:30pm. All classes will be performing on the stage, starting at 7pm. There will be drinks, lollies and glow products available to purchase and BBQ dinner can be pre-ordered on Flexischools. We welcome families, friends and community to join us for a fun evening.



Reward Afternoon

Our second last PBL Assembly was held in Week 5 with many more students achieving their Power Pup badge, which they are now wearing with pride. Our school leaders rose to Mrs Maier's challenge of presenting their PBL Rap, much to the delight of students, staff and parents. If you missed it on the day you can check out the video on our Facebook page. Thanks to Mr Tattis for supporting them with this.

A huge congratulations to our Year 5 leadership candidates who presented their speeches to the whole school and parents last week. All students did an amazing job and should be proud of their efforts. Students from Kinder to Year 5 and staff then voted and we will find out who our 2020 school leaders are at the Primary Presentation Assembly. House Captains were also elected last week and we'll find



Reward Afternoon



Year 5 Leadership Candidates

out who they are at the Sports Assembly in Week 9.

Our special ceremony to turn the soil and unveil the score board for the Jerome Breard Sports Court has been rescheduled for Wednesday 11th December. We will have an Oz Tag round robin tournament between his family, staff and students and the P&C are providing a sausage sizzle lunch for all students. Families and friends are welcome.

Dates for the Calendar

Friday 29th November – Thursday 5th December – Intensive Swimming

Tuesday 10th December - Presentation Day

Thursday 12th December – Sports Assembly

Tuesday 17th November – PBL Assemblies

Wednesday 18th November – Last day of 2019 school year

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

~ Quotable Quotes ~

"It is now proved beyond doubt that smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics." **Fletcher Knebel** "Never argue at the dinner table, for the one who is not hungry gets the best of the argument." **Richard Whately** "Conversation is the enemy of good wine and food." **Alfred Hitchcock**

"Constant complaint is the poorest sort of pay for all the comforts we enjoy." **Benjamin Franklin** "Honesty pays, but it don't seem to pay enough to suit some people." **Kin Hubbard** "I'm way overdue for a promotion. I've made so many lateral moves, I'm beside myself." **Gary Apple** "Half of the world's misery comes from ignorance. The other half comes from intelligence." **Bonar Thompson** "Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." **Benny Hill** How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. **Anne Frank**

YOUR friendly team

The News

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

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

Deadlines

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

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

MOB: 0412 566 041 0414 757 826

Email: thenews@hotmail.net.au

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
 REAL ESTATE
 P: 4938 3300



Parking education in the spotlight

Cessnock City Council has rolled out a parking education campaign to highlight key parking rules to the community, and school zone safety is a key focus for the campaign.

As part of the campaign, Council has distributed corflute signs to schools across the region highlighting school zone parking offences, along with the hefty penalties and

demerit points that apply. Each parking offence in a school zone carries a penalty of two demerit points and the majority of the offences will mean those who are caught will be dealt a \$344 fine.

Offences include parking in a 'no parking' zone (\$191), stopping where a 'no stopping' sign applies (\$344), stopping in a bus zone (\$344), double parking next to another vehicle (\$344), stopping

within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a children's crossing (\$344) or stopping on a footpath or nature strip (\$344).

Student safety across the Cessnock Local Government Area has always been a key priority for Council Rangers and since 1 July 2019, they have conducted over 200 patrols in our local school zones.

Cessnock City Council's Principal Ranger, Jason Mullee said while he

understands the school drop-off can be stressful with the morning rush, the rules and penalties are in place for a reason, and that is to keep our children safe.

"School zone safety is a huge priority for us, but often people don't understand the rules or the penalties that apply."

"We hope these signs and our education campaign will help people to better understand the parking rules which will also limit

the need to issue infringement notices," added Jason.

Parking rules outside of school zones will also be highlighted during the campaign, which will include additional offences like parking in a disabled park without a permit (\$572 + 1 demerit point), exceeding the limit in a timed parking zone (\$114) and not parking in the direction of travel (\$268). Residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for the signs at our local schools and check out Council's website, Facebook page and local newspapers for more information about parking rules.

