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WEDNESDAY
5 February 2020

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STEVE'S RANT



Congratulations to all Australia Day Award Recipients 2020



Melissa Gontier Cessnock Citizen of the Year

What a fantastic day it was at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Australia Day naming the recipients of the Australia Day Awards and welcoming our 39 newest Australian citizens. Melissa Gontier has been named Citizen of the Year for outstanding contribution to our community. Melissa founded Hunter Hands of

Hope and is now President. Senior Citizen of the Year has been awarded to Edgar (Ted) Jackson for outstanding contribution in advocating for better support for the aged in our community. A huge congratulations to Chelsea Webb for being named Young Citizen of the Year. Chelsea has shown leadership and advocated for local young people. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it was a privilege to be part of the Awards and congratulate all recipients. "Our community is full of amazing contributors, who are community minded and make a significant contribution to our local government area. This year there were 20 recipients. Each extremely deserving of recognition and I extend another special thanks to each of them for all that they do."

"Our Citizen of the Year, Melissa Gontier has made a huge contribution through Hunter Hands of Hope. This organisation helps those who need it most in our community, homeless and vulnerable people. It's her compassion, caring and selflessness that we recognise. Melissa we're lucky to have you in the Cessnock Local Government Area. Our community is truly better off because of Melissa."

Australia Day Award recipients include:



Brett Wild, at far right, President of the Central Hunter Business Chamber, accepts his Community Award for the local business chambers effort in staging the commemorative 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Greta Army Camp (in 1939) and the 70th Anniversary of the site becoming a migrant camp last year.



Helen Scott, centre, receiving her Environment Award for the Branxton Community Hall Committee.

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- Citizen of the Year, Melissa Gontier
- Senior Citizen on the Year, Edgar (Ted) Jackson
- Young Citizen on the Year, Chelsea Webb
- Community Event of the Year, Lost Diggers of Weston & Field of Honour
- Environment Award, Branxton Community Hall Committee
- Maree Callaghan Award – Young Female Achiever, Trinity Woodhouse
- Community Award, Stars of the Hunter Valley (Cancer Council NSW)
- Community Award, Central Hunter Business Chamber & the Hunter Multi Cultural Community
- Community Award, Freemasons Cessnock
- Community Award, Amy Roberts
- Community Award, Rachel Threadgate
- Community Award, Amy Butler
- Community Award, Chloe Steel
- Community Award, Rose Lucas
- Community Award, Vincent Plater
- Community Award, Bethany Dwyer
- Community Award, Shane Rodger-Wilson
- Community Award, Kyle Gosper
- Community Award, Olivia Chapman
- Community Award, Adam Robinson

More Australia Day award information for Singleton & Maitland on page 3



**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
DRAFT TRAIL STRATEGY**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 11 December 2019, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition the Draft Trail Strategy.

The term 'Trail' for the purpose of the strategy includes sealed and unsealed pathways which are publicly accessible for recreation. The purpose of the Draft Trails Strategy is to provide a vision for our Trails network and to provide a consistent policy framework to guide development and management of Trails across the LGA.

The Public Exhibition period will commence on 28 January 2020 and will conclude on 28 February 2020. The documents can be viewed at the following locations:

Council's Administration Building (Customer Relations Section)

- Cessnock Public Library
- Branxton Post Office
- Kurri Kurri Public Library
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **5.00pm on 28 February 2020** via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Principal Recreation and Community Facilities Planner, Kate Harris on 4993 4238.

SECTION 356 RATE SUBSIDY 2020/2021

Cessnock City Council may provide financial support of up to 50% in the form of a Rates Subsidy to Not-for-profit community organisations to support the provision of a range of activities or services.

In accordance with Council's Rates Subsidy Policy, to be eligible for a Rates Subsidy you must meet the principles and complete Council's Rate Subsidy application with all supporting documentation prior to 31 March 2020.

All applicants must contact Council's Team Leader Revenue on 4993 4150 prior to lodging an application.

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
FEES AND CHARGES OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 11 December 2019, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition – Fees and Charges Open Space and Recreation.

The public exhibition period will be from 22 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.

The documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section)
- Cessnock Public Library
- Branxton Post Office
- Kurri Kurri Public Library
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **5.00pm 21 February 2020** via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Open Space & Community Facilities team on 4993 4162.

EOI-Q1819-51 – Supply Corporate Clothing

INVITATION:

Council invites any person willing to fulfil the requirements of the following contract to submit a EOI by the deadline.

You can obtain documents at: <https://www.vendorpanel.com.au/publictenders.aspx>

TENDER:

EOI-Q1819-51 – Supply Corporate Clothing.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:

2pm Tuesday 25 February 2020.

PURPOSE OF CONTRACT:

To establish a panel of suppliers that quotations can be sought for the Supply of Corporate clothing for White and Blue Collar workers.

Suitable suppliers will then be invited to present proposed catalogue and costings for the separate categories.

PURCHASE PRICE:

No cost.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION: Contracts Craig Wade via online forum.

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 December 2019 to 31 December 2019.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000692/001	12-Dec-2019	4 Tulloch ST	Dwelling Additions & Alterations
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000709/001	17-Dec-2019	31 Yates ST	Shed & Associated Retaining Walls
EAST BRANXTON	008/2019/00000740/001	17-Dec-2019	30 Middle ST	Awning
GRETA	008/2019/00000702/001	10-Dec-2019	40 Popham ST	Storage Shed
GRETA	008/2019/00000722/001	16-Dec-2019	45 Talleyrand CCT	Single Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2019/00000668/001	17-Dec-2019	36 Popham ST	Shed
GRETA	008/2019/00000728/001	18-Dec-2019	9 Laetitia CL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	009/2019/00000400/001	19-Dec-2019	49 Popham ST	Home Based Day Care (3 Days Per Week)
LOVEDALE	008/2019/00000762/001	17-Dec-2019	158 Wilderness RD	Demolition of Two Storey Dwelling
LOVEDALE	008/2019/00000665/001	23-Dec-2019	483 Talga RD	Garage with Attached Carport
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000699/001	11-Dec-2019	12 Peachy Av	Exhibition Home and Associated Advertising Signage
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2019/00000399/001	13-Dec-2019	1822 Wine Country DR	Installation of a 45kW Roof-Top Solar PV System
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000723/001	18-Dec-2019	17 Abberton PWY	Swimming Pool
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000749/001	16-Dec-2019	72 Gillards RD	Replacement of New Dwelling
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000720/001	20-Dec-2019	29 Paperbark DR	Two Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls

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



Justice
Office of
Emergency Management

NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service

Assistance & personal support – For people impacted by bushfire, the NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service will help you navigate the support and financial assistance that's available across all levels of government. Service NSW is providing one-on-one support for people and businesses, available over the phone or in-person.

Call 13 77 88

Or visit www.service.nsw.gov.au for locations of Service NSW, and Mobile Service Centres. People are encouraged to register online at Register Find Reunite.



■ Maitland Citizen of the year & Young Citizen of the year

■ Singleton Citizen of the Year Gary Holland and Young Achiever of the Year Darcy Gilson.

2019 award recipients Maitland

Citizen of the Year: Wilma Lilley

Since moving to Maitland 23 years ago, Wilma has been involved with groups which provide support for children, the vulnerable, older people and people living with a disability. A Rutherford Lioness member for several years, Wilma has held the positions of Secretary and President with the group and was the recipient of the Helen Kellar Award for her services to the Lions Club. She has also fundraised for several charities including brain cancer, SIDS and other local causes. Wilma has volunteered with Lower Hunter Peer Support at community centres and out in the community on outings and annual camps, and Lower Hunter Temporary Care which provides in house respite for families with school aged children with a

disability. Wilma was also a board member for Volunteers for Palliative Care for 10 years, served as Benhome Auxiliary Board President and has contributed to Community Care, Transport Carers Group and Brunch Club. Congratulations Wilma.

Young Citizen of the Year: Hayley Johns
Hayley has been an Ambassador for Regional Youth and delegate for the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Next Generation. In October last year, Hayley was selected to participate in UNICEF Australia's NSW Drought Summit. The Summit saw children and young people come together with decision makers to discuss the challenges they face living with drought in NSW and how responses can be improved. Hayley is currently studying at University of Newcastle and is the Student Ambassador for the School of Health Sciences, Podiatry. Hayley is also an Ambassador for the Young Endeavour

Youth Scheme and an Ambassador and Alumni of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

Singleton's outstanding citizens honoured in Australia Day celebrations

A long-standing stalwart of the community who has raised more than \$60,000 for Singleton youth, and a teenager known as "Superfish" who is setting records and inspiring athletes of all abilities have been honoured at today's Australia Day celebrations in Singleton.

Gary Holland, the man behind the not-for-profit "Dolly's Charity Shop" and a volunteer with a range of community initiatives including the Anglican Church, Samaritans Christmas Day lunch, Apex Club and Red Cross Disaster disaster support team, was named the 2020

Singleton Citizen of the Year.

Darcy Gilson, who has continued to put Singleton on the map in the national multi-class swimming scene for swimmers with a disability and who holds State and Australian records in the Athletes with a Disability (AWD) class, was named the Young Achiever of the Year.

The announcements were made as part of the official ceremony this morning, where 38 new Australian citizens were also welcomed and Australia Day guest John Flannery delivered the address on the meaning of Australia Day in Singleton.

Mr Flannery is a former general manager of Singleton Council who led the construction of Council's Administration Building and Civic Centre during his tenure and, although born in Parkes and raised Sydney, has been an integral part of Singleton's most recent milestones including the Shire Clerk of the amalgamated Singleton Municipal and Patrick

Plains Shire councils. Now retired, he continues to serve the Singleton community through

involvement in a range of organisations and championing the local government area across a range of industries.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was wonderful to see so many people come out to celebrate Australia Day in Singleton at last night's free family event, Twilight, as well as at today's official proceedings.

"Australia Day is a great occasion to come together to celebrate what we all have in common as Australians, and to recognise the privileges and freedoms that come with Australian citizenship," she said. "It's a very significant occasion for the 38 people who chose to become

Australians in Singleton, and I was honoured to be part of it."

She also paid tribute to the nominees for the Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year. "Australia Day has become a tradition to recognise those Australians among us who go a little bit further to make our community great, and it's one of the most humbling parts of my role as mayor to present the Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year awards," Cr Moore said.

"I sincerely congratulate Gary Holland and Darcy Gilson on this prestigious honour, and thank everyone who was nominated for all you do for our community."

Tourism signage officially opened

Cessnock City Council was proud to host an event, with Federal Government Senator, Hollie Hughes to celebrate the work completed under the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage Implementation Project. The project was funded by a \$1.25 million grant under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund and matched dollar for dollar by Council, making it a \$2.5 million investment.

It included the construction of tourist wayfinding signage, including five information bays, three gateway entry signs and 20 precinct signs which were installed at key locations across the Cessnock Local Government Area.

This new infrastructure has resulted in improved tourist wayfinding, provided a sense of place in Hunter Valley Wine Country and is expected to encourage tourist activities, improve the visitor experience and facilitate economic growth.

The feedback from local businesses has been overwhelmingly positive with over 300 businesses featuring on the new information bays.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said there was a critical need to offer clear and accurate signage for both the local community and visitors to our region.

"Hunter Valley Wine Country attracts over 1.5 million visitors each year and having this directional signage to guide visitors to local businesses and help them to navigate their way around is really positive."

"It is projects like these that help to really cement Hunter Valley Wine Country as a premier tourist destination," added Cr Pynsent.

In January last year, the NSW Government announced a \$2.2 million grant for Council to continue rolling out the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage Implementation Project. This will include the construction of three additional gateway entry signs, three information bays, nine suburb entry signs, additional street blades, community facility signs and more tourist signage to help visitors navigate their way to various attractions.

Photo above right: Federal Government Senator, Hollie Hughes helped celebrate the work completed under the Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism Signage Implementation Project at the official opening. She is with Joel Fitzgibbon MP & Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent



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STEVE'S RANT

A bit of everything..
It is my opinion Prince Charles is dumb, David Attenborough is senile, Al Gore is a charlatan, and poor little Greta is a perplexed young lady. This Rant is counterfactual. It demonstrates how the Greens, the Labor Party, the Luvvies at the ABC, SBS and nine news attempts to smear anybody who disagrees with the Global Warming theory. The only trouble is it is probably true about Prince Charles and Al Gore.

They are insufficiently intelligent to grasp the complexity of climate and accept the one single idea that if we stop using fossil fuels, everything will be hunky-dory. CO2 in the atmosphere is only a very tiny contribution to any warming trend that may be occurring.

There are far more significant factors in the climate equation than a little bit of colourless, odourless gas which all plant life on land and in the sea depends on to grow and we depend on for our essential food resources and oxygen.

Some of the elephants in the room; ever heard of the Solar Cycle, and its attendant Sunspots, El Nino, La Nina, Ocean currents, the Indian Ocean dipole to say nothing about what happens in the northern hemisphere? Clouds are the greatest source of heat retention. When there are no clouds at night, it gets cold. If there

are clouds, we sweat. Why don't people question the emotive language and sheer conflation of non-sense so-called scientific consensus, that the ABC and SBS trot out as the proof for global warming? Take the bald statement as shown on the news on Friday 24th January just gone; "scientists put the doomsday clock closer to midnight than ever before." What a load of hysterical non-science the clock

"It is my opinion Prince Charles is dumb, David Attenborough is senile, Al Gore is a charlatan, and poor little Greta is a perplexed young lady."

was initially set up to measure the likelihood of a nuclear Armageddon in 1947 when it was realised the Russians had the BOMB. It now apparently measures the end of everything. Don't panic, take a cold shower if you have any water, settle down and count the lucky stars that you live in the Hunter Valley.

We have been fortunate to escape the devastation others have had to endure. So far and fingers crossed we may stay unscathed until the drought breaks. Now for the important stuff. Back to school. As parents, we now have greater responsibility to monitor what is taught to children and if it is being assimilated. To do that you must demand test results from the school.

Ideally, the State Education Department should make public your child's syllabus for the year for your approval, or otherwise. When your children return from school, discuss with them their days activities and what they will be looking forward to the next day. If the discussion is vague, the alarm bells should be ringing that something is not right. Remember, schools are not for childminding while you are at work. If your child is not reading stories by age twelve, then you and the education system have let them down. Please don't feel guilty, do something about it. 'Biggles' books did it for me, Now for the really important stuff.

The bush fires. What magnificent work the Furies have done and what great examples of community spirit we have seen country-wide. What will be the fallout from this dreadful summer? Well for a start it seems a certainty that volunteer firefighters will be compensated for the loss of time and wages. Putting aside the grief, loss and suffering that thousands of people are going through, billions of dollars will be fed into the economy in the next twelve months, both from the insurance industry and all governments. This money will create a mega demand for skilled workers of every trade and profession as the infrastructure and houses are rebuilt. The suppliers for the building industry will have their work cut out to deliver, and local manufacturers hopefully will get a large slice of the action. When you get a surge of money turning over in the economy, it has a multiplier effect. Don't expect any more interest rates cuts for some time. Once the victims of the disaster have found their feet and can look



SHAPING UP TO BE ANOTHER BUSY YEAR!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			GOLF	RALLY	GOLF	RALLY
TWEET STORM	CALL PUTIN	GOLF	KIM BIRTH-DAY	TWEET STORM	GOLF	GOLF
GOLF	TWEET STORM	CALL PUTIN	GOLF	RALLY	TWEET STORM	GOLF
RALLY	GOLF	GOLF	RALLY	CALL PUTIN	GOLF	GOLF
CALL PUTIN	GOLF	GOLF	TWEET STORM	CALL PUTIN	GOLF	

forward to re-establishing themselves, the economy should move up a gear or two.

Cheers, Steve



with Mike Lowing

I hope all our readers had a good break over the holiday season & have returned to the new year re-invigorated. Unfortunately, in our families case it did not happen; stayed local because of the bushfire threat & mostly, because of prevailing fire threat, really could not leave the area. No beach, no fishing just sweltering & watching for smoke.

If there was any good it was

my work around our home. I had, over many years, failed miserably in minor repairs which was mostly painting. I'd prefer to pick up a black snake than a paint brush!

With some gentle persuasion from the 'war department' I put together a program to have what was needed done & by Australia Day I had it all completed.

I need to thank my painting consultant, Branxtonian & retired painter & decorator, Peter MacFarlane for his good advise & mentoring. This is what I have learnt about painting:-

1. The better the preparation the better the job
2. Don't squib on paying for descent paint brushes & rollers
3. Groundsheets are absolutely essential
4. Don't paint in hot

weather
5. It would have made better sense to employ a painter & decorator!

The media throughout the bushfire emergencies has annoyed me, as a fellow journalist, with their historical reporting of the tragedy continually referring to it as being unprecedented.

What I cannot fathom is why our journalists, who are obviously no longer true journalists, apparently aren't even attempting to verify their claims.

It's not that I haven't noticed it until now – of course I have – but I think my ruminating on it has just reached a kind of 'critical-mass'. In short, what the hell is going on?! One possible reason is the mass extinction of journalists; Fairfax prior to selling got rid of, I'm led to believe, 1900 journalists but

still produced their many publications; maybe the ones left there just don't have the time to investigate or they are just plain lazy ... I hope it is not the later.

I have just now (Monday 3/2/20) been alerted to the fact that the Branxton Newsagency will be closing their doors on the 15 March 2020, at this stage, and they will not open again.

From the 17 Feb there will be no newspapers or magazines on sale or delivered to customers but will remain open for Lotto & general sales with reduced trading hours. When I came to this area about 23 years ago Branxton had 2xpubs & 2service stations which no longer exist. Since then we have lost the hardware store & now the newsagent.

