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WEDNESDAY
18 December 2019

Rothbury Riot 90 Anniversary Commemorative Service and re-enactment attract large attendance



LAST Sunday, 15th December 2019, saw the local community & many visitors come together to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the 'Rothbury Riot'.

To mark this historic occasion North Rothbury Tidy Town & the CFMEU (Mining & Energy) combined to produce a three-act re-enactment play & a short memorial service on the original site of the riot in North Rothbury.

The service commenced at 3pm with "Joe the Piper" playing "The Last Lament". After that moving piece North Rothbury Tidy Town vice-president Mark Stanford welcoming all attendees & gave apologies. Mark then handed proceedings over to MC Greg Hall, who is the co-producer of the documentary 'Lockout', who then introduced Annabelle Hughes who gave 'Welcome to Country'.

Both Cessnock Mayor Bob

Pynsent & CFMEU Northern District secretary Shan Thompson gave occasional addresses with both iterating the importance the historic event was to the trade union movement in Australia, the plight, and also the resolve, of those who were 'locked out'.

Mayor Pynsent mentioned Beryl Armstrong who lived in a cottage almost at the front gates of Ayrfield Colliery and her valuable help on that day to those who were injured & shot.

Interestingly, her son Rev. Dan Armstrong was in the audience & it was mentioned that he was the only one in attendance that day who was actually there in 1929 &, as stated, albeit only 1-year old. After the occasional address's were completed MC Greg Hall invited Phil Aughey to commence the re-enactment which again saw "Joe the Piper" (aka local piper Joe Royston) start proceedings.

With writer, producer & narrator Phil Aughey at the



microphone the play & narration took just on 15-minutes with the shooting of Norman Brown the finale. The play covered, in that short time, almost all aspects

of that tragic day with a lead up to the actual riot. The actors playing mine owner Merewether & the then NSW Premier handled their roles with great aplomb whilst the two female actors were wonderful.

After an encore Salvation Army Pastor Jason Jenkins gave a short memorial service which was quiet moving for the audience & he himself as his grandfather, who he never knew, was killed in a mining accident. After the service North Rothbury Tidy Town President Mike Lowing paid tribute to sponsors & the volunteer helpers. The commemoration then moved to the actual memorial for a wreath laying ceremony which concluded the memorial event.

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GOOD PRACTICE (GP) SURGERY

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Good Practice (GP) Surgery

We are closed from 25/12/2019(Wednesday) to 05/01/2020(Sunday). We will reopen on 06/01/2020(Monday) at 8:00 am.

Our last working day for this year is 24/12/2019 (Tuesday).

In case of an emergency, please call 000 or for an after-hours service, please call GP Access on 1300 130 147.

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Staff
Good Practice (GP) Surgery, 10 Dalwood Rd, East Branxton. Ph: 02 4938 3366

FROM FRONT PAGE



Actual photo of the Riot



Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent giving the initial Occasional Address. He was followed by Shane Thompson Secretary CFMEU.



Shane Thompson Secretary CFMEU & Cllr. Melanie Dagg at the memorial service last Sunday.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20

Cessnock Council offices and facilities will be closed between Christmas and the New Year. In case of an emergency please phone 4993 4100.

Administration Building

Closed from 12.00pm, Tuesday 24 December 2019 until 9.00am Thursday 2 January 2020.

Cessnock & Kurri Kurri Libraries

Closed from 12.00pm, Tuesday 24 December 2019 until 9.00am Thursday 2 January 2020.

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Closed from 2.00pm, Thursday 23 December 2019 until 9.00am on Monday 6 January 2020. Bookings still available on-line.

Cessnock Waste Management Centre

Closed Christmas Day only, open as normal thereafter, 8.45am – 4.30pm daily.

Greta Transfer Station

Closed Christmas Day only. Open as normal thereafter.

Waste, Recycling & Green Waste Collection

There will be no residential waste or recycling collection on Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December 2019. Collection operations will be one (1) day behind the usual arrangements.

- Wednesday's collections being on Thursday
 - Thursday's collections being on Friday
 - Friday's collections being on Saturday
- Collections will then be routine as usual thereafter.

Cessnock & Branxton Swimming Pools

Cessnock and Branxton Pools will close at Midday on Christmas Eve and reopen at 7.00am on Boxing Day. They will also close at Midday on New Year's Eve and reopen at 7.00am on New Year's Day. Non-Public Holidays pools hours are 6.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 7.00am to 6.00pm Saturday and Sunday.

Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre

- Christmas Eve open 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Closed on Christmas Day
- Boxing Day open 10.00am to 4.00pm
- New Year's Eve open 10.00am to 4.00pm
- New Year's Day open 10.00am to 4.00pm

Hunter Valley Visitors Centre

Closed Christmas Day only. Public Holidays 9.00am – 4.00pm. All other days normal operating hours apply Monday to Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm & Sundays 9.00am – 4.00pm.

Ranger Services

A Ranger will be on-call during the Christmas period. In an emergency please call the Police.

Cessnock Airport

For all enquiries regarding Cessnock Airport please contact the Airport Operations Co-Ordinator on 0401 107 557.



To the CFMMEU (Mineworkers Trust) ~ for indemnifying the total cost of staging the re-enactment.
Cessnock City Council ~ for grading & clearing the site & **Kimberley O'Sullivan** from Cessnock City Council Library for her research.
LWP Properties & Janice Stanbridge ~ for a loan of the site (Janice) & for covering Public Liability Insurance (LWP Property).
The office staff at CFMMEU ~ for all their valuable help. Special mention to **Jenny McPherson** who without her

help would have made the organising logistics of the day a real concern to the organisers. **Greg Hall**, "Lock Out" documentary co-producer, for being the MC on the day & providing copies of his doco "LockOut"
To Phil Aughey who wrote, produced, directed the 3-act play and did the narration on the day.
To the cast members who worked so hard to make the re-enactment so memorable.
To North Rothbury Tidy Town for their initiative in holding the commemoration & to their members for all their help along

the way.
North Rothbury Rural Fire Service for their help on the day
To the Branxton Fire Brigade who provided the first-aid on the day
To the NSW Government for providing funding to allow restoration work to be done on the actual memorial site. Also to **Clayton Barr MP**, Member for Cessnock, for his help in gaining the state government grant.
To Senior Constable Bob Biles for giving up a day-off to help with traffic control.
Finally to all the people who attended for putting it aside (with it being so close to Christmas) and helping us commemorate this 90th Anniversary.



COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU - PLANNED WORK BRANXTON TOWN CENTRE PROGRAM

- WORK:** Public Domain Works, street trees and pathways.
LOCATION: Surrounds of rotunda at Branxton Oval. East side of John Rose Avenue. North side of Maitland Street, between John Rose Avenue and Church Street.
TIME FRAME: December 2019 to March 2020, weather permitting.
DISRUPTIONS: Minor traffic disruptions.
INFORMATION: For information on either of these proposals, please refer to Roads, Bridges & Drainage on CCC website <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/roads> or contact our friendly customer service team on 4993 4100

We look forward to serving our community with these infrastructure upgrades.

ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN AND REPEAL OF CHAPTER B2 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND 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.

All systems go in Huntlee

Aerial view of Huntlee Shopping Centre site



HIA Winner 2019 - best custom built home up to \$400,000. Built in Huntlee by Yarrum Designer Homes



In February this year, Huntlee marked five years since our first sod turn, in that time, so much has been achieved. We now have almost 500 homes occupied in our first village, Katherine's Landing, with more being started every week. Pleasingly, we are already seeing a strong sense of community, as Huntlee develops its unique identity.

Building strong communities isn't something that just happens. The team at LWP remains squarely focussed on community-building and continues to introduce initiatives to strengthen the sense of community in each location we develop. In Huntlee, we already have a group of very keen Com-

munity Champions and it's great to see them leading a range of programs. I'd like to thank them and all of our



Santa and his helpers from the North Rothbury RFS at last year's Huntlee Outdoor Christmas Cinema

residents for getting behind our community events and making them a great success.

On the 13 December, we held our third annual Christmas Cinema Under the Stars event and invited all residents in Huntlee and surrounding locations to come and enjoy this magical evening. Visit the Huntlee website (huntlee.com.au) or our Facebook page to see a copy of our latest newsletter which has all our event details. In that issue, you'll also be able to read about the monster raffle our residents have put together with all proceeds going to the North Rothbury RFS.

It raised over \$5000 which was a marvellous result. As anyone who has driven down Wine Country Drive in the last six months will know, the Huntlee Shopping Centre construction is well underway and we look forward to Coles opening their full-range supermarket, Liquorland and range of specialty shops in mid-2020. And in breaking news, the owners of the Huntlee Tavern have confirmed construction is expected to commence early in the new year and they anticipate being open by the end of 2020.

There is so much to look forward to in the coming year but, in the meantime, the team at Huntlee take this opportunity to wish everyone in our beautiful corner of the world a happy and healthy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Singleton residents praised for 25% drop in water usage as drought tightens grip & Hunter Water impose level 2 water restrictions on 20 January 2020

Singleton residents and businesses are leading the way in conserving water, with a 25% drop in residential usage and a 16% drop in business use compared to the same period last year.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore has praised the community's efforts as the local government area continues to feel the impacts of the drought – and the dam level keeps plummeting. She said with Hunter Water already announcing the move to level 2 restrictions on 20 January 2020 for customers including Branxton, Singleton Council would consider whether to follow suit in February. "Our community has been fantastic

in cutting down on water to conserve our supply and the results we've seen are nothing short of incredible," Cr Moore said. "But unfortunately the scale and impact of this drought means that the level in Glennies Creek Dam is still dropping fast, and with no rain in sight, it may be necessary to move to Level 2 water restrictions when Council reconvenes in February."

Until then, Level 1 water restrictions will remain in force for all residential, commercial, industrial and government customers in Council's water supply area.

Penalties apply for customers who refuse to comply with restricted activities with on-the-spot fines of \$220 and a maximum penalty of \$2200. For residential properties, current level 1 restrictions mean:

- Watering of lawns by watering systems, microsprays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers and hand-held hoses may only occur between 6pm to 9am daily in summer
- Watering of residential gardens by watering systems, microsprays, drip systems, soaker hoses, non-fixed sprinklers and hand-held hoses may only occur between 6pm to 9am daily in summer
- Topping up or filling of garden water features is permitted
- Irrigation of new turf is permitted for one week after laying, which after level 1 restriction of watering lawns applies

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

"It's more important than ever that we continue to be vigilant about water, even over the Christmas period when we tend to indulge a little more than usual," Cr Moore said.

"But of course the best celebration we could have is if it rained for Christmas."

For more information about water restrictions, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/waterrestrictions & www.hunterwater.com.au



Greta Medical Centre

29 High Street Greta NSW2334

Ph 49387303 fax 49387800

Dr Jiwan Jyoti Dr Maninder Deep Dr Azhar Shabbir
Dr Indra Nanda Dr Marwa Fathi And Dr Rahul Mehrotra
X-Mas and New Year Trading Hours

24/12/2019	Tuesday	Open
25/12/2019	Wednesday (Xmas Day)	Closed
26/12/2019	Thursday (Boxing day)	Closed
27/12/2019	Friday	Open 9-4PM
28/12/2019	Saturday	Open 9-4PM
29/12/2019	Sunday	Closed
30/12/2019	Monday	Open 9-4PM
31/12/2019	Tuesday	Open 9-4PM
01/01/2020	Wednesday (New Year Eve)	Closed
02/01/2020	Thursday	Normal Trading

Can you please ring

GP Access on 1300 130147 or

Maitland Hospital 550 High Street, Maitland - (02) 4939 2000 OR

in case of Emergency Please ring 000

All Staff would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New year Thanks

Invitation for Christmas CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BRANXTON-GRETA AND SINGLETON

Christmas Vigil Mass

6.00pm - St Brigid's Church, Station St, Branxton

6.30pm - St Patrick's Church, Queen St, Singleton

Christmas Midnight Mass

12am - St Patrick's Church, Queen St, Singleton

Christmas Day Mass

8.00am - St Catherine's Church, Branxton St, Greta

10.00am - St Patrick's Church, Queen St, Singleton

New Year's Day Mass

8.30am - St Brigid's Church, Station St, Branxton

9.20am - St Patrick's Church, Queen St, Singleton

These will be the only Masses for Branxton and Greta

between 23 December and 3

January.

Thank you!



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STEVE'S RANT

There must be some way of curbing the growth and influence of Governments.

Apart from giving a bait to the crossbench members of the Senate and declaring *The Greens* as a prescribed organisation against the interests of the nation and deporting them to Canada. We still have the problem of Parkinson's law. Parkinson's Law states no matter how much space is available, somebody will find something to put in it. Just take your own dwelling as an example. No matter how many drawers, cupboards or sheds there are, stuff will accumulate to fill them all.

him being satisfied that it is necessary and will not have unintended consequences. He is able to get all the best advice on this by command and charge it to the proponents of the Bill. 2nd. Make it compulsory for Parliamentarians to abstain on voting on legislation if that legislation has no effect on their constituency. For example, if a vote to dissolve the Murray Darling River Authority is to be taken, Parliamentarians who only represent the metropolitan electorates do not vote.

"There must be some way of curbing the growth and influence of Governments"

Of course, you would never de-clutter because you might need this or that thing someday. It is the same with Governments. Once an Act becomes law it is virtually impossible to rescind and once a bureaucratic entity is formed, like a malignant cancer, it will grow in size and assume more and more authority.

Just what we need.... more Turkeys telling us what we can and cannot do and demanding more forms to be filled in. What happened to the paperless society? Well let's wish for a few dreams to come true in the new year;

1st. We have a new Governor General, so let's have his approval of legislation dependant on

3rd. In order to give the Government more flexibility to respond to emergency situations, short of war, parliament be given an avenue for suspending any legislation or statutory authority which inhibits taking appropriate actions. Declaring a 'National Emergency' is certainly one way of doing this but is seldom used, unless lives are at risk. Slow motion train wrecks don't attract that much attention but when long term benefit can be achieved it is well worth considering. The situation that comes to mind is the need for more water storage and pipelines to feed our inland rivers. The last wish is for ideology to be replaced by truth and common-sense. Yes, we can all dream. Thought for the year.

