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# The News

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WEDNESDAY  
18 March 2020

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## STEVE'S RANT

## Members Well Done say...



## Not So Well Done



## School NEWS

School Leaders 2020

# Local Business Chamber urges local community to support local businesses during emergency

Lots of small business will go out of business due to this viral outbreak. They will not survive weeks of little or zero cashflow. If you can do just one thing today, shop local and buy something from a small business. Make that effort 🙌

### Keep your business in town and you keep your town in business!!!!

As the Coronavirus continues to spread, businesses in our local area are feeling the domino effects. Business owners & the local Business Chamber are urging people to still support local shops through this pandemic.

"I think it's important obviously to have public safety and to be aware of what's going on and be safe but it's also important to support our local businesses during these challenging times. The larger multi national companies are better placed to handle reduced cash flow but small businesses don't, generally, have that advantage," said Brett Wild President of the Central Hunter

Business Chamber. "It should include supporting places like our butcher, chemist and other retail outlets &, of course, our local tradies," said Brett Branxton IGA say business is actually booming because of Coronavirus fears. "There's definitely some panic shopping," said Lyn Unicomb, proprietor of Branxton IGA. "We've been three times as busy as a normal day over the last week or

so. People seem like they're in good spirits but they're stocking up on those staples like pasta and toilet paper and everything. We weren't expecting this much of a rush. We are ordering, on average, three times the normal stock but until it arrives we don't know what we'll have delivered. It's usually a quarter to a third of what we have actually ordered," said Lyn "Again it's actually good for our business but we're still on edge because you don't know if there's

going to be drastic measures taken going forward. So we'll just go day by day," said Lyn. As reported in the Sydney Morning Herald yesterday up to 150,000 Australians could die from the coronavirus under a worst case scenario, the Morrison government says, as it considers advice on restricting visits to pubs, cinemas and aged care homes. Deputy Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said that the number of infections would range between 20

per cent to 60 per cent of the population. He urged the public to comply with social distancing measures such as avoiding large gatherings of 500 or more people. "This is an infectious disease," Professor Kelly said in Canberra. "The more we can do to separate people and stop the disease spreading, the better. The death rate is around 1 per cent."



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# A well-deserved thank you for everyone who protected our community this bush fire season



**Cessnock City Council will host an event to thank all volunteers and personnel who did outstanding work to protect the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) during the recent bush fires.**

Following a Mayoral Minute at the most recent meeting of Council, the decision was unanimous that a special event should be organised to acknowledge the special people in our community. Our region experienced a highly active 2019/20 fire season, particularly in the areas of North Rothbury, Greta, Pelaw Main, Laguna, Wollombi and Bucketty, which had a significant impact on the community.

The 14 RFS Brigades across the Cessnock LGA worked tirelessly to protect our community during this time and Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said we need to show our support and gratitude.

“These volunteers put their own lives at risk to help others and receive very little in return for doing so. Their swift action meant fires were downgraded quickly and homes were saved.”

“I saw their tremendous community spirit shine though first hand and I know how appreciative affected community members are of their service.”

“This event is an opportunity for Council to

officially recognise the outstanding contribution in what were horrendous weather conditions,” added Cr Pynsent.

The event will be held before 30 June 2020 and will be funded by the joint

NSW and Commonwealth Government Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Funds: Phase 1.

■ *Photo above: Mayor Pynsent & RFS volunteers North Rothbury after the emergency at North Rothbury 12 November 2019*

HUNTLEE MUMS & BUBS PROUDLY PRESENTS

# HUNTLEE EASTER FAIR

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2020

HUNTLEE PARK  
1 TRITON BLV, NORTH ROTHBURY

SCAVENGER HUNT | FREE FAIRY FLOSS & SNOW CONES | KIDS ACTIVITIES | LOCAL MARKET STALLS

9:30am to 1:00pm

Sponsored by Huntlee Community Grants Program

## DON'T WASTE YOUR OPINION ON THE DRAFT STRATEGY

Our Draft 2020-25 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy is on public exhibition and we'd like to hear your thoughts! We'll be at the following locations if you'd like to have a chat:

Cessnock Library, 67 Vincent Street, Cessnock	Thurs 19 March	4pm - 6pm
Greta Rotunda, New England Hwy, Greta (with compost giveaway)	Tues 24 March	3pm - 5pm
Poppet Head Park, Kitchener (with compost giveaway)	Thurs 26 March	3pm - 5pm
Kurri Kurri Library, Cnr Lang & Allworth Streets, Kurri Kurri	Wed 1 April	9am - 11am

**COME AND SEE US**

You can view the Draft Strategy online at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wastestrategy](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wastestrategy), by visiting our Customer Service Centre or one of our Cessnock City Libraries.

**COMMENTS CLOSE 8 APRIL**

## 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 January 2020 to 31 January 2020.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2019/00000737/001	29-Jan-2020	31 Cessnock RD	Garage & Attached Carport
GRETA	008/2019/00000729/001	17-Jan-2020	20 Horne CL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
GRETA	008/2019/00000730/001	17-Jan-2020	14 Horne CL	Primary Dwelling with Attached Garage & Detached Secondary Dwelling
GRETA	008/2019/00000747/001	28-Jan-2020	45 Popham ST	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000761/001	16-Jan-2020	7 Ellerton AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000703/001	20-Jan-2020	72 Kesterton RISE	Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000705/001	23-Jan-2020	6 Peachy Av	Exhibition Home with attached garage and advertising signage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000732/001	23-Jan-2020	4 Peachy Av	Exhibition Home with attached garage, extension of western retaining wall and advertising signage
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000759/001	29-Jan-2020	108 Casuarina DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000763/001	29-Jan-2020	62 Casuarina DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Retaining Walls
POKOLBIN	008/2019/00000799/001	29-Jan-2020	10 Peppertree DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Associated Freestanding Masonry Walls
ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000463/001	13-Jan-2020	72 Littlewood RD	Phase 1 - Consolidation of Three (3) Lots and Construction of Two (2) Tourist Accommodation Buildings. Phase 2 - Construction of Two (2) Tourist Accommodation Buildings. Phase 3 - Construction of One (1) Tourist Accommodation Building
ROTHBURY	008/2019/00000592/001	20-Jan-2020	778 Old North RD	Secondary Dwelling

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.

## Council's free tree giveaway on again!

Have you built a new home during the 2019/2020 financial year? Did you know you can get up to six free plants for your property from Cessnock City Council?

Rosemary, Bottlebrush and Gardenia. If you're interested in this wonderful community offer application forms are available from Council's Customer Service Centre or online at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au).

Completed application forms must be received no later than 5pm Friday 20 March 2020.

Any enquires regarding the application for supply of trees and shrubs should be directed to Councils Vegetation and Civic Spaces Coordinator, Lyall Green, on 4993 4100.

There are a range of plants available from ground covers like Star Jasmine through to shrubs including Coastal



## Lions 'Lap the Map' for diabetes comes to Branxton

On the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Lions Club of Branxton invite you to participate in a self-paced walk, run or jog from the Branxton Oval to Miller Park carpark and return. The aim is to promote a healthy lifestyle and improve personal awareness about diabetes, its causes and effects.

The route is approximately 2.5 km over flat country generally on sealed paths with a minimum of road crossings. Families can push a stroller, kids can ride a bike, the fit may choose to run, everyone can participate. Registrations open and 0800 and step-off is between 0830 and 0845 from Branxton Oval; it is anticipated the walk can be comfortably completed within 30 to 40 minutes.

The entry fee is \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 for primary school children, pre-schoolers are free or a family ticket for two adults and their children is \$25.00. There will be a halfway water station at Miller Park and on return to Branxton Oval a complementary bacon & egg roll and drink will be available for all participants. A raffle of fresh fruit and vegetables shall be conducted after the walk and all monies raised on the day shall be donated to Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation.

Come along, participate, have some fun and at the same time brush up your knowledge about Diabetes. Looking forward to seeing you there. We're sure you will enjoy a great day out participating in a wonderful local opportunity for Lions' Australia to benefit our community as well as raise awareness around how we stop the spread of diabetes nationally.

If you wish to find out more about this exciting event or other Branxton Lions' activities, please contact Brian Thomas on 0417 282 440.



## Safety of community and staff paramount

The safety of community and staff is a priority for Cessnock City Council in relation to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

As the situation continues to change Council will monitor and respond to any potential impacts on services provided by Council. Council is following relevant advice from Federal and State Health Departments. As a result of NSW Health's announcement a number of local events have been cancelled or postponed. These include:

- The Newcastle Writers Festival
- Events planned as part of

Youth Week 2020

A number of shows at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

A number of activities and events at the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries.

Upcoming community drop-in sessions as part of the exhibition of the Draft 2020-25 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson said as a community we need to work together.

"We must follow the advice from NSW Health and the Federal Government. We all have a role to

play. This includes not panic buying or removing toilet paper from community facilities for your own consumption. We're encouraging people to shop locally, rather than leaving the area."

"Council staff will be meeting daily to discuss the latest developments and allow for us to respond quickly if required."

For more information visit [NSW Health](http://NSWHealth) website or the [Federal Government Health](http://FederalGovernmentHealth) website.

For information on events visit Council's website, the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre website or the Cessnock City Library Facebook page.

## Have your say on the Draft Waste Strategy

Cessnock City Council is calling on the community to have their say on the draft 2020-25 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy which is on public exhibition from 11 March to 8 April 2020.

Waste management is a key service provided by Council involving a major cost. The strategy has been developed following community feedback and it's extremely important community again have the opportunity to provide feedback on Council's plan to manage waste for the future.

Council's waste team will host a series of drop-in sessions for community members to chat about the Draft Strategy. These will be held at a date to be announced.

Not only has the strategy been written to reflect community feedback received in nearly 1000 community surveys but is also informed by a review of Council's waste services. This review identified a range of options to

ensure Council is continuing to move towards a sustainable waste management system.

The vision for the strategy is to provide a sustainable and cost effective waste service to the Cessnock community, while prioritising waste minimisation and complying with environmental, safety and legislative obligations.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said managing waste is one of our greatest challenges not only locally but on a global scale.

"We can all do our bit to divert waste from landfill and improve resource recovery and this draft Strategy is a step in the right direction for our community. If you have any questions, I encourage you to come along to one of the drop-in sessions and chat to the team."

The draft 2020-25 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy can be viewed on Council's website, in Council's Customer Service Centre and in Cessnock City Libraries.

## Grant funding available under the Seniors Staying Social Grants Program



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Seniors in the Cessnock Electorate can look forward to having more opportunities to get social and make new friends, with the availability of funding from the

Seniors Staying Social Grants Program.

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, encourages eligible organisations to apply for funding. The Seniors Staying Social Grants Program has a total of \$600,000 state wide available

in one-off grants for locally driven projects that promote social inclusion for older people.

Activities that are helping NSW seniors to stay social include walking groups, table tennis clubs, dancing groups, art classes, and walking basketball teams.

Mr Barr said "Loneliness and social isolation can have adverse effects on our senior's mental health. Our seniors can make new friends while trying out activities for the first time which can challenge their minds while helping them stay fit and healthy."

"I would like to see more seniors get out of their homes and try new activities while having conversations

with people they have never met before and the program is one way to help our seniors."

More information about the program can be obtained by visiting:

[www.facs.nsw.gov.au/inclusion/seniors/seniorsstaying-social](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/inclusion/seniors/seniorsstaying-social)

Applications to the Seniors Staying Social Grants Program close at 11.59pm on Sunday 19 April 2020.

To apply for funding, visit the SmartyGrants web page:

<https://nswcommunities.smartygrants.com.au/SeniorsStayingSocial>

### Some unanswered questions ...

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed? Do Lipton Tea employees take 'coffee breaks'? If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled? Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car is not called a racist? Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with? Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds when they already know you're broke? Why, why, why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak? Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?

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# STEVE'S RANT

There are three subjects to be called out this week. The first is the hysterical criticism levelled at the federal government by the press and the lunatic Greens. It all started when ScoMo took his family on holidays to Hawaii, and the deputy Prime minister (whoever that was) failed to make any response to or offer help to the states coping with widespread bushfires in December last year. The press blasted ScoMo for being on hols when the things hit the fan. This was compounded when he cut the holiday short and apologised for not being on duty when needed. Such is the bitterness of the lovey press, any action ScoMo then took to help the States and move around the stricken areas to get a grip on the situation was described as too little too late. This was called out by the Premier of Victoria, Mr Andrews, who when asked the loaded question, "are you getting assistance from the PM?," answered "I have had absolute cooperation from the PM and he has provided everything we have asked for." No mention was made of the fact that fire prevention, firefighting and the subsequent clean-up is the responsibility of the States and Local Governments. It must be said the various state fire response teams achieved amazing things. As the crisis grew, the Federal Government committed the armed

services to the fight and pledged 2 billion dollars plus to the relief and recovery program, among many other things. This was all good, but again criticism was levelled at the way it was all implemented. It could be explained that the process was a learning experience, but I do not believe we haven't the expertise to manage this. Unfortunately, the ministers and the bureaucrats in charge of this implementation did not appear to have asked around for advice. The second point is the clean up after the devastation. By some amazing logic, owners of destroyed properties who were insured, have had their insurance companies prevented from financing the rebuilding because they cannot subcontract the clean-up of sites. The clean-up is provided for in the policies. In a comedy of errors, started 90 years ago, when the new miracle material asbestos was introduced as a building material and enthusiastically employed as cladding, roofing and internal lining of houses to the slow realisation of the dangers of the stuff in the 1970s. Its use as a building material stopped in 1980, but this does not rule out its use after that. When asbestos is removed from a dwelling, there are strict protocols in the handling, storage and disposal of it. Asbestos is

material as dangerous as radioactive waste, but we have no national plan for its disposal. It is left to the state and local councils to provide for this, and most councils will not have a bar of asbestos in their tips, just as they do not wish to provide storage for nuclear waste. The result is no provision has made to dump waste in local areas. There is justifiable dread of asbestos which drives this. But the fact is, the built environment in Australia is laced with asbestos and will have to be dealt with on a continuing basis for years to come. Councils must provide safe dumps for this substance, and if they don't have any suitable sites for this, the state government will need to establish centralised dumps in safe areas of their choice. Here is the problem of the delay in the bushfire clean up: The Federal Government has assumed financial responsibility for the clean-up, which will involve handling asbestos-contaminated sites all over the place. At the pointy end of this task, individual property owners and local councils are prevented from being involved due to the difficulty in identifying, handling and disposing of asbestos waste in suitable dump sites. Hence, only certified contractors can be involved, so there is a waiting list for individual properties. This could have been avoided if councils and State government had been given a blank cheque to get on with it. Surely the protocols for handling asbestos are not beyond local council and contractors. How long does it take to locate and develop a dump? The third call is the collective stupidity which has steadily developed within this country, since the interventions of the Hawke government, into Tasmania's attempt to dam



the Franklin on the Gordon Rivers. There is this mindset that it is sinful to build dams. The ANU is suggesting that the best place to store water is in the artesian basins. This would still require dams to divert water to the aquifers. We had a minister in the federal government, only late last year, describe the Bradfield scheme to dam eastern flowing rivers on the Queensland coast, and divert the water through hydroelectric plants to the inland of Central Queensland, as a "discredited idea". This is the very plan that should now be implemented along the whole eastern coast of the country. We know it works, and we have done it before. The money for this resides in the pension funds, which would attract fixed interest for the life of the loan. Either that or the various state governments could borrow at a

historically low-interest rate to put long-shelved plans to work. What's to lose? But we could drought proof the country at last. Cheers, Steve.



with Mike Lowing

I read with interest that Cessnock City Toastmasters intend to hold public speaking workshops. There will be 6 in all & they commence on Monday 20 April. Their flyer said that they are to be held on Monday nights from 7-9pm so I assume, without asking,

every Monday evening from the 20 April.