• Photo: Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent with Cessnock Council Principal Ranger Jason Mullee



North Rothbury Tidy Towns

in conjunction with CFMEU

Presents

LOCKOUT Re-enactment

commemorating 90 years since the Rothbury Riots



Memorial site, Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 2019

Starts 3pm

Followed by the North Rothbury Twilight Markets at

Ayrefield Memorial Park, North Rothbury

All attendees at the re-enactment will receive one

FREE TICKET

to go into the draw to win \$200 cash, drawn at the Twilight Markets at 5pm

For all enquiries, phone 0412 566 041 or email northrothburytidytowns@gmail.com

New Huntlee shopping centre on target to open next July



THE new shopping centre at Huntlee is a step closer with the initial erection of the outer walls taking place last week & keeping it on-track to open mid 2020.

The Coles-owned Huntlee Shopping Centre will create more than 120 new retail jobs - in addition to jobs generated during the construction period - and will offer residents an enhanced shopping experience and a one-stop-shop in the heart of the Huntlee Town Centre.

The development will include a state-of-the-art 3200 sq/m Coles supermarket, an adjacent 200 sq/m Liquorland, approximately 1000 sq/m of specialty retailers and 240 convenient, shaded car spaces.

The full-line, market style Coles supermarket will feature an in-store bakery, open-style meat department, a large gourmet deli and fresh produce area, and an expansive convenience range. On completion the Huntlee Shopping Centre will be a retail hub for the local residents of the town of Huntlee and those living in the surrounding regions.

"Coles was the first organisation to commit to the Huntlee Town Centre back in early 2014," said Huntlee Project Manager Stephen Thompson. "We welcome them to Huntlee and look forward to assisting in any way we can to realise their plans and deliver this fabulous facility for our residents and those in the surrounding area."

Come in to INSPECT

what's new in your local museum!



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

Greta Historical Museum

96 High Street Greta

Open 11am-3pm

Wednesdays & Saturdays

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

Cessnock Day Night Pharmacy

Open 7 days

8am - 8pm

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Golf Club Saturday, 16 November 2019 SATURDAY COMP STABLE

Field: 58
 Grades A Edward Barrett 41
 Grades A David Webster 39
 Grades A Tony Seamer 39
 Grades B Paul Bush 43
 Grades B Reece Caldwell 42
 Grades B Barry Turner 40
 Grades C Robert Miller 43
 Grades C Dylan Barnes 41
 Grades C Joseph Bereza 41
 NTP 2/11 B 2nd Stephen Ross 148cm
 NTP 4 A 4th Gregory Tearle 131cm
 NTP 9/18 B 9th Errol Munzenberger 318cm
 NTP 13 A 13th Chris Webster 390cm
 Balls 17 Distributed down to score: 35
 Some incredible scores were needed on Saturday to win the stableford competition with all grades requiring over 40 pts to finish in front. In A Grade, local legend, Eddie Barrett, the 2019 Vets Champion, won with a very impressive 41 pts, with David Webster and Tony Seamer finishing runners up with their 39 pts. Paul Bush had another good round winning B Grade with the day's equal best score of 43 pts, just ahead of the unlucky Reece Caldwell with 42 pts and Barry Turner with 40 pts. Robert Miller won C Grade with a very impressive 43 pts, with Dylan Barnes and Joe Bereza filling the minor placings with great scores of 41 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Greg Tearle on the 4th, finishing only 131 cms away, on a day where the DSR was surprisingly a 69.

Mixed Foursomes Championships Sunday, 17th November 14 players

Overall Scratch Winners: Carol and Robert Miller 85
Scratch Runners Up: Dave Hollis and Kerrie O'Connell 86
Overall Nett Winners: Lee Hunt and Neridah Busch 68 nett

Nett Runners Up: John and Chris Tancred 76.5

Ball Competition:

M.Tracey, C.Fletcher, C.Caldwell, R.McMillan, T.McMillan, R.McCarthy

NTPins: 9th/18th Dave Hollis

The Mixed Foursomes Championships were played on Sunday, with Carol and Robert Miller winning a very tight contest from Dave Hollis and Kerrie O'Connell by 1 shot to claim the title. It proved to be an excellent weekend for Robert as he also won the C Grade stableford on Saturday. Lee Hunt and Neridah Busch easily won the Nett with John and Chris Tancred runners up. Congratulations to all winners.