It is un-Australian to forgo the opportunity to put shite on somebody whether they deserve it (or not). May you have a safe and happy festive season. Steve.



with **Mike Lowing**
It would be inappropriate of us prior to Christmas for me not to mention the enormous contribution the sporting club secretaries & publicity officers of all our community organisations make to our publication. Club reports & results are critical to the dissemination of club news & individual achievements. Again, it would be remiss of me not to mention all our other contributors who



LATEST IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Total loss in value at 30 December 2018	
724	Homes destroyed
276	Homes damaged
5,653	Homes saved
49	Facilities destroyed
60	Facilities damaged
425	Facilities saved
1582	Outbuildings destroyed
681	Outbuildings damaged
5,181	Outbuildings saved

Latest figures include assessments in parts of Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands, Hunter, Northern Rivers and Central Coast

diligently provide articles for our readers. To mention just a few; Lester Bootes & Mark Bercini, Annaleize Hambling & Gray Clack at Cessnock City Council, Daryl Sheppard from Branxton Golf Club, Karen Quilty from Branxton Public School, Shelley Mitchell from Kirkton Public School, David & Sue Peel from HVGC, Anne Lomas & Perri from Clayton Barrs' office, David Bullock from Joel Fitzgibbons' office, Denise

McGoldrick from the Branxton Greta CWA, Judy Spillard from the VIEW Club, Briony O'Hara from Singleton Council & last, but by no means least, all our local members & mayors. To all 'thank you'. A very special mention to all our advertisers who, have again, made our publication possible this year. The Branxton Greta Vineyards News will be

having a short break over the Christmas and New Year period and will return early in the new year. We will notify our advertisers early in the new year as to the date.

To help your listening pleasure over the yuletide I have put together a list of my favourite Christmas tunes.

It's a little eclectic but that's me! They are not listed in my order of preference & you will note there are no Christmas carols. I'll be home for Christmas, *Elvis* Christmas (baby please come home), *Darlene Love* What Christmas means to me, *Stevie Wonder* Rockin' around the Christmas Tree, *Brenda Lee* So this is Christmas, *John Lennon* (Happy Christmas the war is over) Thank God it's Christmas, *Queen* Please come home for Christmas,

Jon Bon Jovi Let it snow, *Frank Sinatra* It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, *Bing Crosby* Jingle Bells, *Michael Buble* Driving home for Christmas, *Chris Rea* All I want for Christmas, *Mariah Carey* Last Christmas, *Wham* Santa Claus is coming to town, *Rod Stewart* Santa Baby, *Eartha Kitt*

Author Barbara Heaton has just had published a biography of the late mining identity Jim Comerford. It is titled *Working Class Warrior*. I knew Jim & he was a truly amazing man but, in saying that, he had many detractors. I have not yet read it, a Christmas read, but when I do I'll do a review in this newspaper of my opinion. Barbara was quoted as saying that there will never be another Jim Comerford & it should be required reading for anyone who wants to represent our part of the world.

Have a great Christmas & may all you wish for in the New Year be yours.
Cheers, Mike

No Presents
A happy holiday season to all. So many people are not doing Christmas. No presents. Just a family get together with everyone bringing something to eat. This year its beetroot salad from me. A bit exciting as I usually do seafood. Others are doing pork, ham, turkey, gravy and roast veg, and breads and so much more. Very competitive. OH's and Ah's. First stress free Christmas in quite a while. No 1 grandchild's not putting up a tree even, just a Christmas bush to be planted out after Christmas. It's the new way. New traditions. No more (insert profanity here) jingle bells, and artificial crap. Snow, Santa, elves, all in the bin. Bliss.
Maureen Lind, North Rothbury



A great read 'Walking Towards Thunder' by Peter Fox is absolutely riveting. It was hard to put down but at times I had to because I had tears in my eyes and I needed time to compose myself before I could resume reading; sometimes I had to leave it until the next day. This is a book about criminal activities that occurred in our local area, the Hunter Valley, towns like Singleton, Cessnock, Branxton & Greta; our towns. Crimes and 'cover ups' so distressing that they ruined lives, families and caused victims to suicides; our

people, our friends, our families. This book is written by our very own local retired Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox, a dedicated honest hard-working cop who put his own well being and career aside to ensure the victims of these horrendous crimes had a voice. He had to fight heavy resistance from within the police force, the Catholic church, religious groups and politicians who wanted these crimes buried so as to protect their reputation, a group that put its own

reputation ahead of the protection of vulnerable children from sexual assault. One of the striking things that hit me from reading the book was the Catholic churches solution to the problem was their relocation of offending priests, giving them access to new and expanding numbers of children to assault; priests were sent to Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Ireland and moved around parishes all over Australia; it was opening up the "buffet" of children to these criminals to re-offend with. The number of children, whose lives were destroyed, reached the hundreds; the number of Catholic clergy involved grew and grew. It hurt to hear of the ostracism, abuse, assault, cover ups and inaction imposed by the Catholic church and its parishioners on the victims of these assaults and their families. The lack of action by sections of the police service in progressing complaints brought the reputation of the service in to disrepute; the

obstruction by some senior police should make them reconsider their position as serving police officers and that if their first service is to their church rather than the Police Service and vulnerable children being sexually assaulted then they are not fit to serve as police officers. This book is a must read for local people of the Hunter Valley and especially for those of the Catholic faith but they must be prepared for the truth and hard facts, the convictions handed out by our legal system and the attitude of their church to the victims and families of these atrocities. If you believe in justice, the protection of children and the fight against corruption at the highest levels with in our political system, our police and religious hierarchy then it is an eye opener and required reading.
Chris Robertson, Lower Belford
An unprincipled cop-out Anthony Albanese's claim that "If we don't export the coal someone else will" is the classic unprincipled

cop-out. If we took positive action we could phase out our coal industry and have a vast solar energy industry up and running by 2030. More jobs could be created doing that than would ever be lost from the coal mines. And we would take the world with us. Reg Murray, Glen Iris We need to earn a living If we do as these folks are demanding, it raises a few really huge questions. First, how will all those without a job when the coal mines close be able to continue to earn a living? Next, how can most of us afford the hugely increased cost of electricity if this happens? There are many other

important questions, too, but being able to get an acceptable answer to these here is essential to many of us.
Geoff Cass, Tewantin, Qld
Please explain
It seems that the Drought Minister is calling for a secondary boycott of Coles. How does he reconcile this when the government is busy drafting legislation to prevent these types of actions, or will there be differing categories of "secondary boycotts" depending on who calls for them?
All contact details provided but withheld at writers request

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au



kindness has enabled us to finance the support of our five sponsored disadvantaged Australian students through the Smith Family Learning For Life program. Thank you also to Richardson & Wrench,

Hunter Laundry & Dry Cleaning and to Mike Lowing. We appreciate your support. Our next meeting will be on 13th February, 2020. In this unprecedented time of drought and bush fires let us give our thanks to the wonderful volunteer bush fire brigades and our thoughts to those on the land.

What a wonderful, caring community we live in! May you all experience a peaceful, joyous Christmas and holiday season. The words in an old carol keep drifting into my thoughts..."tidings of great comfort and joy"- blessings to everyone.
*Peace and love
Judy Spillard*



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826

Club Report

Our last meeting for 2019 and Christmas lunch at

Greta Workers Club. was well attended. Bethany's sister Marcia was presented with her membership badge by President Helen and became our second new member along with Dianne to join our club. May you both have many happy times with VIEW. New members are always welcome and our Secretary, Bethany-0419 429 364 is always happy to receive your call and give you more information.

Many thanks to all those who have supported our functions throughout the year. Your



"... and they say that his name is Jesus"

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, there is a lot of stuff that takes our attention and demands our time. Christmas has to be perfect ... for our children, our families and ourselves ... or does it? We have to find the perfect gift, have the perfect food, and plan the perfect day ... or do we? The pressure of perfection is perhaps better avoided so that we can focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

The very first Christmas was perfect, but certainly not in the ways that we consider perfection. The first Christmas was perfect because it was the birth of Jesus ... Immanuel ... God with us. I'm not sure that Mary would have chosen a stable as the perfect place for Jesus to be born. Mary and Joseph had travelled from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they arrived, they found that there was no room for them in the inn and so when the time for Jesus' birth arrived, he was born in a stable. His birth was heralded by angels and his birthplace marked by a star. And the sign that the shepherds observed? They found Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, just as the angels had. God's gifts to us are always perfect and perfectly timed. The most amazing gift we will ever receive is the gift of God's own Son, Jesus ... born as one of us, fully human and fully divine.

Love is sent to us and born as one of us in humble beginnings. Love is wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Love chooses to come to us, to call us, to guide us, to save us. God's love is shown to the world by the birth of his only Son. Jesus is God's eternal word and is the hope of the world. Jesus is the greatest gift that can ever be given or received. As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us remember that it is the birth of Jesus Christ that we celebrate.

As we choose gifts for the people we love, may we remember that we give and receive gifts because God first gave us the gift of Jesus. The most wonderful gift we can give is to give our lives to following Jesus and trusting in God's promises. The most amazing gift we can receive is to receive God's love in the person of Jesus, born as an infant, in a stable some two thousand years ago and born into our lives each day. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, and sons and daughters of God. My we always know God's love in our lives. May we know Jesus ... Immanuel ... God with us.

From my family to you and yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the blessings of Christmas stay with you throughout the Christmas Season and each day of the New Year.

*Every Blessing
Reverend Nicole*



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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 November 2019 to 30 November 2019.



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2019/00000640/001	20-Nov-2019	10 Railway ST	Demolition of Existing Sheds & Construction of New Shed
GRETA	008/2019/00000681/001	13-Nov-2019	41 Brantton ST	Inground Swimming Pool
GRETA	008/2019/00000706/001	21-Nov-2019	14 Popham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2019/00000666/001	25-Nov-2019	2 Price ST	Principal Dwelling with Garage and Attached Secondary Dwelling with Associated Carport
GRETA	008/2019/00000649/001	26-Nov-2019	6 Popham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2019/00000716/001	29-Nov-2019	16 Popham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
LOCHINVAR	008/2019/00000513/001	6-Nov-2019	LOT 122 DP748647 Old North RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
LOVEDALE	008/2019/00000417/001	18-Nov-2019	465 Lovedale RD	Demolition of Existing Fence and Construction of Acoustic Fencing 2.4m High
LOVEDALE	008/2019/00000674/001	26-Nov-2019	59 Brickmans LANE	Inground Swimming Pool
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000628/001	1-Nov-2019	93 Triton BLVD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000673/001	14-Nov-2019	9 Tooze CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000682/001	15-Nov-2019	53 Tooze CCT	Patio
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000605/001	26-Nov-2019	9 Moran PWY	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000678/001	28-Nov-2019	25 Olivia PL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000917/001	20-Nov-2019	409 Palmers LN	60 Tourist and Visitor Accommodation Units, Installed in Two Phases; Construction of Carparking, Landscaping and Ancillary Infrastructure
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000627/001	12-Nov-2019	336 Oakey Creek RD	Water Storage Tanks, Pump House, Brigade Hardstanding & Boosters to support Fire Service Upgrade including Excavation & Levelling of Site
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000669/001	20-Nov-2019	7 Bottlebrush CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000631/001	22-Nov-2019	17 Barnhill PRIV	Patio Addition to Dwelling
ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000862/001	6-Nov-2019	1434 Wine Country DR	Twelve (12) Lot Subdivision

Members say



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

Arriving back in my electorate from Canberra last Friday I encountered two unusual things happening simultaneously. A thick haze of smoke had turned our streets dark and streetlights had lit-up in response. Overhead the sun shone strangely with red hues rarely

responsible for 1.3 per cent of global emissions, and acting alone we can make no practical difference. However, we must do enough to give us the credibility needed to preach to the big emitting countries which are not doing enough. People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. That's why we should honour the commitments Scott Morrison's Government made under the Paris Agreement. We must all do our bit and share the burden. But we need not – and should not – forsake our coal mining jobs, not one of the 75,000 it creates in region of Hunter. The path to lower GHG emissions is to help the big emitting countries reduce theirs. China for example, is

which I always look forward to. The Branxton Lions' may only be a small group, but they do an awesome job of making the most wonderful time of the year even more so with a special Christmas dinner for seniors in our area. And of course, it isn't really Christmas until the community's biggest celebration, Christmas On



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

John Street, which was on this Friday 6 December. It truly was a night for all ages, with entertainment, food and fireworks for everyone on Santa's list including jumping castles, balloon twisting, a petting zoo, and art and craft for the kids; performances from Urban Dance Studio and Kayla Marshall Dance Studio; and music by the Singleton Town Band and St Catherine's Catholic College choir, including soloists from Singleton High School and Singleton Public School. If that's not enough, Santa was there, hosted by the Rotary Club of Singleton. With the 2018/2019 Annual Report officially completed last week, Christmas On John Street was a great time of year to launch into the festive season as well as reflect on our achievements and to set out the goals for 2020.

We're proud to cap off the year with the continuation of Council's positive financial management, with another year of contained spending and a budget surplus. At the same time, we're increasing our capital expenditure on projects that make a real difference to real people, such as a significant investment in water and sewer infrastructure, park upgrades, shared pathways and playgrounds for all abilities. Christmas On John Street was also Council's first Waste Wise event, reinforcing Council's commitment to environmental sustainability. We encouraged everyone involved in the event to use recyclable packaging, and water refill stations. And we're already looking ahead to a very special 2020, when our community will mark 200 years since the European exploration of the area we now know as Singleton. I was proud to officially launch our Events Program last week because of the range of commemorations thought up by organisations, businesses and community

groups that truly make it an all-of-community representation of everything we love about our local government area. The full program is available at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au.
Cheers, Sue



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

Christmas brings out the best in our community, it is a time when we all come together to reflect and celebrate, and we are all just that little bit kinder to one another. It's a beautiful time of year. 2019 has been a challenging year for me, but also one of personal growth and I have many things that I'm looking forward to achieving in 2020, particularly in my role as Councillor.