If you would like more information call Anna on 4990 4093.

Limited places available.

With the declaration by the World Health Organisation that the corona virus is now regarded as a pandemic it has shaken all facets of our society. Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous assertion that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself" could not be more relevant to what we are witnessing in response to the coronavirus. This fear is very much being driven by the media with alarmist headlines and leading stories with gratuitous statistics. Then we have governments and other institutions making all sort of predictions about the statistical spread of the virus and need for shutdowns. Let

us cross that bridge if, and when, it is needed. Anyone arriving from another planet would think the apocalypse had arrived. Also, it was good to see our federal and state political leaders (on TV) deep in consultation over the extremely serious problems stemming from the coronavirus. But it was not good to see them sitting shoulder to shoulder in crowded meeting rooms, shaking hands, travelling side by side, and doing all the other things they are warning us not to do.... Cheers, Mike



## Clouds

Joni Mitchell certainly started something all those years ago. Clouds are now all the rage. As I understand it, both Steve and Clr Doherty in his Letter to the Editor, appear to be inferring that water vapour (clouds) plays a much bigger role in global warming than does CO2 and therefore we should not be worrying so much about CO2. But for water vapour to be playing a bigger role, doesn't that mean that there is now more water vapour in the atmosphere than there was before? Water vapour is formed by heating

water which means that there must be some additional heat now coming from somewhere. I could not continue better than by using this direct quote from the internet: "Warmed by CO2, the atmosphere is thus able to absorb more water vapour. And that water vapour, in turn causes further warming - it amplifies the effects of carbon dioxide. So anthropogenic CO2 serves as the chief engine of global warming, with water vapour playing a crucial secondary role." Regarding the subject of sea level rise which Steve

has now brought into the debate, I feel completely outnumbered and so will not dive into that debate. Allan Thomas, B.Eng. (Hons), PhD. Lochinvar NSW 2321

Global sea rise challenges Firstly, I am not a scientist or an engineer but have a business background and an enquiring climate skeptic. A lot is being said today about the potential of sea level rises due to the con of climate change. Research shows that seas are not actually rising but in most cases inundation is caused by storm surges around the planet. This has been happening since time began. The Sydney Island Fort Denison's history refutes the scare mongering sea rise levels since they began measuring tidal movements. One interesting sea level rise appeared in 1960 when Fort Denison experienced a higher level than normal measurement. It was caused by a tidal wave created by the Chilean earthquake.

(On May 22, 1960 a great Mw 9.5 earthquake, the largest earthquake ever instrumentally recorded, occurred off the coast of southern Chile. This earthquake generated a tsunami that was destructive not only along the coast of Chile, but also across the Pacific in Hawaii, Japan, the Philippines and the east coast Australia. I personally witnessed this from Stockton when a large swell entered the harbor and actually pushed one of the Stockton vehicular ferries up the Hunter River. The next day the news read that the Chilean earthquake had caused the surge in the tide. In the Hunter there are two quarries; one at Mount Vincent and one half way up Mount Falk road in the Wattagan Mountains. Both quarries are visited by geology students to study the sedimentation and vast array of marine fossils in the quarry. This would suggest that the east coast of Australia at

some time in history was completely under water. The Maldives rely completely on tourism for their economy. They are currently constructing more tourist accommodation and a airfield for their expected tourism growth. This would suggest that they aren't worried about sea level rise in the foreseeable future. There is empirical evidence that many Pacific islands are actually growing not being covered by the sea. (Jun 3, 2010 - Climate scientists have expressed surprise at findings that many low-lying Pacific islands are growing, not sinking. ... "We've now got evidence the physical foundations of these islands will still be there in 100 years." Kench says the growth of the islands can keep pace with rising sea levels). Suppose I am just a skeptic and read the opposite of the warmist's Rod Doherty, Business Diploma BSB60201 University of Ballarat

Australia's Future Fund Australia's Future Fund has assets of over \$160 billion earning over \$100 billion since its inception & has averaged close to a 10% return over the last 10 years. Its mantra ... 'We are Australia's sovereign wealth fund, responsible for investing for the benefit of future generations of Australians. We were established to strengthen the Commonwealth's long-term financial position ....' Maybe Chair Peter Costello & the Board of

Guardians should seriously consider spending some of their well-gotten gains for future generations of Australians by helping contain "The Virus" which would undoubtedly strengthen the Commonwealth's long-term financial position. J. Smith, Maitland NSW

# Lions Youth of the Year comes to Branxton and Greta

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Greta Workers Sports and Recreation Club, the Lions Club of Branxton hosted the Regional Final of the Lions Youth of the Year Regional Final.



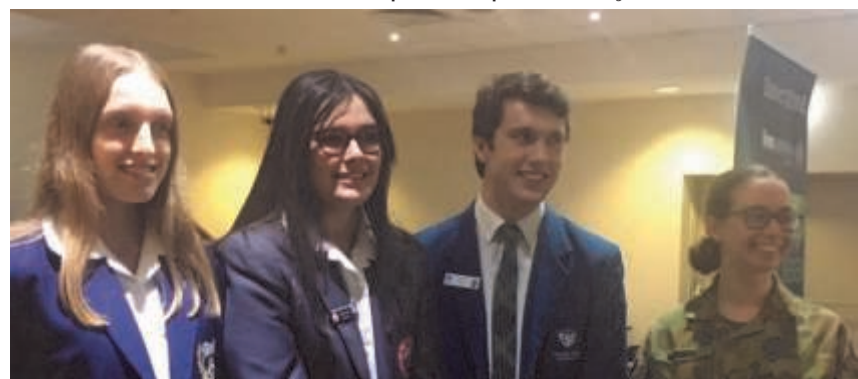
Δ Delta Hateley (Merewether High School) was the overall winner of the Regional Final, seen here with CI Bob Pynsent, Mayor of Cessnock City Council and Brian Thomas, President of the Lions Club of Branxton.

The Youth of the Year program was established during 1964 with the objective of developing and honing participant's skills associated with interview technique, personal interaction, networking, public speaking and "thinking on your feet." As students leave school and enter employment or further education, such skills are invaluable tools in establishing career paths on positive trajectories. The Youth of the Year program is sponsored by

the NAB and NAB has now entered its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of sponsorship of this quest and have been heavily involved in its running with over 350 staff being involved in judging each year. At the regional event level each participant has

previously been successful in Youth of the Year events at a Club level and in a Zone final. There were four participants in Sunday's event; one from each of the following schools: Mount View High School, Hunter Valley Grammar School, Merewether High School

and Callaghan College. The format of the program requires each entrant to participate in a forty minute interview with three judges to verify, clarify and to amplify the claims they have made on their entry form, to test each candidate's general knowledge on current affairs and permit the judges to assess the entrant's presentation during the interview. During the public speaking portion of the event, each candidate was called upon to provide two two-minute unprepared speeches on nominated topics followed by a five-minute prepared speech. The winner of the regional final goes on to the next level of the



Δ The four Youth of the Year participants at the Lions Club of Branxton Regional Final held at Greta Workers Club on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March were from left to right: Delta Hateley (Merewether High), Rose Lucas (Mount View High); John McDonald (Hunter Valley Grammar School), and Keely Harris (Callaghan College).



Δ The winner of the Public Speaking prize was Keely Harris (Callaghan College) presented by Nicole Craft of Cessnock Toastmasters.

## BUTLER, Peter John

2-1-1973 ~ 16-3-2003



Today, like many other day's, bring special thoughts of you  
Of happy times we shared and things we used to do  
And once more it's a reminder that life's road is sometimes rough  
Because the times we shared just wasn't long enough  
For you were someone special who we all loved so much  
Who'll always be remembered with affection, warmth & love.

*Missing you heaps,  
Mum, Dad, Melissa & families*

### Central Hunter Business Chamber VISION STATEMENT

to Improve the economic opportunity for every member of the Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury & Huntlee New Town Community

### Central Hunter Business Chamber MISSION STATEMENT

to create a better everyday life for the citizens of Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury & Huntlee New Town by working with business, Government and major stakeholders to inspire and implement solutions for improved trading environment, improved infrastructure and stronger

economic growth for Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury & Huntlee New Town.



## REFLECTIONS

### "A journey of deepening faith"

Imagine what it is like to be born blind, to not be able to see the faces of your parents or any of the beauty of creation. Imagine what it might feel like to grow up being told that the reason that you are blind, that you have a disability, is because you or your parents did something wrong, and so you deserved your lot in life. Imagine how this man felt when Jesus opens his eyes so that he may see.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus sees a man born blind and rather than judging the man and his family or walking past, he uses this encounter to correct wrong thinking and show God's compassion for his wounded children. The disciples asked Jesus whose sin it is that caused him to be born blind, his parents or his own? They ask this question because they lived in a time when a disability was thought to be a punishment of God for sin. Jesus saw suffering as part of being human rather than discipline and consequences handed down by God. He gives the man his sight.

But this story is not only about Jesus giving sight to a man born blind. It is about a man who came to believe in Jesus, and it is about the man's journey of faith. He did not open his eyes and instantly have a deep faith. The more he was questioned about how he received his sight and who it was that gave him his sight, the stringer and deeper his faith became. Initially the man said that it was 'the man called Jesus' [John 9.11] who gave him his sight. When the Pharisees questioned him and asked what he had to say about Jesus, he referred to Jesus as 'a prophet' [John 9.17]. Later, when after being questioned a second time, and being found by Jesus, the man declares 'Lord, I believe.' [John 9.38].

Something extraordinary happened for this man. Physical sight was given to him, and in that giving, he found his faith. Neither one of these gifts should ever be taken for granted. Of the two gifts, the gift of faith is the most precious because without faith, even though we see, we can still be in the dark.

This story is also about our own journey of faith and our deepening relationship with Jesus. As we share our faith stories, our faith becomes stronger and deeper. As we give a reason for the hope that we have found in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, our faith journey continues to draw us closer to the heart of God.

As we continue our Lenten journey, may we see that we are moving to the Cross and Easter Day. May our faith hold us and guide us. May we always see that we are beloved children of God and may we give thanks for the gifts of sight and faith.

#### A prayer in our time of need

Loving God, we ask for your blessing for all people.

May those who are sick be healed according to their needs.

May those who are anxious be calmed, supported and comforted.

May those who are vulnerable be protected and feel confident.

May those who care for others be strengthened for their work and attentive to the needs of those in their care.

May those whose responsibility it is to make decisions for others be wise and proactive in their leadership.

May we all know the power of your unchanging, unconditional love in our lives and the lives of those we love.

May we know You as our guide and friend, our companion on the journey of life and faith.

We bring all our prayers to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Every blessing, Reverend Nicole*

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# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Congratulations to Branxton Lions Club for hosting the Youth of the Year Regional Final. The quality of our young people is outstanding and this program fosters excellence. Well done to all of the entrants. Congratulations to Kurri Kurri High School on their annual community business breakfast. The breakfast provided for an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about suicide, particularly amongst our young people. The input of Gus Worland from Gotcha4life and Andy Dennis from Tomorrow Man and Tomorrow Woman were extremely valuable for our community. It is important we continue to have these meaningful conversations with each other. At our upcoming Youth Week we'll be certainly talking about mental health. The Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries are hosting workshops that talk young people through simple relaxation techniques and breathing exercises. The focus is on learning how to de-stress. The TEDX Night at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre will also see our local young people take to the stage talking about ideas that matter to them. Topics that are expected to feature include mental health and Tourette Syndrome. What a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on what our young people have to say. To find out more about Youth Week 2020 and the other great events planned please visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/youth-week](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/youth-week). Council is calling on the community to have their say on the draft 2020-25 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy which is now on public exhibition until 8 April 2020. Waste management is a key service provided by Council involving a major cost. The strategy has been developed following community feedback and it is extremely important community again have the opportunity to provide feedback on Council's plan to manage waste for the future. A number of drop-in sessions will be held during the exhibition period. These are on at the following times and locations:

Thursday 19 March from 4-6pm

Cessnock Library Tuesday 24 March from 3-5pm Greta Rotunda, New England Hwy, Greta (in conjunction with compost give-away)

Thursday 26 March from 3-5pm Poppet Head park, Kitchener (in conjunction with compost give-away)

Wednesday 1 April from 9-11am at Kurri Kurri Library

To find out more visit <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition>. If you have built a new home during the 2019/2020 financial year you can apply to get up to six free plants for your property from Cessnock City Council. All forms are due by 5pm on Friday 20 March. The forms can be found at Council's website. *Cheers, Bob*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR

### FOR ITS NEXT TRICK THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SELL TAFE

I have dedicated many lines in this regular column to the recent struggles of TAFE since the introduction of the ironically named Smart and Skilled in 2012-2014. For the past 7 years the Government has held the belief and strategy that by massively increasing the cost of going to TAFE, for example fees going from \$500 up to \$18,000, that TAFE would thrive. Over these recent 7 years, under that Smart and Skilled model, student numbers at TAFE have fallen by more than 175,000, that is more than 25% of all students, and more than 5,700 staff have been sacked from TAFE, most of those in regional communities. With TAFE now partially destroyed by the Smart and Skilled approach of ramping up fees and charges, one might think that this approach had not been the best approach and one might take some responsibility for the incredible skills shortage that is hurting business and communities. But that would be normal person thinking. In recent weeks, that Government have now suggested that TAFE might be best delivered by private corporations and hence they are exploring privatisation of

TAFE. Recently, in Parliament, the Premier was asked time after time to "rule out" the privatisation of TAFE and she would not do that.