**Branxton Golf Club
4 Person Ambrose
Sponsored by: Whitelaw
McDonalds Solicitors and**

Attorneys

Saturday, 23rd November

Nett Winners: Corey Lamb, Neil Bridge, Brad Bridge, D. Barnes 53.125 nett

Scratch Winners: Victor Matt, Chris O'Brien, David Matt, D.Prease 59 (11 under par)

Nett Runners Up: Lee Heuston, Steve Ross, Robert Hale, Troy Felan 53.5 nett

Nett Third: Bob Biles, Steve Eccles, Robert Miller, Gary Walsh 55.125 (c/b)

Nett 4th: Daryl Sheppard, Eddie Garland, Barry Turner, Mick Lutovac 55.125

Nett 5th: Col Hughes, Kerrie O'Connell, Cody Fletcher, Troy McCaw 55.375

Nett 6th: D.Bull, M.Crossly, D.Bowen, J.Cullen 56.125

Nett 7th: Neil Jordan, Peter Wilton, Anthony Bentley, Paul Bush 56.375 c/b

Golf balls to all other players who did not win a prize

NTPins: 2nd/11th

A Grade: Corey Lamb 197 cms

B Grade: Eddie Garland 366 cms

C Grade: Darren Mathers 189 cms

4th/13th:

A Grade: Bob Biles 217 cms

B Grade: Errol Munzenberger 381 cms

C Grade: Robert Miller 260 cms

9th/18th

A Grade: Victor Matt 54 cms

B Grade: Noel Hughes 98 cms

C Grade: Mick Lutovac 322 cms

Long Drives: A Grade: Anthony Bentley

B Grade: Troy McCaw

C Grade: J.Bowen

Ladies: Kerrie O'Connell

The Whitelaw McDonalds Solicitors and Attorneys sponsored 4 Person Ambrose was played on Saturday, with 60 players competing for the \$1240 plus 60 golf balls, so wonderfully sponsored by this Newcastle and Central Coast Company. The team of Corey Lamb, Neil Bridge, Brad Bridge and D.Barnes won the day with their 53.125 nett score, whilst the team of Victor Matt, David Matt, Chris O'Brien and D.Prease won the overall scratch title with an 11 under par score of 59. The team prizes went down to 7th place with all players out of the placings winning a golf ball—a great sponsorship, very welcomed by such small clubs as Branxton. It was interesting to note that the winning team included the recent NSW and QLD Junior Champion, Corey Lamb, who will be playing in the NSW Open this week at Twin Creeks. It is really great to see young Corey still supporting his home club, having a game with his mates before the really serious golf begins later this week. We wish him well, in a very strong event. The shot of the day belonged to Victor Matt on the 9th/18th, with his tee shot finishing only 54 cms away, whilst Noel Hughes' shot to the same hole finished only 98 cms away—two great shots. A reminder to all members that this weekend's golf includes the Peter Matthews Memorial Cup played over both days with Valley Brake

and Clutch and Liddell Coal Glencore our wonderful sponsors for the weekend—a weekend which includes a \$500 hole in one opportunity on Sunday.

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 10th November

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Leigh O'Connell with 38 points from Luke Johnston with 37.

Tuesday 12th November

Rex Talbot has continued his run of form with 41 points and the win in the Tuesday Stableford from Phil Small 40 and Damien Porter 3rd with 39 on countback. Ball winners were: Ken Scott-Mackenzie 39, Bob Prentice 39, Darrell Porter 38, Garry Marsden 37, Geoff Sweetman 37, Robert Hannah 36, Peter McIntyre 35, Paul Smith 35, David Peel 35 and Wayne Cowan 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd & 8th)

Rex Talbot (4th) Chris Taggart (10th) and Wayne Barber (17th)

Wednesday 13th November

Brenda Mannix did best in the Ladies Stableford with an excellent 42 point round from Toni Fisher with 40 on countback to Sue Peel in 3rd place. Ball winners were: Joy Provenzano 37, Dale Hamilton 36, Jill Ramsden 35 and Jill Slatter 34 c/b.