Cessnock Council delivers so much more than rates, roads and rubbish and we are continually expected to do more with far less, year on year. We kicked plenty of goals in 2019, and I'm proud of that, but I'm also laser focused on continuing to pursue the many projects that I know you care about - projects like the roll-out of upgrades to Branxton's main street, the North Rothbury sewer connection, implementing the Miller Park and Greta Oval Master Plans, the Branxton-Greta Cycleway and continued improvements to our roads and footpaths. But most importantly, I'm looking forward to stopping over the break and spending quality time with my family and friends. Many of you no doubt intend to do the same, some of you travelling great distances - if so, please be safe and take breaks if you are on the road. For those who are staying home to work - whether you're an emergency service worker, nurse, bus driver, boiler maker or coal miner - thank you for making sure that things keep ticking along, but I hope that whatever you have planned, you're with your loved ones.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year. Thank you for your support over the past year and I'll see you in 2020! Cheers, Melanie



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL

Australian music legend John Paul Young will headline a stellar line-up at the 2020 NSW Seniors Festival. JPY will serenade the seniors alongside other top stars including Vanessa Amorosi and Paulini at the Premier's Gala Concerts, a highlight of the 12-day festival.

This year's concert will truly be 'Where the Action Is' with the ultimate headline act John Paul Young singing 'Love is in the Air' on Valentine's Day.

Our 2020 line-up features an all-star cast of Australia's best musical talent and the concerts are sure to be crowd pleasers.

The NSW Seniors Festival Expo, held next door to the concerts at the ICC Sydney, will feature a range of exhibitors including Bunnings, women's gym Curves, and Stitch, a social network for seniors.

The Expo is a great opportunity for seniors to learn about everything from home improvement to healthier lifestyles.

Love to Celebrate is this year's festival theme, with more than 500,000 seniors expected to take part in events across the State from 12-23 February, 2020. Four Premier's Gala Concerts will be held on 13 and 14 February at the First State Super Theatre, ICC Sydney. Free tickets will be available from Wednesday 11 December at 10am by calling 1300 130 613 or online at www.ticketek.com.au/seniorsfestival

MORE THAN A NUMBER: ROAD TRAUMA TAKING A TOLL

I urge all drivers to take extra care over summer with the State's road toll already at 330 – seven higher than last year. It is devastating to think 330 people haven't made it home this year. That's 330 families celebrating Christmas without a loved one. The impact is massive and it's not just deaths that are the tragedy on our roads. Almost 11,000 people have suffered serious injuries in crashes in just 12 months.

We want everyone to stop and think – think about how their behaviour on the roads impacts others, think about how they would feel if they lost a loved one and think about what they can do to help stop these deaths and injuries on our roads.

We will do everything we can as a government by building safer roads and using technology to help keep people from harm. But at the end of the day we really need everyone to take personal responsibility. In NSW so far this year 217 people have died in regional areas. The really sobering fact is around 70 per cent of fatalities on country roads are country residents. It's not visitors from out of town, it's people who live in the area, who know the roads well and who often aren't far from home when the worst thing happens. NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy, Commander of the Traffic & Highway Patrol Command, said all drivers need to play their part in keeping the road toll down.

Police will continue to target those risky behaviours that impact on crashes, injuries and deaths on our roads, but we need you as the community to take personal responsibility and work with us.

New road safety campaign: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/eAeK0W5BDH>
Cheers, Michael



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR –

THE 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

What a wild and tiring year 2019 has been for democracy here in NSW and Australia. It feels like the crazy world of domestic politics has been on a never ending merry-go-round of slogans, pictures and pitches. We have, after all, suffered through both state and federal elections campaigns in the one year. Early in 2019 we saw some shocking images of mass fish kills out on our Darling River. This has prompted a 12 month conversation about water and drought. While the government of the day cannot make it rain, they can be responsible for water that has previously been captured in any of our mass storage dams and they can be responsible for treating that water with great care and caution. I have personally spent some of the second half of this year visiting many of the communities most severely affected by the misuse of water and the challenge of drought; and the lesson that I learnt was about compassion and awareness.

Of course the state election campaign consumed much of February and March. I want to acknowledge all of the brave individuals and their campaign teams that put themselves out there for the election journey. Often our family and friends are our biggest helpers and despite probably having very little interest or involvement in politics themselves, they are often exposed to ridiculous and unnecessary abuse from people that think an election is code for "no manners are required". I was reminded about how lucky we are to live in this wonderful democracy.

The state election then blended immediately into a federal election and our democracy was again front of mind. Watching the federal election from the wings, I was saddened to witness a campaign entirely occupy the message of fear and separation. It seemed that the truth no longer mattered. This refusal to talk truth has been reinforced by recent comments that we should not discuss global warming at a time when we have our worst droughts, our

hottest days and our state of NSW on fire.

According to the climate change deniers in the Canberra Bubble, no matter how bad things get, if anyone proposes change, then that very idea of change itself will be cast as the villain which all should fear.

And now we finish the year with this wonderful state on fire. Words cannot describe the incredible sense of thanks and admiration that our enormous team of fire fighters, including the volunteers, are owed. If you get the chance in the coming weeks, a quick chat with any one of them will provide you with a tale of men and women that have been travelling the state to fight fires in communities that they have often never heard of, but all with a mind to community service. Our firefighting volunteers are legends.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas everyone. Enjoy time with loved ones and keep an eye and ear out for those that might be lonely during this time. Drive carefully on the roads and take your time. Take care around water, particularly if you are 18-35 years old, male and likely to mix your water activities with a few drinks. I look forward to working with you all in 2020.

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

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Members say

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seen. Helicopters buzzed and sirens could be heard faintly in the hot winds. Meanwhile, my mobile phone was buzzing with complaint from people upset with a photo I'd posted on Twitter the night before, following a meeting with the Resources Minister, Matt Canavan, and the CEO of the World Coal Association. According to my Twitter friends, the Shadow Minister for Resources holding a meeting with the Minister and an industry leader is now a crime punishable by abuse. Some qualified their abuse, justifying it on timing grounds. A day when fires were raging was the wrong day to post, some claimed. Maybe I should have refused the meeting? Plain silly. The fires are distressing for us all. Later that day I was on the fire-line thanking our fire fighters, so I know. But sadly, if Tony Abbott had not recklessly repealed Julia Gillard's so-called "carbon tax" six years ago, the fires would still be with us. If Kevin Rudd had secured Parliamentary approval for his CPRS ten years ago, the fires would still be raging. Our climate is changing adversely. Long hot and dry spells are creating a tinder box. Back-burning is becoming more difficult because moist and cool windows of opportunity are becoming fewer. Scientists tell us greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are contributing to changes in our weather patterns and the global community should play safe and adjust behaviour. But Australia is only

responsible for almost 30 percent of global emissions. We must reduce emissions in Asia and India, or fail. To modernise and clean-up their economies, developing countries need a lot of energy and a lot of coal to build wind turbines and solar panels. Indeed it takes 200 tonnes of metallurgical coal to build one wind turbine. Australia produces relatively clean and efficient coal. Exporting it to nations coming out of poverty helps them develop their economies and offsets the dirtier, less-efficient coal they'd otherwise be forced to buy elsewhere – coal which often comes from mines where there is no care for health, safety or fair wages. It is worth noting that 60 percent of the world's electricity production still comes from fossil fuel sources. Blaming and demonising our coal miners for the current fires is not just silly, it's insulting and unfair. Arguing the region's 12,000 coal miners can "transition" to the renewables sector is just as silly. It's certainly confronting for a coal miner with a family and a healthy mortgage. It's time for some common sense and past-time my mainly capital-city-based Twitter friends did their homework. Next they'll be campaigning against our farmers and their belching cows.

Cheers, Joel

We say it every year, but it really is hard to believe another year is almost over and we're had the Branxton Lions' Christmas function,



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Pharmacist Advice

Measles



With the recent outbreak of measles in Samoa it is a timely reminder that measles is a serious disease that is easily spread through the air. The measles virus has infected almost 4,500 people in the South Pacific nation of 200,000 since late October. Of those who died, 57 were under the age of four. Samoa has said nearly 90% of eligible people have been vaccinated against measles as it lifted a two-day curfew imposed amid an outbreak that has killed 65 in recent weeks. The outbreak is in part blamed on people spreading false information, claiming vaccinations are dangerous. Immunisation is effective in preventing the disease. All children and adults born during or after 1966 should be vaccinated with 2 doses of measles containing vaccine if not already immune.

What is measles?

- Measles is a viral disease that may have serious complications.
- In the past, measles infection was very common in childhood. Most people born before 1966 will have been infected with measles as a child and are likely to be immune.
- Thanks to immunisation measles is now rare in Australia. Measles remains common in many parts of the world, and large outbreaks continue to occur in a number of countries. This is why it is important to make sure you are fully protected against measles prior to overseas travel.

What are the symptoms?

- The first symptoms are fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes and feeling unwell. A few days later a rash appears. The rash starts on the face, spreads down to the body and lasts for 4-7 days. The rash is not itchy. Young children (especially infants) may also experience diarrhoea.

Up to a third of people with measles have complications. These include ear infections, diarrhoea, and pneumonia, and may require hospitalisation. About one in every 1000 people with measles develops encephalitis (swelling of the brain).

How is it spread?

- Measles is usually spread when a person breathes in the measles virus that has been coughed or sneezed into

the air by an infectious person.

- Measles is one of the most easily spread of all human infections. Just being in the same room as someone with measles can result in infection. People with measles are usually infectious from just before the symptoms begin until four days after the rash appears. The time from exposure to becoming sick is usually about 10 days. The rash usually appears around 14 days after exposure.

Who is at risk?

People are at risk of measles if:

- they have never had measles infection **or**
- they have not had two doses of measles containing vaccine **or**
- they have a weakened immune system (e.g., people who are receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer or people who take high-dose steroid medications) even if they have been fully immunised or have had past measles infection **and** they have had contact with someone with measles infection

How is it prevented?

- The best protection against measles is immunisation with two doses of measles containing vaccine, given at least 4 weeks apart.
- In Australia two doses of measles containing vaccine are offered to children under the national Immunisation Program (NIP). The first dose is scheduled at 12 months of age as measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. The second dose is scheduled at 18 months of age as measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccine. These vaccines provide protection against mumps, German measles, and chicken pox as well as measles.
- People planning travel with children between 6* and 18 months of age should discuss their travel plans with their GP, as the schedule can be adjusted for children travelling to areas with a high risk of measles.

- Anyone born during or after 1966 who has never had measles infection should see their doctor to make sure that they have had two doses of measles containing vaccine at least four weeks apart. If not the vaccine is free in NSW.

- It is safe to have the vaccine more than twice, so people who are unsure should be vaccinated. People with measles should stay at home until they are no longer infectious (i.e. until 4 days after the rash starts) to reduce the possibility of spreading it to other people.

* The national recommendations for early measles vaccination of infants prior to travel have recently been updated - previously the lower age limit for vaccination was 9 months of age.

How is it diagnosed?

Measles is suspected when a person feels unwell, has a cough, runny nose or sore eyes and a fever followed by a rash. Whenever measles is suspected, samples from the nose, throat, and urine should be collected to confirm the diagnosis. A blood test may also be performed. Confirmation of the diagnosis is important as it allows prompt public health follow-up of other people who are at risk of measles.

How is it treated?

People with measles infection are normally advised to rest, drink plenty of fluids, and take paracetamol to treat the fever. There is no specific treatment. What is the public health response? Doctors, hospitals and laboratories, schools and childcare centres must notify cases of measles to the local public health unit. Public health unit staff will interview the doctor and patient (or carers) to find out how the infection occurred, identify other people at risk of infection, implement control measures (such as immunisation and restrictions on attending school or work) and provide other advice.

2020 Cessnock City Council Mayoral Scholarships now open

Cessnock City Council is proud to announce the Mayoral Scholarships are now open for residents looking to build a career and further their education in 2020. There are nine scholarships up for grabs valued at \$2,500 each and students can use this extra funding boost in any way they like to help them in their studies.

To be eligible, students need to be currently enrolled at TAFE or university and be residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). Students from the Cessnock LGA who live outside the area to study are also eligible to apply.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this program is fantastic and offers a number of scholarships for a variety of areas.

"I encourage anyone who is looking to further their studies to apply for one of these scholarships. We understand textbooks, travel or tools can be very costly and \$2,500 can take some of the pressure off and allow students to focus on their study."

The following scholarships are available:

1. **Building & Associated Trades** sponsored by The Rotary Club of Cessnock (those studying Plumbing, Bricklaying, Carpentry Architecture etc. at TAFE or a Bachelor of Surveying, Engineering, Construction Management, Science etc. at university)
2. **Local Government** sponsored by Kurri Kurri Retired Mineworkers Association (those studying to become a Planner, Engineer, Accountant, Recreational and Community Planner, Environmental Scientist, Cultural Services Officer, Media Officer etc.)

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4. **Mining** sponsored by Cessnock Retired Mineworkers
5. **Mining/Technical Engineering** sponsored by Austar Coal Mine (those studying Mining, Electrical, Mechanical, Process/Chemical, Geology or Geotechnical Engineering etc.)
6. **TAFE** sponsored by Solo Resource Recovery (those studying at TAFE in any field)
7. **Post HSC** sponsored by Hunter Resource Recovery (for those who have graduated in the last two years and are currently studying at TAFE or university)
8. **Undergraduate** sponsored by Hunter Resource Recovery (for undergraduate students in any field of study)
9. **Undergraduate** Merv Mahon Memorial sponsored by Northern District Retired Mineworkers Association (for undergraduate students in any field of study).

Applications close on Monday 2 March 2020. For more information and to apply online visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships.



All you need is 7 ingredients to pull off this impressive Christmas ham.

Ingredients

- 100g pkt plum paste
- 8 whole star anise
- 125ml (1/2 cup) fresh orange juice, strained
- 125ml (1/2 cup) maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 7-8kg whole leg ham, on the bone
- 6-8 small apples

Method

Step 1

Preheat oven to 170C/150C fan forced. Place an oven shelf in the lowest position, removing other shelves. Line a large roasting pan with baking paper. Place a wire rack on top and pour enough water into pan until just under the rack but not touching.

Step 2

Place the plum paste, star anise, orange juice, maple syrup and Dijon in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until paste has dissolved. Bring to the boil then simmer, stirring occasionally, for 8-10 minutes or until syrupy. Transfer to a heatproof bowl and set aside to cool and thicken.