In politics, Oppositions are often accused of scaremongering when Governments make their decisions. But when all of the fears and concerns raised at the time come true, I wonder what the complete opposite of scaremongering is – perhaps it is, we tried to warn the Government and save them from themselves.

### DON'T BUY THE BLAME BEING PUT ONTO CORONAVIRUS AND THE BUDGET

Every household has the responsibility to go about their day to day activities using the money that they have available. Equally, there should also be some money held aside in case of emergency, like the car breaking down, or less shifts at work or a broken fridge. The current Government have, for 9 years now, been spending money like drunken sailors and signing multi-billion dollar contracts for projects that may or may not be in the public interest and that have no reserve of extra money held back in case of a cost blowout.

At the same time as this spending has occurred, the Government has also chosen to sell off public owned businesses and assets that used to provide reliable annual income which has made the state's finances less capable of dealing with shocks and hiccups.

And all this time, the Government has chosen to ignore warnings about changing climate and the impact on "business as usual" and they have chosen to take money out of important public services like bio-security, trade training (TAFE), and regional employment of public servants that often keep communities "alive" during times of drought.

With all of this in mind, I have been warning that a financial train wreck was on its way for the state for most of the past 6 years. I had specifically predicted that the train would crash around 2020, 2021 and 2022. It's not rocket science and just like running a household budget, it is predictable that cut off many streams of income, spend the money wildly and put nothing in the bank for a bad day that things will come crashing down. For some reason, the 4 Government Treasurers in NSW, since 2011, have failed to apply the household budget ruler over the \$80 billion dollar NSW budget.

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

Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You can also follow me on my Facebook page [www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp](http://www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp), go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at [www.claytonbarr.com.au](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au) Cheers Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

### Compacency Worse than Over-Reach

Moving around the electorate I encounter very different reactions to, and views about, the Coronavirus and the response of governments. But one thing is certain, the challenges we face are without precedent. While it is tempting to conclude governments and business are over-reaching, the key objective is to slow down the rate of infection transmission. If the virus spreads too quickly, our health system will not be able to cope. That would lead to a large number of deaths, particularly amongst the elderly.

There are a number of things that make Covid-19 different to the influenza viruses which have been part of our lives.

Covid-19 is more infectious than flu and our population has not developed an immunity to it. Unlike the flu, we don't yet have a vaccine to stem its spread. Covid-19 is also more likely to lead to death.

So, while we don't want over-reach, complacency could be much worse.

If the House of Representatives and the Senate Parliament don't sit next week it will be the first major disruption to legislative proceedings since the Second World War. The circumstances are different, but anything less than a full sitting would be major event. Up to 5,000 people work in Parliament House on sitting days: MPs, Senators and their staff, Parliamentary staff and the many who are critical to the operation on the building. The many daily visitors to the building (including school groups and tourists) swell the population significantly.

One option being considered at the time of writing is to restrict Parliamentary business to the management of the virus and its economic consequences. The major parties may agree to allow any necessary legislative measures through both Houses, with no more Members and Senators present than is necessary to meet the quorum requirement, which for the House of Representatives is 30 of the 151 Members. This would be an historical response.

Just as extraordinary would be the cancellation or curtailing of ANZAC Day services. We've been shocked by the impacts on our favourite sports and events like the Royal Easter Show and our Stomp event, but disruption to our most solemn and sacred day would be most disappointing.

It will be a pleasure to take part in the Official Opening of Stage 3 of Bridges Hill Park in Cessnock on Saturday. Etched into the side of Convent Hill, the Park is a credit to Cessnock Council and its staff. Both State and Federal Governments have kicked-in some cash, but the majority of the funding has come from ratepayers and I reckon they'll see value for money.

Thank you to all those who took the opportunity to attend my Seniors' Forum last week, and thanks to our hosts, the Muswellbrook Senior Citizens Association. As always, the guest presenters were well received and those who attended seemed to benefit from their expertise. I thank the Police, Huan Services, Hunter Legal Centre and Muswellbrook Council for their involvement.

The Singleton Bicentennial celebration program was packed full and a credit to the Singleton Bicentennial Commemorations Working Group, Mayor Sue Moore and the Council. The Back to Singleton evening was a great success and a wonderful walk down Memory Lane. The crowd included many who have helped to shape Singleton including former Mayors Neil McNamara and John Martin.

Pound-for-Pound the Singleton Bulls must be the best and most entertaining fund-raisers in the Hunter. Last week's lunch with Sir Peter Cosgrove was another amazing success and a credit to the Rugby Club. It was standing room only in the Club House and the General's presentation didn't disappoint. Congratulations to Club President Shane Thompson, MC Anthony Partridge, and whoever it is behind the Club's unique beer label!

Joel Fitzgibbon is the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources and the federal Member for Hunter.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

### State Matters HELPING NSW SENIORS STAY SOCIAL

Organisations in our Upper Hunter electorate can now apply for funding for programs which help keep our seniors social and connected with the community.

\$600,000 is available across the State as part of the Seniors Staying Social Grants. We want to provide more opportunities for our seniors to get out of the house and try new activities while having great conversations with people they have never met before. Loneliness and social isolation can have adverse effects on our senior's mental health, so we are looking to encourage programs which foster inclusion and encourage positive social outcomes for people over 65. Funding could go towards enhancing an existing program, expanding a program to suit a wider audience or creating new programs to combat social isolation. Activities which are already helping NSW seniors stay social include ocean swimming clubs, walking groups, table tennis clubs, dancing groups, art classes, and walking basketball teams. Social inclusion is a key priority of the NSW Ageing Strategy and is part of the NSW Government's key commitment to meet the needs of our ageing population.

Applications close on 19 April 2020.

### NSW LOWERS AGE LIMIT FOR PHARMACY FLU JABS

Families will have more access to influenza vaccinations with the NSW Government lowering the age pharmacists can administer flu jabs to children from 16 years to 10 years. Last year was the longest flu season on record and in 2017 more than 650 people in NSW died from flu-related conditions, and now we have COVID-19.

While the flu vaccine won't combat COVID-19, it will help reduce the severity and spread of flu, which can lower a person's immunity and make them susceptible to other illnesses.

By allowing pharmacists to administer privately purchased flu vaccines to people aged 10 years and over, families now have more choice when booking-in for a flu jab.

The NSW Government has invested approximately \$130 million in the 2019-20 Immunisation Program budget, including Commonwealth and state vaccines. NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said this year's flu vaccine is expected to be available from mid-April and she urges everyone who can be vaccinated to do so.

People aged 65 and over, pregnant women, Aboriginal people and those with high-risk medical conditions can be vaccinated for free by GPs under the National Immunisation Program. The free NSW-funded vaccine is available to all children aged six months to five years.

Cheers, Michael



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

We knew that 2020 was going to be a significant year for Singleton as we commemorated the bicentennial of the European exploration of our area. But who could have predicted the deluge of events that this year will be remembered for not just for Australia, but around the globe.

The social fabric of the world has been challenged in the greatest possible extreme, where social and cultural institutions have literally closed down – from arts and cultural festivals, to football. Which is why it was even more pertinent that last weekend's Back to Singleton 2020 events went ahead as planned, showing yet again how our community bands together through good times and challenging times. And reinforcing, yet again, just what a privilege it is to have been elected to serve our community as mayor and even more so at such a time in history.

We may be commemorating the occasion when 200 years ago, a party of about 15 men tracked an overland route between Windsor and the Hunter River Valley, arriving at Whittingham on 15 March 1820.

But Back to Singleton 2020 is much more than that. It's a tribute to the thousands of years of people who have lived in this area, and who nurtured the land that now supports our prosperity. It's the spirit of community that continues today, and which is demonstrated in the Back to Singleton 2020 program of events.

It was wonderful to see the people who came out to enjoy Singleton Homecoming on Friday night, as well as the Singleton Day Out on Saturday afternoon. The Singleton Soiree on Saturday was particularly special, as old friends and new came together to reflect on what we all love about Singleton.

The best part was that the festivities did not end there. A year-long Back to Singleton 2020 program showcased all that is special about Singleton, and what the people from our area have achieved since the Wonnarua/Wanaruah first settled, followed by our early pioneers.

Just how those events will proceed in light of COVID-19 now remains to be seen, just as how the next few months will unfold around the world. Council is closely following the advice and recommendations from government and health authorities, and strongly encourages everyone in our community to take precautions such as maintaining personal hygiene, most notably hand washing, and social distancing.

Cheers, Sue

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**News**  
P: 4938 1773

# Pharmacist Advice & Medical Advice

## What is a pandemic?



The WHO has declared the Covid-19 outbreak to be a pandemic. But what does that mean?  
**What is a pandemic?**  
 Declaring a pandemic has nothing to do with changes to the characteristics of a disease, but is instead associated with concerns over its geographic spread. According to the World Health Organization, a pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.  
**How does the WHO decide whether to call it a pandemic?**  
 Cases that involve travellers who have been infected in a foreign country and have then returned to their home country, or who have been infected by that traveller, known as the "index case", do not count towards declaring a pandemic. There needs to be a second wave of infection from person to person throughout the community.  
 Once a pandemic is declared, it becomes more likely that community spread will eventually happen, and governments and health systems need to ensure they are prepared for that.  
 An epidemic, on the other hand, is a sudden increase in cases of an illness or disease that can be unique to one country or

community.  
**When is a pandemic declared?**  
 Ultimately, the WHO gets the final say. There is no threshold, such as a certain number of deaths or infections, or number of countries affected, that needs to be met. For example, the Sars coronavirus, identified in 2003, was not declared a pandemic by the WHO despite affecting 26 countries. However, its spread was contained quickly, and only a handful of nations were significantly affected, including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Canada. If declaring a pandemic triggers global panic, this can defeat the purpose of trying to raise awareness. Much has been written about whether the declaration of H1N1, colloquially known as "swine flu", as a pandemic in 2009, caused unnecessary panic, overwhelming emergency departments and causing governments to overspend on antiviral medications. Coronavirus symptoms are generally mild and most people

recover within six days.  
**Now the WHO has declared Covid-19 a pandemic, what will it mean for the way the outbreak is treated and prepared for?**  
 The WHO has stressed that using the word "pandemic" does not signal a change in its advice. It is still urging countries to "detect, test, treat, isolate, trace and mobilise their people". Dr Nathalie MacDermott, National Institute for Health Research academic clinical lecturer King's College London, says: "The change of term does not alter anything practically as the world has been advised for the last few weeks to prepare for a potential pandemic, which has hopefully been taken seriously by all countries. "The use of this term however highlights the importance of countries throughout the world working cooperatively and openly with one another and coming together as a united front in our efforts to bring this situation under control."



## Reduce your risk of coronavirus infection:

- Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs
- Avoid unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals

World Health Organization



## Garlic salt and pepper prawns

Go seafood fresh for your midweek dinner. Garlic salt and pepper prawns are tasty and quick to make.  
**Ingredients**  
 2 tablespoons rice flour  
 2 teaspoons ground dried peppercorn medley (see notes)  
 1 teaspoon sea salt  
 600g raw peeled prawns, tails intact  
 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
 1 cup chopped fresh coriander leaves  
 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
 1 long red chilli, finely chopped  
 1/4 cup lemon juice, plus lemon wedges to serve  
 Warm pita bread, to serve  
 Iceberg lettuce wedges, to serve  
**Method**  
 Step 1  
 Combine flour, pepper and salt in a large snap-lock bag. Add prawns. Seal bag. Shake to coat prawns in flour mixture.  
 Step 2  
 Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large frying pan over high heat. Cook half the prawns,



gently tossing, for 3 to 4 minutes or until just cooked through. Transfer to a bowl. Repeat with 2 tablespoons of remaining oil and prawn mixture.  
 Step 3  
 Return prawns to pan. Add coriander, garlic, chilli, lemon juice and remaining oil. Cook, tossing gently, for 2 minutes or until heated through. Serve prawns with warm pita, lettuce and lemon wedges



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# Out & About

with Mike Lowing

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual COALFIELDS CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Sunday 15th March 2020  
Tattersall's Hotel  
New England Hwy, Greta

Last Sunday the Coalfields Classic Motorcycle club held their 19th Annual show at Tatt's Hotel in Greta.. They had over 100 bikes on display with supporters travelling from all the Valley to attend the yearly event. They were gifted to have the sun shining and a huge array of sparkling clean motorbikes some nearly 100 years old beautifully restored. A good crowd, with many families, supported & enjoyed the event. A 'Well Done' to the organisers.



Vicki, Merv & Frank, manning the club merchandise and information stand.




Peter Saunders travelled from Scone and supported the event on his restored GSX1100 Suzuki. The bike took out the People's Choice award. Congratulations



### Results

Trophy Category	Sponsor	Bike #	Bike Make	Winner
Pre 1926	Hunter Valley Motorsports	1	1912 Kerry	John Bourke
1926 - 1945	Chris Watson Motorcycles	16	BSA Gold Star	Mick Archer
1946 - 1955	Braxton-Greta Locksmiths	43	BSA Gold Star	Ross Morgan
1956 - 1965	Kawasaki Connection	76	Norton	Mark Burgman
1966 - 1975	Classic Bike Spares	101	1969 Bonneville	Kevin O'Connor
1976 - 1985	Sean Burkill Services	134	R2 500	Steve Flanagan
1986 to present	BTP Group	172	Indian Scout	Neville Hooker
Bike of the Show	BRANXTON DIG n TIP	78	BSA Gold Star	Damon Power
Peoples Choice	Tattersalls Hotel	135	GSX1100 Suzuki	Peter Saunders
Best Club Bike	The Mordue Family	250	Speed Twin	Steve Mordue
Clubman of the year	The Lowe Family			Phil Robinson
\$1000 Red Balloon Gift Voucher Winner				Fred Deeg






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**Trivago contravened a number of sections of Australian Consumer Law**

On Monday 20 January 2020 the Federal Court handed down its decision in *Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Trivago NV* [2020] FCA 16. The Court held that travel comparison website Trivago misled consumers about cheap hotel deals on Trivago's website and in its television advertising. In August 2018, the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC) instituted proceedings in the Federal Court against Trivago claiming that Trivago ran television advertisements depicting its website as an impartial and objective medium for price comparisons of booking sites such as Expedia, Hotels.com and Booking.com, as well as the hotels' own websites. The advertisements represented that the Trivago website would assist consumers to identify the cheapest prices for hotel accommodation. However, according to the ACCC, Trivago's website instead prioritised advertisers who were willing to pay Trivago the highest cost per click fee. The ACCC's case was that at various times in the period 1 December 2016 to 13 Sept 2019 Trivago made

representations, in breach of the Australian Consumer Law, that:

- the Trivago website would quickly and easily identify the cheapest rates available for a hotel room responding to a consumer's search;
- the Top Position Offers were the cheapest available offers for an identified hotel, or had some other characteristic which made them more attractive than any other offer for that hotel;
- the red strike through text on the website was a comparison between prices offered for the same room category in the same hotel;
- the red text without strike-through was a comparison between prices offered for the same room category in the same hotel.