Thursday 14th November

Sub Par scoring featured across all divisions in the Vets Stroke event with Richard Craft claiming Division 1 with 66 net from Robert Hannah with 6t 8 on countback, Division 2 to Doug Harley with 65 from Graham Morris 68 on countback and Division 3 to Dave Gellwiler on countback to Eric Smith after both returned 68 net. Ball winners were: Paul Adams 68, Wayne Berry 68, Mark Barrow 69, Ken Harris 69, Dennis Donn 70, Kerry Bartlet 70, Garry Tomlinson 70, Colin Somerville 70, Garry Fairlie 70, David Archibald 70, Geoff Sweetman 70, Ken Morris 70, Gunther Schilko 71, John Stewart 71, Stephen Clark 71, Graeme Smith 71, Alick Bender 71, Bruce Chambers 71, David Peel 72, John Carmody 72, Jeanette Irwin 72, John Harrison 72, Garry Marsden 72 and Mick Barrett 72 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Chambers (3rd)

Eric Smith (4th) David Peel (8th) Graeme Flynn (10th) and Ryan Wilson (17th).

Saturday 16th November

The Blue Tee Challenge once again tested most of the field with Shannon Attewell winning A Grade with 38 points from Paul Monaghan 37, Adam Pratten claimed B Grade with 40 from Jeremy Holden 35 on countback and Graham Morris C Grade with the 'round of the day' 42 points from Chris Francis with 39. Ball winners were: David Crowley 38, Denis Corke 37, Gary Arnold 36, Ron Higginbottom 35, Paul Bullock 35, Peter McLennan 35, Kevin Smith 35, Ron Findlay 3, Angello Wood 34, Tracy Morison 34, Craig Smith 34, Greg Harder 34 and Terry Roughan 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Gary Arnold (3rd) Shannon Attewell (4th) Peter Huckfelt (8th) Nathan Sweeney (10th) and Mike Carter (17th).

Sunday 17th November

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Lloyd Barrett with 39 points from Nathan Sweeney with 37

Tuesday 19th November

Excellent conditions turned on for the Tuesday Stableford has seen 18 players match or better Par with Branxton visitor Jordan Burton leading the way with 44 points, 2nd to Lindsay Meyn 42 and 3rd to Mark Makin with 41 on countback. Ball winners were: Richard Craft 41, Gary Arnold 40, Drew Dewar 40, Rick Turnchini 38, William Waite 38, Julie Van Den Berg 38, Bindi 37, Rob Bradford 37, Tom Bell 37, David McKenzie 37, Bill Freeman 37, Jason Cowburn 37, Geoff Sweetman 37, Bob Prentice 36, Wayne Barber 36, John Stewart 35, Dan Olsen 35, Matt Merlo 35, David Peel 35, Bruce Mathews 35, Peter Wilson 35, Lindsay Self 34, Ryan Wilson 34, Nathan Sweeney 34, Rob Hannah 34, Garry Marsden 34, Arthur Cuttriss 33, Dean Morison 33, Col Bradley 33 and Lloyd Barrett 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Mathews (3rd) Julie Van Den Berg (4th) Tom Bell (10th) and Lindsay Self (17th)

Wednesday 20th November

The Ladies Stableford has been won by Joy Provenzano with an excellent 40 point round from Glenda Williams 38 on countback to Christine Tancred also on countback. Ball winners were: Karen Baillie 38, Melita Watson 38, Jeanette Irwin 37, Mary Fortey 37 and Ruth Scott 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jill Slatter (3rd) Jenny Chambers (4th) Christine Tancred (8th) Karen Baillie (10th) & Christine Le Brocque (17th). Next week the Ladies will play American Stableford.