Step 3

Use a sharp knife to cut around the ham

Sticky apple and plum-glazed ham



shank, about 10cm from end. Run knife around the edge of the ham. Gently lift the rind off in 1 piece by running your fingers between the rind and the fat.

Step 4

Use a mandoline to thinly slice the apples crossways. Brush the top of the ham with a little glaze. Place the apple slices on top, slightly overlapping. Use toothpicks to secure, where necessary. Arrange star anise randomly over apple slices.

Step 5

Transfer the ham to prepared wire rack in pan. Wrap the shank in foil. Brush one-third of the remaining glaze over apples. Bake for 40 minutes. Brush again with half of the remaining glaze and bake for a further 40 minutes. Carefully remove the toothpicks.

Step 6

Brush the ham with half the remaining glaze and bake for 20 minutes. Brush with the remaining glaze and bake for a further 20 minutes or until the apples are golden and sticky. Set aside for 30 minutes to rest before slicing to serve



Toy (under 18's). Congratulations to Noeleen and Marie on their achievements. Also congratulations to Declan who won for his toy dog, which also received a 1st at Hunter River Group and 2nd at State Conference. On Tuesday, 10th December, Branxton/Greta CWA held its last meeting for the year and afterwards enjoyed a relaxing, delicious lunch at the Royal Federal Hotel to finish off a very busy year.



Noeleen Bendeich with winning entries and sashes

.All CWA members have the opportunity to enter CWA Handicraft/Cookery/ Agricultural/Environment competitions each year and this year, two of our members, Noeleen Bendeich and Marie Shearer also tested their abilities by entering the 2019 Singleton Show with great success. Noeleen Bendeich received 1st for Hand Embroidered Duchess Set, Table Centre, Most Useful Apron, Prettiest Apron, Mounted Duchess Set, Crochet Coat Hanger, Crochet Tea Cosy, Knitted Tea Cosy, Knitted Article by person 70 yrs of age or over, Judges Choice – Most Successful Exhibitor. Also received 12 second places. Marie Shearer – Best Exhibitor – Novice Cooking; Encouragement Award – Novice Cooking. 1st – Chocolate Cake, Jam Drops, Sultana Cake. Also 1st – Cactus. 2nd – Peas. 3rd – Mixed succulents. 1st – Knitted scarf. Declan Shearer – 1st – Soft

As Christmas fast approaches, our thoughts are with all the Fire Fighters struggling to keep the bush fires under control. One of our members is a member of the Belford Fire Brigade, so we are able to get constant updates for the local areas. Also, our thoughts are with the drought affected farmers and anyone wishing to

donate to help either the drought relief or those affected by the bush fires, can send a cheque made out to "CWA Disaster Fund" to your local CWA Branch and if any businesses want a receipt for tax purposes, please enclose your name and address. Branxton/Greta CWA would like to take this opportunity to thank all in

the community for their support during the past year and wish you all a happy, safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. A special thank you to Mike Lowing for his continued patience and support with our articles. 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 0402015850 or email branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com
Denise McGoldrick
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Marie Shearer with winning certificates



Members celebrating early Xmas Lunch at the Royal Federal Hotel.

Help set out the 20 year vision for land use in Cessnock



Cessnock City Council is calling on the community to have their say on the Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which is on public exhibition until Wednesday 5 February 2020. The LSPS is a requirement of the NSW Government and will set out the 20 year vision for land use in the Cessnock LGA; the special characteristics which constitute Cessnock's local identity; shared community values to be maintained and enhanced; and how growth and change will be managed in the future. In an effort to gain as much community feedback and input into the LSPS as possible, Council will be holding a number of community drop-in sessions with the aim of advising the community of the priorities of the LSPS and answering any Cessnock's LSPS is separated into four themes: liveable, productive, sustainable and unique. These themes summarise the areas of focus for land use planning in Cessnock to 2036. Once adopted, the LSPS will replace the City Wide Settlement Strategy 2010 which is currently the primary document guiding land use planning and growth across the region. For Cessnock, the LSPS will also assist in the implementation of actions set out in the Hunter Regional Plan (HRP), Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan (GNMP) and Council's own priorities as set out in the Cessnock Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging residents to read the LSPS, come along to a drop-in session and make a written submission. "The LSPS focuses on our diverse cultural history, our distinctive towns and villages, emphasises the importance of local values, along with the contribution we make to the broader Hunter region." "This is a great opportunity for the community to have their say on what local land use planning will look like for the next 20 years and every submission will be considered by Council before a final decision is made," added Cr Pynsent. For more information on the Draft LSPS and to make a submission, visit Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/CessnockLSPS2036.

Council on board with recycled glass 'sand'

In response to Australia's recycling crisis, there has been an increasing trend for councils to utilise recycled glass 'sand' for civil works and Cessnock City Council is proud to be on board.



On the job

Council recently used around 90 tonnes of recycled glass sand for the Neath Road Culvert Project and now plans to use approximately 1200 tonnes of the material on its current works on Gingers Lane, Weston. It takes about 5,200 single use glass bottles to manufacture one tonne of glass sand which means around 6.2 million bottles will be used and recycled. These projects alone make a significant contribution to protecting the environment and Council will monitor the performance of the material, with the hope of a broader scale introduction in the future. With similar properties to normal sand and approved under the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) regulations, this recycled material provides a local end use for thousands of tonnes of glass collected from kerbside recycling each year. This use will not only help to close the loop on recycled materials, but it will also address the immediate concern around stockpiled materials. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said Council is committed to better waste management practice, along with increased resource recovery and reuse. "The war on waste is everybody's responsibility and it's so important that we lead the way to alternate technology and uses." "Local government can make a significant contribution to the reuse of materials and we will continue to monitor technology developments for new advancements and others that further contribute to the circular economy." "I'm so pleased we are starting to implement the use of recycled glass sand in some of our local works and hope to see it continue across our local government area for years to come," added Cr Pynsent.

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




WITH

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

SHAW & BUNNER
LEGAL

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

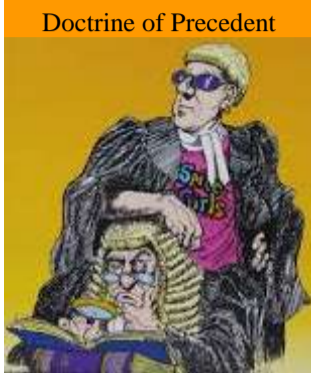


THE DOCTRINE OF PRECEDENT

Whenever courts have to consider cases involving either the interpretation of laws made by parliaments or cases where no laws exist, the effect is that by making a decision and providing reasons for that decision, those courts are creating new laws. Their decisions have developed into a body of legal principles known as common law and case law.

When a case comes before a court, the parties to the action present the evidence they need to support their case. The judge listens to the evidence, decides what evidence is relevant and what facts have been proved, decides what law is relevant, and applies that law to the facts in making a decision which is binding on the parties.

The law declared by the judge in the reasons for the court's decision directly affects the parties to the case. That law will also affect, indirectly, people bringing actions involving similar legal principles before other courts in that jurisdiction, because of the doctrine of precedent. Precedent means that judges are bound to follow interpretations of the law



Doctrine of Precedent

made by judges in higher courts, in cases with similar facts or involving similar legal principles. This principle or rule is then used by the court or other judicial bodies use when deciding later cases with similar issues or facts. The use of precedent provides predictability, stability, fairness, and efficiency in the law.

Some of the rules that make up the doctrine of precedent are:

- a judge follows the law declared by judges in higher courts in the same jurisdiction in cases with similar facts.
- a court must give reasons for its decision in a case. The reasons should include an explanation of why the court has chosen to

follow, or not follow, a previous decision which is similar to the case before it. When an earlier decision is not followed it is said to be distinguished from the earlier case.

- most courts are not bound to follow their own earlier decisions although they often do. For example, the highest court in Australia, the High Court, while not bound to follow its own earlier decisions, does so in most cases.

- the decisions of courts outside Australia are not binding on Australian courts, although they can be used to assist or guide Australian courts in making decisions on new facts. If, for example, a matter before an Australian court is unusual or difficult, judges and lawyers might look to overseas decisions for guidance or comparison. The decision of the highest court within a particular jurisdiction is final. The highest court is the court to which the final appeal lies. The High Court is the highest court in the Australian court system. Cheers, Kerrie



First home buyers take advantage of low interest rates: REIA

Housing affordability has improved across the country seeing the highest percentage of first home buyers in the marketplace in eight years, according to research from the Real Estate Institute of Australia.

REIA President Adrian Kelly said the September quarter 2019 edition of the REIA Housing Affordability Report found housing affordability improved in all states and territories, except Tasmania, while rental affordability improved across the nation.

"Although the average loan amount has risen, the increase in family income and the decrease in the interest rates have negated this rise," Mr Kelly said.

"Similarly, with a small decrease in average rents, the percentage of income to meet these payments has also declined.

"The total number of loans increased over the September quarter by 10.0 per cent and the number of new loans to first home buyers increased by 9,270, some 13.6 per cent over the quarter and 6.8 per cent over the year.

"The percentage of first home loans to all home loans, excluding refinancing, is at 29.4 per cent. This is the highest percentage since 30.3 per cent in December 2011.

"The largest increase was in

the Australian Capital Territory at 61.1 per cent, while South Australia and the Northern Territory bucked the upward national trend."

State by State New South Wales

Over the September quarter, housing affordability in New South Wales improved with the proportion of income required to meet loan repayments decreasing to 36.2 per cent, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of

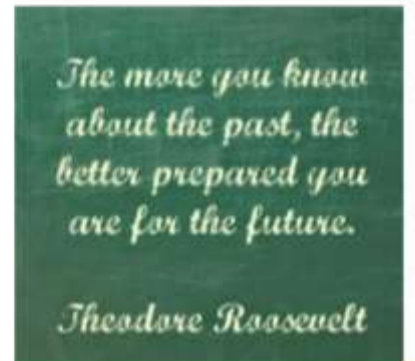
0.3 percentage points compared with the corresponding quarter 2018. With the proportion of income required to meet loan repayments 5.7 percentage points higher than the nation's average, New South Wales remained the least affordable state or territory in which to buy a home. In New South Wales, the number of loans to first home buyers increased to 8,246, an increase of 20.6 per cent over the quarter and an increase of 15.3 per cent compared to the September quarter 2018. Of the total number of first home buyers that purchased during the September quarter, 27.5 per cent were from New South Wales.

Over the September quarter, rental affordability in New South Wales improved 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.



the proportion of income required to meet median rents decreasing to 27.8 per cent, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.7 percentage points compared with the corresponding quarter 2018.

Victoria
Over the September quarter, housing affordability improved in Victoria with proportion of family income devoted to meeting average loan repayments decreasing to 32.2 per cent, a decrease of 0.3 per cent over the quarter and a decrease of 1.3 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter in the previous year.

The number of loans to first home buyers in Victoria increased to 9,395, an increase of 10.2 per cent over the quarter and an increase of 9.0 per cent compared to the September quarter 2018. Of the total number of first home buyers that purchased during the September quarter, 31.3 per cent were from Victoria while first home buyers make up 32.1 per cent of the State's owner-occupier market. Rental affordability in Victoria improved over the quarter with the proportion of income required to meet median rent decreasing to 22.7 per cent, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.7 per cent over the previous year.

Queensland
Queensland Housing affordability improved in Queensland over the September quarter with the proportion of income required to meet home loan repayments decreasing to 27.3 per cent, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.6 per cent when compared to the same quarter last year. Over the September quarter, the number of loans to first home buyers in Queensland increased to 5,589, an increase of 16.8 per cent over the quarter but a decrease of 6.9 per cent compared to the same quarter of 2018. Of all Australian first home buyers over the quarter, 18.6 per cent were from Queensland while the proportion of first home buyers of the state's owner-occupier market was 27.0 per cent.

Rental affordability in Queensland also improved over the quarter with the proportion of the median family income required to meet the median rent decreasing to 21.7 per cent, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points over both the quarter and the same quarter 2018.

South Australia
Over the September quarter, housing affordability in South Australia improved with the proportion of income required to meet monthly loan repayments decreasing to 26.2 per cent, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.4 percentage points compared to the September quarter 2018.

Over the September quarter, the number of loans to first home buyers in South Australia decreased to 1,547, a decrease of 2.7 per cent over the quarter but an increase of 4.4 per cent compared to the September quarter 2018. Of all Australian first home buyers over the quarter, 5.2 per cent were from South Australia while the proportion of first home buyers in the state's owner-occupier market was 22.5 per cent.

Rental affordability in South Australia also improved over the quarter with the proportion of income required to meet rent payments decreasing to 21.8 per cent, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points over the quarter but remaining stable compared to the September quarter 2018.

Western Australia
Over the September quarter, housing affordability in Western Australia improved with the proportion of income required to meet loan repayments decreasing to 22.1 per cent, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.4 percentage points compared to the September quarter 2018.

The number of first home buyers in Western Australia increased to 3,817 in the September quarter, an increase of 9.9 per cent over the quarter and an increase of 6.3 percentage points compared to the same time last year. Of all Australian first home buyers over the quarter, 12.7 per cent were from Western Australia

while the proportion of first home buyers in the state's owner-occupier market was 37.0 per cent.

Rental affordability in Western Australia also improved during the September quarter with the proportion of family income required to meet the median rent decreasing marginally to 16.3 per cent, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points over the quarter but an increase of 0.2 percentage points compared to the year before.

Tasmania
Housing affordability in Tasmania declined over the September quarter with the proportion of income required to meet home loan repayments increasing to 26.2 per cent, an increase of 0.4 percentage points over the quarter and an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the September quarter 2018.

The number of first home buyers in Tasmania increased to 502, an increase of 1.4 per cent over the quarter and an increase of 3.7 per cent compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Of all Australian first home buyers over the quarter, 1.7 per cent were from Tasmania while the proportion of first home buyers in the state's owner-occupier market was 22.3 per cent.

Rental affordability in Tasmania improved over the quarter with the proportion of income required to meet median rents decreasing to 29.6 per cent, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points over the quarter but an increase 1.3 percentage points compared with the September quarter 2018.

Northern Territory
Housing affordability in the Northern Territory improved with the proportion of income required to meet loan repayments decreasing to 19.2 per cent in the September quarter, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 1.7

percentage points when compared to the September quarter 2018.