The ACCC also alleged that Trivago misled consumers

into believing that the Trivago website provided an impartial, objective and transparent price comparison for hotel room rates which would enable them to quickly and easily identify the cheapest available offer for a particular (or the exact same) room at a particular hotel. Trivago admitted parts of the ACCC's case but disputed others. The Court received and analysed complex computer science expert evidence from both parties. The Court substantially found for the ACCC on the contested parts of the case and found that Trivago contravened a number of sections of Australian Consumer Law. There will be a subsequent hearing on relief including penalties to be paid by Trivago. The decision sends a strong message to businesses to ensure that any comparison tools offered to consumers accurately and clearly depict the nature of the search results that can be obtained through the use of the tool and the benefit to consumers if they rely on such results, a pertinent issue given the increasing presence of online comparison websites and tools. *Cheers, Kerrie*



**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 Wood Street, Greta, NSW 2334

**Inglican**

*By Amanda Sheppard*  
Big changes are coming to the property industry on March 23. The sweeping reforms are aimed at improving the professional and educational standards of real estate agents, increasing transparency and accountability and streamlining the licensing framework. One of the most important changes for both property buyers and tenants is the increased clarity around what agents and property managers must disclose about a property they are selling or leasing. Material facts they must disclose include whether their property has been flooded from a "natural weather event" or affected by bush fire in the last five years; has "significant health or safety risks"; is listed on the loose-fill asbestos insulation register; has been the scene of a crime of murder or manslaughter in the last five years; or has been used for the production or supply of a prohibited drug or plant in the last two years. The disclosure also extends to properties that are, or are part of, a building that contains external combustible cladding and has been subject to a fire safety order, a building rectification order or lodgement of a development application for rectification. Agents will be held liable if they fail to disclose these facts, whether or not they intended to conceal them from the prospective purchaser or tenant, "if they knew of the fact, or should have reasonably known about the fact", the new law states. The changes have been generally welcomed by the Real Estate Institute of NSW (REINSW). President Leanne Pilkington said the peak body was working hard to ensure agents and property managers were well-informed about the changes before they came into effect. "We as the real estate

institute have been asking for more clarity for a long time," she said. "Now they have to be very specific about disclosure of material facts." However, Ms Pilkington said there was still clearer direction needed on the level of investigation agents and property managers will need to undertake to uncover material facts that may be relevant to a sale or lease. She said landlords and vendors should also have a responsibility to disclose information. "If the vendor (or landlord) doesn't tell an agent (or property manager), how is the agent to know and then disclose," she said. "I am still waiting on government to give me formal advice on this." The issue of disclosure came into the spotlight in 2004, after a family put up an \$80,000 non-refundable deposit on a home in North Ryde, unaware it was where notorious murderer Sef Gonzales had butchered his family in 2001. After becoming aware of the crime, the family made a formal complaint and were allowed to rescind their \$800,000 and have their deposit refunded. The home sold to another buyer for \$720,000 a year later. The law was subsequently changed to prevent the sale of a home without disclosing murders that took place in it. Ms Pilkington said she hoped there would be a clearer requirement on landlords and vendors to share relevant information with their agent or property manager. She said the reforms brought with them another layer of accountability, which would require more time and paperwork, and the institute was still working through the requirements. There will be an education process for industry professionals, as well as a six-month grace period, allowing them time to comply without risk of penalties.

For those still unsure about the changes, she has clear advice. "If you're in doubt, disclose," Ms Pilkington said. Dee Uther knows all too well what it's like to have a difficult conversation about a property's past history. The managing director of Uther + Sun Property was leasing an apartment on the north shore through a previous agency, where a murder had previously taken place, and she was completely upfront with prospective tenants. "It was an issue for a few people but I did find a tenant who wasn't bothered by it," she said. Ms Uther said the industry reforms would create more work for agents and property managers. "There are a few things there that raise eyebrows but we just have to do it," she said. She said her agency had been following best practice in relation to disclosure for a long time. "For us, we're not too concerned, but there's a lot of conversations we need to have with our clients in the weeks ahead," she said.

ing suburb. "Overall, it shows us that we like to stick to where we know," says realestate.com.au's Chief Economist, Nerida Conisbee. There's a multitude of reasons why we move out and move on. It could be time to upsize or downsize. It could be financial, or you may simply want a tree change. Not only are people moving close by, but the data shows they also often moved to high development areas where buyers and renters have the chance to live in a new home in an up-and-coming suburb. Across the country, it appears that Queensland had the most migrators with a total of 305,277 people making their way to a new home.

**Increasing your home's value**

Homebuyers are generally first drawn to external appearances, bricks, tiles, floor coverings and paint. When you decide to sell, part of the discussion you should have with your agent is what you can do to increase its appeal and sale value. Before you get the photographers in, ask your agent to outline improvements, starting with the lowest cost for maximum return-on-investment. Your agent is best placed to advise you on how to present your property to appeal to the maximum number of buyers. Some simple changes might include tidying your gardens, repainting internal walls or replacing window coverings. Whatever you decide to focus on, ensure you are working on improvements that offer the best return on investment.

**Where are we moving to when we move out?**

*By Emily Hutchinson*  
**With autumn selling season upon us, and millions more buyers on realestate.com.au when compared to last year, many Aussies will soon be on the move, but where will they be moving to?** Australia Post data reveals which suburbs people are moving to when they move out – and it appears we aren't going far at all, with most people simply moving to a neighbour-




**Greta Museum** invites you to their street library – no forms to fill in, just take a book or two of your choice, keep it/them, OR return it/them and, if you wish, donate some of your own. The library is put outside if it's not too hot or wet, or may be just inside the front door. Available when the museum is open at 96 High Street, Greta, between the historic courthouse & Greta Bakery each Saturday & Wednesday, 11am- 3pm. *Enquiries, call Neridah on 0427657150.*



*By Tim McKibbin, REINSW CEO*

Social media is now thoroughly ingrained in our lives. However, as we've learned over the last decade, there are downsides to sharing all your life online. Jobseekers realised this first, when employers reviewed their social media accounts during the hiring process. Now landlords are tapping into the same resources. Social media can reveal a lot that may not be included in your application. Ensuring your social media accurately represents your broader lifestyle and activities can support your rental application. This will then correctly present you to the landlord, who ultimately wants to ensure their investment is protected. While privacy laws do exist to protect consumers, what you make public can be used to ascertain your suitability as a tenant.

**How is value determined?**

*By Tim McKibbin, REINSW CEO*  
The value of a property is subjective and potential purchasers will, for many reasons, place a different value on the same property. The historical test is to consider what a willing but not anxious purchaser would pay a willing but not anxious vendor. So why do we get different valuations? Firstly, valuation is an art, not a science. Secondly, the instructions given to the valuer will influence their determination of value. For example, a bank valuation is usually more conservative than a market valuation. In disputes over a property, a valuer may be asked for a net valuation after the costs of sale

are taken into consideration. With automated valuations, value is determined from algorithms designed over time. As each algorithm is different, each valuation differs. So what is the real value of property? It is what someone is prepared to pay for it. As the old saying goes: "there is nothing like a good auction to ruin a valuation".

**How can social media affect your rental application?**

**Sweeping changes to property industry come into effect this month**

*Real Estate News is proudly sponsored by ...*  
**Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate**  
4938 3300

## Local Collective celebrates International Women's day

**On Sunday 8 March 2020 The Hunter Valley Boutique Collective (HVBCI) hosted a breakfast for members and guests to celebrate International Women's Day.**

The event was held at Peterson House where attendees enjoyed a lovely breakfast and inspiring

guest speakers in a beautiful location. It was great to see a wonderful group of over 100 people from around the Hunter come together to celebrate this years International Women's Day theme of 'Each for Equal'. 'Each for Equal' focuses on gender equality, the race is on

for the gender equal boardroom, a gender equal government, gender equal media coverage, gender equal workplaces, gender equal sports coverage, more gender equality in health and wealth. Gender equality plays an essential role for economies and communities to thrive This year the HVBCI partnered with was the Branxton District Girl Guides. Unit Leader, Chris Bray, spoke about the important

role Girl Guides holds in empowering young women to grow confident, self respecting and responsible community members. Many of the attendees remembered warmly their participation in Girl Guides. The HVBCI were pleased to donate \$1000 to the Branxton Girl Guides from the proceeds of the event. Guest speaker, Lyndell Fogarty, co-founder and CEO of Perform



are at our core. She talked about the importance of having a tribe, people who get you for who you are and lift you up, sharing your ups and downs with them. Lyndell talked about being courageous, stepping into the unknown and being brave as we do, building up resilience if we fall and being proud when we rise. She spoke about 'Each for Equal' and reflecting on the positive impact we make in the world each and every day. The HVBCI would like to thank all of for businesses who contributed to the event, the guest speakers and the attendees for making the day a success and look forward to hosting an International Women's Day event next year.

HR inspired attendees to look within, past our everyday labels of what we do and honour who we



### Famous Quotes

- "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." -Nelson Mandela
- "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking." -Steve Jobs
- "If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavour." -Eleanor Roosevelt
- "If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." -Oprah Winfrey
- "If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success." -James Cameron
- "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans." -John Lennon



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) CLEAN FILL AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

**ITEM:** Council has surplus clean fill material available resulting from road and drainage works throughout the Cessnock LGA. Landowners wishing to obtain the fill are invited to complete an EOI form.

**TIME FRAME:** **The EOI for provision of fill will be open on an ongoing basis for 6 months until 17 July 2020.** Delivery of the fill may commence from 24 February, 2020.

**INFORMATION:** Allocation of fill to EOI applicants lies solely with Council. For the EOI form, please refer to Roads, Pathways, Bridges & Drainage on CCC website:  
<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/roads>  
or contact our friendly customer service team on 02 4993 4100.

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

### CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL 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 Acting Team Leader Revenue on 4993 4150 prior to lodging an application.

### HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS BECOME SAFE DRIVERS

## Helping learner drivers become safe drivers



**FREE** workshops for parents and supervising drivers.

To provide practical advice about:

- Current laws for L and P licence holders.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- Completing the Learner driver log book.
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.
- Low risk driving.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

Time and date	Venue	Book now on
Thursday 26 March 2020 6:00pm to 8:00pm	Cessnock City Council Administration Building	02 4993 4311



## BRANXTON

### Three bedroom, 2 bathroom Family home

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

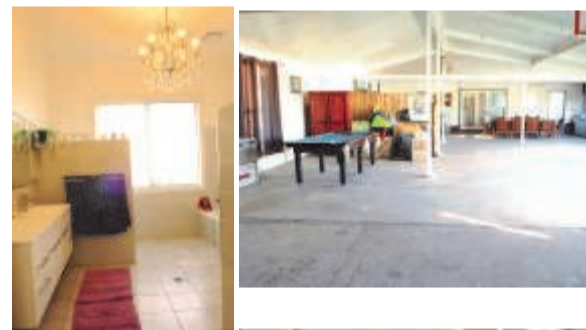


## BRANXTON

### Large modern family home

This charming home is situated in a sought after street in Branxton; handy to schools, shops, golf club and Hunter expressway. This charming house has all the modern conveniences of today's living; good size bedrooms, office, timber floors, lovely spacious kitchen to die for, modern bathroom and all this opens onto fantastic entertainment area which could cater for over 100 people. Extra unit at rear with own shower and toilet. Still plenty of room for the kids to play or park the van.  
 Must inspect to see all . . .

**Asking \$515,000**



**NORTH ROTHBURY 14.65HA**  
 STUNNING 36 ACRES BLANK CANVAS READY FOR YOUR DREAM HOME

With optional potential home sites, the property has plenty of opportunity for a weekend country escape or unique rural lifestyle existence. Under a 2-hour drive from Sydney, approx. 70 min drive from the M1 interchange Wahroonga... Things You Will Love About This Escape Acreage...  
 - Approx. 14.65 hectare (36.2 acre) rural holding with dwelling entitlement  
 - Stunning views from elevated sites  
 - Potential building sites  
 - Unique lifestyle acreage  
 - Abundant wildlife and native flora

**ASKING 745,000**

## NORTH ROTHBURY



**Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road,**  
 Vacant blocks  
 4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks. Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country  
**ASKING: \$420,000 each**



## East Branxton

### Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

Are you seeking your first home or maybe an investment. Well this is the opportunity to buy at a low price. A brick and tile two bedroom unit with a large open living area and large bedrooms. The property has its own private outdoor space and internal access to the garage. Updated Bathroom and Strata managed with low fees. It is currently tenanted at \$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 ~ 809m<sup>2</sup>

Vacant Building Block  
 Fantastic visage

**ASKING \$130,000 ono**

### BELFORD

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

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

**ASKING \$160,000 ONO**

### NORTH ROTHBURY

#### Vacant building block

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

**ASKING \$135,000**





About 1.30pm on Saturday 15 February 2020, a 39-year-old woman was walking through a Pokolbin music festival with a friend when she was allegedly verbally abused by a woman she knew. About 4.45pm, the same woman allegedly shoulder-charged the 39-year-old woman when she was returning from the bar. The woman fell and suffered bruising and soreness to her shoulder and chest. On Wednesday 19 February 2020, the injured woman attended Kurri Kurri Police Station and made an official report of the incident. Following investigations, officers from the Hunter Valley Police District arrested and charged a 27-

year-old woman with common assault. She was issued a Future Court Attendance Notice and a Provisional Apprehended Violence Order and will appear before Cessnock Local Court on Wednesday 15 April 2020. **Can you help** Police are seeking information or any person in possession of dash cam footage relating to a White Toyota Prado which was involved in a Pursuit with Police about 9.05am on 10th March 2020, to come forward. The vehicle bearing New South Wales Registration plates SRH66X. The vehicle failed to stop for Police whilst travelling

upon Cessnock Road, Neath. The vehicle accelerated from Police before travelling right into Long Street, Cessnock and continuing on travelling in the direction of Ferguson Street, then travelling in a Northerly direction upon Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba towards Broke. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or Hunter Valley Police. E: 74180476 relates.