For all you fires; State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, has encouraged every local firefighter, who is out of pocket as a consequence of the bushfires, to apply for compensation through the recently available Volunteer Firefighter Payment Scheme. He said we need them to recover financially, as well as emotionally and physically. Could not agree more. Cheers, Mike



Re: Drought Communities Programme Extension announcement – 28 January 2020
Singleton Council acknowledges that other LGAs, including Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter, are deserved of Government assistance. But Singleton farmers are suffering equally in what is the worst drought on record.

I have previously written to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management to express my

disappointment that Singleton continues to be overlooked for assistance. In light of last weeks announcement of 52 councils added to the list of eligible councils for the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme, I reiterate my invitation to the Prime Minister to come to Singleton to see the impacts of this drought for himself, and to meet with the people this Government has again failed to recognise. The Singleton local government area is a

farming region predominantly covered with primary production farming land that has an output of \$161+ million annually and contributes 455 direct jobs. We fear that due to Singleton's extraordinary output in mining of \$8,062 million annually, the Department of Agriculture has overlooked the impact the drought is having on the Singleton farming community.

Again, I appeal to the Federal Government to include the Singleton local government area as an eligible area under the Drought Community Programme, and for our farming community to be given the opportunity to submit funding applications for drought related projects and programmes to ensure the future of our agricultural industry.
Cr Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton

Fraudulent banking CEOs walk free
Senator Jacqui Lambie was ignored when she tried to

discuss eleventh-hour amendments to new laws to make unions more accountable. She asked why unionists can be jailed for protesting under proposed legislation while fraudulent banking CEOs walk free, a good question from an astute senator who appreciates injustice when she sees it. It's a win for working Australians who need strong unions to fight for them without fear of imprisonment.
John Butler, Windella Downs

Vale Peter Barrack
Peter Barrack is respectfully remembered by the Parks and Playgrounds Movement for his outstanding contribution to the Newcastle and Hunter community.

As secretary of the Newcastle Trades Hall Council he was a true friend of the Newcastle Community and Resident Groups. His intelligent leadership of the Trades Hall Council provided a powerful Green Ban

Umbrella to make sure important community issues such as protection of Newcastle East and the Newcastle Foreshore and Lake Macquarie Green Point were fairly heard by local government.

The parks movement appreciated the advice of the Trades Hall Council in many park issues and always valued Peter's support.

We were sad to hear of Peter's death and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Di and family and grandchildren. Doug Lithgow, Parks and Playgrounds Movement

Coronavirus
I find it difficult to understand the decision to allow people from coronavirus-affected areas to land in Australia well after the outbreak and China's attempts to contain it. We allow more than one plane in and good heavens we have confirmed cases. Does it not make sense to prohibit any landings from that area? Surely our priority should be protecting this country. On a different note; if the date for Australia Day is changed, I will not recognise it.
James Worthington, Kurri Kurri

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au

Has your phone stopped ringing? You need to advertise your business Call Mike at 'The News' 4938 1773

Free mattress drop-off on again

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce that the hugely popular free mattress drop-off day will take place on Saturday 22 February 2020 from 8am to 12pm.

Cessnock residents can dispose of up to four mattresses or bases, completely free of charge

at the Council Works Depot carpark at 2082 Old Maitland Rd.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's a popular initiative.

"We see many residents taking advantage of this day. It's good for our residents who get to rid themselves of an unwanted mattress and great for our environment where 75% of the materials will be recycled."

This event is for Cessnock City Council residents only and proof of address is required.

Mattress

drop-offs must also be made using a vehicle as there will be no pedestrian access. If you're unable to attend the drop-off day, mattresses can be taken to the Cessnock Waste Management Centre for disposal for a fee of \$33.

For more information, please visit

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste/other_waste.



Draft Trails Strategy to go on public exhibition

Residents from the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Trails Strategy that's now on exhibition.

The Cessnock LGA is home to many trails, including informal trails located in the Hunter Valley Wine District, national parks and other natural areas. The challenge to date has been that the trails are not formally mapped and their condition unknown.

The draft Trails Strategy aims to rectify this by providing a vision for the trails network that is supported by a consistent policy framework to guide the development and management of our local trails.

The draft strategy has been guided by feedback gathered via a number of community engagement activities conducted in 2019. These included online surveys and community workshops where community members were invited to contribute through a series of focused discussions.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the Strategy will allow for both residents and visitors to the area alike to enjoy more of the natural beauty of the area.

"We have some beautiful natural bushland areas right on our doorstep. This Strategy is a way for us to ensure that people can get out there and really enjoy these spaces. We encourage all residents to take the time to provide feedback."

The draft Trail Strategy will be on public exhibition from Tuesday 28 January 2020 to Friday 28 February 2020.

To view the Strategy visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/publicexhibition. The document is also available at Council's Administration Building, our local libraries and Branxton Post Office.

DRAFT

Shadow Minister meets with veteran and Branxton-Greta business chamber President

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Veterans and Western Sydney, Greg Warren, met with local business chamber leader Brett Wild recently.

Mr Warren spoke with Mr Wild, a veteran and president of the Central Hunter Business Chamber, during a visit to the Hunter.

The meeting was part of a three day tour through the Hunter and Mid North Coast for Mr Warren who is visiting and speaking to communities throughout the state that have been impacted by the

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drought and recent bushfires. Other destinations during Mr Warren's trip include Singleton, Muswellbrook, Dungog, Nahiab and Gloucester.

Mr Warren has made several trips to the Hunter in the past six months to talk to communities regarding important issues – particularly the drought.

"However, it is during times of adversity that the true colours of communities are on show and those colours have certainly been shining bright in the Hunter in places like Greta and Branxton.

"Thank you to Brett for showing me around the community and speaking to me about issues regarding veterans & the local economy.

"The memorials paying tribute to local veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice truly are a sight to behold," said Greg Warren Shadow Minister for Local Government, Veterans and Western Sydney and the Member for Campbelltown.

■ Photo above: at left Brett Wild with Greg Warren Shadow Minister for Local Government, Veterans and Western Sydney and the Member for Campbelltown.



Central Hunter Business Chamber

NOTICE

The role of the Central Hunter Business Chamber is to promote and enhance opportunity for business to grow and expand in the local area.

The Central Hunter Business Chamber also lobbies Local, State and Federal government for funding for special projects and infrastructure works and also raises issues that impact on local businesses such as the opportunity to gain government contracts, startup business grants and working conditions for the employment of new staff, just to name a few.

The Central Hunter Business Chamber memberships expired on the 20 Jan 2020.

To be a member of the chamber all previous and prospective members are required to submit in writing a request for membership. Membership in the CHBC is not automatic and requires an application to be approved by the board. If a member is approved for membership the required membership fee for that year would need to be paid. Prospective members can submit an application via email from the website www.centralhunterbusiness.com.au, or via writing to PO Box 78 Branxton NSW 2335.

In 2020 the Central Hunter Business Chamber will not be undertaking any community events. The efforts and goals of the chamber will be its first priority for this year.

Many Thanks

The Board CHBC.



REFLECTIONS

"salt of the earth ... light of the world"

In Matthew 5.13-14, Jesus said to his disciples "You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world." In ancient times, salt was highly valued as a necessity of life. It seasoned, flavoured and preserved food ... and continues to do so. The difference is that in ancient times, good clean salt was harder to come by and so was highly valued. Similarly, light is valued for obvious reasons ... it casts out darkness and allows us to see more clearly.

But what does that actually mean for us in our time? We still use salt to flavour food and we still need light that shines in the darkness. Salt, if it has lost its' flavour, cannot do what it is used for ... and light that is hidden is wasted. These two images, salt and light, are used to describe how Jesus calls us to be in the world. We are called to bear witness to Jesus, to share the love of God with those around us. It is through our Christian witness that we add a Christian flavour to the world and enable the light to shine. The light that shines in us is none other than the light of Christ.

The flavour and the light are the good deeds that we do to show the love of God to the world. We are not to be consumed or overcome by the world, rather we are to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. And we are to do that in our ordinary, everyday life. Salt and light are two everyday necessities of life that have the ability to change things. When we are salt and light in the world, we too have the opportunity and ability to change the lives of those around us, by adding a Christian flavour and light. By being salt and light in our world, we enable others to see the love of God in action.

So, I wonder, how will you add flavour to the world this week? and where will you shine the love of Christ?

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Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Congratulations to all of the recipients at the recent Australia Day Awards. We awarded 20 awards to citizens who contribute greatly to our community. I would again like to acknowledge Melissa Gontier named Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year Edgar (Ted) Jackson and Young Citizen of the Year Chelsea Webb. Well done; each of you have made an outstanding contribution to our community.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend a Community Rebuilding Roundtable at Parliament House in Canberra. The focus of the roundtable was to come up with solutions for assisting businesses who have been significantly impacted by the bush fires across Australia. It was an opportunity for Council to advocate for our small businesses impacted by the bush fires and ensure they get their fair share of the funding on the table. It's a priority the voices of our local business are heard loud and clear.

After engaging with our business community Council lodged a submission outlining a way forward that will have real outcomes for our local businesses. Council looks forward to continuing to work with the Federal Government, community representatives and other councils towards a collaborative solution to bolstering all businesses impacted by the bush fire crisis.

The Cessnock LGA is home to many trails, including informal trails located in the Hunter Valley Wine District, national parks and other natural areas. Currently residents have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Trails Strategy.

The challenge to date has been that the trails are not formally mapped and their condition unknown. The draft Trails Strategy aims to rectify this by providing a vision for the trails network that is supported by a consistent policy framework to guide the development and management of our local trails.

It's on public exhibition until Friday 28 February 2020. To view the Strategy visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/publicexhibition. The

document is also available at Council's Administration Building, our local libraries and Branxton Post Office. The Seniors Festival is only a few days away. Make sure you pick up a program from Council's Customer Service Centre, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and participating venues. The program is also available online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/SeniorsFestival.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR OUR WONDERFUL RFS AND THEIR FUNDING

During recent months there has been a lot of backwards and forwards about funding for our fire services. On issues like this it is often incredibly hard to get right down to the detailed truth, basically because responsibility for the Department and Budget line times are forever changing their names and being mixed and then split up again. So while it is a fact that the money allocated in this year's 2019-2020 NSW Budget for fire services is significantly less than was previously, there is no doubt that you could choose a single line item like "radio handsets" and say that in 2019-2020 there is actually more money.

Putting all of that spin aside, I visited one of our local RFS stations and watched on as the volunteers worked to fix a water pump and spray while at the same time telling stories of raising funds for much needed equipment like radio handsets and esky holding brackets to store cold drinks and other cold supplies.

They talked of course about constantly seeking donations such as "working" at community events to source gold coin donations. They also told me stories about going out to fight fires and being refused supply of a meal because they hadn't done enough hours in the field.

Eight years ago I noted that the Government were cutting funding from the Fire NSW Budget by allowing the age of the firefighting trucks to get older and older and older. At the time nobody cared too much about this, it seemed like such a minor issue, but in reality what it reflected was a "fair-weather" attitude to the NSW Budget at large. By this, what I mean is that when things are going along without any trouble or crisis, these types of Budget cuts

can be made and no one is really any the wiser and the sky doesn't exactly fall. But then, when the fair weather ends, and you have a crisis, you are suddenly finding that you don't have the necessary gear and equipment because the budget has suffered 1,000 cuts.

Similar "fair weather" cuts have been made in every government department including small things like the line markings budget on our major roads or the trees/bushes being cleared from road signs on these same roads and heavy vehicle inspectors being sacked – meanwhile the death toll on our roads is on the rise. Apply the same logic to the operation of our water ways, our education department, our hospitals, our environment, etc.

Recent rain in our local area has been a welcome relief, although I am told by some Wollombi locals that they had less than an inch of rain during this time. So, at the moment the rain relief is a bit hit and miss. Meanwhile our RFS volunteers are still hard at it and well worthy of our many thanks and generous donations.

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 can 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



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It's been a difficult start to 2020 and one that reinforces, yet again, the power of human spirit in overcoming even the most devastating of circumstances.

The fires that ravaged NSW, Victoria and South Australia directly impacted people in our community who experienced the threat either on their own doorsteps in our local government area, or who were visiting in other areas.

And of course I particularly acknowledge the commitment of volunteer

firefighters who put their own festivities and commitments on hold for weeks and months to come to the aid of others.

The work begins now in the recovery phase, not only in terms of property damage, but the economic and social impacts. One such example is the serious consequences on visitation in Hunter Valley Wine Country, as well as primary production such as winemaking.

Through its membership of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance, Council works very closely with tourism operators in our LGA and is keen to explore further avenues to provide assistance in addition to Federal and State government assistance for bushfire-affected businesses.

One option may be to utilise part of the \$1 million grant for bushfire-affected councils from the Federal Government to support the tourism industry.

Council is currently undertaking an impact assessment of bushfire in the Singleton LGA, with a view to making the best use of the funding in response to the consequences of bushfires and for the benefit of our community. Council has three months to determine how the funding will be used, and to notify the Federal Government accordingly.

Along with the Mayor of Cessnock, Bob Pynsent, I also attended a special roundtable as part of the Community Rebuilding Initiative in Canberra last Wednesday 29 January, chaired by Sir Peter Cosgrove.

The focus of the Community Rebuilding Initiative is on economic recovery, to help local businesses, provide jobs, re-establish key industries such as tourism and agriculture, and rebuild community facilities.

It was an ideal opportunity to hear about the experiences of other local government areas, raise issues affecting our own region, and pool ideas for how we can best support our communities in these unprecedented circumstances.

We will also be taking advantage of every opportunity, including at last Wednesday's roundtable, to put the case for support for Wine Country and our wider region.

With the Australia Day long weekend now past, I also congratulate the 2020 Singleton Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year and welcome the 38 new citizens who joined us as Australians on Sunday. We are very fortunate in Singleton to have so many residents who selflessly contribute their time and energy to making our community better for everyone, and any one of our nominees would have been worthy of this honour.

Cheers, Cr Sue Moore Mayor of Singleton



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

LLS RATE RELIEF CONTINUES FOR NSW FARMERS

The NSW Government will once again waive all Local Land Services (LLS) rates for this year to provide relief for farmers going through devastating bushfires and crippling drought. During these difficult times, every little bit of support counts, and waiving LLS rates would help reduce the burden on our hard-working farmers in the Upper Hunter electorate.

It is the top priority of the Nationals in Government to make sure farmers are getting the support they need during this difficult period, and waiving LLS rates is just one thing we can do to help," Mr Marshall said.

Ratepayers will receive their notice informing them that all LLS rates will be waived over the coming weeks.

Waiving LLS rates again is just one aspect of the NSW Government's \$3.9 billion drought assistance package, which also includes cost of living pressure relief and subsidies for the transport of fodder.

While we have all welcomed the rain recently, this drought is by no means broken.

We are committed to providing our primary producers with the best support possible to see them through the worst drought in living memory.

To find out more about available assistance measures and eligibility criteria, visit <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/drought> or phone the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

COMING SOON: REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD

Our Regional seniors will be able to apply for the NSW Government's \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card from Wednesday, 29 January, which will ease the burden of travel costs for seniors living in the bush.

Travel is one of the most significant household costs faced by seniors living in rural and regional areas, and the Nationals in Government are committed to trying to keep costs down.

This travel card is about making it easier for seniors to access services, do their shopping and to stay connected with family and friends.

Eligible seniors will be able to use their card to purchase fuel, use taxi services or travel on NSW TrainLink trains and coaches. This is also great news for regional businesses including fuel stations and taxi drivers as they too will benefit from the initiative.

A three-week pilot will start next week in Coffs Harbour to inform the statewide

rollout of the card. This pilot will ensure every step of the process is a smooth and hassle-free experience for both seniors and retailers in the bush.

In holding a pilot, it will allow the Government to test the card and work through any issues that may arise.

Following a successful trial we anticipate the Regional Seniors Travel Card will start to reach eligible seniors from mid-late February. The Seniors Transport Travel Card was a policy promise made by the Nationals at the 2019 NSW Election, and the Nationals are delivering on their promises.

The Service NSW Mobile Service Centre will be in Murrumbidgee on February 4th 2020, and in Scone on February 5th 2020, to answer any questions our local communities have regarding the card.

Eligible seniors will have a minimum of 12 months to use their card from the time of activation.

To be eligible to receive the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card you must be an age pensioner with a valid Pensioner Concession Card or hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card issued by either the Department of Human Services or Department of Veterans' Affairs. Seniors must also live in regional NSW outside Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong City Council boundaries.

For more information go to service.nsw.gov.au, call 13 77 88 or visit a Service NSW Service Centre.

Cheers, Michael



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Drought, bushfires and now the Coronavirus. The Hunter's economy is being hit from all sides. The impact of the drought on our growers and producers has been significant. Some towns have run out of water. Our rivers are struggling. Our vignerons have lost their vintage to smoke taint. Our tourism industry has lost thousands of customers because visitors have had their own lives disrupted, or they've chosen not to visit an area hit so hard by heat and fire. Now, the Government has put up the "no entry" sign for visitors from China due to the Coronavirus. Taken together, these things are going to impact on our local economy for a long time to come. And sadly, none of the above problems are yet behind us.

In the past when we thought and talked about structural change in our economy our minds turned to the decline in traditional industries and the emergence and embrace of new, more modern sectors. But now we need to be asking ourselves about our exposure to changing

weather patterns, how we can adapt to them, and how we build further economic diversity.