The number of loans to first home buyers in the Northern Territory decreased to 218, a decrease of 20.4 per cent over the September quarter but an increase of 6.9 per cent compared to the September quarter 2018. Of all Australian first home buyers over the quarter, 0.7 per cent were from the Northern Territory while the proportion of first home buyers in the Territory's owner-occupier market was 41.1 per cent.

Rental affordability in the Northern Territory also improved over the quarter with the proportion of income required to meet the median rent decreasing to 19.1 per cent, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.9 percentage points compared to the September quarter 2018.

Australian Capital Territory
Housing affordability in the Australian Capital Territory improved over the September quarter with the proportion of income required to meet home loan repayments decreasing to 19.5 per cent, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.2 percentage points compared to the same quarter last year.

The number of loans to first home buyers in the Australian Capital Territory increased to 662, an increase of 61.1 per cent over the quarter and an increase of 24.9 per cent compared to the September quarter 2018. Of all Australian first home buyers over the quarter, 2.2 per cent were from the Australian Capital Territory while the proportion of first home buyers in the Territory's owner-occupier market was 28.3 per cent. Rental affordability in the Australian Capital Territory also improved over the September quarter with the proportion of income required to meet the median rent decreasing to 18.3 per cent, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points over the quarter and a decrease of 0.1 percentage points compared to the September quarter 2018.



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



Friends of
Australian
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.

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Australian Mining

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
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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~~ **\$389,000 ono**



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





Warning issued to looters suspected to be targeting NSW bushfire victims

The NSW Police Force has issued a stern warning following unconfirmed reports on social media of stealing offences within bushfire-affected areas of NSW.

While police have not received any complaints of theft from the community, and no investigations are currently active, police are warning that criminal behaviour will not be tolerated.

State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN), Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys APM, said it was deeply concerning to think that anyone would use the bushfire emergency to target vulnerable members of the community.

"These communities have suffered enough without individuals stealing what items they have left," Deputy Commissioner Worboys said.

"Local police numbers are being bolstered by the

Public Order and Riot Squad, the Police Transport Command, and Traffic and Highway Patrol Command to ensure regular patrols are conducted throughout the bushfire affected areas.

"Any reports of looting or other criminal acts will be thoroughly investigated. If you choose to partake in this type of behaviour, you will face the full force of the law.

"I also ask members of the community to be vigilant – if you see a crime being committed, call Triple Zero immediately," Deputy Commissioner Worboys said.

Anyone who has information about suspected looting or other illegal activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>.

Police investigate attempted armed robbery – Singleton

Police are investigating an attempted armed robbery at Singleton.

About 4am (Thursday 5 December 2019), a 32-year-old male employee was inside a newsagency on John Street, Singleton, when two men entered through the rear door armed with a tomahawk and an iron bar.

The men demanded cash before the 32-year-old became involved in a struggle with the pair and forced them out the door. Officers attached to Hunter Valley Police District attended a short time later and established a crime scene.

The man was taken to Singleton Hospital for treatment to minor cuts and grazes to his arms and forehead.

Investigations into the incident are continuing.

Police are appealing for anyone who may have noticed any suspicious behaviour in the area at that time or who may have CCTV or dashcam vision to contact Singleton Police on 6578 7499 or to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. **Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.**

Man to face court over alleged strangulation and kidnap of woman – Singleton

A man has been charged with domestic violence-related offences after allegedly strangling and assaulting a woman until she became unconscious in Singleton.

About 5pm on Monday 18 November 2019, a 29-year-old man allegedly threatened and strangled a 25-year-old woman until she was rendered unconscious at a toilet block in Bridgeman Road, Singleton.

It will also be alleged the man then forcibly placed the woman inside his car,

assaulted her and threatened her with a hammer before driving to a nearby fast food restaurant.

The woman then jumped out of the moving vehicle and alerted the restaurant's staff, who, in turn, contacted police.

Officers from Newcastle City Police District attended and commenced an investigation. Following extensive inquiries, police attached to the Northern Domestic Violence High Risk Offender Team arrested a 29-year-old man in Hunter Street, Newcastle, just after 7am today (Saturday 7 December 2019).

He was taken to Newcastle Police Station, where he was charged with 10 offences, including:

- three counts of possess prohibited drug,
- unlicensed rider for class,
- choke person with intent to commit indictable offence,
- two counts of stalk/intimidate intend fear of physical harm (DV),
- assault occasioning actual bodily harm (DV),
- intentionally choke person without consent (DV), and
- kidnap with intent to commit serious indictable offence occasioning actual bodily harm (DV). Police will allege in court that the two were known to each other.

The man was refused bail to appear at Newcastle Local Court at a later date.

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

NEW ON MARKET



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

New Hunter Valley Jobs website launches

Cessnock City Council is urging businesses to assist in the test phase of a new local jobs portal and list their position vacancies for free. The new website, cessnockjobs.com.au, is being piloted to make hiring easier for Hunter Valley employers and job seekers.

assist in testing the website. “In 2018 two out of five surveyed businesses in Cessnock City said they were experiencing skills shortages. Businesses told us their occupational and training needs for the next two years and we have curated the information on the Jobs Portal in

information on incentives and resources on employing, local case studies, and can even advertise positions they have available for free. Council is working with TAFE NSW, employment agencies and training bodies to better foster outcomes and engender positive perceptions by businesses in employing locally. Cessnockjobs.com.au has been jointly

funded by the Australian Government and Council as part of the Skills Audit project. Employers are urged to list their jobs for free and share their stories of successful employment outcomes to economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au. To find the Cessnock City Skills Audit visit <https://advancecessnock.com.au/cessnock-city-skills-audit/>



Photo: Acting Economic Development Manager Rhiannon Stevens and Economic Development Officer Brad Sangster demonstrate the new jobs portal to Paul Cousins CEO of Cessnock Leagues Club.

The website is a one-stop online shop where businesses can advertise positions and residents can search for local jobs. It has meaningful information and resources about vocational education, training and local career pathways. Council is pre-launching the site to businesses through its economic development arm, Advance Cessnock City. The site was developed in response to real-time needs of businesses as identified in Council’s Skills Audit in 2018.

Council’s Acting Economic Development Manager, Rhiannon Stevens is encouraging businesses and job agencies to list their vacancies and to

response to these findings.” Council’s Skills Audit also found small and micro businesses were overwhelmed with attracting quality workers and the cost of employing but also found it difficult to navigate the process to take on a new employee. Ms Stevens said the Jobs Portal will simplify the process for businesses to employ. “With the introduction of new technologies and such as single-touch payroll, there are so many more layers for business to understand when putting on a trainee or finding base pay rates.” Local businesses can find

Mayors unite to combat car theft this Christmas

Having a car stolen is stressful, inconvenient and costly, particularly during the festive season. Community members across Newcastle and the Hunter are being urged to be vigilant over summer as motor vehicle thefts are set to spike the time of year.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent joined forces with Mayors



from Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens to educate people across the region about motor vehicle theft and how to avoid becoming a victim.

Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said the Cessnock Local Government Area is currently ranked number two in the state for motor vehicle thefts. In 2018 there was 298 vehicles stolen from our area.

“The data shows these crimes are opportunistic and it’s common for thieves to steal car keys in a home theft. A simple tip is to keep your keys out of sight when at home. Don’t leave them in obvious spots like near doors or windows. It’s also advised that your keys shouldn’t have a tag that has your name and address.”

Historically, televisions and computers were among the items stolen in home burglaries, however vehicles are now the most common target, with keys the sole item stolen in roughly 1-in-4 break and enter cases.

• Photo Above: Lake Macquarie City Council Officer Tony Elliot and Mayor, Cr Kay Fraser alongside Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent and Newcastle City Council’s Community Safety Facilitator Lisa Davis

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all! Rest up, eat heartily and enjoy the company of the ones that you love.

The Cessnock Electorate Office will close at 5pm on Wednesday 18 December, 2019 and will re-open at 9am on Wednesday 8 January, 2020.

Here’s where to find us should you need help in 2020: phone 4991-1466, email 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” or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

CLAYTON BARR MP Member for Cessnock

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER

CONNECT WITH ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

- FitzHunter
- Joel Fitzgibbon MP
- FitzyMP
- 4991 1022
- joelfitzgibbon.com
- joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

My office at 3 Edward Street Cessnock will be closed from Monday December 24 and will re-open Monday January 14.

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

 **2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325** 

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year
From all of us at Greta Workers & Miller Park Sports Club

WHAT'S ON



Friday 20th DEC
PAT V's CAT



Friday 27th DEC
KARAOKE



BARRACUDA
NEW YEARS EVE
Tuesday 31st DEC
BARRACUDA

\$1800 Sun as at 15/12



\$1400 Wed 14/12

Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 4938 1226



TUK TUK Thai & Aussie
BUFFET DINNER \$20/head
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
BOOKING ESSENTIAL



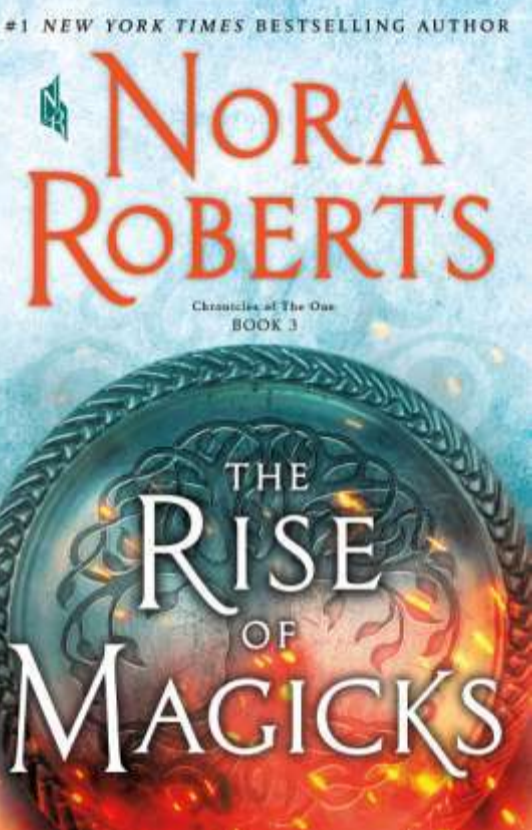
Every Thursday & Sunday
\$1000 as at Sun 15/12
\$4300 Thurs 19/12



FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS
Meat trays & Hams

*Please check Notice for
Christmas trading hours*





stronghold, and pursues her destiny—to finally restore the mystical shield that once protected them all—she will need an army behind her...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nora Roberts is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 200 novels, including *Shelter in Place*, *Year One*, *Come Sundown*, and many more. She is also the author of the bestselling *In Death* series written under the pen name J.D. Robb. There are more than five hundred million copies of her books in print. In 1996, Roberts passed the hundred-novel mark with *Montana Sky* and, in 2012, doubled that with *The Witness*. In both 1999 and 2000, four of the five novels that *USA Today* listed as the best-selling romance novels of the year were written by Roberts. Her first appearance on *The New York Times* Bestseller List came in 1991, and between 1991 and 2001, she had 68 *New York Times* Bestsellers, counting hardbacks and paperbacks. *The New York Times* did not review any of those novels. In 2001, Roberts had 10 best-selling mass-market paperbacks, according to *Publishers Weekly*, not counting those books written under the J.D. Robb name. In September 2001, for the first time Roberts took the numbers 1 and 2 spots on the *Publishers Weekly*

bestseller list, as her romance *Time and Again* was number one, and her J.D. Robb release *Seduction in Death* was number two. Since 1999, every one of Roberts's novels has been a *New York Times* bestseller, and 124 of her novels have ranked on the *Times* bestseller list, including 29 that debuted in the number-one spot. As of January 24, 2013, Roberts's novels had spent a combined 948 weeks on *The New York Times* Bestseller List, including 148 weeks in the number-one spot. As of January 9, 2009, 400 million copies of her books are in print, including 12 million copies sold in 2005 alone. Her novels have been published in 35 countries. A founding member of the Romance Writers of America (RWA), Roberts was the first inductee in the organization's Hall of Fame. In 1997 she was awarded the RWA Lifetime Achievement Award, which in 2008 was renamed the RWA Nora Roberts Lifetime Achievement Award. As of 2012, she has won an unprecedented 21 of the RWA's RITA Awards, the highest honor given in the romance genre. Two of Roberts' novels, *Sanctuary* and *Magic Moments*, had previously been made into TV movies. In 2007, Lifetime Television adapted four Nora Roberts novels into TV movies: *Angels Fall* starring Heather Locklear, *Montana Sky* starring Ashley Williams, *Blue Smoke* starring Alicia Witt, and *Carolina Moon* starring Claire Forlani. This was the first time that Lifetime had adapted multiple works by the same author. Four more films were released on four consecutive Saturdays in March and April 2009. The 2009 collection included *Northern Lights* starring LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian, *Midnight Bayou* starring Jerry O'Connell, *High Noon* starring Emilie de Ravin, and *Tribute* starring Brittany Murphy. *TIME* named Roberts one of their 100 Most Influential People in 2007, saying she "has inspected, dissected, deconstructed, explored, explained and extolled the passions of the human heart."