Information can also be provided by our Crime Stoppers online reporting page: <https://www1.police.nsw.gov.au/> Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

**NSWPF civilian employee charged with assault – Pokolbin**

A civilian employee of the NSW Police Force has been charged with assault following an incident at Pokolbin.



**House of the Month - February 2020**

1 Olivia Close, North Rothbury has been picked by last month's winner, as their choice as the best house from North Rothbury, Huntlee and Hanwood. Congratulations on your beautiful home! This month's winners gets to select next month's winner, and with all this rain everyone should be in with an excellent chance!

# 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)



**Expressions of Interest**

**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**

# Hunter River Reserve looking much better



**The Hunter River Reserve contains one of the last remaining stands of intact native vegetation along the Lower Hunter River, a host of native wildlife, and direct river access via historic sandstone steps and pathways.**

Hunter Region Landcare Network received a grant from the Communities Environment program to regenerate the Lower Hunter Valley Dry Rainforest endangered ecological community. Contractors and Landcare have been tackling a large infestation of madeira vine, balloon vine, green cestrum, lantana and other weeds. Last Saturday, 7th March 2020, twenty members of the local community came

together to help plant out 200 canopy trees on the lower slopes of the reserve. Conditions were perfect for planting with a good amount of moisture in the soil and the light drizzle didn't scare the group away. "Everyone worked well together and we enjoyed being part of such a worthwhile project" commented Margaret, one of the volunteers. It is very rewarding seeing the results of all those new trees in the ground and to think about the positive impact we are making for the future of our climate and our native wildlife. Landcare volunteers meet at the Reserve the first Friday of every month to continue weeding and maintain the plantings.



■ Photos above:  
Top photo - the volunteers after a hard days work.  
Middle photo - before & above after.



Branxton/Greta CWA held their second meeting for 2020 on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March. On the Agenda were the following calendar events: Monday, 25/05/20 - Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Branxton Community Hall, 10.00am, \$15 entry. All monies to Cancer Research,

Entertainment, Market Stalls. **Bookings - Marie - 0402015850.** Monday, 27/07/20 - AIO Day, Venue to be confirmed. Consisting of Birthday, International (Country of Study for 2020 -21 TBA at State Conference in May), Cultural and Agricultural/Environment (Flora - Waratah, Fauna - Whale). The Land Cookery/Product Promotion (Pork) Day will be approx. late Oct. early Nov. depending on when Roslyn Shearer can get a Judge for the Cake Competition. Further information on this day will be advised in later editions. Meanwhile, the Australia's

Biggest Morning Tea on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, is first on the Calendar and we look forward to seeing as many there as possible that can make it. It would be a good way to honour loved ones suffering from, or lost to, cancer, and celebrate those who have managed to win the battle. It would also be a good opportunity to get together after the traumatic time of the drought and bushfires and catch up with friends and make new ones. Already looking forward to it. *President and members Branxton/Greta CWA.*

## Daily Thoughts ...

All computers wait at the same speed. *Anon*  
"A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin." *H.L. Mencken*  
"Rain is what makes flowers grow and taxis disappear." *Anon*  
"I want to stay as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all kinds of things you can't see from the centre." *Kurt Vonnegut, Jr*  
"You cannot achieve the impossible without attempting the absurd." *Anon*  
"Don't be so open minded that your brains fall out." *Anon*  
"What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?" *Anon*

## Public Speaking Workshop

Cessnock City Toastmasters Club will be conducting a 6 session workshop. To be held on 6 Monday nights



**Venue** Cessnock Leagues Club  
**When** From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
**Time** 7 to 9 pm  
All course material included in cost

Limited places available!

To enquire contact Anna 4990 4093  
Anna.vannetten@bigpond.com  
www.cessnock.toastmastersclubs.org

It's a great course!.....It's sure to be useful!.....It's Fun!

Daily Thoughts  
Being happy doesn't mean everything's perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections.  
--Unknown

## BRANXTON CROQUET CLUB

IMPROVE YOUR BODY AND MIND SATURDAY AND TUESDAY FROM 9a.m.

John Rose Avenue, Branxton (turn left on New England Highway at first traffic lights in Branxton) All welcome.

For further information on this great no-contact sport go ahead and contact the Secretary

**6574 7194**



## Greta Museum

Continues to open and exhibit Army and Migrant Camp photos and memorabilia, as well as coal mining, sporting and some family histories, and artefacts, from the local area's past.

Open each Wednesday and Saturday 11am - 3pm at 96 High Street, Greta, in the former Greta Council Chambers.

# Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

**2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325**

**What's  
Going  
On?**



Friday 20th March

The 3



**HARVEST**

*Open Wed—Sun*

Lunch & Dinner

Dine-in or Takeaway



Friday 27th March

Minute by Minute

**COURTESY BUS**

Wed 4-7 Thurs 4-8

Fri 5-12



Sun 11-2 /4.30-8.30



\$1200 Wed 18/3

\$800 Sun as at 15/3

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW



FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS

# 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**



\$500 as at Sun 15/3

\$5000 Thurs 19/3



\$4.00 Schooners

Wednesdays

4pm—6pm



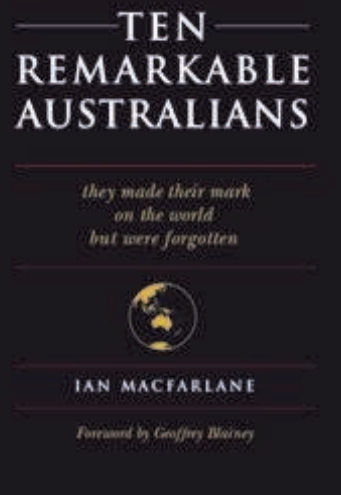
Every Thursday & Sunday

**HOUSE**



Every Wednesday

10am start



whether it will be his only contribution to Australian literature after such a marathon .... I hope not. I would hope he follows in the steps of another great Australian economist HC "Nugget" Coombs, who produced histories and essay collections well into his 80s. These '10 remarkable Australians' left a mark on the universe, living remarkable lives, but to be forgotten in Australian history annals (the book's subtitle is *They Made Their Mark on the World But Were Forgotten*).

John Howard said that the book brought to life ten remarkably different, highly influential, and above all else, talented Australians. "Most importantly, the book is so easy to read...because each character is so refreshingly different."

Howard also said in his memoirs, "Lazarus Rising", that Macfarlane was the "stand-out economic official" of the era, whose advice and sense of balance were "far superior to that of anybody else who provided economic advice to us".

Macfarlane said that his motive for writing the book was not altruistic, to rescue these people from obscurity, to create a memorial to their memory. "That would be a by-product. My motive was less noble. I simply believed lots of other people would find them equally interesting." Remarkable read & keep them coming!

They 10 remarkable Australians are  
 1. Harry Hawker the aviator and aeroplane designer who was the first to attempt to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. He only got half way but lived to tell the story.  
 2. George Finch the mountaineer from the world's flattest continent who in the 1920s climbed higher than anyone had ever climbed.  
 3. George Morrison the adventurer who was speared in New Guinea, shot in the Boxer

Rebellion then went on to become advisor to the President of China.  
 4. Sir Hubert Wilkins the photographer and explorer who was twice decorated for bravery in the First World War and then became the first person to fly across the Arctic Ocean from America to Europe.  
 5. Ethel Richardson who after training as a musician in Germany adopted a male pen name and wrote what many consider to be the Great Australian Novel.  
 6. Lyndhurst Giblin, international sportsman, gold prospector, plantation manager, member of parliament and decorated soldier who went on to become Australia's best known economist.

7. John Peter Russell, engineer turned painter, friend of Van Gogh, Monet, Rodin and Matisse. Ignored in his lifetime, his best paintings now worth more than a million.  
 8. Gilbert Murray, scholar, playwright, poet, professor at the age of twenty three, married into the British aristocracy and spent the second half of his life campaigning for peace.  
 9. Reginald Baker, better known as Snowy, reputed to be Australia's greatest all-round sportsman who later became an actor and film producer in Hollywood.  
 10. Frederick Kelly, three times winner of the Diamond Sculls at Henly, but who was more interested in his career as a concert pianist and classical music composer.

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**Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate**  
**P: 4938 3300**  
**M: 0412 566 041**  
**FREE PROPERTY MARKET APPRAISALS**

**The New York Times Best Sellers (15 March 2020)**

- Combined Print & E-Book Fiction**  
 1. **New this week** - ONE MINUTE OUT by Mark Greaney. The ninth book in the Gray Man series. Court Gentry tries to stop the head of a group trafficking women and children.  
 2. **5 weeks on the list** - 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.  
 3. **76 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.  
 4. **54 weeks on the list** - LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE by Celeste Ng. An artist upends a quiet town outside Cleveland.  
 5. **New this week** - CHASING CASSANDRA by Lisa Kleypas. The sixth book in the Ravenels series. Cassandra teaches a railway magnate a lesson.  
**Combined Print & E-Book Nonfiction**  
 1. **7 weeks on the list** THE MAMBA MENTALITY by Kobe Bryant. Various skills and techniques used on the court by the late Los Angeles Lakers player.  
 2. **New this week** DARK TOWERS by David Enrich. The New York Times finance editor traces the history and illicit dealings of Deutsche Bank.  
 3. **3 weeks on the list** OPEN BOOK by Jessica Simpson with Kevin Carr O'Leary. The singer, actress and fashion designer discloses times of success, trauma and addiction.  
 4. **5 weeks on the list** A VERY STABLE GENIUS by Philip Rucker and Carol Leonnig. The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists use firsthand accounts to chart patterns of behaviour within the Trump administration.  
 5. **New this week** UN-TRUMPING AMERICA by Dan Pfeiffer. A former senior advisor to President Obama offers suggestions for Democrats.

I suspect that most of the population, generally speaking, regard accountants & economists as .. well .. boring. Early this month I was given a copy of a recent publication by an Australian economist which has altered my views particularly on economists. The book in question is by an ex-governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia & it is one of the best reads I have had this year but, saying that, the year is only young! The author & retired economist is non-other than Ian MacFarlane AC, ex-governor of the Australian Reserve Bank, who I am led to believe spent many years doing the research and that makes you wonder

**ABOUT ....**

**Ian John Macfarlane, AC** (born 22 June 1946), Australian economist, and Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), Australia's central bank, from 1996 to 17 September 2006. He is also former Chairman of the Payments System Board of the Reserve Bank and Chairman of the Council of Financial Regulators. Macfarlane was educated at Monash University, Melbourne, from which he received the Bachelor of Economics degree with honours in 1968, and the Master of Economics degree in 1971. He tutored in economics there before joining the RBA in 1970. From 1971-72 he worked at the Institute of Economics and Statistics at the University of Oxford. Following this, he then moved to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, where he served until 1978, before returning to the RBA. He



became head of the bank's Research Department in 1988, Assistant Governor (Economic) in 1990, Deputy Governor in 1992 and Governor in 1996. Macfarlane has been awarded honorary doctorates from five Australian universities: a DSc from the University of Sydney, a DLitt from Macquarie University, a DCom from the University of Melbourne, a LLD from Monash and a DSc from the University of New South Wales. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 1998. In January 2004 Macfarlane was awarded Australia's highest honour, Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC). He was honoured "for service to the stabilisation

of the Australian financial system, to central banking, and to the operation of monetary and economic policy in both domestic and international spheres".

Macfarlane ended his term as Governor on 17 September 2006 after 10 years presiding over Australia's economic expansion. He was replaced by Glenn Stevens. The Treasurer at that time, Peter Costello, said of Macfarlane: "Ian Macfarlane has been an exceptionally successful governor of the Reserve Bank ... And when history of the last 10 years is written, it will show as one of, if not the greatest periods of economic management in Australian history." Prime Minister John Howard wrote in his autobiography "Macfarlane was the stand-out economic official in the lifetime of my government. His advice and sense of balance was far superior to that of anybody else who provided economic advice to us".

He was a director of Woolworths Limited between 2007 and 2015 and ANZ Bank between 2007 and 2016. He was also on the International Advisory Boards of Goldman Sachs between 2007 and 2017, the China Banking Regulatory Commission between 2011 and 2014 and has been a director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy since 2004. In his Boyer Lectures. in 2006 and in an interview with *The Diplomat* in 2008 Macfarlane spoke about the changes he has observed in the financial sector during his long career. He believes that increasingly the financial sector itself has become the source of economic shocks, rather than reacting to real economic shocks such as increases in oil prices. Macfarlane has also noted that recent trends in credit markets can be seen as a result of global imbalances primarily originating in Asia.

**Australian Government Department of Defence**

**WARNING NOTICE DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES**

Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is a Defence Army Live Firing Range. Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area.

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

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

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

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

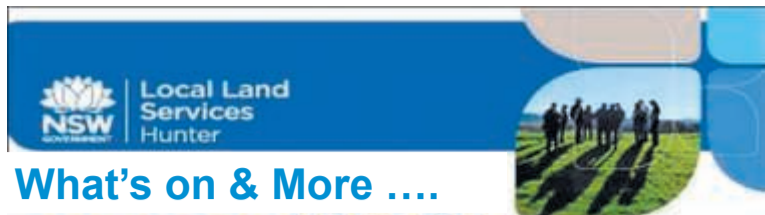
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What's on & More ....

# COMING EVENTS....

## Tocal Field Days



Visit Hunter Local Land Services in the Land, Plants and Environment section to ask your questions, meet our team, enjoy demonstrations and get the information you need about land management, pest control, animal health, agricultural production and more!  
We can help you with:

- Managing and caring for livestock
- Identifying and managing weeds and pest animals
- Managing valuable native vegetation and waterways
- Preparing your property for flood or fire
- Improving soil health, pasture and grazing

Our team will be conducting short talks and demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday:

**10am** Cane toad identification and handling

**11am** Basic soil testing

**12pm** Livestock health and diseases

**1pm** Cane toad identification and handling

**2pm** Basic soil testing

**3pm** Livestock health and diseases

**When** 1 May 2020 9:00 am - 3 May 2020 4:00 pm

**Where** Tocal Agricultural College, Tocal

## 2020 Hunter Livestock Forum

How can you make the right decisions for your People, Business and Land? Agriculture is changing, challenging and complex so being confident to make the right decisions at the right time is important.

The 2020 Hunter Livestock Forum will explore on-farm decision making considering the people, land and business elements.

It will provide Hunter Livestock producers the strategies and tools for improved Decision making in a changing world - being able to make the right decisions is critical.

It doesn't matter what we grow or how we grow it we still need to make decisions for a sustainable enterprise and industry.