Sure, the weather may settle and return to "normal". But what if it doesn't? If there is any chance at all the weather will remain this challenging, surely we need to prepare for it. Much of the debate to date has been focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. That's important, as long as the policies adopted are sensible and don't unnecessarily destroy jobs. I'm all for meaningful action on that front. But the calls to do more to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas levels are not made to fix anything today, next year or even in five years. No, they come from the goal to keep global warming below two degrees greater than pre-industrial levels. That's a crucial cause because if we fail to do so, what we've seen this summer could look like a walk in the park. But we have to also deal with the immediate challenges the changing weather patterns are throwing-up right now. We need to grow more serious about how we use and store our precious water resources. People on the land will need help in their efforts to adapt to a more challenging climate. Government will need to invest in new infrastructure projects both to help us adapt and to reduce our reliance on industries most affected by unpredictable and wild weather patterns. We'll need better strategies for bush fire mitigation. To do all of this, we need a plan from the Government, but sadly we don't have one. We've had media releases, press conferences and a financial grant here and there. But there is no overarching, comprehensive, coherent national plan. We need one and we need it soon!

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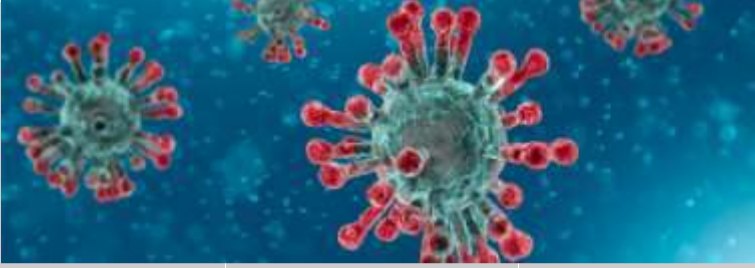
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Pharmacist Advice & Medical Advice



On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. The virus did not match any other known virus. This raised concern because when a virus is new, they do not know how it affects people.

One week later, on 7 January, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a new virus. The new virus is a coronavirus, which is a family of viruses that include the common cold, and viruses such as SARS and MERS. This new virus was temporarily named "2019-nCoV."

WHO has been working with Chinese authorities and global experts from the day they were informed, to learn more about the virus, how it affects the people who are sick with it, how they can be treated, and what countries can do to respond.

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some cause illness in humans, and others cause illness in animals, such as bats, camels, and civets. Human coronaviruses generally cause mild illness, such the common cold.

Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve to infect and spread among humans, causing severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) which emerged in 2002, and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) which emerged in 2012. A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

There is a new coronavirus, with a majority of cases affecting people in mainland China who have recently been in the city of Wuhan, China. There is much more to learn about how it is spread, its severity, and other features associated with 2019-nCoV, and investigations are ongoing. At the moment, this coronavirus is called '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV'.

Outbreaks of a novel coronavirus infections among people are always a

public health concern. There is growing evidence that 2019-nCoV can spread from person to person in the community and in health care settings. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in several Asian and other countries including Australia. The situation is evolving rapidly.

What are the symptoms?

Most case-patients have had fever, cough, and shortness of breath, with further evidence of pneumonia (chest infection).

The incubation period (time between exposure and onset of symptoms) likely ranges between two and 14 days.

How is it spread?

Most of the early reported cases had contact with a sea-food and live animal market, suggesting an animal source of the outbreak. However, most cases are now likely to be spread from person to person by droplets when coughing.

Who is at risk?

People who are living or travelling to affected areas or who have had contact with other cases may be at risk of catching the disease. People with underlying illnesses that make them more vulnerable to respiratory disease, including those with diabetes, chronic lung disease, pre-existing kidney failure, people with suppressed immune systems and the elderly may be at a higher risk.

How is it prevented?

It's likely that general prevention measures used for other coronavirus infections will also prevent infection with 2019-nCoV. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends measures to reduce the general risk of acute respiratory infections while travelling in or from affected areas by:

- avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections;
- frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment;
- avoiding close contact with live or dead farm or wild animals;
- people with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (keep away from other people, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands with soap and

running water for at least 20 seconds).

Travellers to China should not visit live bird and animal markets, including 'wet' markets. There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infections.

What should I do if I have returned from affected areas or have been in contact with a patient with coronavirus in the last 14 days?

If you become ill or feel unwell while travelling in China, you should not wait until you arrive back in Australia to seek medical assistance. Instead you should see a doctor or go to the local emergency department.

If you develop a fever, a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath within 14 days of travel to an affected area or have had contact with a person with confirmed coronavirus, you should immediately isolate yourself from other people. Contact your GP or your emergency department and seek medical attention as soon as possible.

It is important to phone ahead so that the practice or emergency department can make appropriate preparations and protect others.

When seeking medical care wear a surgical mask (if available) otherwise ask for one when you arrive.

How is it diagnosed?

Infection with 2019-nCoV is diagnosed by finding evidence of the virus in respiratory samples such as swabs from the throat or fluid from the lungs. Testing for 2019-nCoV is done in public health laboratories.

How is it treated?

There is currently no specific treatment for people who are sick with 2019-nCoV but early diagnosis and general supportive medical care in hospital can be life-saving.

What is the public health response?

Infection with 2019-nCoV is a notifiable under the NSW Public Health Act 2010, so doctors and pathology laboratories are required to notify NSW Health of all people suspected or confirmed to have the infection.

Public health unit staff will investigate all cases to find out how the infection occurred, identify other people at risk of infection, implement control measures and provide other advice.

Application lodgement made easy!

Cessnock City Council has made the development application process easier! All development applications lodged with Council must be lodged via the NSW Planning Portal.

The NSW Planning Portal is a digital space where community, industry and government can work together to provide a digital experience that supports effective planning and decision making in the support of the

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Cessnock City Council's, Director of Planning and Environment Gareth Curtis said it's an exciting step for Council and our customers.

"We're committed to improving our customer's experience lodging a development application using the portal. It's aimed at making planning simpler, information accessible, reducing assessment times and it provides more

transparency for the applicant."

"Portal users will also receive notifications during the assessment process, keeping them in the loop at relevant milestones in the process."

As of 1 January all applications associated with development must be lodged using the NSW Planning Portal. This includes:

- Development Applications
- Section 4.55 Applications
- Complying Development Applications
- Construction Certificates
- Subdivision Works Certificates
- Subdivision Certificates
- Occupation Certificates

To use the Portal please register and verify your account. To do this and make this transition as smooth as possible visit www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/. Council's Planning & Environment Business Support Team are happy to assist, you can contact the Team on (02) 4993 4221, or by visiting the "Electronic Lodgement" page on Council's website.



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Pork dumplings

Ingredients

- 250g Coles Australian Pork Mince
- 1 cup finely shredded wombok (Chinese cabbage)
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 3cm-piece ginger, finely grated
- 2 tbs oyster sauce
- 3 spring onions, thinly sliced
- 25 wonton wrappers
- 3 tsp sesame oil
- 3/4 cup (185ml) chicken stock
- 5cm-piece ginger, extra, peeled, cut into matchsticks
- 2 tbs light soy sauce
- 2 tbs rice wine vinegar
- 1 tsp chilli sauce (optional)
- 1 tsp caster sugar

Method

Step 1
Combine the mince, wombok, garlic, grated ginger, oyster sauce and two-thirds of the spring onion in a bowl. Season. Place the wonton wrappers on a clean work surface. Place 1 1/2 tsp of the mince mixture in centre of each wrapper. Brush edges with a little water. Bring corners together to enclose the filling and pinch the centres to seal.



Step 2
Heat 1 tsp oil in a frying pan over high heat until just smoking. Remove from heat. Arrange half the dumplings over the base of pan. Cook over medium heat for 2 mins or until bases are golden brown. Pour over half the stock. Cover. Cook for 2-3 mins or until the dumplings are cooked through. Repeat with 1 tsp oil and remaining dumplings and stock.

Step 3
Combine the ginger matchsticks, soy sauce, vinegar, chilli sauce, if using, sugar, remaining spring onion and remaining oil in a small bowl. Serve with dumplings.

NOTE: Double your batch: You'll have leftover pork mince. Make an extra batch of dumplings then place, uncooked and spaced apart, on baking paper in an airtight container. Freeze for up to 1 month.

Our local area is very fortunate to have the best child care facilities available in Australia today. I have endeavoured, below, to help with understanding the child care subsidy scheme ~ hope it helps.

Child Care Subsidy

Assistance to help you with the cost of child care.



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 13 or under
 14 to 18 with disability. In these circumstances, you must provide evidence as to why your child can't be unsupervised. This may include evidence of your child's disability. You also need to confirm an adult is unable to care for your child during this time. Each person that's liable to pay child care fees will need to apply for this subsidy and meet

that you can apply for. You can apply if you're either: a grandparent transitioning to work experiencing temporary financial hardship. **Approved child care** These are services that have Australian Government approval to get Child Care Subsidy on your behalf to reduce your fees. Approved child care includes: Centre Based Day Care, including long day care and occasional care Family Day Care Outside School Hours Care, including before, after and vacation care

Hope this helps

Tillys
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Good beginnings never end!

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- Sustainable Practices
- Dedicated Educators
- Storypark
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 e: greta@tillyschildcare.com.au
49 38 72 11
 Website www.tillyschildcare.com.au
 Facebook: Tillys Play and Development Centre

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 Branxton
 enquiries@huntleeelc.com.au

- Exceptional care for children 6 weeks to 6 years
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We use Storypark


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www.beesneesearlylearning.com.au




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



ESTATE PLANNING

The new year is a good time to consider whether your legal affairs are in order and this includes your estate plan.

An estate plan includes your Will as well as documents that govern how you will be cared for, medically and financially, if you become unable to make your own decisions in the future.

No one wants to talk about death and with studies showing that at least 45% of Australians do not have a valid Will it something which we often put off for too long.

There are four main documents which you should consider in your estate planning.

A **Will** is a legal document that clearly sets out your wishes for the distribution of your assets after your death, including nominating your executor/s and beneficiaries. Having a clear and up-to-date Will is the best way to help ensure that your assets are protected and distributed according to your wishes. If you die without a valid will, intestacy provisions will apply, if this occurs your estate may pass to people who you do not wish to benefit and people who

you wish to benefit may miss out.

If you have children under the age of 18 it is important that you nominate a guardian who will be responsible for looking after your minor children in the event of the death of both parents.

A **binding death benefit nomination (BDBN)** is a legally binding nomination that allows you to advise the trustee of your super fund who is to receive your superannuation benefit in the event of your death. You should note that, once made, your **BDBN** may lapse after three (3) years so you should diarise the date to renew it. Failing to remember this date may affect either the value of your estate or may affect your wishes regarding where you wish your death benefit to be paid

A **Power of Attorney** is a legal document that allows you to nominate one or more persons referred to as an attorney to act on your behalf. A power of attorney gives the attorney the authority to manage your legal and financial affairs. You can choose when the power of attorney

commences, for example it may commence immediately or it may commence only once a medical practitioner considers that you are unable to manage your affairs and provides a document to that effect. The attorney must always act in your best interests and keep their own money separate from yours.

An **Appointment of Enduring Guardian** allows you to nominate one or more persons referred to as your enduring guardian to make health and lifestyle decisions on your behalf.

Your enduring guardian may make decisions about where you live, what services are provided to you at home and what medical treatment you receive. Your enduring guardian can only exercise these functions if or when you lose the capacity to make the decisions for yourself.

Your estate planning documents expresses your wishes at a particular point in time, it is advisable to regularly review these documents as your circumstances change so that it accurately reflects your current wishes.
Cheers, Kerri



Bingo and DINNER
AN EVENING OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

6PM DINNER
7PM BINGO

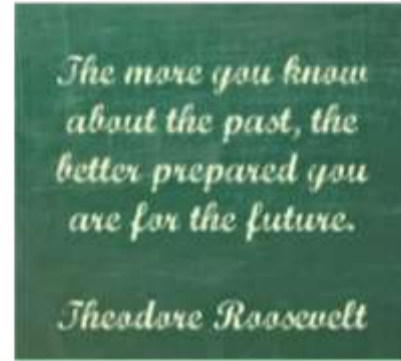
at the Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club
2 West Street, Greta, VIC 3204

Anglican Church

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.



specific period are accepted only for loans relating to both the purchase of vacant land and the construction of a house on the land.

- Applicants must be first home buyers who've not previously owned or had an interest in a residential property either separately or jointly with someone else. This includes residential strata, company title properties, regardless of whether it was an investment or owner-occupied property and whether it was ever lived in.

Applicants must intend to move into and live in the property as their principal place of residence (i.e. they must be owner-occupiers). The value of homes that can be purchased under the Scheme has been set (price caps) on a regional basis reflecting the different property markets.

Initially, the 5% home deposit Scheme will only be available to 10,000 borrowers a year which is only around 10% of the total number of Australian who purchased their first home in 2018.

More importantly, apart from the 5% deposit required, first home buyers must also provide evidence of funds to cover stamp duty, legal fees, bank fees etc. where the loan to value ratio is above 95% of the property value.

What types of properties can be bought under the Scheme?

Under the Scheme, eligible first home buyers can buy the following types of properties:

- * An existing house, townhouse or apartment
- * A house and land package
- * A vacant land together with a separate contract to build a home
- * An off-the-plan apartment or townhouse

Once you've been pre-approved for a home loan by one of the participating lenders, you'll have 90 days to find and sign a contract of sale for an eligible property that you want to buy. Finally, once you've signed a contract of sale, you'll have an additional 30 days from the signing date to finalise the paperwork and checks for your home loan.

What will I need to provide to apply for the first home

buyers Scheme?

Initially, under the first home buyers Scheme, you'll need to submit the following information to your mortgage broker or to a participating bank for the Scheme Place Reservation process.

First home buyers will need to provide the following:

- Your full name and date of birth;
 - Your Medicare number (including your position on the card);
 - Your Notice of Assessment for your taxable income for the 2018-2019 financial year; and
- Other standard home loan documents.

Why is this Scheme great news for first home buyers?

The first home loan scheme is aimed at helping low and middle income Australian first home buyers purchase a property sooner and realise their dreams of homeownership by eliminating the LMI fees, saving borrowers tens of thousands of dollars.

Typically, to avoid paying thousands in LMI fees, a home loan borrower needs a 20% deposit. However, under the Scheme, even with a 5% deposit, you'd be able to avoid LMI fees since the government will guarantee the difference (up to 15%). Moreover, eligible first home buyers will be able to use the Scheme together with other government programs such as the First Home Super Saver Scheme, state and territory First Home Owners Grant and stamp duty concessions.

What are the price caps for the first home loan Scheme?

The value of the residential property must not exceed the price cap for the area in which the property is located. The price caps will vary between states and whether you're looking to buy in a city, large regional centre or regional areas.

How to apply for the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme?

To implement the Scheme, the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) has contracted a panel of 27

lenders instead of dealing directly with borrowers.

The NHFIC will not be accepting direct applications.

As such, lenders or mortgage brokers will assess scheme eligibility alongside other standard home loan considerations such as serviceability, credit checks etc.

The application needs to be submitted within ten days and assessed as conditionally eligible to progress to a certified guarantee.

Once the loan is approved, you'll have 90 days to return a signed and dated contract (an extension on the 90 days to find a property can be considered).

What is the process to apply for a guarantee under the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme?

The process to apply for a guarantee under the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme is as follows:

- An eligible first home buyer or their broker will need to enquire with one of the 27 participating lenders under the Scheme.
- The lender will then log onto the Scheme portal to ascertain if a Scheme place is available.
- If a slot is available, the lender can then reserve a place for the customer by providing their first name, last name, surname, DOB (date of birth) and medicare number.

• A first home buyer applicant can apply for a Scheme place with multiple participating lenders. It's important to note that the Portal will automatically de-duplicate applications to ensure only one place is reserved per applicant at any given time.

• The slot can be reserved for ten days. During this period, a participating lender will have ten days to provide the applicant with a home loan pre-approval and return to the Scheme Portal to obtain a

pre-approved place under the Scheme.

• To obtain a pre-approved place under the Scheme, the participating lender must provide the applicant's details including, the taxable income of each borrower, the date of finance pre-approval, intended purchase location, and the origination channel for the loan.

• A pre-approved place under the Scheme lasts for 90 days from the date of issuance to enable the applicant to search for a property knowing that they have a loan pre-approval in hand as well as a pre-approval under the Scheme.

• Upon signing a Contract of sale, the participating lender and the applicant will then have an additional 30 days to finalise all the documentation to apply to the NHFIC for a Guarantee Certificate under the Scheme.

Upon a Guarantee Certificate being issued, the participating lender will have 100 days to return to the Portal to update NHFIC with the loan settlement details.

What are the pros and cons of the First home Loan Deposit Scheme? What are the pros?

• The government guarantee saves first home buyers with low deposits tens of thousands in LMI.

• First home buyers can buy their first home sooner and enter the property market due to the required deposit of only 5%.

• Your mortgage repayments will go towards paying off your home loan instead of on rent.

Along with other first home benefits such as the first home owners grant (FHOG) and the stamp duty exemption/concessions, the deposit scheme may incentivise first home buyers at the fringes to finally buy their own home.

What are the cons?

• Buyers with low deposits will pay extra in interest over the life of the loan term than buyers with a 20% house deposit.

• The 5% home deposit Scheme is limited to only 10,000 borrowers a year or

CONT. PAGE 14



First Home Loan Deposit Scheme

What Is the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme?

The First Home Loan Deposit Scheme allows first home buyers with deposits as low as 5% to get a home loan without paying Lenders Mortgage Insurance (LMI) fees.

Essentially, the government will act as the mortgage insurer guaranteeing home loans for eligible first home buyers with a minimum deposit of 5% of the property value.

Based on the maximum regional price cap under the Scheme, first home buyers can save anywhere between \$10,000 and \$30,000 in LMI fees.