DESCRIPTION


The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Year One* and *Of Blood and Bone* concludes her stunning new trilogy praised as "A match for end-of-the-world classics like Stephen King's *The Stand*." After the sickness known as the Doom destroyed civilization, magick has become commonplace, and Fallon Swift has spent her young years learning its ways. Fallon cannot live in peace until she frees those who have been preyed upon by the government or the fanatical Purity Warriors, endlessly hunted or locked

up in laboratories, brutalized for years on end. She is determined to save even those who have been complicit with this evil out of fear or weakness—if, indeed, they can be saved. Strengthened by the bond she shares with her fellow warrior, Duncan, Fallon has already succeeded in rescuing countless shifters and elves and ordinary humans. Now she must help them heal—and rediscover the light and faith within themselves. For although from the time of her birth, she has been The One, she is still only one. And as she faces down an old nemesis, sets her sights on the enemy's

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (15 December 2019)

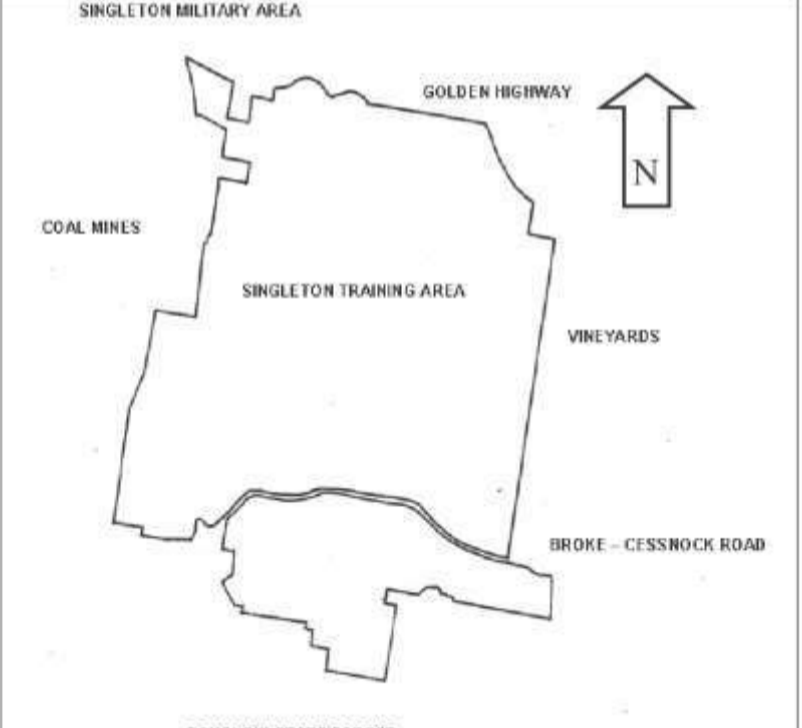
1. **NEW THIS WEEK** THE RISE OF MAGICKS by Nora Roberts ~ The third book in the Chronicles of the One series. Fallon Swift goes up against an old foe.
2. **NEW THIS WEEK** CRISS CROSS by James Patterson ~ The 27th book in the Alex Cross series. Copycat crimes make the detective question whether an innocent man was executed.
3. **7 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. Ranked 2 last week
4. **2 WEEKS ON THE LIST** A MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT by David Baldacci ~ When Atlee Pine returns to her hometown to investigate her sister's kidnapping from 30 years ago, she winds up tracking a potential serial killer. Ranked 1 last week
5. **64 WEEKS ON THE LIST** WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens ~ In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect. Ranked 3 last week
6. **3 WEEKS ON THE LIST** TWISTED TWENTY-SIX by Janet Evanovich ~ The 26th book in the Stephanie Plum series. A New Jersey gangster's associates go after a bounty hunter's widowed grandmother. ~ Ranked 4 last week
7. **5 WEEKS ON THE LIST** BLUE MOON by Lee Child ~ Jack Reacher gets caught up in a turf war between Ukrainian and Albanian gangs. Ranked 5 last week
8. **NEW THIS WEEK** WHERE WINTER FINDS YOU by J.R. Ward ~ A holiday saga featuring characters from the Black Dagger Brotherhood series.
9. **NEW THIS WEEK** SPY BY DANIELLE STEEL ~ ALEXANDRA WICKHAM, AN ESPIONAGE AGENT DURING WORLD WAR II, MUST KEEP HER SECRET HIDDEN INTO THE COLD WAR.
10. **12 WEEKS ON THE LIST** 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.


Australian Government
 Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE

DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

SINGLETON MILITARY AREA



POKOLBIN STATE FOREST

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"



The Lions Club of Branxton held its Greta Seniors' Christmas Dinner at the Greta Workers Club on the evening of Tuesday, 26th November 2019. Hosted by Dr. Alan Beckley, Secretary of the Lions Club of Branxton, His Worship the Mayor of Cessnock, Mr. Bob Pynsent and Mrs Kathy Pynsent were in attendance. A roast meal, jointly presented by the Lions and the Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club was complemented by Lion's Christmas pudding, and drinks graciously provided by the Greta Workers



● Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent & wife Kathy Pynsent at the dinner

Sports & Recreation Club. The Maitland group of Sing Australia entertained the diners with very pleasant renditions of popular tunes and Christmas songs. During the evening a lucky door prize were awarded and the evening concluded



● Lion Alan Becker presenting the Lions Club of Branxton cheque for \$250.00 to the Rev Nicole Baldwin of the Anglican Parish of Branxton Greta Lochinvar. The Lions donation was made in support of the Branxton Anglican Church, St Vincent de Paul Appeal.

with the drawing of the raffle prizes. It was evident, an enjoyable evening was had by all of those who attended.

The Seniors' Christmas Dinner at Greta, and a second to be held at Branxton for seniors of that community on Saturday evening the 7th December 2019, draws the year to a close for Branxton Lions. To date, during the 2019/2020 Lions year, the Lions Club of Branxton has conducted, or participated in, a variety of fund-raising

activities resulting in over \$12,800 being distributed to local causes.

If you would like to come along and see what Lions is about first hand, the Lions Club of Branxton meets at the Branxton Golf Club at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of the month, or, if you would prefer, further information can be had by contacting Lion Alan on 0426 261 948 or Lion Ken on (02) 6574 7027.



Hit the beach and not the road with additional passenger rail services from 5 January 2020

With the school holidays stretching to the end of January and plenty of Singleton residents making plans to hit the beach this summer, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore is encouraging everyone to leave the car at home and take advantage of additional passenger rail services from Sunday 5 January 2020. Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole announced in October 2019 that two new direct train services would operate between Singleton and Newcastle seven days a week starting early in the new year, giving customers six return options from Sydney and Newcastle on weekdays and four on weekends. The services are the result of more than a decade of campaigning by the Two More Trains for Singleton group, supported by Singleton Council. However, they will operate as a trial for 12 months to gauge demand.

“Our community has worked incredibly hard for the introduction of these services, and now it’s up to us to use them to make sure they remain a permanent fixture on the timetable between Newcastle and Singleton,” Cr Moore said. “And January is the perfect time to give them a trial run. “People can hop on a train to head to the beach in Newcastle, enjoy a meal overlooking the harbour at Honeysuckle, or go right through to Sydney for any number of school holiday activities. “And best of all, there’s no need to count the minutes to the return journey with more options to get back to Singleton without having to rush. “Take out the stress of traffic and parking, and the train really is a good option for wherever you’re headed.” Cr Moore said it was a wonderful way to start the new year - and a new decade - with a

big tick on the community’s wish list. “Our community has been advocating for additional public transport options for a very long time, and it’s a credit to a lot of work by a lot of people that the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole and the Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnson MP have turned those conversations into action,” she said. “I’m really excited to see these new passenger services in operation, and more importantly to see the people of Singleton and all the way down the line putting them to good use not only to keep them operating, but to leverage even more services.”

●Photo at right: Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore (centre), Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsons MP, and Two More Trains for Singleton representatives Jocelyn Graham and Andrea Winter.



A wonderful gesture

On Saturday 7.12.19 the Coalfields Classic & Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club Inc presented the Greta Rural Fire Shed a cheque for \$500 and many cartons of bottled water and soft drink for the brigade and their members in appreciation from our club to these volunteers who put themselves in danger to protect our families and properties.



Lyn, John and Staff of Branxton IGA would like to wish all their valued customers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Safe New Year.

TRADING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 24 December ~ 7am till 6pm
 Wednesday 25 CHRISTMAS DAY ~ CLOSED
 Thursday 26 December BOXING DAY ~ CLOSED
 Friday 27 December ~ 7am till 7pm
 Saturday 28 December ~ 7am till 7pm
 Sunday 29 December ~ 7am till 7pm
 Monday 30 December ~ 7am till 7pm
 Tuesday 31 December ~ 7am till 6pm

Wednesday 1 January NEW YEARS DAY ~ CLOSED
 Thursday 2 January ~ 7am till 7pm
 Friday 3 January ~ 7am till 7pm

Please check at store for 'last day for orders'



Out & About

with Mike Lowing

The 90th Anniversary of the Rothbury Riot was commemorated with a re-enactment & a commemorative service last Sunday 15 December on the site of the actual riot. Some photos of the day.



■ Joel Fitzgibbon MP, centre, with writer, producer, narrator & director of the re-enactment Phil Aughey, at right, and his cast. Amazing performance by all.



■ Annabelle Hughes with MC Greg Hall. Annabelle gave the 'Welcome to Country' address superbly.



■ Shane Thompson, Secretary of the CMFEU & others readying to lay their wreaths at the memorial site



■ Salvation Army Pastor Jason Jenkins who gave a moving memorial service. MC Greg hall in the background.



■ Chief Ins. Michael Gorman at left with Sen. Constable Bob Biles. Bob gave up his day off to help on the day – Thank you Bob



■ Local TV NBN filming the final rehearsal

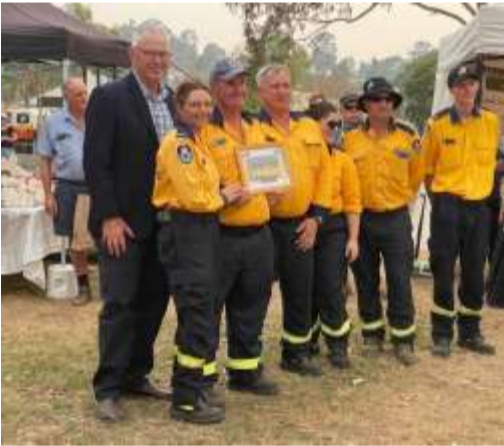


■ Norman Browns' funeral just days after the deadly riot. 7000 attended

North Rothbury Tidy Town had their annual Twilight Market immediately following the 90th Anniversary Memorial Service & re-enactment. North Rothbury Tidy Town was co-host of the 90th Rothbury Riot anniversary commemoration day with the CFMEU.



■ Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent, at the Twilight Markets, presented an Appreciation Award to the North Rothbury Rural Fire Service Brigade on behalf of the residents of North Rothbury .. It read: *In recognition of your heroic efforts on the 12th November 2019, as first respondents, to contain an 'out-of-control' catastrophic bushfire that, if not contained, would have devastated the hamlet of North Rothbury. Their actions, with the help of other RFS Brigades, showed commitment and selflessness which was truly inspiring. You did an exceptional job in keeping everyone in our community safe without loss of life or homes.*



■ Cessnock City Council Mayor Bob Pynsent had a very busy afternoon having given a joint 'Occasional Address' at the 90th Rothbury Riot Anniversary Memorial Service. After presenting the North Rothbury Rural Fire Service with their Appreciation Award at the Twilight Markets he then had the honour of presenting Life Membership of North Rothbury Tidy Town to Barbara & Tom Randall who are leaving the hamlet. They had been members from 'day one'. They will be sadly missed.



MOVIE REVIEW

FROZEN 2

Why was Elsa born with magical powers? The answer is calling her and threatening her kingdom. Together with Anna, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven, she'll set out on a dangerous but remarkable journey. In "Frozen," Elsa feared her powers were too much for the world. In "Frozen 2," she must hope they are enough.

Rating: PG

Genre: Action & Adventure, Animation, Comedy, Kids & Family

Directed by: Jennifer Lee, Chris Buck

Written by: Jennifer Lee

Runtime: 104 minutes

Studio: Walt Disney Pictures



Frozen 2 review: More mature, ambitious and intricate than its hit predecessor by Clarisse Loughrey

The film plays with fire by taking the same path as other sequels, but succeeds where they have often failed



Parents, you can breathe a sigh of relief. *Frozen 2*'s new showstopper "Into the Unknown" isn't as aggressive an earworm as "Let it Go". It's more lyrically complex, with a lot more high notes – the kind that'll break your eardrums if sung by anyone who isn't Idina Menzel – and it's hard to imagine a car full of kids howling such a delicate scale for hours upon hours.

Frozen 2, Disney's sequel to its \$1.3bn hit, is more mature, ambitious, and intricate than its predecessor. That doesn't automatically make it better – *Frozen*'s success was built on a simple and relatable story of sisterly love – but it's different enough not to feel like a stale rerun. There are surprises here to uncover, and a renewed sense of energy to the proceedings. Admittedly, the film does play with fire by taking the same path as other sequels, padding out a character's backstory in the hope it'll add depth to their world. There are echoes of last month's *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, as Queen Elsa (Menzel) is carted off to a magical place that might provide a few answers about where she comes from. But *Frozen 2* succeeds where so many others have failed.

As the sentient snowman Olaf (Josh Gad) himself neatly summarises in one scene, Elsa made peace with her ice powers at the end of *Frozen*, when she discovered that the key to it all was love. Now, she rules over Arendelle, while Anna (Kristen Bell) and her boyfriend Kristoff

(Jonathan Groff) provide a sense of domestic normalcy through weekly charade sessions.

That is, until a mysterious female voice (provided by Norwegian singer Aurora) pierces the quiet and shakes Elsa's soul. Is someone out there looking for her? Does she have a greater purpose beyond the castle walls? Anyone hoping Disney is finally giving Elsa a girlfriend, by the way, will be sorely disappointed – her sexuality still remains purposefully obscure. Instead, this alluring call draws Elsa into an enchanted forest that feels ripped straight from the pages of Norwegian mythology. There are giants, runes, and an indigenous tribe inspired by the Sámi people.

Frozen 2 has an authenticity that immediately separates it from so many other subpar follow-ups. Its world building not only feels earned, but meaningful. Returning directors Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck ensure that every frame is exquisitely detailed and rich with colour: we move gracefully from autumn leaves to the pinkish glow of ethereal fire, then on to stormy, grey waves and shimmering ice crystals. Certain sequences here are even more spectacular than the creation of Elsa's ice castle, with the filmmakers now more confident to step out of reality and deliver something truly jaw-dropping. Lee's screenplay, too, makes some bold choices. She teases out several compelling ideas:

environmentalism, reparations, exploitation and how we should confront the past. It's all vague enough that it could be applied to a hundred different real-world situations, which perhaps makes it all the more powerful as a learning tool for families.