**Hunter Local Land Services**

For more information please contact Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

**When** 26 Jun 2020 9:00 am - 26 Jul 2020 3:00 pm

**Where** NEX - NEWCASTLE EXHIBITION & CONVENTION CENTRE Newcastle

## Racing Review & News

### Coronavirus Comment: Where will racing end up?

By Ben Dorries  
Racenet.com.au

We would be extremely naive to think someone in the vast Australian racing industry hasn't been exposed to coronavirus. Whether it be a jockey, strapper, steward, farrier, track rider, administrator or even media employee. The virus doesn't discriminate, although it seems the highest risk of contracting it is if you have been in contact with someone who has been overseas. Although Australian racing has been besieged by state squabbles, it is basically a sport without borders because horse travel and human travel in racing, both domestically and internationally is extensive. The chances are high - with

the number of moving pieces in racing - that someone in the industry has already been in contact with someone who has the coronavirus and they too have been infected. As Richard Freedman tweeted on Friday morning, racing stables could yet be significantly impacted by coronavirus. Many other Australian businesses are already ordering their employees to work from home. Yet stable staff and the vast majority of people who work in racing cannot do that. If you are a trainer, you can't train 100 horses in your backyard. The same goes for numerous other segments of the industry. So what does Australian racing do? It seems only appropriate that, first and foremost, Australian racing is run behind closed doors like it is in many jurisdictions overseas. There obviously must be testing procedures for those participants who are allowed on course and that

no doubt will be a priority. But will that be enough? It looks like it has worked well enough in Hong Kong where ghost meetings have been held in recent times - although wagering turnover is down 15 percent. Hong Kong seems to have done a remarkable job in keeping down the coronavirus cases and people are starting to head back to work. But the vast geography of Australia - this wide brown land - must make it harder for racing and other sports to stay on top of the coronavirus issue. Online wagering pioneer Matt Tripp (see below) is no dummy - he's one of the smartest people I've ever met. Tripp worries there is a chance racing in Australia could actually be shut down entirely at some point in the future. Whether that eventuates, who knows? But the landscape is changing so rapidly, one wonders where it will all end up.



### Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 10th March 2020

Whilst not the record, the numbers were very low. Feed pressure gone and spray rigs and tractors starting being the most likely cause for the reduction. Most of the regular buyers were in attendance, however not all were successful in securing stock. The quality and condition was fair to good with a high percentage of well finished stock available. The ever increasing demand for cattle of all types resulted in dearer trends through all young cattle. The low numbers being a factor in price change. There were some strong gains in both vealer and yearlings. A single pen of well finished heavy grown steers went to a feedlot at greatly improved prices. The limited supply of cows sold to dearer trends with processors and feedlotters competing. A plainer quality penning of bulls experienced strong gains.

### Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 11th March 2020

Numbers lifted, with the majority fair to good cattle, however there were some very plain pens spread throughout the market. The majority were younger cattle, with approximately 54 cows in the penning. The usual buying orders competed, with the market trend firm to dearer. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers gained 13c, with breed and quality contributing in places, as prices made from 394c to 518c/kg. The vealer heifers also to the restockers improved 16c and received from 380c to 436c/kg. Yearling steers to the lot feeders and restocker orders lifted 15c, as the better end throughout all the weight ranges sold from 298c to 470c/kg. The yearling heifers also to the restockers and feeder orders sold close to firm, with the medium and heavy weights making from 366c to 400c, as the lighter end reached 412c/kg. The higher yielding and prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers reached 424c to be 5c/kg dearer, week-on-week. The heavy weight grown steers to the processors made from 312c to 386c, as the older heifers topped at 326c/kg. Cows trended 5c to 15c dearer, as the plainer drafts to the processors and restocker orders made from 240c to 308c, while the better covered heavy weights received from 290c to 322c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 310c/kg.

### Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 10th March 2020

Numbers eased and the quality in the penning remained fair to good. The majority were younger cattle, with good percentages in prime condition and suitable for the butcher orders. Approximately 17 cows were penned. The usual buyers, along with online computer buyers were active in the competition. The light and medium weight vealer steers to restockers gained 50c, and sold from 414c to 490c/kg. The vealer heifers also to restockers lifted in price by 18c to 20c, and sold from 390c to 484c/kg. Yearling steers trended to be 15c to 20c dearer, with the medium weights to the lot feeder orders making from 390c to 422c, as the light weights to the restockers reached 448c/kg. The yearling heifers were mainly purchased by the butcher orders. The prime conditioned young cattle to the butchers carried plenty of weight this week and prices lifted 15c, with the best reaching 406c/kg. Grown steers to feed and restocking orders sold from 322c to 408c, as a single bullock to the processors made to 336c/kg. Cows sold at similar prices, week-on-week, with the medium weight D2 pens making to 280c, while the better covered heavy weights made from 267 to 284c/kg.

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Aussie racing must realise its business will be greatly affected by the health catastrophe sweeping the world. That could be on a micro-scale (will media broadcasters even be allowed to interview participants, surely next week's Golden Slipper barrier draw function will have to be cancelled?) or a macro-scale (is racing itself and the wagering businesses it supports under threat?). But whatever way you look at it racing and all major crowd and participant sports in Australia have massive challenges to manage in the short-term at least. And if you look into the crystal ball, it's hard to see it not having a bigger impact on racing than the EI crisis in 2007 which dragged racing to its knees. Racing must hope for the best but plan for the worst.

### Matt Tripps' comments

Online wagering pioneer Matt Tripp fears there may be little option but to shut down racing entirely at some point as coronavirus concerns escalate - in a move which could potentially strip Australian

wagering agencies of up to 70 percent of their business. Tripp, the founder of betting companies such as Sportsbet and BetEasy, is currently a director of the Melbourne Storm NRL club and will take over as chairman of the Storm in May. He is receiving daily coronavirus updates in his rugby league role as sports around the world try to deal with the global pandemic. On Friday morning, officials took the drastic step to cancel the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne as coronavirus concerns took hold. And Australian cricket said fans would be banned from upcoming matches - including three one-day internationals against New Zealand in Sydney and in Hobart. Many racing jurisdictions around the world are now running ghost meetings - with fans banned - and the rapidly evolving situation could see that happen sooner rather than later in Australia. Tripp worries about the potential impact of the

coronavirus surge on racing in Australia - and also how it could potentially impact the wagering providers. "What about if one of the top jockeys comes down with it, or someone manning the jockeys rooms becomes infected or another participant who is at the track, then racing would surely have to shut down," Tripp told Racenet. "Racing is core to BetEasy and to all the wagering businesses in Australia and if an outbreak (in racing) does occur and racing does shut down then what do they do?" "About 70 percent of the business of wagering operators in Australia is on racing - and 50 percent of that is on thoroughbreds. "It would potentially mean that at least 50 percent of the business would be gone, probably for a few months." Tripp estimated that 20 percent of the sportsbooks of wagering agencies were wiped out when the NBA suspended its season this week. He forecast the coronavirus would be a major challenge

for the wagering industry for many months and operators would probably have to look at new products. "Wagering businesses have to stay close to this - they have got to be prepared, and they have got to be prepared to market new things as some of the products they bet on may not be able to operate," Tripp said. If racing continues to go ahead - but with fans banned - there are some suggestions it could actually increase wagering turnover. On-track turnover these days is minimal and if more people are isolated at home and with little to do, betting on races (even if they are ghost meetings) could actually become more popular. Dubai World Cup night on March 29 will now be held behind closed doors, due to the fears surrounding coronavirus, while all race meetings in Ireland will be run behind closed doors for the rest of the month.

Matt Tripp

# click's



## Coronavirus scammers are seeking to profit off the deadly virus

By Ken Dilanian and Emmanuelle Saliba

**Some scammers have impersonated the World Health Organization and the CDC, while others have masqueraded as health authorities in other countries.**

The new coronavirus has been a bonanza for scammers and spies, who are exploiting the global thirst for information about the outbreak to make money and steal information, government officials and cybersecurity experts say. Criminal hackers, scammers and even governments have been sending fake coronavirus-themed emails designed to trick people into opening attachments that download malicious software, allowing access to their data, experts told NBC News. Some messages have impersonated the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, while others have masqueraded as communications from health authorities in other countries, including Ukraine, Vietnam and Italy. The FBI is tracking so-called phishing campaigns that seek to use people's interest in the coronavirus to get them to click on links that encourage them to reveal sensitive login information, a top FBI official said.

"One of the things that's most concerning to us are phishing scams with a coronavirus theme," said Herb Stapleton, a section chief in the FBI's cyber criminal section. "This is a vector or an approach that we didn't see three months ago and now is suddenly successful."

Sophos, a global security company, provided NBC News with examples of the phishing scams, including one offering information purported to be from the World Health Organization. A fake email has the logo of the World Health Organization on it. Sophos Ltd.

The coronavirus phishing scam, which has been around since early February, has targeted users around the world. Police departments from Australia to the U.K. have issued warnings to be on the lookout for it.

The WHO also issued its own guidance making it clear that it would never "ask you to login to view

safety information."

A newer and lesser-known scam has recently been uncovered by Sophos: emails purporting to be from CDC doctors and U.N. officials that encourage users to download malicious files. Get breaking news and insider analysis on the rapidly changing world of media and technology right to your inbox. "A must read," says one bogus email purported to be from a CDC doctor, which the company showed to NBC News. "Find in the attached everything you need to know about the spreading and management of the deadly Wuhan Coronavirus..." If a person clicks on one of the attachments promising guidance on how to "help prevent the coronavirus," malware will be downloaded onto the unsuspecting user's device. One malware package, called "Trickbot," typically tries to steal banking credentials, and the other, named "Fareit," which can log a person's keystrokes, typically tries to steal any and all login credentials.

"In volume, the malicious ones are a fraction of the total number of things trying to take advantage of the coronavirus, but obviously they are the ones we worry about the most because they are the ones that cause harm," said Chester Wisniewski, a research scientist with

Sophos.

Cybercriminals "recognize that when there is a crisis, people are hungry for information — they are looking for whatever is new," said Shawn Henry, who once headed the FBI's cyber division and now works for a security firm, CrowdStrike. "When people are hungry for information, they are vulnerable, because they've got their guard down." CrowdStrike and other leading cybersecurity firms say the coronavirus has become the top new theme in schemes that use social engineering to induce recipients to open attachments or click on links that then open their computer files to attackers. "This is dominating cybersecurity right now," said Jim Yacone, a former senior FBI official now at the SANS Institute, a cybersecurity research and education organization. It's not just criminals — spy agencies appear to be using the technique, as well, experts say. Security firm FireEye documented a China-based effort to extract information from Vietnamese government officials, as well as multiple campaigns targeting Ukrainian officials.

The U.S. Secret Service said in a statement warning the public: "Coronavirus is a prime opportunity for enterprising criminals because it plays on one of the basic human conditions ... fear."

"Fear can cause normally

scrupulous individuals to let their guard down and fall victim" to scams, the statement added.

The scams go well beyond the U.S. The security firm Fortinet found an email written in Italian, posing as a message from an Italian health agency, that induced users to click on an attachment that looked like a Microsoft Office document. In fact, the user was downloading Trickbot malware.

Other hackers are sending emails with what purports to be a secret cure for the coronavirus. When recipients click on the link, they are asked to enter their credentials, according to the security firm Proofpoint, which also found fake WHO emails. Authorities in the U.K. are also warning about coronavirus-related email scams. The FBI, the Secret Service and security firms urge people to:

- Avoid opening attachments and clicking on links within emails from senders you don't recognize.
- Always independently verify that any requested information originates from a legitimate source.
- Refuse to supply login credentials or financial data in response to an email. Visit websites by inputting their domains manually. "Making the public aware of how to protect themselves is a really important step in stopping this type of activity," Stapleton said.



# MOVIE REVIEW

## The Invisible Man



Trapped in a violent, controlling relationship with a wealthy and brilliant scientist, Cecilia Kass (Moss) escapes in the dead of night and disappears into hiding, aided by her sister (Harriet Dyer, NBC's *The InBetween*), their childhood friend (Aldis Hodge, *Straight Outta Compton*) and his teenage daughter (Storm Reid, HBO's *Euphoria*). But when Cecilia's abusive ex (Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Netflix's *The Haunting of Hill House*) commits suicide and leaves her a generous portion of his vast fortune, Cecilia suspects his death was a hoax. As a series of eerie coincidences turns lethal, threatening the lives of those she loves, Cecilia's sanity begins to unravel as she desperately tries to prove that she is being hunted by someone nobody can see.

REVIEW: 'Invisible Man' offers more than just a retread of familiar horror tropes *By Amanda Greever*



Blumhouse Productions films can be a bit hit or miss. The production studio has released mainstream hits like "Get Out," "Paranormal Activity" and "The Purge," but it's also produced films like last month's "Fantasy Island." Like I said, it's hit or miss. "The Invisible Man" is a modern take on a classic story. The original tale by H.G. Wells is the story of a scientist who creates a serum that makes him invisible. The character also became one of the classic monsters popularized by Universal Studios. The Blumhouse production — directed by Leigh Whannell — creates a monster of its own, one possibly even more terrifying.

Elisabeth Moss stars as Cecilia, a woman who's been abused and controlled by her partner for years. Adrian (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) is a fiber-optics genius and successful entrepreneur. He's also a narcissist who controls every aspect of his life, including the people in it and even his dog, Zeus, through force. When Cecilia manages to break away, Adrian fakes his suicide and leaves her \$5 million.