Initially, 10,000 Scheme places will be made available for eligible first home buyers from 1 January 2020, and a further 10,000 will be made available

from 1 July 2020 for the 2021 financial year.

When does the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme start?

The First Home Loan Deposit Scheme started from 1 January 2020.

Since the NHFIC will not be accepting direct applications, instead participating lenders and their brokers will assess eligibility alongside other standard home loan considerations such as serviceability (borrowing power), credit checks etc. Interestingly, the two major participating banks CBA and NAB started accepting applications under the Scheme from **1 January 2020** while the 25 smaller participating lenders started

from 1 February 2020. Due to the limited number of slots on offer, you should ensure your application is "first-in-best-dressed" for the best possible outcome as soon as possible.

There are several eligibility criteria first home buyers must meet to qualify for the first home loan deposit scheme:

A minimum deposit of at least 5% is needed (most lenders require the deposit to have been accumulated through genuine savings).

• Only Australian citizens who are at least 18 years of age and hold a medicare card are eligible. Permanent residents are not eligible.

• Single first-home buyers earning up to \$125,000 p.a. or couples earning up to \$200,000 p.a. are eligible. Income from the financial year preceding the year in which the loan is entered into will be assessed.

• Couples are only eligible for the Scheme if they are married or in a de-facto relationship. Other persons buying together, such as siblings, parent/child or friends, are not eligible.

• Loans under this Scheme require scheduled repayments of the principal of the loan for the full period of the agreement. Interest-only repayments for a



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There's no them and us.'



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BRANXTON

Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

3 good sized bedroom family home on large block just a 2 minute walk to the main street & across the road to Branxton Public School. Features include Two bathrooms, separate lounge-room, modern kitchen, dishwasher, split air-con system. All this on 970 square metre fully fenced block. INSPECTION RECOMMENDED
ASKING ~~\$399,000~~ \$389,000 ono



BRANXTON

OPEN HOUSE

14 Russell Street, Branxton NSW 2335
 Saturday 8th February
 10:30am ~ 11:30am

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 \$260 per week. Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway

ASKING \$275,000

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





discarding a lighted cigarette or match on land. Strike Force Tronto, comprised of detectives from the Financial Crimes Squad's Arson Unit, has been working closely with individual police area commands and police districts to provide specialist assistance and advice to police on the ground. Investigations into the cause, origin and overall impact of fires are continuing and since the latest State of Emergency was declared last Thursday (2 January 2020), Strike Force Tronto has provided expertise to six Police Area Commands and eight Police Districts.

As inquiries continue, police are appealing to the community to provide footage and/or images from phones, dashcam, or other devices, that show any of the fires in their infancy, even if only from a distance. Vision of images can be provided to local police stations or uploaded through Crime Stoppers online.

Penalties relating to bushfires under the NSW Crimes Act, the Rural Fires Act, and Rural Fires Regulation include:

- Damaging property with the intention of endangering life – up to 25 years imprisonment;
- Manslaughter – up to 25 years imprisonment;
- Starting a bushfire and being reckless as to its spread – up to 21 years imprisonment;
- Lighting a fire when a total fire ban is in place – up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a

- \$5500 fine;
 - Not putting out a fire that you have lit – up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a \$5500 fine;
 - Failing to comply with a bush fire hazard reduction notice – up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a \$5500 fine;
 - Light or use a tobacco product within 15metres of any stack of grain, hay corn, straw or any standing crop, dry grass or stubble field – up to a \$5500 fine.
- For more information on bushfires, monitor www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call the Bush Fire Information Line on 1800 679 737.

Strike Force Tronto is the lead investigative body on suspicious or deliberately-lit bushfires which lead to death, serious injury or significant property loss.

Armed robbery – Aberdare

Police are investigating an armed robbery at a service station in the Aberdare on the 29 January 2020. Shortly before 6am a man entered a service station on Aberdare Road, Aberdare, and threatened a 31-year-old attendant with a knife. The man took cash and cigarettes before fleeing out the front entrance onto a dirt bike with a second man waiting. The bike was last seen headed west along Aberdare Road. Officers attached to Hunter Valley Police District were called a short time later and established a crime scene. Police are now appealing for anyone who may have seen or heard anything to come forward.

Both men were last seen wearing motorbike helmets,

with dark clothing and their faces covered.

Charges laid after 2019 public place shooting near Cessnock

Police have charged a man and a woman in relation to a public place shooting in Cessnock in August last year.

About 7.30pm on Sunday 25 August 2019, a 23-year-old man was at a property on Cessnock Road, Neath, when he heard a loud bang. The man saw a nearby Holden Commodore had smashed windows and what appeared to be bullet holes. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended and established a crime scene.

Following inquiries, officers attended Macquarie Road in Cardiff where they arrested a 21-year-old woman.

She was taken to Toronto Police Station and charged with fire firearm manner likely injure persons/property and possess shortened firearm without authority.

The woman was refused bail to appear at Toronto Local Court. At 6pm (Friday 17 January 2020), a second person was arrested in relation to the incident.

The man, aged 24, attended Cessnock Police Station where he was charged with supply prohibited firearm to unauthorised person, fire firearm in manner likely to injure person or property (joint criminal enterprise), possess shortened firearm and conceal a strictly indictable offence. He was refused bail to appear at Newcastle Local Court.

For Sale

BRANXTON "SUTTON GROVE"

Something for everyone

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

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

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

All this on .8HA (Approx 2 acres)



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

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

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

NORTH ROTHBURY



A large family home with everything you could ask for

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

ASKING \$439,000

The 2020 NSW Seniors Festival ready to hit the road in Cessnock, Singleton & Maitland Local Government areas & all over the state

Hailed as the largest Seniors Festival in the Southern Hemisphere this years NSW Seniors Festival has something for every senior citizen; arts, dance and writing events, darts, carpet bowls and even a rock concert featuring Lonnie Lee and the Leemen, a Grand Summer Splash pool party & much more. "A bumper program of events and activities aiming to find something for everyone," said Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent. Themed 'Love to Celebrate', this years festival aims to highlight the diverse range of experiences on offer to inspire seniors to be active,

socialise, and share their skills and wisdom all while connecting with their community. Our local area LGA's viz., Cessnock, Maitland & Singleton have plenty to keep our seniors entertained for the week. Starting with **Cessnock**. The 2020 Seniors Festival kicks off on Wednesday 12 February with a bumper program of events and activities. A special inclusion in this year's program is events that bring younger and older people together. Building connections between generations is vital to keeping a community strong and healthy, with both young and old gaining

knowledge, skills, understanding and joy from being together. The Grand Summer Splash is a free pool party for grandparents and their grandchildren held at Cessnock Pool from 9am to 2pm on Saturday 15 February 2020. Hosted by Samaritans, this will be a great day to cool off and have some fun in the water with games, Zumba and a free BBQ lunch provided by the Cessnock Lions Club. Bookings are essential for this event and can be made by calling 4993 3400. Students of the Cessnock Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics or

'STEM' Excellence are also involved in the program this year, who will showcase their skills using emerging technology. This is a great opportunity for local seniors to try something new, like coding, robotics or 3D design. This free event will be held as part of the Wine Country Music Association Concert at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Monday 24 February 2020. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's fantastic to see events like these on the program which encourage connections between young and old in our community. "As a senior myself and former teacher, I always enjoy learning new things from the younger generation and we older residents have a wealth of knowledge to share too." The program is also available online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/SeniorsFestival.

Singleton is available on Council's website at singleton.nsw.gov.au Deborah McDonald, Singleton Council's Acting Director Organisation and Community Capacity, said a special Celebration of Seniors High Tea – catered by Mama's Kitchen and Singleton High School students – would be a highlight of Singleton's festivities. There will also be a giveaway of high quality compost processed by ANL from the material collected in kerbside garden organics bins available to over 55s who attend the expo. "This is an event to bring seniors together to access services and activities, or even volunteer for a local organisation," Ms McDonald said. "The expo will cover sport, arts, culture, health and community services as well as special interest groups providing information and opportunities. "Best of all – it's all free. The Celebration of Seniors High Tea will involve a reserved seating, fully-catered high tea including games, entertainment and music by Singleton High School students. "Simply contact us at Council on 02 6578 7290 to reserve your seat at the high tea, enjoy free entertainment and browse the sites at the expo." The Seniors Festival Expo includes:

- Reading and Heritage with Singleton Library
 - Craft and sewing with Singleton craft groups
 - Cooking and baking with CWA
 - Making with Men's Shed and
- Singleton Woodworkers Knowledge with U3A Engaging with school students Community services organisations providing information stalls
- The Singleton Seniors Festival High Tea and Services Expo will be held on Wednesday 19 February from 10am to 3pm at Singleton Civic Centre. The Celebration of Seniors High Tea will be held at 10am to 12pm. The event is free but places are limited. To reserve a seat, contact 02 6578 7290.

where you can take your partner along to have your photo taken while you enjoy vintage décor and music, and share your stories of Maitland and tips to a long lasting relationship. I look forward to seeing you out and about in Maitland throughout the festival," said Mayor Baker. The full program can be sourced online by going to: www.mymaitland.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Seniors-week-Calendar-2020_WEB_updated.pdf

Parishioners donate \$500 to North Rothbury Rural Fire Service

The Anglican Parish of Branxton Greta & Lochinvar have presented a cheque for \$500 to the North Rothbury Rural Fire Service after a donations received from their parishioners. The money collected was to show appreciation for their ongoing commitment and selflessness. "The whole of the RFS during the ongoing bushfire emergency is truly inspiring & this small donation is our way of saying a big thank you," said Parish Priest Rev. Nicole Baldwin.



Photo: Parish Priest Rev. Nicole Baldwin & North Rothbury RFS Captain Sonia Ivan with members of the RFS & parishioners



On the 7th of December Branxton lions held their annual Christmas dinner for the seniors of Branxton for Greta the week before. There was a lovely Christmas 3 course dinner with entertainment from the Maitland Sing Australia group. Drinks food Lucky door prizes and a great raffle. Lions are sure all attending had a very enjoyable time looking at all their faces, The Lions Ladies did the catering for which we thank them very much. Besides our seniors guest of honours were. The Mayor of Singleton Mrs Sue Moore and husband, The Mayor of Cessnock Mr bob Pynsent and his wife, also Rev, Nicole Baldwin of the Anglican Parish Branxton, and Father Thomas Chirackal of the Branxton Catholic Parish, also representatives of Lions club. Lions Branxton would like to thank the girl Guides for serving the food. The Hunter laundry and dry-cleaning from Branxton for our clean table cloths. We also would like to thank Mr Mike Lowing from the Branxton/Greta Vineyard News for publishing our news and his wonderful support in 2019. Branxton Lions club has donated Lions Christmas cakes to the local St Vincent de Paul and the Branxton St John's Anglican Church for the needy in our community. Lions Branxton would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy and a rainy 2020. For information please call Dr Alan Beckley [Lion Alan] on 0427381311 or Ken Meany on 65747027 Publicity Officer.



From a high tea with all the trimmings to getting crafty, Singleton is the place to celebrate the 2020 NSW Seniors Festival with something for everyone on Wednesday Feb 19. The Singleton Festival will take over the Singleton Civic Centre from 10am to 3pm showcasing community services organisations and groups available for over 55s including the Schoolies and Seniors Oral History Project, Reading and Heritage with Singleton Library, the Community Services Expo and entertainment. A program of activities by community groups will also run throughout the week from 12 to 23 February and

and stressful time for many. Not only due to it being the holiday period but due to the bush fires. We encourage those who are yet to have their say to take the time to provide feedback. "Council will also be taking this opportunity to review the draft document to ensure it fully considers planning for environmental impacts into the future, following the catastrophic fire incident over the Christmas period." The decision has also been made to remove the Dwelling Entitlement from consideration as part of the LSPS. Dwelling Entitlement will be considered separately at a later date allowing the community to provide feedback. Additional community consultation will be undertaken on this section of the plan. 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). 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.

He said it....
 People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war or before an election. *Otto von Bismarck* Wagner's music is better than it sounds. *Mark Twain (1835-1910)* Want him to be more of a man? Try being more of a woman! *Coty Perfume Ad*

CONT. FROM PAGE 10

First Home Loan Deposit Scheme

.. roughly 10% of first home buyers from 2018.

- There is a risk of borrowers ending up in negative equity, which is where the outstanding balance on a mortgage is greater than the property value. That's because the Scheme is essentially encouraging people to borrow at a high Loan to Value Ratio (LVR) because the government guarantee allows you to avoid the cost of LMI. Some economists have also argued that this new incentive will further drive up demand for real estate, which will lock out first home buyers who don't qualify for the scheme. **90% of first home buyers will miss out on the Scheme!** The most significant criticism of the federal government's First Home Loan Deposit Scheme is the cap on the number of first home buyers (FHB). The cap set at 10,000 FHBs per financial year is less than 10% of FHBs who purchased in 2018. So inevitably, 90% of FHBs will miss out on the Scheme. While 10,000 FHBs will appreciate the government scheme, it will do next to nothing to help the other 90,000 prospective FHBs. Instead of band-aid solutions, industry experts want to see the government lead by example and put some of their large offices and employment nodes in regional areas; as well as remove stamp duty, improve infrastructure, and make other structural changes.

Exhibition period extended on Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement

Residents now have more time to provide feedback on the Draft Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which will now be on exhibition until Friday 28 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 Local Government Area (LGA). In an effort to gain as much community feedback and input into the LSPS as possible, Council has held a number of community drop-in sessions across the LGA with the aim of advising the community of the priorities of the LSPS and answering any questions residents may have. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said we've extended to the exhibition period after listening to local residents. "We know it's been a busy

and stressful time for many. Not only due to it being the holiday period but due to the bush fires. We encourage those who are yet to have their say to take the time to provide feedback. "Council will also be taking this opportunity to review the draft document to ensure it fully considers planning for environmental impacts into the future, following the catastrophic fire incident over the Christmas period." The decision has also been made to remove the Dwelling Entitlement from consideration as part of the LSPS. Dwelling Entitlement will be considered separately at a later date allowing the community to provide feedback. Additional community consultation will be undertaken on this section of the plan. 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). 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.

NOTICE
 Branxton Greta Mens Shed Christmas Raffle Draw
1st Prize Geoff Jones
2nd Prize Sue Smith
3rd Prize Cory Adams
 Thanks to all who participated.

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



Friday 7th FEB
BLISS BOMB



Friday 14th FEB
DJ CHONG



FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS



Thursdays 4pm—6pm
\$3.80 Schooners



Wed—Sun
Lunch & Dinner
Dine-in or Takeaway



\$600 Wed 6/2

\$2500 Sun as at 2/2

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

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

\$1700 as at Sun 2/2

\$4900 Thurs 6/2

Wednesdays

4pm—6pm



\$3.80 Schooners



Every Wednesday

10am start



FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS



American Dirt

By Jennifer Schuessler and Alexandra Alter

“American Dirt” seemed poised to become one of this year’s biggest, buzziest books.

When it came up for auction in 2018, the novel — about a desperate Mexican mother and son who flee for the United States border after a drug cartel massacres their family — set off a bidding war and sold to a publisher for seven figures. It drew rapturous endorsements from novelists like Stephen King and Sandra Cisneros, and got glowing advance reviews from industry publications that hailed the book as propulsive and heart-wrenching.

The author, Jeanine Cummins, has said she hoped the novel would drive discussions about immigration policy, and open “a back door into a bigger conversation about who we want to be as a country.” Since then, “American Dirt” has certainly ignited a vigorous conversation — but hardly the one the author and publisher intended.

Even before the book hit shelves this past week, a growing chorus of online critics was challenging the hoopla, accusing Ms. Cummins, who identifies as white and Latina, of having exploited the experience of migrants and repackaging it as opportunistic “trauma porn” for a predominantly white publishing industry.

Criticism intensified on Tuesday, after Oprah Winfrey anointed the novel as her next book club pick, in a splashy joint appearance on “CBS This Morning” with the author, whom Ms. Winfrey said she hoped to interview near the border for her book club program. It was an extraordinary convergence of forces: Industry hype meets charges of cultural appropriation meets one of the most combustible political issues in America today, immigration.

And that was before a photograph from a lavish book promotion dinner last spring, showing a faux-barbed-wire floral decoration, began circulating on Twitter, where it was vilified as “border chic.” So was a resurfaced tweet from last fall in which Ms. Cummins cheered a fan’s manicure inspired by her book’s cover, complete with more barbed wire.

The controversy lands at a moment when debates about race and representation are front and center across the cultural and political landscape, from the Academy Awards, which faces yet another #OscarsSoWhite outcry, to the National Football League, where the number of minority head coaches is falling, to the Democratic presidential primary, where the most diverse field of candidates in history has narrowed to a nearly all-white group.

It also falls right into the roiling argument over art and cultural appropriation — how the stories of marginalized people should be told and who should be given the platforms to tell them. Social media has elevated more voices, but also brought greater scrutiny to the decisions of businesses and tastemakers like Ms. Winfrey who are trying to build broader audiences.

Opinions are hardly monolithic. When the white painter Dana Schutz drew fire for “Open Casket,” a painting of Emmett Till included in the 2018 Whitney Biennial, some black artists denounced her for exploiting black pain, demanding the work be removed or even destroyed. Others defended the artist’s right to take on any subject. The literary world has been wrestling with the same questions, particularly in the young adult sector, where authors and publishers now routinely rely on sensitivity readers to help defend against potential racial and cultural blind spots.

When it comes to literature, Daniel Mendelsohn, an editor-at-large at the New York Review of Books, said it was important to stand up for unfet-

tered freedom of imagination “as a matter of principle,” while also acknowledging the reality of the offense it can cause.