But *Frozen 2* doesn't lose itself in rootless ambition. It works because we're guided through these strange, unfamiliar surroundings by the steady hands of Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Sven, and Olaf – characters with whom we're all very much familiar (or, for some parents, exhaustingly familiar) – and the cast sink straight back into their roles. Elsa and Anna's sense of sisterhood is tested, but ultimately prevails. Kristoff bumbles around with a ring in his pocket, wanting to propose to Anna but never quite finding the right time (he also happens to get what, in truth, might be the film's best song – an Eighties power ballad accompanied by a chorus of crooning reindeer). Olaf remains annoying to those who have always found him so, but those who appreciated his brand of existential humour will be amply rewarded. At one point, he casually shares his theory that "advancing technology will be our saviour and our doom". *Frozen 2* may have grown up a little since 2013 – just as its fans have – but it never allows itself to lose sight of what made the original click: its warm heart and generous spirit.

Rating: ★★★★★



Joe Hildebrand on the only winner in the sad saga of Israel Folau v Rugby Australia

The notion Israel Folau is a humble martyr for his faith or flag-bearer for freedom of speech was just shown to be horsesh*t, writes **Joe Hildebrand**.

COMMENT
I am all in on freedom of speech. I have defended it, been attacked for it and been abused with it. I also don't buy the absurd and dangerous line that free speech does not extend to beliefs or opinions that are offensive. Free speech that is constrained to whatever some random observer deems acceptable or appropriate is, by definition, not free at all.

I am also acutely aware that, unlike in the US, there is no explicit legal protection for free speech in this country. That is why those who value it must constantly defend it, often from an authoritarian hard left which demands the policing of language while at the same time dishing out the most vicious personal abuse.

And I am acutely aware that plenty of people on the right often use the fig leaf of free speech to say ugly, ignorant or obnoxious things. That is horrible and deeply regrettable but it is still a smaller price to pay than censorship dictated by government or the angry mob.

Israel Folau's infamous post about drunks and homosexuals and adulterers et al going to Hell is the perfect example of this. It is stupid, it is offensive and – for what it's worth – it is a hopeless misinterpretation of the Biblical passage he is quoting.

So, do I support what he says? Absolutely not. But should he be banned from saying it? Also absolutely not. However, now that's out of the way, let's cut the crap.

The notion that Folau is a humble martyr for his faith or a flag-bearer for freedom of speech is nothing short of horsesh*t. When he was first asked by Rugby Australia to remove his inflammatory Instagram post he refused, so staunch were his spiritual convictions. In both word and deed he declared that his faith was more important than his football career and he was prepared to walk away from fame and fortune rather than compromise his beliefs.

Never mind that up until that point Folau had no problems trousering millions of dollars thanks to the Wallabies' primary sponsor Qantas, whose CEO is a proudly gay man and whose corporate ethos explicitly embraces the lifestyle Folau condemns. Strangely he didn't have any problem profiting from such profligate sin, nor – were he so concerned for their mortal souls – did he ever pick up the phone to Joyce and attempt to save him and his wayward flock from the ravages of hell.

And even after he decided to become a martyr he couldn't even do that right. The whole point of being a martyr is that you sacrifice whatever it takes for your beliefs. Folau lasted about five seconds before he decided that he didn't want to sacrifice anything at all. He wanted to have his faith and eat it too. And so after making a big song and dance about being willing to forsake his brilliant football career and all the gold and glory that came with it, he decided that he'd actually still like the money thanks very much and sued a punch-drunk Rugby Australia for an eye-watering \$14 million – a figure pumped up to the rafters by the humble Folau's conviction that he was a sure bet to become captain of the Wallabies and rake in those big sponsorship bucks once more.

Even more nauseating is that this narcissistic crusade was bankrolled by thousands of ordinary Australians who genuinely believed that Folau was fighting for free speech – perhaps the only good faith shown in this sorry saga.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Thanks to Rugby Australia folding like a house of cards and offering him an apology and a confidential multimillion-dollar payout no legal precedent has been set and no principle has been determined. The



Israel Folau with his wife Maria in Melbourne on the day they settled with Rugby Australia. Picture: Aaron Francis Source: News Corp Australia

only thing that changed was that Folau got an apology and walked away with even more money.

*'The notion Israel Folau is a humble martyr for his faith or flag-bearer for freedom of speech was just shown to be horsesh*t'*

matter go to open court so these issues could finally be settled by law. Instead, yet again, he took the money and ran. After all the disruption, all the upset, all the donations and all the offence, the only person who benefited in the end was old Izzy-or-isn't-he himself. Who knew being a martyr was such a nice little earner?

But of course the only reason Folau has been able to walk away from this with both his pockets and ego bulging is because he was blessed enough to stumble across the only entity in Australia as obsessed with public pontifications as he was – but even more incompetent at standing by them. Say what you like about Folau, at least he seems to believe the dumb shit he says. By contrast Rugby Australia, like so many institutions these days, appears desperate to say all the right words without having any idea what they actually mean.

How else could you possibly explain the non-sensical ramblings of CEO Raelene Castle in the aftermath of the fiasco. "No we didn't get it wrong," she said, a day after Rugby Australia apologised to Folau and his family – apparently for getting it right. "At the end of the day we stood up for the values of Rugby Australia," she said, a day after they refused to go to court to stand up for the values of Rugby Australia.

Frankly, RA can't have it both ways: Either the sacking was wrong or the settlement was. Yet this is an organisation that when offered the choice between two crap alternatives somehow managed to do both. Whatever this sorry saga teaches us, and I'm not sure it's much, it is certainly not a victory for free speech and it is certainly not a victory for values. If anything it is further proof that precious few people in public life have the courage of their convictions and none of them was in that mediation room.

On that note, it will be interesting to see what Folau does with his reported millions once the lawyers have had their lunches. The only Christian thing to do would be to donate it to the poor – and if Izzy won't take my word for it, perhaps he'll listen to the bloke whose every word he claims to follow: "Again I tell you," he said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Joe Hildebrand is Editor-at-Large for News.com.au and co-host of Studio 10, weekdays from 8.30am on Channel 10. Continue the conversation @Joe_Hildebrand



THE NEWS | No.512 | WEDNESDAY 18 Dec 2019 9 19

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

and

Just my comment on "Steve's Rant". Another "Rant" from Steve; I would like to know what his qualifications are with regards science and the issue of "climate change" and how does his "knowledge" stack up against the 11,000 scientists who has come out in support of the issue of climate change. Otherwise I have to dismiss his "Rant" as just that; ill informed and with an "agenda". Steve, stick to what you are qualified to comment about, otherwise pull your head in.

A NOT SO WELL DONE to the courier/person who on Monday 2nd November lost/dumped a few loads of catalogues on Wine Country Drive between Braxton and North Rothbury and made no attempt to clean up.

A HUGE WELL DONE to "Someone else". I, like many other motorists, drove past the catalogues littering our community but it was "someone else" who made the effort to clean up the catalogues. Who ever you are, "Someone Else", WELL DONE. (Ed. The North Rothbury Rural Fire Service Brigade did the clean-up of their own volition just prior to North Rothbury Tidy Town doing it.. they beat them to the punch)

To the NSW Government who in the latest state budget, \$12.9 million in expenses was cut from Fire & Rescue NSW, while the Office of NSW Rural Fire Services — a service run by volunteers — lost \$26.7 million in expenses. Just one example of what that money could have done:- almost 70 new "Class 3 Pumper" trucks, heavy fire engines for both metro and regional areas which cost around \$580,000 each.

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 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

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

For Sale: Wood lathe, 1000mm bed, Good running order with 6 quality turning tools, \$230, White moulded top vanity in good condition, 900 x 470, \$30, Prime coat exterior solid core door, 820 x 2040 x 35, new, \$50, Solid timber block board door, 920 x 1985 x 40, \$20, White aluminium roll down security shutters with most fittings, 1800, 1860, 1760 and 1650 wide, free. 0437312905

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 slashier/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 LXTFR9 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: Alpacas P: 0400697148

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

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057

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

Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Braxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 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 sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

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

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

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

Dates for your diary

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

Dates for your diary >

... FOR PLANNING AHEAD ...

WED 25 DEC — Christmas Day
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
TUES 11 FEB — Braxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am. Morning Tea following. Visitors and New members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

MON 2 MAR — Applications close 2020 Cessnock City Council Mayoral Scholarships
TUES 10 MAR — Braxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

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.

Dates for your diary >

Tea following. Visitors and New members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

TUES 14 APR — Braxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

SAT 25 APR 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

Upcoming Concerts

SAT 11 JAN 2020 — Elton John Live @ Hope Estate
SAT 15 FEB 2020 — Red Hot Summer Tour @ Roche Estate—Hunters & Collectors, James Reyne, The Living End, The Angels & Baby Animals
SAT 29 FEB 2020 — A Day on the Green with A-HA, Rick Astley, Psuedo Echo Live
SAT 24 OCT 2020 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate
SAT 31 OCT 2020 — "Jazz in the Vineyards" @ Hope Estate

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA, BRANXTON & SURROUNDS

Another Example of the Success of Migrant Immigrants to Greta Rugby League Historic Piece Donated to Greta Museum

A very rare piece of Rugby League memorabilia was donated to Greta Museum in this anniversary year of the 70 years since the Greta Migrant Camp opened. This story finishes some of the migrant stories we have published this year, with a different slant.

Written by Emily Franks

The piece was donated by Alex Kowalski local Rugby League junior from the Greta Branxton Colts.

Champions Poland Rugby League jersey, with limited jerseys printed to celebrate Poland's successful International Emerging Nations Rugby League Tournament in 2018. Kowalski played for Poland in all their games during the

tournament and even had the honour to captain the team against Hungary in their warm-up test match before the tournament where they were

dominant in that game also. At the end of the tournament the unranked Poland had played 4 games against Japan, Vanuatu and Philippines and went through undefeated scoring 178 points with only 26 scored against them. "A lot of the guys' families came through camps throughout Australia. It was a real good eye opener to hear the hardship their families went through and the team used these stories as motivational drive throughout the tournament; their families made great sacrifices to come to Australia," Kowalski spoke

Above: Alex Kowalski local Rugby League junior from the Greta Branxton Colts at training prior to his representing Poland successfully at the 2018 International Emerging Nations Rugby League Tournament



proudly. Kowalski is a grandson of Polish migrants who passed through the Greta Migrant Camp and ended up making Greta home, like many families around the township. Kowalski also said that the jersey had a couple of local guys' names on it, like Ethan Niszczo (tournament top point scorer), Josh Day (trainer) and Troy Lowrey (trainer). Kowalski is Poland's 23rd capped player and also became most capped player on Saturday 28th September this year where he travelled to Lodz, Poland to play Poland's first ever home international match against the Czech Republic. The team won 34-18 with Kowalski getting a double. Speaking with Kowalski, he mentioned that he arrived on the Monday morning in Warsaw before the game with some of his teammates and staff members before a two hour drive to Lodz and then went straight to training that afternoon to meet the other team members. Also, during the discussion regarding his week (Tuesday to Friday) in Lodz, that it was very busy. "I was waking up around 7am, walking over a kilometre to meet the others before heading to the day events one being a children's and training every evening, the

earliest I got back to my apartment was 9pm, I was clearing 40kms a day and had blisters on both feet by Thursday. But it was well worth it, planting the seed of interest in Rugby League over there and to see kids who never heard of the game with the biggest smiles by the end of the clinics. Especially when finding out kids were staying during their lunchbreak to learn how to play and even staying back after school for an hour and half. It was a great feeling. This trip couldn't have happened without the likes of Lukasz Lucka and Shane Young." Kowalski got individual sponsorship from the HVL Group (Hunter Valley Lubrication), and some kind donations from the Greta Branxton Rugby League community who donated their spot on the jersey to Red Nose. # Come into Greta Museum to see and admire this historical jersey and think about all the good our local young people are achieving now. Open Wednesday and Saturday 11am to 3pm at 96 High Street, in the former Greta Council Chambers.



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826

dominant in that game also. At the end of the tournament the unranked Poland had played 4 games against



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=== Daily Thoughts ===

"Never say more than is necessary." - Richard Brinsley Sheridan
 "Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders than from the arguments of its opposers." - William Penn
 "I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous - everyone hasn't met me yet." - Rodney Dangerfield
 "Hegel was right when he said that we learn from history that man can never learn anything from history. George Bernard Shaw
 "History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present and the only history that is worth a tinker's damn is the history we made today". Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)
 "History never looks like history when you are living through it". John W. Gardner, quoted by Bill Moyers
 "History is the short trudge from Adam to atom". Leonard Louis Levinson

School News



Branxton Public School

Carols by Torchlight was another wonderful evening for our school and community. The students sang beautifully and it was a lovely chance for families to catch up before the end of term. Thank you to our hard-working P&C and staff who helped out before and during the event. A special thank you to North Rothbury RFS and Santa who were acknowledged for their extraordinary efforts in keeping our community, and many others, safe.



* Carols by Torchlight



* Carols by Torchlight

The Intensive Swimming program was a great success with all students improving their confidence and skills over the week. Thank you to Ms Magann for organising this once again. Our special ceremony to turn the soil and unveil the score board for the Jerome Brecard Sports Court will be this 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.

Our Year 6 students have had a taste of High School with transition activities recently. Not too many days of Primary School left now. Those days will be jam-packed with activities, so keep an eye on class newsletters and Seesaw so you don't miss out!



* Carols by Torchlight



* Santa



* North Rothbury Rural Fire Service Brigade Capt. Sonia Ivan

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



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

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



■ The Stephenson Family from left Cory, Jason, Aaron and Brett who all played together for Greta/Branxton White in the third grade game against Greta/Branxton Blue at Miller Park a fortnight ago.

Denman Hotel made 168 batting first, with Brett Bridge (3-46 off 10), Pat Fitzgerald (3-20 off 8.1) and James Shoulders Snr (3-20 off 9) picking up a treble of wickets each. Greta/Branxton needed just 28 overs to reach the target in reply after losing just the 2 wickets. Bryce Element remained unbeaten on 79, receiving good support from Anthony Brunsdon (44) and Ben Hogan (28).

In the local derby grudge match, Greta/Branxton White proved too good for Greta/Branxton Blue by 7 wickets on Miller 2. In a rare occasion for the club, Jason Stephenson took the field for the Whites with his three sons Aaron, Cory and Brett. The Blues batted first, but a pretty lean looking scorecard saw them bowled out for just 79, with Dave Seabrook (20) and Ayden Wilkinson (16) the only batsmen to reach double figures. Aaron Stephenson was responsible for the majority of the damage, taking 5-30 off 7, with Will Regan (2-7 off 5) also bowling tidily. The Whites needed just 14.1 overs to complete the task, losing just the 3 wickets. Jamie McNamara led the way with 28, with Cory Stephenson (24no) and Will Regan (11no) completing the formality.