Cecilia is staying with an old friend — and cop — James (Aldis Hodge) and his daughter, Sydney (Storm Reid). She's got a very small circle of friends and supporters. Basically, it's James, Syd and her sister, Emily (Harriet Dyer), who also serves as her lawyer. The news of Adrian's death offers a taste of freedom, but it's short-lived when she begins being tormented by someone who's not there. Cecilia isn't stupid. She knows what Adrian is capable of, and she suspects him of being invisible from the very get-go. Unfortunately, trying to tell folks you see invisible people never goes well, and even those who love her doubt her. Gaslighting is a very old trope, and it's also one of the most



frustrating things for me to watch in a film. Cecilia's family and friends are doubting her sanity. Granted, it makes sense, but there's something incredibly heartbreaking about watching people you trust and love turn their backs on you. But, it's another one of Adrian's games. She's lived through them, and she knows how to deal. Honestly, watching Cecilia go to battle is fantastic. You feel for her because the people she loves think she's a raving lunatic and her life is hell, but watching her put on her proverbial armor is kind of awesome. Cecilia is a victim, but she's also a woman who's being abused, hurt and controlled by a man. When Adrian begins threatening the people she loves, she goes full Wonder Woman, She-Hulk and Xena Warrior Princess all rolled into one. Maybe a bit of Dana Scully, too, as she goes to Adrian's home to find tangible proof that she's not crazy. "The Invisible Man" is a story we all know. But, Whannell's film offers a fresh take on the classic tale of an invisible monster. Gaslighting isn't a new story device, and neither is a woman escaping from an abusive relationship. But, in this story, we worry about Cecilia, but we also never doubt that she's going to beat the bad guy. For every one of Adrian's calculated moves, she has one of her own. It's a game of cat-and-mouse,

but at times, you have to wonder if Cecilia is the cat eyeing her prey. The film offers classic jump scares and chilling scenes. It also has an incredibly shocking scene that made everybody in the audience gasp when it happened. I cannot tell you what it is, but you'll know when you see it. While we're talking about the atmosphere and overall mood of this movie, it has a number of flourishes, such as camera angles that make it appear it's from someone's point of view, possibly the bad guy. It creates not only a sense of tension and verisimilitude, but a certain guilty pleasure akin to voyeurism. It makes a lot of moments richer. All of these things would not mean a lot if the central performance was weak. And, I'm here to tell you that Elisabeth Moss kills it in the lead role. She shows a number of sides, as she deteriorates and grows possibly into something stronger. She exhibits agency and learns how to make strides to take back her life.

Bottom line: "The Invisible Man" is a deceptive film. It appears to be your standard thriller, but it becomes something bigger, something stronger, at a certain point. I'd recommend seeing what that is for yourselves. Amanda Greever is a former editor, designer and writer at *The Daily Times*. She now works in public relations.



# Behind the stimulus: Frydenberg's two weeks of madness

By Rob Harris

The Sydney Morning Herald

EDITORS' CHOICE



Treasurer Josh Frydenberg. Credit: Alex Ellinghausen

Josh Frydenberg has the sniffles (he insists it's not "the" virus) and is getting through his most important day since becoming Treasurer on three hours' sleep.

"I need some sugar," he says in the general direction of one of his hard-working aides. "Can I have a cup of tea with some sugar?"

It's Thursday and it's been four hours since the \$17.6 billion stimulus plan he's been working on, day and night for the past two weeks, to help protect the economy from the coronavirus pandemic has been announced.

He is determined to stay upbeat about its chances of success.

But, he concedes, things are a rapidly moving feast. "You don't prepare a line item in the budget for a global pandemic," Frydenberg says.

US President Donald Trump has not long announced a ban on people travelling from Europe to America for the next 30 days. The ASX200, which was already down by 2.1 per cent, has gone into free-fall on the news and ends the day down \$130 billion. It was the largest one-day drop since the global financial crisis, eclipsing the 7.3 per cent drop on Monday.

Frydenberg, who has been up since before the sun and has hit the airwaves ahead of a major press conference, is wired to his phone, with one ear on the TV news channels for updates.

"It's a big challenge," he says. "But we are up to it."

A little over a fortnight earlier, Frydenberg was on a plane from Melbourne to Riyadh, as Saudi Arabia hosted its first G20 Finance Ministers' summit. It was the last week in February and the International Monetary Fund was tipping GDP growth would be revised down by 0.1 percentage points, from the current projected 3.3 per cent to 3.2 per cent for 2020.

But when Singapore's Second Minister for Finance, Lawrence Wong, tells the meeting the wealthy city-state, one of the countries outside China hit hardest by the virus, is headed towards its biggest budget deficit in 15 years and potentially a recession, Frydenberg takes note.

"It was really starting to come home in that meeting," he says. "But again there was uncertainty. It was about then things really went bad in Italy and things have changed daily since."

Four days later and with the knowledge of what the coronavirus outbreak was threatening to do to the Singaporean and South Korean economies, Frydenberg arrived home with a new outlook.

The next day, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced his Treasurer was working with Treasury to discuss options for, should it be required, a

"targeted, modest and scalable" stimulus package.

Frydenberg and Treasury secretary Steven Kennedy - who has served both sides of politics with distinction - put their heads together.

Kennedy, as economics adviser in the offices of Labor prime ministers Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard, was a significant player in Australia's fiscal stimulus response to the 2008 global financial crisis.

"We had a clear set of principles and we just knew this economic challenge was occurring and we needed to front-end the package to really get the money

flowing early," Frydenberg says. "It's a watching brief and obviously we are not ruling out any further programs should it be required."

Frydenberg, as a member of the national security committee of cabinet, has had a voice in every major decision during the past fortnight.

Backbenchers speculate in hushed conversations that Frydenberg was among the most reluctant of the power leadership group to enforce a travel ban from mainland China to Australia.

A treasurer is usually the hold-out on protecting a budget surplus and he knows Chinese students and tourists added \$16 billion to the economy last year.

When asked, Frydenberg won't take the bait, saying only they were "very tough decisions" but "based on the best advice".

"The PM was very decisive on that," he says. "With hindsight they look to be the right decisions. Absolutely the right decision."

Frydenberg says although his budget surplus is gone, he believes the economy will "bounce back" stronger than ever on the other side.

He says should the stimulus efforts need to be extended or increased in May's budget, he won't hesitate. He will be guided by data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the banks and the Australian Taxation Office in the coming weeks.

"This is an event like we haven't seen before," he says. "And it is the first major global crisis in the social media age."

"And Australia, an island, may be surrounded by water but it's not a moat when it comes to the interconnected world we live in."

Rob Harris is the National Affairs Editor for The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.

## 'Spend up, save the nation': Frydenberg urges Aussies to drive economy

THE NEWS | No.516 | WEDNESDAY 18 Mar 2020 9 19

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

and NOT SO

**Goodness me;** the measures of slander towards those who care for our planet and our children/grandchildren, (Please don't trash your home!). Why do climate deniers resort to name-calling and slander when challenged. I suggest that there rhetoric is so fragile they actually believe it; how sad! The only degree required is a degree of common sense.

**Last Thursday** I had a wonder around Bridges Hill Park & Recreation Area in Cessnock. If you don't know it it is just up the hill from Cessnock Catholic Church. What took my interest was the new sandstone I saw leading up to the area but when I got to the actual park I was astounded by the sheer volume of sandstone that adorns the park; there is more sandstone there than in Gosford! It should be named Darkinjung (aboriginal for *sandstone*) Park. I did some further research when I got back home & not really to my surprise on the CCC website under 'Community facilities & Capital Works Program 2019/2020 I saw \$2,049,019 for upgrade to the park playground & a further \$200,000 for toilet block. I live in North Rothbury and our park is a community play & meeting area, much used. The local tidy town have been wanting an electric BBQ (there must be 1/2 dozen BBQ's there!), an irrigation system & an extension of the shelter for storage; probably \$50,000 but to no avail; totally unequitable!

'Darkinjung' Park

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

**Drum lessons:** Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

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

**For Sale:** 2 ton chainblock \$100, Hardwood Timber beam 4800 x 290 x 75, \$50. 2470 x 140 x 100, \$20, Humes prime coat solid exterior door, 2040 x 820 x 35, New \$120, sell \$50, Painted solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, \$20, trailer axle with Holden hubs and stub axles, \$20, 4 White roll down security shutters 1800, 1860, 1760, 1650 wide with 2000 drop, Free Ph.0437312905

**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:** 2000 Holden Rodeo LXTFR9 Dual Cab lpg/petrol (WSE547) rego 27/6/20. 156,239 bull bar ute liner canopy silvergrey \$2950 neg. [olwynca@gmail.com](mailto:olwynca@gmail.com) P: 0249387430

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

**For Sale:** Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077

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

**For Sale:** Alpacas Ph 0400697148

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

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

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

**Dates for your diary**

**FRI 20 MAR** - Braxton Public School Primary Cross Country

**SAT 21 MAR** - Braxton Public School P&C Trivia Night at Braxton Golf Club 7pm

**WED 25 MAR** - Braxton Public School K-2 Cross Country Fun Run

**FRI 27 MAR** - Braxton Public School Performance Assembly 9:20am

**FRI 3 APR** - Braxton Public School PBL Assembly and Reward Day

**WED 8 APR** - Braxton Public School Easter Hat Parade

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

**MON 20 APR 2020** - Public Speaking Workshop. Conducted by Cessnock Toastmasters. 6 week course each Monday night at 7pm. Details: Contact Anna 49904093

**4 Apr 2020**  
**A Lot with a Little Newcastle Writers Festival**  
Tim Costello discusses the people and experiences that have shaped him, and the power of faith to sustain us in the face of the world's big issues.

**Upcoming Concerts**

**SAT 24 OCT 2020** - Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate

**SAT 31 OCT 2020** - "Jazz in the Vineyards" (Kate Cebrano) @ Hope Estate

**SAT 21 NOV 2020** - A Day on the Green (James Blunt & Jason Mraz) at Bimbadgen, Hunter Valley

**SAT 5 DEC 2020** - Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green wineries. They will be joined by very special guests, UK electronic pioneers ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES IN THE DARK, their first Australian tour since 1987.

## Jobs and training partnership forged in the Cessnock region



Employment Facilitator, TAFE NSW, employment and jobactive agencies, youth organisations, PCYC, and other stakeholders with an interest in training and employment. The formalisation of the Employment and Training Network follows the launch of the Council's Cessnock Jobs Portal in early 2020. The Advance Cessnock City Jobs Portal [cessnockjobs.com.au](http://cessnockjobs.com.au), was designed to make hiring easier for Hunter Valley employers and job seekers. Since the launch of the Portal many local businesses in the community have

A sustainable workforce and supporting existing local businesses to employ more staff locally are the aims of Cessnock City Council's Employment and Training Network.

The collaborative working group is made up of employment agencies and training bodies from across the Cessnock Local Government Area. The Network is focused on identifying and removing barriers to employment, improving the employment outlook for young people, those returning to work and the unemployed.

The group was formed in 2018 in response to Council's workforce Skills Audit. More recently the decision has been made to formalise the group and commit to collaboratively identify opportunities to improve training and employment outcomes for the benefit of

the individual, the business and the community. Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager, Tony Chadwick said the formalisation of the network is a positive step that will provide a unified voice to advocate for our communities employment and training needs. "The Network has already identified difficulties in obtaining a drivers licence as a local barrier to employment and discussions are currently underway into possible solutions to overcome this issue. Other topics discussed included employer and job seeker matching events, employment clinics for small business and remembering to celebrate our successes via adding case studies to the Cessnock Jobs Portal."

Members include Council's Economic Development Team, Hunter Region

embraced the platform and have been advertising their vacant positions. The site also has a range of meaningful resources about local vocational education, training, local career pathways and available jobs.

Cessnockjobs.com.au was jointly funded by the Australian Government and Cessnock City Council as part of the Skills Audit project. Employers are urged to list their jobs for free on [www.cessnockjobs.com.au](http://www.cessnockjobs.com.au) and share their stories of successful employment outcomes to [economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au). View the Cessnock City Skills Audit 2018 report online: <https://advancecessnock.com.au/cessnock-city-skills-audit/>.

■ Photo above: "The Network" following a meeting at Cessnock City Council

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No 139 17th July 2003

Pick the kid!



Noel Goodyer & some of his protégé

Noel Goodyer, a big kid at heart, was fare-welled last Saturday by a legion of his protégés, their parents & committee members of the Greta Branxton Junior Rugby League Colts.

Club President John Hunter said that the club would not have been a reality without Noel's input & that the club wished he & his family all the best in the future. (see full report in this issue)



If you require assistance  
please call Mike on  
**0414 757 826**



# GIVE US A BREAK

## DUMPING ISN'T GIVING

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

CHARITY OPERATORS ARE NOT GARBAGE SERVICES

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING **131 555**

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



Raise your cup & make every drop counts

for Cancer Research

Enjoy scones, slices with tea & coffee, RAFFLE and Lucky Door Prizes. Bring your friends, fill a table, Have some fun while raising much needed funds

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 @ 10am

BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL

Entry is \$15pp

For Bookings - Marie - 0402 015 850

Table bookings are essential



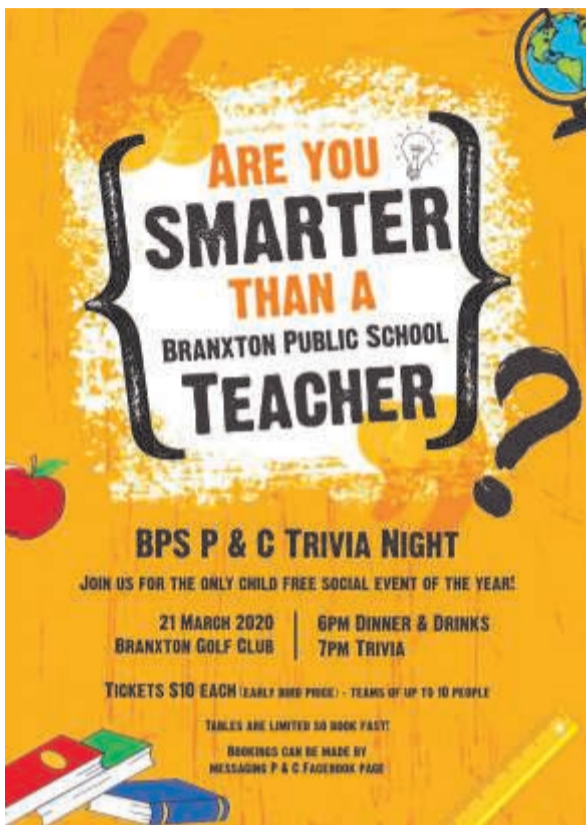
# School News



## Branxton Public School

We are proud to introduce our School Leaders for 2020. We have Emily and Tayla (Captains), Ava and Nakia (Vice-Captains) and Brayden and Harrison (SRC Presidents). They have already embraced their duties and are doing a fabulous job of running assemblies and being great role models for our younger students. Our House Captains have also been busy with the Swimming Carnival and upcoming Cross Country events. Badges for our other school leaders were presented at the Whole School Assembly earlier this term. Congratulations to our AECG Junior Representatives, our 2020 Library Monitors and our newly elected SRC Ministers. All of these student help to keep our school running efficiently and have already proven themselves to be keen and responsible leaders. Keep up the great work.

The Primary Cross Country is on Friday 20th March and the K-2 Cross Country (Fun Run/obstacle course) is on Wednesday 25th March. We are using the events to raise money for Buy a Bale who are helping farmers by delivering hay and other essential items to those who are drought affected.