“When controversies like this come up, it’s worth standing back and looking at all of pop culture, which is filled with preposterous misrepresentations,” he said. Which ones are offensive, he said, “is a very sticky issue,” and depends on your relationship to the thing being represented.

“When it’s something very emotional and meaningful for me personally, like the representation and appropriation of the Holocaust, I get a little squishy,” he said.

The attention heaped on Ms. Cummins’s novel may have a particular sting for Latino writers now, because of both the intensity of political debate around the border, and broader trends in publishing.

Ilan Stavans, the general editor of “The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature,” said those writers were appearing on mainstream publishers’ lists less frequently than during the boom of the 1980s and ’90s, when writers like Julia Alvarez, Oscar Hijuelos and Junot Díaz became best sellers and literary stars.

“It’s not so much who tells the story, but who gets to sell the story,” Mr. Stavans said of the outcry over “American Dirt.”

“If out of 100 titles that were published by mainstream publishers, 25 were by Latinos,” he continued, “no one would be complaining.”

Since the Oprah’s Book Club announcement, some Latino and other writers of color on Twitter have urged Ms. Winfrey to reconsider, and called on readers not to support the book.

After Ms. Winfrey’s pick, the actresses Salma Hayek, Gina Rodriguez and Yalitza Aparicio posted shots of themselves holding the book, which had been sent to them by Ms. Winfrey’s producers. By Friday, Ms. Hayek and Ms. Rodriguez had deleted their posts. In a statement on Friday, the publisher, Flatiron, said it was carefully “listening to the conversation” but stood by the book.

“We ultimately go back to the novel’s intention,” the statement read, and the way it “gives us empathy with our fellow human beings who are struggling to find safety in our unsafe world.”

Ms. Winfrey issued her own statement, saying she had found the book “riveting” but had been listening to members of the Latino community and would “bring people together” on her show on Apple TV Plus.

“I think it will open up the conversation in unexpected and hopefully very meaningful ways,” she said.

It’s not clear how much ordinary readers are being swayed by the controversy.

The novel, which was No. 4 on Amazon & 1 at NY Times, is already on track to be a commercial success; Barnes & Noble made it a storewide book club pick.

At Warwick’s, an independent bookstore in San Diego where Ms. Cummins will speak on Monday, the book was prominently displayed in the window. The store’s book buyer, Adrian Newell, said there had been no backlash from customers and added that the “vitriol” in some of the critiques made her uncomfortable.

“It’s better to get the story out, and the messenger is not always the one you would pick right away,” Ms. Newell said.

At a Barnes & Noble in Chula Vista, a suburb of San Diego, Cristian Perez, a 25-year-old teacher who is Mexican-American, said he had not heard about “American Dirt” or the controversy, but he said he was glad to see a writer using her “privilege” to “bring light to the misfortunes of other people.”

Ms. Cummins, 45, has been sticking to her promotional schedule. On Wednesday, she drew more than 100 people to Politics and Prose, a bookstore in Washington, where she read from the novel and answered questions, addressing the backlash.

She told the audience that her book was informed by five years of research, some spent traversing the borderlands, visiting orphanages and volunteering at a soup kitchen for migrants.

“Voices of color, and women’s voices have been hijacked for a very long time, and I understand where that frustration is born,” said Ms. Cummins, who has a Puerto Rican grandmother.

“There is a lot of work to be done in the publishing industry on this front,” she said. “I hope to contribute what I can to that conversation in a constructive way, but I don’t feel like I’m responsible for the problem.”

Expectations for the book have been high from the outset.

Pre-orders from booksellers were so strong that Flatiron increased its announced first printing to 500,000 copies from 300,000. The novel appeared on more than a dozen lists for the most anticipated books of 2020 in magazines and newspapers, including The New York Times. Some prominent authors of Mexican descent, including Ms. Cisneros and Reyna Grande, publicly praised the book, with Ms. Cisneros calling it “the great novel of las Americas.”

Criticism began building in December, when the writer Myriam Gurba posted a lacerating review online, which she said had been assigned and then killed by a feminist magazine. “Cummins identified the gringo appetite for Mexican pain and found a way to exploit it,” she wrote.

Mainstream reviews, mainly written by white, non-Latino critics, were largely admiring, though there were some strong dissents. Parul Sehgal, a staff critic for The Times, called the book vivid in places, but predictable, clumsily written and marked by “a strange, excited fascination in commenting on gradients of brown skin.”

In the midst of the fallout, some writers who offered blurbs for the book have reconsidered. The Mexican-American poet and novelist Erika L. Sánchez, who had praised it as written with “grace, compassion, and precision,” said in an interview this past week that she wouldn’t have thrown her weight behind the novel had she known it would upset so many in the literary world.

“I hope this book inadvertently opens up doors for people of colour,” she added.

The complaints about the book mix concerns with its execution (including what some have said is Spanish not typical of Mexico), the identity of the author and the belief that a Latino writer telling the same story would not get the same support.

“The problem isn’t that a non-Mexican wrote about migration,” said Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, who writes about crossing the border and growing up undocumented in California in his memoir, “Children of the Land,” due out on Tuesday.

“The problem,” he said, “is the gross bastardization of the subject and the erasing of others who have written about this and are writing about it.” Other writers have questioned the idea, widespread in our broader literary conversation, that literature should put us in the shoes of marginalized people in order to build empathy, or to “humanize” people who are already human.

“The idea of empathy is something people are leaning on as a crutch to defend something, instead of facing head-on the question: What is your motivation for writing about people in this way?” said Namwali Serpell, a Zambian-born novelist whose debut, “The Old Drift,” drew acclaim last year. A more apt term for the in-their-shoes approach than empathy, she said, was pornography.

“It’s about the pleasure of the writer and reader, not the larger-scale issues people say they are being political about,” she said.

Ms. Cummins says she understands where the criticism comes from, but still hopes people will read the book for themselves.

“I feel like the book needs to stand on its own merits,” she said at an event in Baltimore, according to the industry publication Publishers Lunch. “If people read it on its own merits and then decide that they hate it based on what is in the pages, that’s O.K. Not everyone needs to love my book.”

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (9 February 202019)

1. **NEW THIS WEEK** AMERICAN DIRT BY JEANINE CUMMINS

A bookseller flees Mexico for the United States with her son while pursued by the head of a drug cartel.

2. **72 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 1 last week

3. **2 WEEKS ON THE LIST** LOST BY JAMES PATTERSON AND JAMES O. BORN

The new head of an F.B.I. task force takes on a crime syndicate run by a pair of Russian nationals. Ranked 2 last week

4. **19 WEEKS ON THE LIST** THE SILENT PATIENT BY ALEX MICHAELIDES

Theo Faber looks into the mystery of a famous painter who stops speaking after shooting her husband. Ranked 5 last week

5. **15 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 4 last week

6. **50 WEEKS ON THE LIST** LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE BY CELESTE NG

An artist upends a quiet town outside Cleveland.

Ranked 12 last week

7. **3 WEEKS ON THE LIST** DEAR EDWARD BY ANN NAPOLITANO

A 12-year-old boy tries to start over after becoming the sole survivor of a plane crash in which he lost his immediate family.

Ranked 7 last week

8. **4 WEEKS ON THE LIST** SUCH A FUN AGE BY KILEY REID

Tumult ensues when Alix Chamberlain’s babysitter is mistakenly accused of kidnapping her charge.

Ranked 8 last week

9. **NEW THIS WEEK** AGENCY BY WILLIAM GIBSON

Ainsley Lowbeer can see alternate outcomes for Verity Jane and her digital assistant, who lived in the previous century.

10. **15 WEEKS ON THE LIST** THE OUTSIDER BY STEPHEN KING

A detective investigates a seemingly wholesome member of the community when an 11-year-old boy’s body is found.

Australian Government
Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE

DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

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

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

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

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

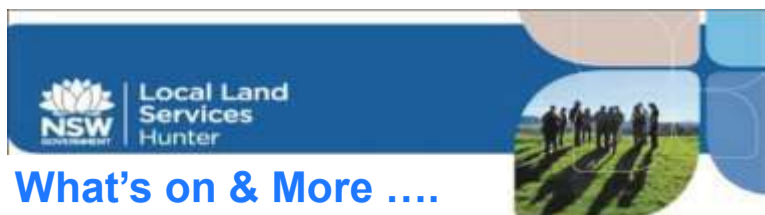
Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

00189



What's on & More

HOLIDAY MAKERS ASKED TO CHECK FOR CANE TOADS AFTER CAPTURE AT PORT STEPHENS

Hunter Local Land Services is asking holiday makers to be vigilant that invasive species are not hitching a ride this summer after a cane toad was captured at Port Stephens. A Salamander Bay resident caught the cane toad in his driveway over the weekend and immediately reported it as a suspected cane toad.



It's the second toad caught in our region this summer, after a toad was detected at Harrington on New Year's Day.

Hunter Local Land Services Regional Weeds Coordinator Matt Kennedy said the toads are not welcome in our region.

"While the Hunter and Mid Coast are popular summer holiday locations, cane toads are certainly not on our favourite visitors list," said Matt.

"With a bit of rain around and humid conditions, it's unfortunately the perfect season for toads but we don't want them to make themselves at home here and we're asking holiday makers to please ensure they are not bringing toads unwittingly into our area, stowed away in their cars or caravans."

"We've been working closely with local councils, community groups and amphibian experts to undertake strategic mapping of potential cane toad hotspots in our region.

Late last year Hunter Local Land Services working with local councils ran a series of workshops showing community members how to identify potential cane toads from native frogs, and what to do if they find a suspected toad.

"The most important message is if you spot a suspected toad, please don't kill it - we have a number of native species that look very similar to cane toads, and we don't want them to be killed unintentionally," said Matt.

"We are grateful to the community for their high level of interest in keeping our area free of breeding populations of cane toads.

"We held a spotlight night in three locations across the Lower Hunter in late December which was really engaging and intend to host more spotlight evenings in potential cane toad habitats like local swamps and wetlands in coming weeks.

Here are some tips on what to do if you find a toad:

* Always wear protective gloves and eyewear when handling potential cane toads. They extrude (and sometimes squirt) poison from glands positioned behind the head.

* The animal should be collected and held in a closed, well-ventilated, non-toxic container, with some water.

* DON'T HARM THE ANIMAL until we confirm what it is.

* Photograph the animal and report it to NSW DPI using this online reporting form www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/sighting

* or email invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au

If you notice anything unusual or are aware of a plant or animal disease threat, please contact Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

Australian Thoroughbred News

The Gold Coast Million Dollar Yearlings

\$1,900,000, LOT 385 B/br C August 28 got in Japa4n foaled in Aust. DEEP IMPACT (JPN) (Sunday Silence (USA) - Honesty Prevails, Redoute's Choice winner ATC Widden S, related to A P Indy. Like dam and grandam bred by vendor ARROWFIELD STUD. Purchaser GALLETTA CONSTRUCTION CO, NSW, **\$1,800,000**, LOT 640 B C August 23 got at Darley, Aberdeen HV EXCEED AND EXCEL (Danehill) - Platelet, dual G1 winner by Strategic, inbred Danehill 2x4. Bred and sold by CRESSFIELD, Scone HV, buyer HAWKES RACING, Sydney. **\$1,500,000**, LOT 434 Ch F October 16 WRITTEN

TYCOON (Iglesia), Woodside Park, Tylden Vic - Karuta Queen, brilliant daughter of Not a Single Doubt. Bred and sold by John Singleton's STRAWBERRY HILL STUD, Mt White, NSW, buyer SHEAMUS MILLS BLOODSTOCK (FBAA), Melbourne Vic. **\$1,150,000**, LOT 364 B C Sept 19, HINCHIN-BROOK (dec; Fastnet Rock) stood Yarraman Park, Scone HV) from handy Xaar Sydney winner bred by GJ Cobcroft, related to Yes Yes Yes. Bred and sold by YARRAMAN PARK STUD. Buyer JAMES BESTER BLOODSTOCK/TOM MAGNIER (Coolmore) NSW. **\$1,100,000**, LOT 255 B C Sept 7 EXCEED AND EXCEL (Darley Aberdeen HV) from Dream In Colour (GB), unraced daughter of

Frankel (Galileo), related to Snippets, Not a Single Doubt. Inbred 2x4 Danehill. Bred by Hilldene Farm, Vic, sold by MILBURN CREEK, Wildes Meadow NSW. Buyer TOM MAGNIER (Coolmore) NSW. **\$1,100,000**, LOT 354 B C Aug 27 REDOUTE'S CHOICE (dec, stood Arrowfield Scone HV) from Arrowfield bred Hussonet (USA) mare Gresset, non earner in three starts. Bred by G S A Bloodstock Vic, sold by BHIMA THOROUGHBREDS Scone HV, buyer ZHANG ZHIQIANG, China **\$1,050,000**, LOT 69 B/br C Nov 2 I AM INVINCIBLE (Invincible Spirit), Yarraman Park, Scone from Adrift, Zabeel Sydney G2 winning 3/4 sister to Cox



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 28th January 2020

Patchy rain across the district saw numbers remain steady. There was a large supply of cows with finished heavy weights well represented. Young cattle were also well supplied with limited numbers of heavy grown steers and heifers. Overall the quality and condition was fair to very good. The full field of usual processors were operating, while there was increased restocker and feedlot demand. Competition was strong from all sectors. Restockers were active through the young cattle. Light weight steers experienced significant price improvement. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to feed saw a dearer trend of 13c to 15c/kg. There were strong gains for yearling heifers in all weight ranges, those suitable to feed showing similar improvement to the steers. The light weights to restockers also showing increases at the rate of their male counterparts. Heavy grown steers to feed and to process saw a dearer trend of as much as 19c/kg. An improved quality penning of heavy heifers were as much as 26c/kg dearer in places. Strong demand for light and medium weight cows resulted in a much dearer market trend with all sectors competing. Processor demand for well finished heavy weights increased with the market trend up to 7c/kg dearer.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 29th January 2020

Although the supply area received good rainfall during the weekend, numbers lifted and on average the quality was fair to good. There were also pens of very plain cattle spread throughout the market. The majority were younger cattle, with the bulk suitable for the restocker and feeder orders, with good percentages of the high yielding and prime conditioned pens suitable for the local butchers also in the competition. There were approximately 100 cows in the penning and again the market trend throughout all categories was dearer. The heavier calves improved 30c making from 294c to 380c/kg. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers improved 15c and received from 264c to 358c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers and processors improved 30c and sold from 262c to 306c/kg. The yearling steers to the restocker and lot feeders gained 8c, as the plainer drafts showed greater improvements, with prices making from 286c to 318c/kg. The heifer portion lifted 18c, with the lot feeders and restockers paying from 280c to 302c/kg. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle purchased by the butchers sold at a premium and topped at 362c/kg. The cows continued their dearer trends, week-on-week, with prices dearer by 10c to 20c/kg. The plainer drafts made from 190c to 258c, depending on weight and cover, as the better covered heavy weights ranged from 245c to 289c/kg. Heavy weight bulls improved 20c, with the best reaching 274c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 28th January 2020

Storms throughout the region reduced numbers, as the quality remained mixed. The younger cattle suitable for the restockers and lot feeders in places were of a lower muscle score, however there were well bred pens presented for sale. Prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle were also penned and these sold to strong competition. There were approximately 230 cows in the penning, with most weights and grades represented. The market trend was dearer. The heavier calves improved 11c, making from 224c to 338c/kg. The vealer steers were too scarce to quote, however the best weighing over 200kg sold at 318c/kg. The vealer heifers were also limited in number and these lifted 7c, with restockers paying from 296c to 302c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeder orders gained from 5c to 8c and made from 270c to 330c/kg. The yearling heifers also to the restockers and feeder orders lifted 12c, selling from 258c to 306c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers again sold to strong competition, with the best topping at 332c/kg. Cows lifted from 5c to 15c, with the plainer drafts receiving from 192c to 242c, as the better finished heavy weights made from 251c to 290c/kg. The best well muscled heavy weight bull reached 303c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 20th January 2020

A rain reduced penning with excellent rainfall recorded across the Tablelands, not so much down on the Plains. Young cattle well supplied along with a fair supply of cows. The other categories had small representation. The quality and condition of the offering was fair to good, some well finished yearlings and older cattle along with plain cattle in all categories. There was increased processor competition, while restocker activity was boosted by the rain fall. Market trends through the young cattle were generally dearer. Vealer steers and heifers attracted strong restocker demand with the steers 16c to 18c/kg dearer and more in places. The heifer portion improved by 8c to 15c/kg. Light weight yearling steers experienced strong gains, particularly the plainer quality steers. Medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed saw a dearer trend, up to 19c with those to restockers showing the best gains. Heavy feeder steers were slightly dearer. There were strong gains also for light weight yearling heifers, again the plainer and lighter weights experiencing the greatest improvement. Medium weight feeder heifers sold to a slightly dearer trend, up 7c to 8c/kg. Demand for well finished trade heifers was very high, resulting in a significantly dearer market trend. The limited supply of well finished heavy grown steers was much dearer. Plain condition cows followed a similar trend. The best of the market was reserved for the well finished cows. The extra competition and high demand pushed the market 40c to 60c/kg dearer.