Fourth Grade went down by 91 runs against Cessnock Hotel at Jeffery Park. Cessnock Hotel made 4-187 from their forty overs, with Sam Hines the pick of the Greta/Branxton attack with 2-29 off 10. Greta/Branxton were all out for just 96 in reply, with skipper Sam Dagg (24), Mitch Bradford (20) and Doug Engel (19) all making starts.

Cricket Report - Week 9
Week 9 of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton involved in just the two matches, with second grade making it 7 out of 8 wins for the year, with fourth grade once again going down. Third grade white received a forfeit from Denman Hotel, meanwhile first grade and third grade blue games scheduled at Miller Park were cancelled due to the poor air quality from the surrounding bush fires. On a dodgy Chinaman's Hollow wicket, second grade skittled Chelmsford Hotel for just 59, with Brett Bridge (4-25 off 7.1) and Will Regan (4-4 off 5) doing the majority of the damage. Greta/Branxton were able to reach the target, not without a struggle, in the 15th over with just the 3 wickets in hand. Anthony Brunsdon and Jason Haines top scored with 14 apiece, with Bryce Element making 12.

Fourth grade went down by 20 runs to Bellbird White in a low-scoring affair at Jeffery Park. Bellbird managed 86 batting first, with Doug Engel taking 4-4 off

2.3. Correy Stone (3-16 off 10) and Jeremy Brown (2-44 off 10) picked up wickets. Greta/Branxton were all out for 66 in reply, with Barry Richards (18) and Doug Engel (12) the only batsmen to reach double figures.

Cricket Report - Week 10
Week 10 of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton pick up an important win in first grade, second grade suffered just their second loss of the year, meanwhile the Tier 2 T20 side picked up a victory in their first outing.

First grade climbed back to the top of the ladder following a convincing 71-run victory over Bellbird on Miller 1. On a beautifully prepared Chris Charnock cricket wicket that provided assistance for both bat and ball, Greta/Branxton batted first and compiled a competitive 8-206 from their forty overs. Mark Bercini led the way at the top of the order with a scratchy 66, skipper and opening partner Joey Butler made 31, Darren Thomson clubbed 24, and Brent Watson finished the innings off in a flurry with 21 not out in his return to the middle. Josh Dagg (16), Greg Andrews (14) and Nathan Holz (13) also made handy contributions. Bellbird got off to a flyer in reply, but a major turning point was the wicket of skipper Rob Drage for 33, when Watson (1-24 off 5) got one to nip back off the seam and take his middle stump. This stemmed the flow of runs, but at the halfway drinks break things still looked pretty evenly poised with the visitors at 3-96. But when Martin Shearer took the stage wickets began to fall at regular intervals after the break. In typical fashion he took 4-28 off 5.2, with all of his 4 wickets being caught at mid-off by Darren Thomson who was having a whale of a game. To complete a fine all-round performance, Thomson took 3-33 off 10, with adopted grandson Connor Thomson (1-25 off 6) taking the other wicket.

Second grade suffered just their second loss of the year, again to Bellbird by 65 runs at Carmichael 1. Greta/Branxton had the home side in a spot of bother at 7-141, but they recovered to post 8-211 from their forty overs. Patrick Fitzgerald took 3-48 off 10, with Mark Peace (1-35 off 7), Alex Walkling (1-45 off 10), Will Regan (1-40 off 6) and Jason Varley (1-11 off 4) all claiming a wicket each. Greta/Branxton were all out in the 36th over in reply for 154. Number 10 and 11 batsmen Alex Walkling (33no) and Mark Peace (38) showed their batting mates how it should be done, with openers Anthony Brunsdon (22) and skipper

Trent Fuller (16) the only other willowmen in double figures.

The first round of the Tier 2 T20 competition kicked off on Miller 2, with our third and fourth grade sides combining to dispose of Peden's Hotel by 48 runs. Greta/Branxton posted 5-121 batting first, with run-scoring machine Jamie McNamara continuing his stellar season with the willow with 55. Cory Stephenson (13) and Tanveer Singh (12no) were next best for Greta/Branxton. Peden's were skittled inside 18 overs for just 73 in reply, with Aaron Stephenson (3-8 off 2), Pete Davis (2-10 off 2) and Cory Stephenson (2-6 off 1) among Greta/Branxton's best with the two -piece.

They are again on Miller 2 this week when they take on Cessnock Hotel in the second round, with our Tier 1 side commencing their campaign on Miller 1 where they meet Bellbird again in the first and final round before the Christmas break.

Points Tables
First Grade Greta/Branxton 49, Mulbring 49, Bellbird 40, Peden's Hotel 36, Wine Country 24.
Second Grade Bellbird 63, Greta/Branxton 59, Chelmsford Hotel 47, Denman Hotel 43, Wine Country 47, Peden's Hotel 35.
Third Grade Bellbird 55, Greta/Branxton White 52, Wine Country 47, Mulbring 45, Peden's Hotel White 44, Peden's Hotel Blue 40, Greta/Branxton Blue 37, Denman Hotel 32.
Fourth Grade Supporters 63, Cessnock Hotel 56, Bellbird White 44, Bellbird Maroon 39, Chelmsford Hotel 37, Peden's Hotel 37*, Greta/Branxton 35, Wine Country 35.

Club Championship Greta/Branxton 475.62, Bellbird 474.82, Peden's Hotel 353.75, Wine Country 340.35.

Tattersalls Hotel Social
Fishing Club

Greta Fishing Club Winds Up For Another Season
The Greta Fishing Club Seal Rocks weekend in November was pretty much a non-event with terrible weather but the members who went still made the most of the trip with a lot of laughs, a few drinks and a punting competition on the Saturday. No fish were weighed in this month. December however saw a large number of weigh ins but no bigger than Andrew Jacobs (85.1 points) who bagged out on Flathead, caught 2 Squire and a Bream out at Broughton Island. Nipping at his heals was wife

FISHING CLUB INDIVIDUAL PRIZES LEADERBOARD

FISH	FISHERMAN	WEIGHT (KG)	WEIGH IN DATE
Flathead	Mick Edwards	0.8	1-Dec
Whiting	Judy Masters	0.15	17-Mar
Tarwhine	Troy Fields	0.5	19-May
Tailor	Troy Fields	0.65	21-Jul
Mahi Mahi	Steve Nevin	1.39	17-Mar
Bream	Mark Dover	1.63	10-Jun
Teraglin	Robert Barnes	0.48	18-Aug
Snapper	Troy Fields	1.75	18-Aug
Pearl Perch	Mick Edwards	0.65	1-Dec
Morwong	Jeff Nevin	0.37	18-Aug
Catfish	Robert Barnes	1.68	22-Sep
Silver Perch	Robert Barnes	0.46	22-Sep
Australian Bass	Kye Barnes	0.76	22-Sep
Yellowbelly	Troy Fields	1.44	22-Sep
Drummer	Grey Dorn	1.2	1-Dec

Fiona (77 points) with 5 Flatty, 2 Bass and 1 yellowbelly. Huge effort to see her tackle both Fresh (St Clair) and Saltwater (Hunter River) in the one weekend. Sounds like a female version of former members Scott and Robbie Beckett who dominated with the old fishing rod. Mick Edwards finished with a high score (74.25) out at Broughton with his 10 Flatty and a club record Pearl Perch.

Speaking of Club records Orey Dorn smashed another one out of the park with his 1.2kg Drummer caught off the rocks at

Broughton with fresh crab and a floater. Aiden MacDougall put his name on the scoresheet for the first time this month with 10 Flathead and 2 Squire. He should take some of the credit for Andrew "Jakey" Jacobs' high score as he skippered the boat.

Kye Barnes, Tom Fields and Troy Fields recorded scores of Flathead and Bream, whilst Lewis Jacobs luck seemed to have run out only landing 1 Flathead.

One more special mention for veterans: Big Larrrrrrrrrrrrrry Timmins who produced some fine biscuits to feed the Broughton Island Fishermen on their tour, and Jeff

"Knuckles" Nevin for the countless stories across the weekend, and refusing to believe his was wrong about anything by saying the famous three words "I'm tellin ya"

Please note that the Annual general meeting for the 2020 season will be held at 1:30pm at Greta Workers Club. We are looking for new members so please feel free to come along. As per every year we will class every member as a committee member as we are the peoples club and will also be filling the formal positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and

Little club taking BIG steps



OUR local Branxton Greta Athletics Club is having a massive resurgence with a hard working committee leading the way & great track & field results. A couple of weeks ago the club performed exceptionally well with record 25 places in the team for the soon Regional Championships.

"There could be more by the time we get there as we have some countback's that could extend our already record of 25," said a jubilant Club President Daniel Webber. "It's a terrific effort & we are really proud of all of them," said Daniel. Daniel went on to say that it caps an amazingly successful 3 years. "Three years ago we had around 60 members & at todays date we have close to 200," said Daniel. "We have also managed to gain some wonderful local sponsors who have helped us acquire equipment we needed." "Huntlee has brought a lot of young families to our

area & has certainly helped the club increase its numbers."

"The camaraderie within the club is great & you don't always find that elsewhere. The children & the parents support each other."

"A good example of this inclusiveness is no better exemplified by 13-year old wheelchair athlete Kaylem Rouse who made the regional championships squad after an outstanding zone carnival in

which he won all events that he entered." "He is a real talent and could possibly be our first national athlete. He didn't just win every event, he did it in record time." "He's strong in sprint events & can handle longer events such as the 800 metres." "He's certainly one to watch & follow." Daniel went on to say that what really gives him great pride in the club is the way they behave.

"They are so well behaved, show sportsmanship which is what you want to see from our young." Daniel said that although the club is busting at the seams they still are open to new members. "We won't turn people away. Anyone from three years of age up to a 100 is welcome, as long as there is an event for them to enter

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The NEWS SPORT

Branxton-Greta Amateur Swimming Club hits 100 members and receives Glencore Grant



GLENCORE

The Branxton-Greta Amateur Swimming Club is having a fantastic 2019/20 season, with many new families joining renewing club families resulting more than 100 registrations by mid-October.

The club season runs from October to March each year, with swim meets every Friday evening except during Christmas holidays.

Swimming coaching is organised via the club for interested members, providing the opportunity for stroke and squad training by

the club's qualified swim coach professional. Inter-town swimming competitions also occur six times each season, with the Branxton-Greta, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Scone, Denman and Merriwa clubs competing against each other. This season the Redbacks are hosting the 7th December Inter-town competition.

The Redbacks are all about providing access to regular swimming competition and quality swim coaching for children and their parents in



■ Club members getting ready to compete

the area. Members have fun playing sport, maintain their motivation with tracked performance and personal best

targets, experience a sense of belonging within their community and see their parents/carers contribute to

the community. The Club Registrar works with any new and returning members each October to

help their set up Swim Central (the Swimming NSW registration system) and Team App (the club members communication tool). Through this every child and parent is welcomed to the club and learns that the focus is on personal achievement rather than winning races. This means swimmers of all abilities are welcome and encouraged to participate throughout the season.

The Junior Dolphins program, centred on water familiarisation activities, allow younger members to become confident enough to race in their own time. The club has also commenced a Mel's Tip of the Week program, providing brief explicit technique instructions for all members to improve their race performance little by little.

The club's success is due to the efforts of all parents, with all club families asked to volunteer for coordinating, marshalling, timekeeping, judging, barbequing, fundraising and generally helping out to enable Friday nights and Inter-town competitions to run smoothly.

This year the Branxton-Greta Amateur Swim Club has been able to purchase a replacement laptop, printer and freezer thanks to a \$2,500 Community Grant from Glencore. These are being used to improve race automation and enable the continued BBQ fundraising activities of the club. Club members are really appreciative of the support from Glencore.

Additionally, the club has received operational support this year from **Hughes Mechanical, Modern Pest & Weed Control, TS Global, Hunter Valley Skin Cancer Clinic and Lake & Valley Optical via Lane Sponsorship and the Greta McDonalds Coffee** for a Cause program.

Kerrie O'Brien, BGASC

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Members say



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

After years of talking about more train services for our area, the whistle has finally been blown and we'll see two additional services on the timetable from Sunday 5 January 2020.

It's an amazing Christmas present for the Two More Trains for Singleton group and everyone who has supported the campaign for more passenger trains between Singleton

and Newcastle, and a wonderful way to start the new year and a new decade with a big tick on the community's wish list.

But while the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole made the trip to Singleton to announce the new services in October, I suspect the State Government will be keeping a close eye on just how well they are used during the 12-month trial in 2020.

So, after our incredibly hard work to achieve the introduction of these services, it's now up to us to use them to make sure they remain a permanent fixture on the timetable between Newcastle and Singleton.

And with school holidays stretching through to Australia

Day, what better time than January for a trial run? Hop on a train and head to the beach in Newcastle, enjoy a meal overlooking the harbour at Honey-suckle, or go right through to Sydney for any number of school holiday activities and take advantage of six return options on weekdays and four on weekends.

I'm really excited to see these new passenger services in operation, and more importantly to see the people of Singleton, Branxton and surrounds putting them to good use.

But while securing more passenger rail services was a key item on the Singleton Advocacy Agenda in 2019, that doesn't mean I'll be sitting back and taking it easy. The year 2020 is going



to be a big one for our local government area, and not least because we'll come together to mark the bicentenary of St Patrick's Plains. We are still waiting on the outcome of a review of the Resources for Regions program to better reflect our contribution to the State's economy, and of course the

long-awaited Singleton bypass of the New England Highway is the star at the top of our Christmas wish list.

There's a lot of work to be done to realise the vision we have of the Singleton of the future, and to carry us forward into a time of industry diversification, change and

growth to ensure we continue to hold our importance to NSW.

But our hard work is paying off, and now is the perfect time to reflect and celebrate all that we have achieved together this year. I wish you and your family a very happy and safe festive season.

Cr Sue Moore
Mayor of Singleton

MERRY Christmas



Have a wonderful holiday season from the Mayor, Councillors and staff of Singleton Council



singleton.nsw.gov.au