Thursday 21st November

Today's 4 Person Ambrose has been won with the excellent score of 50 5/8 by Ray Boyd, Trevor Collins, Wayne Berry & Darrell Preston, 2nd to Steve Piggot, Richard Craft, Julie Van Den Berg and Tim Caban with 52 1/4 and 3rd to David Peel, David Lindsey, John Grayson and Kevin Smith 54 1/8 countback. Ball winners were: Mick Gilbert, Dave Gellwiler, Colin Somerville & Graham Morris 54 1/8, Garry Fairlie, James Schofield, Danny Schofield & Gunther

Shilko 55, Geoff Sweetman, Dave Fury, Peter Perkins & Eric Smith 55 3/8, Norm Barry, Peter McIntyre, Greg Harder & David Archibald 55 5/8, Terry Webb, Kevin Dick, Peter Fisher & Geoff Geason 55 3/4, Noel Ellenor, Anthony Neale, Graeme Smith & Mark Green 55 7/8 & Greg Burke, Stephen Clark, Gary Tomlinson & Doug Harley 55 7/8. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Barbour (3rd) Paul Bullock (4th) Ryan Wilson (8th) Eric Smith (10th) & John Grayson (17th). Next weeks event will be American Stableford.

Saturday 23rd November

The efforts of our Greens Staff to keep the course in superb condition during these tough conditions are well and truly reflected in scores throughout the entire week with none more so than today. A Grade went to Michael Gilbert with 42 points from Angello Wood 37, B Grade to Mike Carter with 44 from Wade Attewell 42 and C Grade to Murray Flannigan 43 from Jarrod Makin 42. Ball winners were: Scott Jones 41, Luke Johnston 40, Peter Huckfelt 40, Lindsay Clarke 40, Paul Bullock 40, Michael Tsakissiris 40, Lloyd Barrett 39, James Schofield 38, Jeremie Morton 38, Ken Springbett 38, Greg Harder 38, Mark Makin 37, Max Hindmarsh 36, Tony Bowie 36, Terry Roughan 36, Paul McCudden 36 and Shannon Attewell 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jeremy Holden (3rd) David Grosbernd (4th) Wade Attewell (8th) Ken Springbett (10th) and Robert King (17th). Next week will be the Monthly Medal Stroke rounds.

SPORTS RESULTS



with Mark Bercini

in a great innings. Holz's superb knock was well-supported by Mark Bercini (64) who found some rare form, Josh Dagg (46), Darren Thomson (26) and Patrick Andrews (17no. Peden's were skilted inside 28 overs for 113 in reply, with Patrick Andrews (3-18 off 7), Connor Thomson (3-43 off 5) and Martin Shearer (2-9 off 3.1) sharing the wickets for Greta/Branxton. Second Grade had an early afternoon at the office in their 9-wicket victory over Peden's Hotel at East End. Peden's made just 69 batting first, with Brett Bridge (4-16 off 7) and Jason Varley (2-9 off 2) doing the majority of the damage. Greta/Branxton wasted no time reeling in the small target, with Andrew Wright (33no) and Jesse Minchin (21no) getting the job done. Third Grade White edged out Wine Country by 15 runs at St. Philips. Batting first, Greta/Branxton compiled 10/179, with Daniel Minchin (51) scoring a fine half-century. He was well supported by Will Young (43), Jamie McNamara (28), Noah McNamara (12) and Mitch Bird (12). Wine Country closed their innings at 7/164 in reply, with Minchin completing an outstanding all-round game with 4-51 off 10, receiving good support from Aaron Stephenson who took 2-34 off 8. Third Grade Blue slumped to their third straight defeat, this time at the hands of Peden's Blue by 3 wickets at Turner Park. Greta/Branxton were skilted for just 61 batting first, with James Shoulders Jnr the only batsman in double figures with 10. Peden's reached the target after losing 7 wickets, with Jarrad Wilkinson (3-46 off 5) and Tanveer Singh (3-3 off 2) taking a treble each. Fourth Grade recorded their second victory of the season when they defeated Wine Country by 69 runs at Miller 2. Greta/Branxton were all out for 158 batting first, with Mitch Bradford leading the way with 41. Seamus Keegan (21), Muhammad Bhatti (19) and Adam Woodcroft (12) were the other batsmen to make an impression. Wine Country were all out for 89 in response, with Sam Hines (4-20 off 7), Correy Stone (2-10 off 6.1) and Jeremy Brown (2-31 off 5) sharing the wickets.

Do you REMEMBER when....