Plate winner Maldivian. Inbred 4x4 Danzig. Bred by Fairway Thoroughbreds HV, vendor SEGENHOE STUD, Scone HV. Buyer WALLER RACING/MULCASTER BLOODSTOCK, Sydney. **\$1,000,000**, LOT 80 B C Sept 23 I AM INVINCIBLE from G1 ATC Queen of the Turf winner Amanpour, one of 3 SWs from Newscaster, non winner by Marscaj. Bred and sold by ROSEMONT STUD, Gnarwarre Vic, Buyer GAI WATERHOUSE/ADRIAN BOTT, Sydney. **\$1,000,000**, LOT 749 B F Sept 9, sister to good sprinter Houtzen, by I AM INVINCIBLE from Set To Unleash, winner 1600m by Zabeel sire Reset. Bred by Noel Leckie (dec) and Charter Securities, Scone, sold by YARRAMAN PARK, Scone. Buyer MARK NEWNHAM RACING, Sydney. **\$1,000,000**, LOT 784 Gr C Sept 5, EXCEED AND EXCEL from Smokin' Alice (USA) (Smoke Glacken),

related Aust G1 winners Criterion, Comin' Through. Inbred Northern Dancer 4x4x4. Bred and sold by EDINBURG PARK, Wingham NSW. Buyer GERALD RYAN, DAVID RAPHAEL, Sydney. **Cox Plate winner named Japan Horse of the Year** Lys Gracieux, the 5yo mare who demolished the Cox Plate field in her only appearance in Australia last October 26 has been overwhelmingly voted by journalists Japan's Horse of the Year for 2019. She had easily won her last three starts, appearances in Group 1 events in order Japan, Australia and on December 22 back in Japan. Now retired to stud, she contested 22 races for seven wins, four Group 1s, and about \$17million Aust, Lys Gracieux is one - of ten Group 1 winners by Heart's Cry (Jpn) (Sunday Silence - Irish Dance (Tony Bin),



another being Admire Rakti, the Japan visitor who, after winning the 2014 Caulfield Cup had to be put down after suffering heart problems in the Melbourne Cup. Lys Gracieux is the only stakes winner among the five winners produced in Japan by Liliside, a French Listed winner by American Post, a prominent juvenile and French Guineas winner at three. Inbred 4x4 to Northern Dancer's influential son Lyphard, Lys Gracieux also has Hail to Reason, Sadler's Wells, Northern Dancer, Sea Bird and Mill Reef in her five generation pedigree.

Photo above: Lys Gracieux winning last years Cox Plate



Simple Ways to Maintain Your Computer

The 3 most important maintenance tasks for your PC

by **Tim Fisher**
If you've ever fried a CPU because you didn't clean your fan, lost a decade of your digital life to a hard drive crash, or spent four hours *trying* to remove a nasty virus, you've probably already learned a valuable lesson about the need to maintain your computer.

Medical experts remind us that "prevention is the best medicine" so as your personal computer support experts, we're going to strongly advise that you apply the same logic to your computer!

While the three areas we talk about below are anything but exhaustive, they're the most important things to consider and, if you act on them, should keep you from suffering from some of the more serious, and expensive, issues you might otherwise run in to

Keep Important Files Backed Up

The most important thing you can do as a computer owner is to consistently and reliably back up the data stored on your hard drive. Hardware used to be the most valuable part of a computer, but those bits and bytes are now the real investment.

You've spent huge amounts of money on software and digital music and video, and countless hours authoring documents and organizing your digital files. If you don't regularly back up this information, a serious computer problem could leave you with nothing but a huge feeling of regret. The best solution is a cloud-based backup service. Yes, if you don't use a free backup service, it'll cost you several dollars a month, but considering what you get, it's the cheapest insurance policy on your important stuff that you'll find.

Traditional backup software is an option as well, but all in all, it's less safe than backing up to the internet since local backups are stored *locally*, right there in your house. This makes them much more susceptible to things like disastrous weather, fire, theft, etc.

Regularly Update Your Critical Software

Keeping the software on your computer updated is no longer an optional part of computer ownership.

Viruses, worms, and other malware, in addition to junk mail, security breaches, hardware incompatibilities, and software conflicts are all now part of your daily digital life.

Updating your computer with the latest patches, fixes, and device drivers really can keep these annoyances at bay. Updates are freely available on the internet for just about every antivirus program, email client, operating system, and piece of hardware you could possibly own.

So, don't skip those Patch Tuesday releases, don't be scared to update your hardware's drivers, and please make sure that you regularly scan for viruses or make sure the "always on" protection is enabled in your antivirus program so that threats can be caught before they do any damage.

Updating is so vital that there are even entire companies and programs built around providing an easy way to update your computer software, so don't miss out on getting one of those software updater programs that can do just that. Some of those free updaters are even completely hands-off and will do all the updating for you, automatically, so that you don't have to worry much about it at all once you get it installed.

Make Sure Things Are Clean (So They Stay Cool)

We all know that most things run a little better when they're clean. Water flows easier when your plumbing is clean, your car's engine runs better if you've been taking care of it, and your dryer does more in less time when you clean out the lint.

The fans in your computer, assuming yours has any, need similar care so they can continue to keep the important components that are part of your computer nice and cool. If things get too hot, they stop working. See Ways to Keep Your Computer Cool for lots of advice, from *how* to clean your fans, to other tips that can help keep the heat at bay.

Your computer is no different. Keeping your files and folders tidy in your virtual world and clearing the dust and grime that builds up inside and outside your computer, all play a part in keeping it running

smooth day in and day out.

How to Remove a Virus When Your Computer Won't Work

Help! I can't access my system!

by **Mary Landesman**

Trying to remove a computer virus or other malware infection can become a battle of wills between you and the attacker. Antivirus software can be a powerful ally, removing most of today's malware with ease.

Occasionally, a really stubborn infector may put you at the forefront of the battle. Here's how to help you win

Get Safe Access to the Drive

The best time to remove malware is when it's in a dormant state. Booting into "safe mode" can work but isn't always the best option. Some malware hooks into something called "winlogon," which means that if you can access Windows, the malware is already loaded. Other malware will register as the file handler for a particular file type, so any time that file type is loaded, the malware is launched first. Your best bet for thwarting these type of infectors is to create a Recovery CD and use it to access the infected system.

If you plan to run antivirus or other utilities from a USB drive, you'll need to have that drive plugged in before you boot to the Recovery CD. You will first want to disable auto-run in case the USB drive is infected with an autorun worm. Then shut down the computer, insert the USB drive, and boot the computer to the Recovery CD. The Recovery CD will not recognize the USB drive if it wasn't plugged in when the computer was booted up.

Determine the Malware Load Points

Malware, like any other active program, needs to load in order to do damage. Once you have safe access to the infected drive, begin by checking the common startup points for signs of the infection. A list of common startup points can be found in the AutoStart Entry Points guide and the list of ShellOpen command keys. This task is best performed by experienced users. Back up the registry before beginning in case you inadvertently delete or change a legitimate setting.

Retake Your Controls

Much of today's malware

typically block access to the Task Manager or the Folder Options menu in Windows, or it makes other system changes that hamper discovery and removal efforts. After removing the malware (either manually or through the use of antivirus software), you'll need to reset these settings to regain normal access.

- Regain Access to the Registry
- Re-Enable Task Manager
- View Folder Options Menu

Other How-To Guides Prevent Reinfection

The best defense is a good offense. Secure your browser, patch your system, and follow these computer safety tips to avoid future infections.

Why Does Restarting Seem to Fix Most Computer Problems?

Why powering something off and then on again tends to fix most problems

by **Tim Fisher**
Few things cause more eye rolls than being told to restart something, be it your computer, smartphone, television, or whatever other technology we're talking about.

Most of us are used to hearing it by now. The majority of people who we help out have already restarted their computer (or whatnot) before they ask for help.

Other people almost seem to take offense when they hear it like they've been somehow insulted with this too-simple-to-be-helpful advice.

But guess what? It actually works! We estimate that *more than half* of the technical problems are fixable with a simple reboot.

Frequent Restarting Is Probably a Sign of a Bigger Problem

Needing to restart your computer, on occasion, is perfectly normal, especially if you're doing the kind of work that requires a lot of interaction with the operating system, like updating drivers, installing updates, reinstalling software, etc.

Beyond that, however, you might be experiencing issues that a restart is only temporarily fixing for you. A piece of hardware may be failing, important Windows files may be corrupt, or you may have a malware infection.

In those cases, follow any troubleshooting that makes sense for the exact problem.

MOVIE REVIEW

...and the Oscars go to...



Some of the Oscar Nominations 2020

by *Steve Dove*

The Oscar nominations 2020 are in.

Among the **Oscar nominees 2020**, **JOKER** received the most nominations with 11, including nominations in the categories of Best Picture, Actor in a Leading Role, and Directing. Other **Oscars 2020** nominees with multiple nominations include **THE IRISHMAN**, **1917** and **ONCE UPON A TIME...IN HOLLYWOOD** with 10 nominations and **JOJO RABBIT**, **LITTLE WOMEN**, **MARRIAGE STORY** and **PARASITE** with six.

The Oscars will air **LIVE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9** and will be televised live in more than 225 countries and territories worldwide. Some of the nominations are:-

Performance by an actor in a leading role nominees:

Antonio Banderas in **PAIN AND GLORY**
Leonardo DiCaprio in **ONCE UPON A TIME...IN HOLLYWOOD**
Adam Driver in **MARRIAGE STORY**
Joaquin Phoenix in **JOKER**
Jonathan Pryce in **THE TWO POPES**

Performance by an actor in a supporting role nominees:

Tom Hanks in **A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**
Anthony Hopkins in **THE TWO POPES**
Al Pacino in **THE IRISHMAN**
Joe Pesci in **THE IRISHMAN**
Brad Pitt in **ONCE UPON A TIME ... IN**

HOLLYWOOD

Performance by an actress in a leading role nominees:

Cynthia Erivo in **HARRIET**
Scarlett Johansson in **MARRIAGE STORY**
Saoirse Ronan in **LITTLE WOMEN**
Charlize Theron in **BOMBSHELL**
Renée Zellweger in **JUDY**

Performance by an actress in a supporting role nominees:

Kathy Bates in **RICHARD JEWELL**
Laura Dern in **MARRIAGE STORY**
Scarlett Johansson in **JOJO RABBIT**
Florence Pugh in **LITTLE WOMEN**
Margot Robbie in **BOMBSHELL**

Achievement in directing nominees:

THE IRISHMAN Martin Scorsese
JOKER Todd Phillips
1917 Sam Mendes
ONCE UPON A TIME...IN HOLLYWOOD Quentin Tarantino
PARASITE Bong Joon Ho

Best motion picture of the year nominees:

FORD V FERRARI Peter Chernin, Jenno Topping and James Mangold, Producers
THE IRISHMAN Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal and Emma Tillinger Koskoff, Producers
JOJO RABBIT Carthew Neal, Taika Waititi and Chelsea Winstanley, Producers
JOKER Todd Phillips, Bradley Cooper and Emma Tillinger Koskoff, Producers

LITTLE WOMEN

Amy Pascal, Producer
MARRIAGE STORY Noah Baumbach and David Heyman, Producers
1917 Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris, Jayne-Ann Tenggren and Callum McDougall, Producers

ONCE UPON A TIME...IN HOLLYWOOD David Heyman, Shannon McIntosh and Quentin Tarantino, Producers

PARASITE

Kwak Sin Ae and Bong Joon Ho, Producers

Best animated feature film of the year nominees:

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

Dean DeBlois, Bradford Lewis and Bonnie Arnold
I LOST MY BODY Jérémy Clapin and Marc du Pontavice

KLAUS

Sergio Pablos, Jinko Gotoh and Marisa Román

MISSING LINK

Chris Butler, Arianne Sutner and Travis Knight
TOY STORY 4 Josh Cooley, Mark Nielsen and Jonas Rivera

Best documentary feature nominees:

AMERICAN FACTORY Steven Bognar, Julia Reichert and Jeff Reichert

THE CAVE

Feras Fayyad, Kirstine Barfod and Sigrid Dyekjær

THE EDGE OF DEMOCRACY

Petra Costa, Joanna Natasegara, Shane Boris and Tiago Pavan

FOR SAMA

Waad al-Kateab and Edward Watts

HONEYLAND

Ljubo Stefanov, Tamara Kotevska and Atanas Georgiev



The horrors of the Holocaust can't become just another chapter in a history book

BY LEONARD PITTS JR. THE MIAMI HERALD



In this Jan. 22, 2020, photo, Holocaust survivor Bronia Brandman rolls up her jacket sleeve at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York to reveal the numbers 52643, which were tattooed on her arm at the age of 12 upon her arrival to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Brandman and her eldest brother, Mendek, were the only members of her immediate family to survive. JESSIE WARDARSKI THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This week marks 75 years since Soviet troops stormed the gates of hell. Hell was near a Polish town called Oswiecim. Hell was a place called Auschwitz. Seven-and-a-half decades later, the murder factory has all but passed from living memory, been swallowed by that great maw called history. So perhaps it feels distant to you, far removed in space and time. In 2005, the year of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, I went to Poland with a Holocaust remembrance group led by a man named Joe Engel. We toured Majdanek, Belzec, Treblinka and the two main camps of the Auschwitz complex, from which Engel escaped in January 1945. With the Soviets closing in, the Nazis tried to run, sweeping nearly 60,000 prisoners before them. Engel, then 17, said he jumped from a train and hid beneath eight feet of snow until the Nazis gave up looking for him and the train moved on. Standing outside an Auschwitz barracks six decades later, we talked about that sense of distance and how, for those who were not there, those for whom these events are history, not memory, the Holocaust can seem not quite real. His English still imperfect even after 50 years in the United States, Engel recalled once being challenged by a girl when he spoke at her school. "She rised up and she said, 'I don't believe you, what you said. How could one human do it to another one like this?' I said, 'You don't believe me? I take you to the place, so you can find out, you can see for your own eyes.' You couldn't convince her.

You got people now said the Jews made it up." And even among those of us who don't deny the Holocaust, there is, isn't there, a sense that here is something aberrant, that what happened in places like Auschwitz bespeaks some deviance unique to the Germans and to that era. We are not Germans, we reason. And anyway, we are much more enlightened now. In its own way, this conceit of distance is just as dangerous as the conceit of denial. At a restaurant in Warsaw, a few days after the trip to Auschwitz, Engel raised a toast and admonished us in the name of the dead. "Don't you ever forget me, so long you gon' live. You tell this story for me, because we not here to tell this story." The truth no one ever speaks about the Holocaust is that it was imminently logical. If you accept a premise that some human beings are vermin and trash, viruses and animals, that they are at home in broken, rat-infested places, that they are invaders from "shithole countries," then it is a short leap to the imperative to rid yourself of them as quickly and efficiently as possible. You don't negotiate with roaches. You don't waste compassion on bacteria. The only thing that made the Germans different — the only thing — was their decision to follow the premise to that logical end: murder on an industrial scale. It's a decision that echoes like the footfall of soldiers and the tread of tanks, that moans like a wind foreshadowing storm, in synagogues and church murders, in broken tombstones and desecrated mosques, in prayers that rise in whispered Spanish from chain-link cages. And in the disinterest of those who stand witness. Engel told me that when the war ended, survivors like him thought, "That's the end of everything. But you can see now what's going on. People still killing people and everything. Things didn't change." Maybe they won't until we rid ourselves of this conceit of distance. So, for the record, please note: It's now 75 years since Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz. That's not as long ago as you might think. And not nearly so far away.



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

- To the household in Greta that seems hell bent on entertaining the whole street with their music most evenings. While your taste in music isn't bad, have you ever stopped to think that other people might not want to listen to your music. Some people like to sleep or watch TV or sit outside in the peace & quiet.
- To the people who walk their dogs at Miller Park (and elsewhere) and don't pick up after them; not only is it against the law you give other more responsible 'dog walkers' a bad name.
- To the quite achievers in our community; the St Vincent De Paul Society. They are very active, put in a enormous amount of time & effort for the not so fortunate in our community & do a great job. .. Thank you.
- To Branxton Lions Club who, again, hosted a wonderful seniors Christmas dinner at Branxton Community Hall. Thank you so much as we ALL thoroughly enjoyed the evening, the company & the wonderful spread provided.
- To Cessnock City Council for their great Australia Day ceremonies at the Performing Arts Centre. Loved your special guest and his performance (cannot think of his name). Also, the 30 odd new Australians investees. It was the first time I had been in the Arts Centre & what a great venue.

FREE Classifieds Classified's Classified's

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

- Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
- Drum lessons:** Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362
- For Rent:** Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
- For Sale:** 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 slasher/ mower, unused for a long time but was working. Free. 4 x Roll down security shutters, white, 1800,1860,1760 and 1650 wide with most fittings, Free. Painted block board solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, good workshop bench top, \$20. New Humes Prime coat, SCX1, solid core door, 2040 x 820 x 35, \$60, Chain wire, as new 1.2m x 6m, \$15. Edmonds whirlybird roof ventilator, woodland Grey.

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

Dates for your diary

- FRI 7 FEB** — Branxton Public School Swimming Carnival
- MON 10 FEB** - Branxton Public School P&C Meeting 6pm in the Library
- TUES 11 FEB** — Branxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg — Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am. Morning Tea following. Visitors and New members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
- WED 12 FEB** — Branxton Public School The Human Race performance
- FRI 14 FEB** — Branxton Public School Whole School Assembly 9:20am
- FRI 28 FEB** — Branxton Public School Whole School PBL Assembly
- MON 2 MAR** — Applications close 2020 Cessnock City Council Mayoral Scholarships
- MON 9 MAR** — Branxton Public School School Photos
- TUES 10 MAR** — Branxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg — Old St.

ROY ORBISON Reborn

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.