The news Issue No. 59 27th January 2000 P. 44

Branxton Greta Little Athletics have good season



Left: Members of Branxton Greta Little athletics who competed in events at the East Maitland Pentathlon in November last year. (Left to right & front) T. Hedges, L. Hellewell, Ashlee Chew, Emma Russell, B. Hellewell & William Hedges.

With almost eighty members, 'Branxton Greta Little Athletics' has enjoyed a strong season. Joy Clarke, Club President, said that the most pleasing part of this season has been the greater participation of the parents who have made the good running of the Club a much easier job for their Committee. "When the parents are behind the members it certainly makes our job that much easier", Joy said. The club meets every Wednesday evening from 5pm at Miller Park and the evening usually finishes by around 7pm. For any budding athlete who would like to join the club, this year is almost over, so you will have to watch 'The News' for the commencement of the coming season which is usually in October. The last carnival of the year will be held in Taree next month so we wish all the 'litle athletes', good luck.

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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

After round 7 Branxton Greta share first grade lead with Mulbring & Take big lead in Club Championship

LOCAL CRICKET REPORT



with Mark Bercini

Week seven of Cessnock District Cricket saw first, second and third grade white record big wins, with third grade blue and fourth grade both going down narrowly. Our KCE Engineering first grade side remained at the top of the ladder following a convincing 8-wicket win over Wine Country at Allandale. Wine Country batted their forty overs but managed just 9-117. Connor Thomson (3-24 off 10) and Martin Shearer (3-26 off 10) were Greta/Branxton's best with an economical treble of wickets each. Greta/

Branxton made light work of the mediocre target, passing it in the 22nd over after losing just the two wickets. Skipper Joey Butler returned to form with an unbeaten 52 at the top of the order, with Reuben Andrews proving the superior Andrews on the day with 35. Nathan Holz was next best with 35. Second grade also cruised to an easy victory, chasing down Wine Country's 87 without loss at Miller 1. Brett Bridge (4-13 off 10), James Shoulders snr (3-14 off 7) and Jason Varley (2-7 off 5) shared the wickets for Greta/

Branxton. Bryce Element (69no) and skipper Trent Fuller (20no) got the job done for Greta/Branxton in reply. Third grade White were equally impressive in their 9-wicket thumping of Peden's Hotel Blue at Baddeley 2. Third grade Blue were edged out by 11 runs at the hands of Denman Hotel at Miller 2. Denman Hotel were all out for 131 batting first, with Dave Seabrook (4-30 off 9.3) and Pete Davis (4-38 off 8) taking a quadrant each. James Shoulder Jnr was also tidy with 2-16 off 4. Greta/

Branxton fell just shy of the target, with club president Sean Wright (25), Tanveer Singh (17), Seabrook (17) and Davis (14) all making starts without pushing on. Fourth grade went down narrowly by 2-wickets against Peden's Hotel at Turner Park. Greta/Branxton managed 5-168 batting first, with skipper Sam Dagg surely due for a promotion in the order with an unbeaten 59. Matt Smith (26 retired), Correy Stone (21), Jahangeer Ebrahim (17) and Adam Woodcroft (17) all kept the scoreboard ticking over.

Peden's reached the target in the 27th over with 2 wickets in hand. Stone completed a fine all-round game with 5-37 off 7.3, with Woodcroft also capping a fine game with 2-61 off 8. **Points Tables**
First Grade Greta/Branxton 38, Mulbring 38, Peden's Hotel 26, Bellbird 23, Wine Country 15.
Second Grade Bellbird 46, Greta/Branxton 42, Chelmsford Hotel 34, Denman Hotel 34, Wine Country 26, Peden's Hotel 22.
Third Grade Bellbird 45,

Greta/Branxton White 38, Peden's Hotel Blue 34, Peden's Hotel White 34, Mulbring 34, Wine Country 33, Greta/Branxton Blue 30, Denman Hotel 29.
Fourth Grade Supporters 49, Cessnock Hotel 38, Bellbird White 31, Bellbird Maroon 29, Chelmsford Hotel 29, Greta/Branxton 29, Wine Country 29, Peden's Hotel 26.
Club Championship Greta/Branxton 361.68, Bellbird 325.38, Peden's Hotel 253.43, Wine Country 214.05.
Cheers, Mark

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