- new in box, \$60 P: 0437312905.
- For Sale:** 2000 Holden Rodeo LXTR9 Dual Cab lpg/petrol (WSE547) rego 27/6/20. 156,239 bull bar ute liner canopy silvergrey \$2950 neg. olwyncat@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 Ph 0400697148
- For Sale:** Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
- Riding Lessons:** agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494
- Seamstress:** Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057
- Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
- Wanted:** Clean Fill Required North Branxton 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

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

Woodland Warblers and Plant Pollinators Workshop

Elderslie Hall,
758 Elderslie Rd, Elderslie (via Branxton)
9:30am — 1:00pm
Saturday 7th March 2020

Singleton Shire Landcare Network is pleased to invite Landcarers and interested residents to a workshop discussing woodland birds and pollinators of native plants, the workshop is to be presented by Mick Roderick of Birdlife Australia and experts from the University of New England

Free admission. RSVP and further information to upperhunterland-care@gmail.com or phone Paul Melehan on 0408 499838

AUSTRALIA DAY 2020

John Flannery PSM (official 2020 Australia Day guest) address at Singleton Australia day ceremonies

(Ed. It was full circle when John Flannery PSM joined Singleton's Australia Day celebrations as the official 2020 Australia Day guest on 26 January last. The former Singleton Council GM led the construction of Council's Administration Building and Civic Centre during his tenure and, although born in Parkes and raised Sydney, has been an integral part of Singleton's most recent milestones including the Shire Clerk of the amalgamated Singleton Municipal and Patrick Plains Shire councils. Now retired, he continues to serve the Singleton community through involvement in a range of organisations and championing the local government area across a range of industries.

I managed to get a copy of his address after many friends who attended said how much they didn't know about their area until they heard John speak - a good history lesson)

I thank the Australia Day Committee for inviting me to be Singleton's Australia Day Guest for 2020.

This is a very significant year in the history of the Singleton and Patrick Plains district. Today we are commencing a year-long celebration of the 200 years since John Howe led an expedition from Windsor, under the authority of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, to search for arable land west of Sydney. The search culminated in the beginnings of European settlement of the Hunter Valley. Australia Day is the official national day of Australia. Celebrated annually on 26 January, it marks the anniversary of the 1788 arrival

of the First Fleet of British ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales, and the raising of the Flag of Great Britain at Sydney Cove by Governor Arthur Phillip.

Not everyone celebrates the Day and this needs to be acknowledged as we become a more understanding and inclusive people, welcoming as we do every year, new settlers and new citizens into the multi-cultural nation that is Australia in 2020. This is especially true for us in Singleton in 2020, living as we do on and near the land grants of Ben Singleton, John Howe and other pioneers from 1820. But also on the land that was the home of our Aboriginal first people.

Only 200 years ago this valley, this site, was a peaceful land untouched by Europeans and occupied by an ancient civilisation. We imposed our values and customs on another nation. We have a shared history with the Wonnaruah people. Australia's story is our story here in the beautiful and rich Patrick Plains. Before 1820 this valley was in the care of the Wonnaruah nation. These fertile soils and the abundant fauna and vegetation sustained Aboriginal communities for thousands of years before European settlement.

The author John Whitehead wrote; "it was a time when landscape was an overriding characteristic in the lives of the Aboriginals and the earliest Europeans. The mountains were the immovable sentinels from which direction and distance to places was measured. The watercourses on the other hand were the life lines to survival".

(Whitehead; Tracking and Mapping the Explorers 2017) Alan Wood in his seminal work "Dawn in the Valley" made these observations about the early penal settlement in Newcastle, established in 1804 and struggling to survive in 1820; "During this time Nelson died at Trafalgar, The Battle of



John Flannery, PSM, special guest at 2020 Australia Day ceremonies

Waterloo ended the Napoleonic wars, and discharged heroes were poorer than convicts at Botany Bay. Steam power moved boats, George Stephenson developed his first railway steam locomotive and gas lit Westminster Bridge. And during all this time the finest of Australian Aboriginals, the native people of the Upper Hunter Valley and their kindred on the great plains over the range, lived in their ancient ways without awe of any other men."

The Wonnaruah man, James Miller, in his 1985 book "Koori - A Will To Win" referred to words the explorer, Captain James Cook wrote about the Aboriginals he saw in 1770; "From what I have seen of the natives of NSW, they may appear to some to be the most wretched people upon the earth, but in reality they are far more happy than we Europeans, being wholly unacquainted not only with the superfluous, but the necessary conveniences so much sought after in Europe; they are happy in not knowing the use of them. The earth and sea of their own accord, furnishes them with all things necessary for life".

Cook's vision did not remain a popular belief, unfortunately, amongst the first settlers of Australia. Miller wrote that "early English policy and practice was that an Englishman could only have property in land if he bestowed his labour upon it. Land that was not improved could be regarded as common land, to be

taken up and owned by the first person to cultivate it. Some land, that was deemed to be common land, could be held by the Crown to be apportioned later. Such land was known as Common Land. Cook noticed that the Aboriginal inhabitants did not cultivate or work the land the way we Europeans do. In his eyes the original inhabitants had no title to the land. And

Cook regarded it as Common Land and, by right of discovery, claimed the land for the British Government as Crown Land. At no time was thought given to the traditional owners, the Kooris".

The first settlers brought with them these European ideals which in turn gave them title to the lands of Australia, with devastating consequences for the original inhabitants. This led to conflicts of values, property rights, disputation and violence at times, which had irreparable long term consequences for both the Aboriginals and Europeans.

Most Aboriginals throughout the Hunter region tried to ignore the white man and hoped to revert to their old ways as much as possible, given the restrictions that were imposed by the invader. Free-range hunting and gathering were no longer possible because they had to contend with the new laws of trespassing and property ownership. Aboriginals were forced to camp on town commons, unalienated Crown lands and the properties of sympathetic settlers. Miller wrote that by 1889 Singleton had become the focal community for the Hunter Valley Kooris and by 1911 the Koori population around Singleton; particularly at St Clair on Glennies Creek and at Rebourneberry, on the flood-free bank of the Hunter River, had increased and the survival of the Wonnarua people to this day was ensured. This is an essential part of the history of our Patrick Plains and our story will never be complete unless the whole story of our nation is acknowledged and celebrated.

In the opinion of most historians, the two most notable people in the early European history of our district were John Howe and Benjamin Singleton.

John Howe should be particularly acknowledged for his leadership and enterprise in opening up the Hunter Valley for European settlement. He made two expeditions from Windsor, in 1819 and 1820 under instructions from Governor Lachlan Macquarie. His success in 1820 was significantly assisted by an earlier survey in 1819 by an Aboriginal named Myles. Myles contacted other Aboriginals and located a better and easier track from Windsor, which Howe used in March 1820. Myles in effect, did the hard work.

John Howe was a successful and well connected free settler. He was a business man, road builder and farmer and had risen to be Chief Constable of Windsor in 1812. Governor Macquarie was extremely keen to open up an overland route from Maitland, or Wallis Plains, to Windsor and it was Howe who he entrusted with the task.

Howe's second expedition, funded by Governor Macquarie, set out from Windsor on 5 March 1820. Howe had some 15 companions with him, including Benjamin Singleton and two Aboriginal trackers, Myles and Mullaboy.

Howe reached the Hunter River near Whittingham on 15 March 1820. He named the district St Patrick's Plains in recognition of the forthcoming St Patrick's Day on 17 March. Howe wrote to the Governor from Wallis Plains on 21 March describing the land down the river "as fine a country as imagination can form on both sides of the river - fine land fit for cultivation and equally so for grazing".

Both Howe and Singleton were rewarded with land grants. Howe left "Redbourneberry" to his son, John Kennedy Howe, and purchased a property at Morpeth on the banks of the Hunter River, where he spent most of his life. Howe Park in Singleton is located on John Howe's land grant. Aged under 40 in 1820, Ben Singleton was an experienced bushman and energetic farmer and was part of the push for free settlement in the Hunter. With his 240 acre land grant on the Hunter River, near where we have gathered today, he established a farm, an inn, a ferry service and a mill at the Crossing and conducted more explorations. He was one of the first to drive cattle over the Liverpool Range to the Liverpool Plains. He was, in today's terms, an entrepreneur and man of vision; ultimately failing in many pursuits but willing to "have a go", for which we can be grateful today.

Singleton resented the new settlers who came to the Colony with capital and received large grants of land. The words of his epitaph are appropriate "I sowed, but others reaped."

He died in Singleton on 3 May 1853 and was buried at Whittingham Cemetery. The Maitland Mercury described him as "a man of frugal and temperate habits whose only fault was that he was a greater friend to everyone than himself".

I see Howe and Singleton as the two key European explorers and settlers who laid the foundations for our town and district as we know it. They deserve recognition for their enterprise and service in this the Bicentennial year of our settlement.

From those beginnings, Hunter Valley exploration and settlement was rapid and at times controversial. There was a stream of land seekers and stock traversing the newly open line of road. Large pastoral estates dominated and had an uneasy relationship with the free settlers and emancipated convicts who received smaller land grants.

The early European settlers had little or no understanding or appreciation of the way of life of the aboriginals or the impact they were having on the First People. During some 40,000 years of occupation, the aboriginals had carefully lived off the land and never felt the impact of man. There must have been incredulous scenes when they observed the felling of trees and erecting of fences on land that had never before been disturbed in this way. Europeans were too preoccupied by their own precarious survival to give much thought to the survival of the aboriginals.

Ben Singleton's small land grant became a settlement township and gateway to the Upper Hunter and its agricultural riches. The town was proclaimed in 1836 and Ben Singleton's land grant became a municipality in 1866. The railway arrived in 1863 and closer settlement farming brought prosperity and growth.

I should mention a couple of other people who were very influential in our early days. One man, not often mentioned in recent times, who contributed immensely to the

welfare and cause of the Aboriginal people of Singleton and the Hunter was the Rev. James S. White, the highly respected and long serving minister of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Singleton. For 54 years, until his death in 1902 he ministered to the people of Singleton and took a keen interest in the Kooris of Singleton. He allowed them to camp on his property at Gowrie and used his first-hand knowledge of conditions to launch some blistering attacks on the autocratic Aborigine's Protection Board. He had a strong sense of guilt and shame over the treatment of Aboriginals in Australia.

Another pivotal figure was Alexander Munro who was an enterprising and influential farmer and businessman and one of the pioneers of the Hunter Valley wine industry. In the mid 1800's, he established the "Beabah" vineyard at Singleton and excelled at winemaking.

Munro was also well known for his philanthropy, donating land for the Masonic Lodge Temple, the first Presbyterian Church in Singleton and the Mechanics Institute. He was the first Mayor of Singleton and helped develop the layout of the town.

These are but two examples of the leadership and enterprise that influenced the Singleton community in its formative days. Wars, floods, droughts and economic cycles have all played their roles in shaping and influencing the history of Singleton and Patrick Plains over the past two centuries. In my time in Singleton, since 1971, we have experienced the full measure of impacts from the discovery and recovery of one of our nation's great coal resources. Our pioneers could not have envisaged how the town and district would grow and diversify to become an economic engine room for our State and Nation and achieve this status so successfully.

This is not to ignore the challenges of change and environmental impacts we have today, but to celebrate our willingness to work together to find solutions in the Australian way, through cooperation, mutual respect and hard work. I have always admired the way Singleton comes together as a community when there is a need or a crisis.

The 1955 Hunter River flood and its aftermath stands out and is still remembered by many;

Rising to the challenge of the bushfires that so regularly and fiercely consume our rural communities;

the volunteer emergency services and firefighting people who always rise to the occasion when needed;

the 1996 hailstorm that struck Singleton without warning; the magnificent response from the Singleton community when we took in the Kosovar refugees fleeing their war-torn nation in 1999;

the way we fought to keep the Army Base in Singleton also in the 1990s;

and the countless hours our dedicated and quiet volunteers give to the host of charities and community organisations that make Singleton the "friendly town" we love.

This spirit of volunteerism defines us as Australians. It is at the heart of our responses to the bushfires and is a core value embedded in all Australians. Long may it prosper and be celebrated every Australia Day.



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Congratulations Daniel. One of our many new Australian citizens



■ Daniel Bernal Rodas showing his new citizenship certificate with Cessnock Mayor Clr Bob Pynsent. Daniel was one of 39 new citizens invested on Australia Day at the Performing Arts Centre Cessnock.

Daniel Rodas of Branxton was one of 39 people who received their Australian Citizenship at the Australia Day ceremonies at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre.

The investiture saw some very emotional & happy people being welcomed by Mayor Clr Bob Pynsent as new citizens with many receiving load ovation from family & friends. Welcome all.



Ed. The media throughout the bushfire emergencies has annoyed me, as a fellow journalist, with their historical reporting of the tragedy continually referring to it as being unprecedented; it is not unprecedented shown by just one example above. Do your research please. It will happen again as it has before; Black Saturday 2009 in Victoria (173 people killed, 2000 homes lost); Ash Wednesday 1983 in Victoria and South Australia (75 dead, nearly 1900 homes); Black Friday 1939 in Victoria (71 dead, 650 houses destroyed), Black Tuesday 1967 in Tasmania (62 people and almost 1300 homes); and the Gippsland fires and Black Sunday of 1926 in Victoria (60 people killed over a two month period). Other major conflagrations include the 1851 Black Thursday bushfires, the 2006 December bushfires, the 1974-75 fires that burned up 15% of Australia, and the ongoing current bushfires.



Branxton Public School

Welcome back to the 2020 school year. We have been busy getting to know one another and our class and school routines. Our Kinder Kookaburras, Kinder Magpies and Kinder Emus begin in Week 2 and will quickly learn our school routines and expectations. We hope that our new families will get involved in the school and contribute to all the great things we do.

Joining the P&C is a great way to get to know the school and make new friends. The next P&C meeting will take place on Monday 10th February at 6pm. Come share your ideas and support your children! The P&C are looking forward to holding a Trivia Night at the Branxton Golf Club on Saturday 21st March. Should be a fun night for all. We welcomed many new faces in 2020, including a number of new staff. Mrs Leanne Martin and Miss Jordan Hill join us as permanent teachers while Mrs Elyse Perry and Mrs Aaren Cox join us as temporary staff. Mrs Louise Blakemore is relieving as Principal for the beginning of the year. They are all busy learning about our wonderful school and students. The Primary Swimming Carnival is on Friday Week 2 and hopefully we'll have perfect weather for it. Parents are welcome to cheer on the kids or can help out with jobs on the day. In Week 3 we have Brainstorm Production's performance 'The Human Race'. This entertaining show is designed to help children understand that all human beings have feelings, hopes and dreams, and need to be accepted and respected for who we are. It celebrates our differences and encourages resilience.

Dates for the Calendar

Monday 10th February - P&C Meeting 6pm in the Library
 Wednesday 12th February - The Human Race performance



* Carols by Torchlight 2019

- Friday 7th February – Swimming Carnival
- Friday 14th February – Whole School Assembly 9:20am
- Friday 28th February – Whole School PBL Assembly
- Monday 9th March – School Photos

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



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Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 2-1-20 Stableford
 Div 1 Winner M Ford 30 pts (c/b) R/u S Ross 30 pts 3rd E Barrett 29 pts
 Div 2 Winner J Atton 31 pts (SOD) R/u S Dunker 30 pts (c/b) 3rd P Lancaste 30 pts
 Ladies Winner J Scobie 29 pts R/u J Harris 28 pts 3rd M Hunt 25 pts
 NTP Ladies R McCarthy Gents D Sheppard
 Members draw - Not won
 The great golfing weather conditions, that we experienced during 2019, has remained with our cheerful players through to this year, the last year of the 2nd decade of the 21st century.
 Congratulations to John Atton on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day'. A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

Results 9-1-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner R Yandle 34 pts R/u M Ford 30 pts (c/b) 3rd T Seamer 30 pts
 Div 2 Winner J Atton 34 pts (SOD)(c/b) R/u P Hocking 27 pts (c/b) 3rd S Condran 27 pts
 Ladies Winner N Busch 34 pts R/u J Scobie 28 pts (c/b) 3rd J Harris 28 pts
 NTP Ladies J Scobie Gents K Anderson
 Members draw - Not won
 Another great day for golf at the "Ultimate 9" Golf Course at Branxton, making playing conditions very pleasant for our members. Congratulations to J Atton on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day' and a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

Results 16-1-20 2BBB

1st L & M Hunt 39 pts
 2nd G Sheldon & J Atton 38 pts
 3rd G Anderson & P Anderson 37 pts
 4th M Ford & E Barrett 36 pts
 5th G Gazzard & M Lipscombe 35 pts

NTP Ladies M Hunt Gents A Seamer
 Members draw - Not won
 To-day's closely contested round was played under an overcast sky, dusty & dry conditions, with a gentle breeze blowing. Many of our players are wondering if it will ever rain again??. I guess we could blame it all on 'global warming', which seems to be the common cry in response to out of 'sync' weather patterns.
 Congratulations to Lee and Margaret Hunt on winning to-day's event and a well done to all other place getters.

Results 23-1-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner R Brooks 29 pts (c/b) R/u G Sheldon 29 pts 3rd P Anderson 28 pts
 Div 2 Winner L Bootes 34 pts (SOD) R/u I Harris 31 pts 3rd S Condran 27 pts
 Ladies Winner J Harris 26 pts (c/b) R/u C Caldwell 26 pts 3rd M Hunt 24 pts
 NTP Ladies J Harris Gents P Lancaster
 Members draw - Not won
 Well! Today we were truly reminded that it is still Summer, with the weather forecasters predicting a 41C temperature for today's round. Fortunately the morning provided reasonably comfortable conditions, with fresh to gusting winds assisting. It was a day for the few octogenarians within our group when, congratulations go to Lester Bootes on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all other winners and place getters.

Results 30-1-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Jones 29 pts (c/b) R/u M Ryan 29 pts 3rd K Anderson 28 pts
 Div 2 Winner B Ward 30 pts (c/b) (SOD) R/u P Tracey 30 pts (c/b) 3rd P Anderson 30 pts
 Ladies Winner M Hunt 22 pts (c/b) R/u J Harris 22 pts 3rd R Friis 18 pts
 NTP Ladies J Harris Gents R McMillan
 Members draw - Not won
 Well! Another great day for a round of golf, balmy sunshine, light cloud cover and a gentle breeze to keep the conditions comfortable for play, at the 'Ultimate 9' Golf Course at Branxton. Congratulations to Barney Ward on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". And, A

well done to all other winners and place getters.
A Reminder - Members please note that there has been a change of date, for our 'Away day' visit to **Hawks Nest. It is now, Fri 28 Feb 20 and the booking has been confirmed.**

L N Bootes, Hon Sec Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 12th January

Cameron Johanson of the Branxton GC has won the Weekly Challenge with an excellent 43 point round from Dale Johnston 41 on countback to Bohdi King. Ball winners were: Adrian Chomiszak 40, Jon Lawler 39, Mathew McKendry 39, Daniel Turner 38, Tony Krishna 38, Jai Kumar 38, Andrew Brownlow 37, Jason Cowburn 37, Steve Piggot 37 and Matt Edwards 37 c/b

Tuesday 14th January

Ian Newell has returned after the smoke haze cleared to record a 45 point round and clearly win the Tuesday Stableford from Ken Scott-MacKenzie 41 and James Hogg 3rd with 40.

Ball winners were: Dan Olsen 39, Steve Piggot 39, Col Bradley 39, Matt Lorenz 38, Mark Makin 38, Heinz Kestermann 38, Jason Cowburn 37, Ian Smith 37, Wade Frith 36, Julie Van Den Berg 36, Mick Barrett 36, David Peel 36, Rex Talbot 36, Richard Craft 35, Dean Battle v35, Tim Caban 35, Phil Small 34, Andrew Grant 34, Joe Olsen 34, Darrell Porter 34, Matt Delforce 34, Paul Smith 34, James Adamson 33, Andrew Causey v33, Gary Arnold 32, Rick Turnchini 32, Nick Evans v32 and Graeme Flynn 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to James Hogg (3rd) Rick Turnchini (4th) Matt Lorenz (8th) Phil Small (10th) and Mark Makin (17th)

Wednesday 15th January

Tony Fisher has shot an even Par round of 36 points to win the Ladies Stableford from Lorraine Clack with 33 points.

Thursday 16th January

Plenty of great scores were returned in the Vets Stroke event with Graeme Flynn leading the way in Division 1 with 66 net from Tim Caban 67, Ray Boyd received the judges nod in Division 2 from Jock Kendall after both had 68 net returns and likewise Rex Talbot edged Geoff Sweetman in Division 3 after both returned 66 net. Ball

winners were: Graeme Smith 68, Kerry Bartlett 68, David Peel 68, Dave Gellwiler 69, Greg Amloh 69, Wayne Drayton 69, Ruff 69, Ray Newton 70, Danny Schofield 70, Graham Donaldson 70, Steve Jurd 71, Wayne Berry 71, Grub 71, Peter Threadgold 71, Tony Neale 71, Paul Ireland 71, Gary Arnold 71, James Schofield 72, Dave Fury 72, Wayne Burgess 72, Col Bradley 72, Phil Small 72 and John McLoughney 72 c/b. Nearest -the-Pins went to Bill Freeman (3rd) Mark Green (4th) Bruce chambers (8th) Mark Barrow (10th) and Geoff Geason (17th).

Saturday 18th January

Much needed rain curtailed many of the starters round with mostly the early and late starters finishing. A Grade has been won by Peter Huckfelt with 38 points from Maitland visitor Max Wallington 36, B Grade to Stephen Zok with a solid 40 point return from Anthony Bower 37 on countback and C Grade to Robert King with 38 points from Ron Higginbottom 36. Ball winners were: Colin Somerville 37, Troy Wallis 36, Ian Taylor 36, Jason Powell v35, Richard craft 35, Shannon Attewell 35, Robert Dalby 34, Russell Calderwood 34, Bruce chambers 34, Luke Johnston 32 and Angello Wood 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Andrew Zok (3rd) Peter Huckfelt (4th & 8th) Jason Powell (10th) and Russell Calderwood (17th).

Sunday 19th January

Nick Howells has won the Weekly Challenge with 42 points from Bathurst visitor David Clements 39 and Jodie Dunn 3rd with 38 on countback. Ball winners were: Mark Taylor v38, Steve Piggot 38, Brad Pringle 36, David Hitchick v36 and John Knuth v35 c/b

Tuesday 21st January

Ken Scott-MacKenzie has produced an outstanding 44 point round to claim the Tuesday Stableford from Matt Delforce 43 with Wayne Burgess 3rd with 42. Ball winners were: Matt Merlo 40, Garry Marsden 39, Luke McArthur 39, Jeremy Smillie v39, Lincon Churcher v36, Gary Arnold 36, Geoff Sweetman 35, Tim Caban 35, Wayne Barber 35, Peter Wilson 35, Heinz Kestermann 35, David Peel 35, Chris Taggart 35, Stev Piggot 35 and Scott Doyle 35

c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber (3rd) Wayne Burgess (10th) and Graeme Flynn (17th)

Wednesday 22nd January

Thursday 23rd January

Many of the field bettered or bet Par in the Vets Stableford event with David Peel getting the judges nod over John Grayson in Division 1 after both had 38 point returns, Division 2 to Wazza Fairlie with 42 points from Paul Ireland 39 and Division 3 to David Archibald with the 'round of the day' 44 points from Greg Harder 41. Ball winners were: Peter Threadgold 39, Tom Bell 38, Graham Morris 38, Norm Barry 37, Doug Wand 36, Dave Fury 36, Greg Burke 36, Kerry Bartlett 36, Chris Norman 36, Robert Logue 36, Rob Hannah 36, Alan McKenzie 35, Wayne Cowan 35, John Stewart 35, John Carmody 35, Garry Marsden 35, Dennis Donn 35, Bindii 35 and Graeme Flynn 35 c/b. Neraest-the-Pins went to Rob Hannah (3rd & 10th) Steve Rawlings (4th) Wayne Drayton (8th) and Jeff Taylor (17th).

Saturday 25th January

The Medley Par event attracted a large field with great scores returned by all grades. A Grade went to Stephen Applebee with +5 from Matt Killick +4, B Grade to Jeremie Morton with 'round of the day' +9 from David MacGregor +6 and C Grade to Dale Johnston +6 from Glenn Williams +3. Ball winners were: Mike Carter +5, Jeff Taylor +5, Dean Morison +4, Mitch Attewell +4, David Agnew +3, Richard Craft +3, Jeff Morton +2, Adrian Kent +2, David Matt +2, Don Bradley +2, Anthony Bower +1, Gary Arnold +1, Bruce Chambers +1, Ben Sweetman +1, Terry Roughan +1, Ryan Connor +1, Peter Milas +1, Catherine Ditchfield v+1, Andrew Zok +1, Peter McLennan +1, John Parisn +1 and Shawn Parish sq on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Anthony Bower (3rd) Wade Attewell (4th) Don Bradley (8th) David Matt (10th) and David Agnew (17th).

*The Excellent scoring across all fields is a result of solid input from our greens staff during these very trying

conditions, all who are enjoying the great surface provided each week extend their thanks to Trapper and his boys.

Sunday 26th January

Nick Howell with a great 42 point round has claimed the Weekly Challenge from Joe Olsen 39 on countback to Wade Frith also on countback 3rd. Ball winners were: Jason Varley v39, Gary Button v39, Steve Piggot 38, Mick Barrett 37 and Grahame Mankelov 37.

Tuesday 28th January

Phousang Sihapanya has won the Tuesday Stableford with a solid 41 points from Ken Scott MacKenzie 39 and Col Bradley 38 on countback. Ball winners were: Shawn Parish 38, Tom Bell 37, Troy Wallis 37, Steven Wright v37, Jason Cowburn 37, Angello Wood 37, Gary Arnold 35, Greg Ireland 34, David Peel 34,

Mitchell Jones 33, Mark Barrow 33, Bill Freeman 33, Steve Piggot 33 and Wayne Barber 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Angello Wood (3rd) David Peel (4th) and Shawn Parish (8th)
Wednesday 29th January
 Dianne Oakes has won the Ladies Stableford with 36 points from Melita Watson 33. The Ladies Summer Stableford rounds will continue next week
Thursday 30th January
 Gunther Shilko has produced a fine round to win Division 1 of the Vets Medley American Stableford from Tom Bell 58, Division 2 went to Col Bradley with 63 from Grry Marsden 59 and Division 3 to Neil Peterson 59 from Graham Donaldson 57. Ball winners were: Jock Kendall 58, Bill Freeman 58, Wayne Berry 57, Mark Green 56, Paul Ireland 56, Kevin Dick 56, Ken Blackett

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Greta Museum

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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.

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SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Saturday, 1 February 2020
MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE

Field: 49
 Winners C Dean Fowler 61
 Grades A Daniel Turner 69
 Grades A David Kinch 70
 Grades A Stephen Ross 71
 Grades B Tony Seamer 71
 Grades B Mick Martin 71
 Grades B Paul Bush 73
 Grades C Darrell Fletcher 73
 Grades C Ted Zawirski 74
 Grades C Dennis Edwards 75
 NTP 2/11 A 2nd Daniel Turner 161cm
 NTP 4 B 4th Reece Caldwell 90cm
 NTP 9/18 A 9th Lee Hunt 184cm

56, Bindii 56, Graeme Smith 56, Denis Donn 56, Paul Adams 56, Greg Ireland 55, Graham Morris 55, Fluff 54, Kerry Bartlett 54, Wayne Drayton 54, Ray Boyd 54, Tony Bowie 54, Steve Piggot 53 and John Tancred 53 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bindii (3rd) Rob Hannah (4th) David Peel (10th) and Col Bradley with a Hole-in-One (17th). The Misty Glen Wines Outstanding Player of the Month has been won by Col Bradley. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford

Saturday 1st February
 The extreme heat coupled with the introduction of a change to the handicap system has taken toll on scoring. A Grade has been won by Paterson GC member Darren Egar with an even Par 36 on countback to Peter Huckfelt who also survived a countback for 2nd spot, B Grade to Mike Carter with 34 on countback to Greg Harder and C Grade to Scott Jones with 33 from Bill Harder 31 on countback. Ball winners were: Angello Wood 36, Phil Marks 36, Shawn Parish 36, David Peel 35, Craig Sharp 35, Jeff Taylor 34, Andrew Cozens v34, Troy Wallis 33, Michael Goldman 32, David Grosbernd 32, Peter McIntyre 32, Colin Somerville 31 ans Richard Craft 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dean Morison (3rd) David Peel (4th) Craig Sharp (8th) Paul Bullock (10th) and Stephen Zok (17th). Next weeks event will be a Blue Tee Challenge

Branxton Golf Club
Saturday, 11 January 2020
 Field: 47
 Grades A Daniel Turner 40
 Grades A Mathew Mullaney 39
 Grades A Stuart Lord 37
 Grades B David Hodges 40
 Grades B Ed Garland 39
 Grades B Luke Bereza 38
 Grades C Luke Simmons 43
 Grades C Jake Melmeth 42
 Grades C Robert Hale 41
 NTP 2/11 B 2nd Lee Hunt 334cm
 NTP 4 B 4th Norm Redgrove 190cm
 NTP 9/18 B 9th Geoff Jones 89cm
 NTP 13 A 13th Lee Heuston 232cm
 Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 34
 Dan Turner has begun 2020 in fine form with his winning score of 40 pts a testament of his new found form. He was burning up the fairways this time last year and is now finding the same form. Mathew Mullaney finished runner up with an excellent 39 pts with the very consistent Stuart Lord third with a very solid 37 pts. Dave Hodges won B Grade with his 40 pts, another who has been playing very consistently of late, finishing one point clear of Eddie Garland's 39 pts with Joe

SPORTS RESULTS



with Mark Bercini

DCA T20 Finals
 The Cessnock District Cricket T20 Finals were played on Australia day at East End Oval, with Greta/Branxton's Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams both appearing. Tier 2 picked up their second title in just three years, with the Tier 1 game ending in a disappointing draw after the Blues were in a very strong position to claim the title. Greta/Branxton won through to the decider following their final round 4-run victory over Peden's Hotel the day before. They won the toss in the final and elected to bat, and amassed 6-201 from their 20 overs. Opener



Darren Thomson (91) batted beautifully, smashing nine boundaries and clearing the gutter on six occasions, facing just 46 deliveries before holing out just nine runs shy of his century. Skipper Joey

Butler was next best with 41, with Brent Watson (16no) and Mark Bercini (16) making starts. Bellbird were 2-5 in reply after two overs when lightning struck, with the heavens opening up

Greta/Branxton when they defeated Wine Country by seven runs in an exciting finish earlier in the day. Greta/Branxton batted first and compiled a healthy 1-167, with opener Cory Stephenson bringing up his century with a boundary on the final ball of the innings. His fine innings consisted of 13 boundaries and two maximums from 74 balls. Fellow opener Jamie McNamara also timed the ball nicely with 52. In a nail-biting finish, the Wood Ducks needed 13 to win from the final over, falling seven runs short. Tanveer Singh (2-20 off 4)

and Aaron Stephenson (2-38 off 3) took a brace of wickets each for the Blues.

Photo top left: Greta/Branxton's Tier 2 T20 Champions...Back (L-R) Jeremy Brown, Ben Miezis, Mitch Bradford, Jamie McNamara, Sam Dagg, Tanveer Singh, Doug Engel, Peter Davis. Front (L-R) Dave Seabrook, Aaron Stephenson, Cory Stephenson, Malcolm Hedger (c), Steve Daunt (coach). Photo top right: Cory Stephenson after scoring his final ball century in the Tier 2 T20 Final. Photo at left: First grade skipper Joey Butler congratulates Martin Shearer after a fine all-round game in which he scored 36 and took 2-34 off 10.



Greta Workers Fishing Club Fires In January

The Greta Workers Fishing Club had 14 people weigh in on 27th January after a long weekend of fishing ranging from Stockton/Newcastle to Hawks Nest, Forster, and Harrington. There were 10 different categories of fish logged straight up which is great to see. The newly added standalone "Speared" category saw Micah Platt weigh in a Luderick, other fish caught were Mulloway, Snapper, Teraglin, Whiting, Trevally, Tarwhine, Tailor, Flathead, and Bream. 2017 dual and 2018 winner Scotty Beckett returned to the fold leading the weigh in with 75.5 points (Bream, Trevally and Whiting) just heading off Steve Nevin 72.3 (Snapper and Flathead). Lewis Jacobs is leading the Junior with his 42 points (7 Bream) and Fee Jacobs has picked up where she left off 2019 with 41.7 points (Bream, Tarwhine and Flathead) leading the ladies category. The next outing is February 13/14/15 with the weigh in at 4pm at Greta Workers Club. Everyone is welcome to be an onlooker at the weigh in, it was good to see a few there Monday Supporting the Club. New members are encouraged to get in before the end of March where the fees will increase. Come along to our weigh-ins to register for \$30 single rego, or \$75 family. For any further information contact Steve Nevin 0457547478

A big shout out to all our 2020 Sponsors Gocon Rural Fencing, MagDougall Rural Concreting, The Bottlo at Greta, The Sea Shanty at Rutherford, and the Harvest Bistro at Greta Workers Club.

Also The Fishing Club Raffle will begin Wednesday 5th Feb at the Greta Workers Club so get down there to win a meal voucher from the Harvest Bistro or two fine Seafood trays. It will be drawn after the Bowlers raffle at approximately 5pm.



2019 winner Troy Fields managed to sniff out this School Jewy at Hawks Nest.

Branxton Golf Club Volkswagen Scramble

Sunday, 19th January
 14 teams competed in the Volkswagen Scramble on Sunday, a 4 person Ambrose event where the winning team gains entry to the Regional Final (this year at Koowinda Waters) where the winners go on to compete in the National Final being held at Twin Waters Golf Club on the Sunshine Coast in early May. The winners on Sunday was the team of Garry Train, Errol Munzenberger, Greg Noble and Tony Seamer with a net score of 54.875 after having an 8 under par scratch score. It was a very close competition with Neil Bridge, Norm Redgrove, Ben Bridge and David Matt finishing runner up with their 55.375 score after also having an 8 under par score. Peter Wilton, Mark Moylan, Paul Bush and Dean Fowler finished third with their 55.625 score. I'm sure there will be many stories of missed putts and unlucky bounces, especially significant when you consider only 3 shots separated the first 8 teams. On Saturday the competition round was washed out after the course was inundated with heavy rain—a sight for sore eyes for this dusty, dry course. The rain was most welcome and celebrated—except for the few players who were caught in the storm, although being drenched after our recent hot, dry weather would be a great experience!



Winners are grinners



Runners-up

YOUR friendly team

The News

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The **NEWS**SPORT

GRETA JUNIORS OFF TO STATE JUNIOR FOURS

On Friday 24th Greta Workers had four of their Juniors play in the Zone 6 Junior Fours Final held at Kurri Kurri. Playing on synthetic is always a challenge but the boys ventured to Kurri Kurri on Wednesday for a

practice and get a feel for the green. After a slow start in the final, trailing 9-1, the boys fought back to hit the lead with three ends to go and leading into the last end by four shots. Although in the lead, bowls can be a cruel

game but the boys went on to win 17-14 and are now off to Warilla in July to play the State Juniors Fours. Greta Juniors train each Tuesday and new Juniors are always welcome. Congratulations to James, Jace, Koby & Angus pictured at right.



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