Library Monitors 2020



2020 Student Representative Council



School Leaders 2020



Sports House Leaders 2020



Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (JAECG) 2020

### Dates for the Calendar

- Friday 20th March – Primary Cross Country
- Saturday 21st March – P&C Trivia Night at Branxton Golf Club 7pm
- Wednesday 25th March – K-2 Cross Country Fun Run
- Friday March 27th – Performance Assembly 9:20am
- Friday 3rd April – PBL Assembly and Reward Day
- Wednesday 8th April – Easter Hat Parade

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



### RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE  
P: 4938 3300



“Branxton Gardens” Senior Living, Branxton  
Recent sales

- SOLD UNIT 2
- SOLD UNIT 10
- SOLD UNIT 12
- SOLD UNIT 18





### Top 10 gardening jobs this month

There's lots to do around the garden at this time of year. Here's a list of jobs to do now.

**Rake** fallen leaves into a pile and add to the compost heap.

**Continue** deadheading roses to encourage new autumn buds to form.

**Fertilise** lawns so they can achieve maximum growth before the cool weather arrives.

**Take** advantage of any autumn rains by spreading a fresh layer of mulch over beds after they've had a good soaking.

**Cover** shaded ponds with firmly fixed netting to catch autumn leaves before they foul the water.

**Install** an insect hotel to encourage a range of pollinators to take up residence in your garden.

**Buy** spring bulbs. In warm areas, put cold-loving tulip, daffodil, crocus and hyacinth bulbs in the fridge for a few weeks of pre-planting chill.

**Plant** and transplant trees and shrubs while the soil is still fairly warm.

**Begin** feeding potted plants fortnightly with liquid fertiliser to strengthen them before winter arrives.

**Check** plants for pest infestation, as populations may have increased during the warm weather.

### Privacy screens



Yearning for a quiet, private spot to entertain friends, curl up and read, or just sit and contemplate your garden... without onlookers? If a neighbouring property looks into your cosy reading nook or back deck, why not add some stylish screening to block the view? There are plenty of ways to achieve this, from DIY and quick-fix ideas that you can whip up in an afternoon, to more permanent solutions. Here are a few ideas.

### Screening plants

These are an obvious solution for creating privacy. If

you're in a hurry, use fast-growing options such as lily pilli or bottlebrush. Other instant screening ideas include tall plants in large pots or planter boxes (containers with wheels are ideal). Alternatively, put up some climbers, and add an attractive trellis to the pot or planter box to provide privacy while the plants grow. Plus, you can take them all with you if you move.

**Curtains** ~ There are plenty of ready-made curtains you can buy to hang as walls for your pergola or balcony, from sheer ones with tab tops, to heavier ones with eyelets to thread over a curtain rod. But will they be durable enough to leave outside for long periods? That's no problem if they are easy to remove when it looks like rain. Consider curtains made from tulle or a similar gauzy fabric to create atmosphere, let in light and provide privacy; you may need to sew weights along the hem for breezy days. The other option is to get some curtains made in a fabric that's UV-resistant and designed for the outdoors - handy if your pergola supports are on an angle and you need a custom solution.

**Day beds** ~ If you have limited space or you're renting, consider an outdoor day bed with a canopy. These giant enclosed lounges are the perfect instant solution to create your own private nook. There's room for you (and a friend or two) to relax. Tuck one into an unused corner, or position it to block a neighbour's view into your garden. The luxurious models offer features like all-weather (think hose-down) resin wicker, durable but soft UV-resistant

fabric, quick-dry outdoor foam cushions, and wheels if you want to change the location or follow the sun.

### Revive a hanging basket

Hanging baskets always suffer in the heat, and are hard to re-wet when they dry out. Following our fortnightly routine will help keep even your most delicate baskets happy and hydrated over summer. Pictured is a winter basket of scaevola, dichondra, plectranthus and viola. You'd swap out the viola for summer.

**1 Start** with some detailing, sifting through and removing dead and diseased material. Prune anything that's getting out of shape and detracting from the display.

**2 Fill** a large vessel with enough water to cover the potting mix when the basket is submerged. Add some liquid fertiliser to the water, according to product directions, and mix well until diluted. Every few months, add some wetting agent to the solution, too.

**3 Lower** the basket into the water and gently push it down until the potting mix is completely covered. Allow it to soak in the water until bubbles stop rising to the surface (about 10 minutes), which indicates that the potting mix is saturated.

**4 Lift** the basket out of the water and rest it on a couple of short lengths of timber placed across the top of the container. Allow to sit until all the excess water has drained.

**5 Return** the basket to its hanging position. If you're in the middle of some hot or windy weather, hang it in a cooler, more protected spot until the extreme conditions pass.



## These Are The 'Smartest' Dog Breeds, According to a Canine Psychologist

GUS LUBIN



➤ Number #1 Border Collie

There's no easy way to rate dog intelligence. It can be focused on more than one thing.

As canine psychologist Stanley Coren wrote back in the '90s, there's adaptive intelligence (i.e., figuring stuff out), working intelligence (i.e. following orders), and instinctive intelligence (i.e. innate talent) - not to mention spatial intelligence, kinesthetic intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, and more. Indeed, as animal behaviourist Frans de Waal has argued, humans tend to judge animal intelligence in limited and unfair terms and often bungle the experiment.

While labs at Yale, Duke, and around the world are studying this question, for now, we do at least have data

on one metric: working intelligence.

Coren, in his book, *The Intelligence of Dogs*, featured the results of a lengthy survey of 199 dog obedience judges.

The responses, he said, were remarkably consistent; however, he noted that many judges pointed out that there are exceptions in every breed and that a lot comes down to training.

Here's what he found: **Top tier** - the brightest working dogs, who tend to learn a new command in less than five exposures and obey at least 95 percent of the time.

1. Border collie
2. Poodle
3. German shepherd
4. Golden retriever
5. Doberman pinscher
6. Shetland sheepdog
7. Labrador retriever
8. Papillon
9. Rottweiler
10. Australian cattle dog
- Second tier** - excellent working dogs, who tend to learn a new command in five to 15 exposures and obey at least 85 percent of the time.
11. Pembroke Welsh corgi
12. Miniature schnauzer
13. English springer spaniel
14. Belgian Tervuren
15. Schipperke, Belgian sheepdog
16. Collie Keeshond
17. German short-haired pointer
18. Flat-coated retriever, English cocker spaniel, Standard schnauzer
19. Brittany spaniel
20. Cocker spaniel, Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever
21. Weimaraner
22. Belgian Malinois, Bernese mountain dog
23. Pomeranian
24. Irish water spaniel
25. Vizsla
26. Cardigan Welsh corgi
- Third tier** - above-average working dogs, who tend to learn a new trick in 15 to 25 repetitions and obey at least 70 percent of the time.
27. Chesapeake Bay retriever, Puli, Yorkshire terrier
28. Giant schnauzer, Portuguese water dog
29. Airedale, Bouv Flandres
30. Border terrier, Briard
31. Welsh springer spaniel
32. Manchester terrier
33. Samoyed
34. Field spaniel, Newfound-

land, Australian terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, Gordon setter, Bearded collie

35. American Eskimo dog, Cairn terrier, Kerry blue terrier, Irish setter

36. Norwegian elkhound

37. Affenpinscher, Silky terrier, Miniature pinscher, English setter, Pharaoh hound, Clumber spaniel

38. Norwich terrier

39. Dalmatian

**Fourth tier** - average working dogs, who tend to learn a new trick in 25 to 40 repetitions and obey at least 50 percent of the time.

0. Soft-coated wheaten terrier, Bedlington terrier, Smooth-haired fox terrier
41. Curly-coated retriever, Irish wolfhound
42. Kuvasz, Australian shepherd
43. Saluki, Finnish Spitz, Pointer
44. Cavalier King Charles spaniel, German wirehaired pointer, Black-and-tan coonhound, American water spaniel
45. Siberian husky, Bichon Frise, English toy spaniel
46. Tibetan spaniel, English foxhound, Otterhound, American foxhound, Greyhound, Harrier, Parson Russel terrier, Wirehaired pointing griffon
47. West Highland white terrier, Havanese, Scottish deerhound
48. Boxer, Great Dane
49. Dachshund, Staffordshire bull terrier, Shiba Inu
50. Malamute
51. Whippet, Chinese shar-pei, Wirehaired fox terrier
52. Rhodesian ridgeback
53. Ibizan hound, Welsh terrier, Irish terrier
54. Boston terrier, Akita
- Fifth tier** - fair working dogs, who tend to learn a new trick in 40 to 80 repetitions and respond about 40 percent of the time.
55. Skye terrier
56. Norfolk terrier, Sealyham terrier
57. Pug
58. French bulldog
59. Brussels griffon, Maltese terrier
60. Italian greyhound
61. Chinese crested
62. Dandie Dinmont terrier, Vendeen, Tibetan terrier, Japanese chin, Lakeland

terrier

63. Old English sheepdog

64. Great Pyrenees

65. Scottish terrier, Saint Bernard

66. Bull terrier, Petite Basset Griffon, Vendeen

67. Chihuahua

68. Lhasa apso

69. Bullmastiff

**Sixth tier** - the least effective working dogs, who may learn a new trick after more than 100 repetitions and obey around 30 percent of the time.

70. Shih Tzu
71. Basset hound
72. Mastiff, beagle
73. Pekingese
74. Bloodhound
75. Borzoi
76. Chow chow
77. Bulldog
78. Basenji
79. Afghan hound

There are, again, exceptions. Coren talks in his book about a trainer who managed to win obedience competitions with multiple Staffordshire bull terriers (#49). There are also, again, other ways of measuring intelligence.

Coren tells us about a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (#20) he owned that was in some ways too smart for competitions.

"He was so bright and attentive that he read my every motion, head turn, and even the direction that I was looking with my eyes, as a command," he writes by email. "That made him very difficult to compete with in obedience trials, since, for instance, a glance with my eyes in the direction of the high jump might be interpreted by him as a command and that would send him off, taking the jump beautifully of course, but nonetheless disqualifying us from that round of competition." De Waal, in *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* spoke in defence of the Afghan hound (#79), noting that they may not be unintelligent but rather independent-minded, stubborn, and unwilling to follow orders. "Afghans," he wrote, "are perhaps more like cats, which are not beholden to anyone."

**Come in to INSPECT**  
what's new in your local museum!



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**Greta Historical Museum**

**96 High Street Greta**

**Open 11am-3pm**

**Wednesdays & Saturdays**



**Open 7 days**

**8am - 8pm**

**4990 3485**

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock  
(opposite ALDI)

# SPORTS RESULTS

## RESULTS GOLF

### Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 5-3-20 Stableford

1<sup>st</sup> R Hebbe 23 pts  
2<sup>nd</sup> R Showman 21 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> J Sheedy 19 pts (c/b)  
NTP Ladies M Hunt  
Gents L Hunt  
Members draw - No draw conducted

The inclement weather depleted our numbers some what to-day, however 8 of our gallant members took to the course for to-days round. All was not lost as "Lake Branxton" is full and the course is responding to the fallen rain. Congratulations to Ron Hebbe, Vice Captain and long term member of the BGC, on winning the round. Many thanks to all members who participated.

### Results 12-3-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Sheldon 31 pts R/u G Anderson 28 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> M Ryan 25 pts  
Div 2 Winner P Anderson 33 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u J Atton 33 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> K Thomas 30 pts  
Ladies Winner C Caldwell 25 pts R/u T Martin 15pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> J Harris 14 pts  
NTP Ladies T Martin  
Gents J Sheedy  
Members draw - Not won  
The wet weather is still with us however, it stayed fine with some overcast and sunlight for most of the round, making the day comfortable or the players. Congratulations to Paul Anderson, a recent winner of the Millenium Trophy, on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all other winners and place getters.

### LN Bootes, Hon Sec

**Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 23rd February** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Scott Burgess with an outstanding 43 point round from Allan Cruckshanks with 34 points.

**Tuesday 25th February** Gary Arnold has produced one of his best rounds for some time recording 43 points for a clear win, Richard Craft took runner up with 41 from Peter Franks 38 in 3rd. Ball winners were: Peter Tierney 36, Tom Bell 36, Darrell Porter 36, John Stewart 35, Garry Marsden 35, Graeme Flynn 35, Jason Cowburn 35, Steve Piggot 34, Geoff Sweetman 34, Drew Dewar 34, Nick Wilson 34, Rob Hannah 34, Rick Turnchini 33 and Chris Taggart 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Richard Craft (3rd & 17th) Eric Smith (8th) and Wayne Cowen (10th)

**Wednesday 26th February** The Season Opening Day 2 Person Ambrose has been won by Jenny Chambers & Dale Hamilton with 67 net from Isabel Skeates & Jill Ramsden 68 with Mary Fortey & Jill Slatter 3rd with 69 net.

**Thursday 27th February** Excellent scores featured in the Vets Medley Stableford with James Schofield claiming Division 1 with 44 points from brother Danny 41, Wayne Burgess has won Division 2 with 39 points from Greg Burke 36 on countback and Dave Gellwiler took Division 3 with 38 points from Greg Amloh 37 c/b. Ball winners were: Wazza Fairlie 40, Ken Harris 40, Mark Green 39, Chris Norman 37, Ruff 37, Peter Payne 36, Phil Small 36, David Archibald 36, Gerry Irwin 36, Pater Attewell 35, Geoff Geason 35, Graeme Flynn 35, Curly 35, Ray Boyd 35, Peter McIntyre 35, David Peel 35 and Graeme Smith 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Tom Bell (3rd) Bobby Logue (4th) John Pascoe (8th) Steve Rawlings (10th) and Greg Amloh (17th). The February Mist Glen Outstanding Performance by a Vet has been won by Curly Tomlinson.

**Saturday 29th February** The 2BBB winners were Michael McNab and David Peel with 48 points on countback to Mathew McKee from Grafton GC and Henry Grebenshikoff from SA Metro GC, 3rd went to Michael Stewart and Luke Rogers with 47 on countback. Ball winners were: Leon Dureau & Glen Williams 47, Paul Neuss & Michael Tsakissiris 47, Shawn Parish & Scott Conti 46, Paul Bullock & Ray Newton 46, Troy Wallis & Angello Wood 45, Lindsay Meyn & Richard Craft 45, Peter Huckfelt & Ron Higginbottom 45, Dean & Tracy Morison 44, Stephen Zok & Mike Carter 44, Dean Freebairn & Paul McCudden 44, Greg Harder & Peter McIntyre 44, Michael Stewart & Tim Poteris 44, Alan Provenzano & David Agnew 44, James Schofield & Wayne Drayton 44, Mick & Lloyd Barrett 43 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Tom Bell (3rd) Scott Conti (4th) Terry Roughan (8th) Jeremy Holden (10th) and Leon Dureau (17th). The Individual Stableford winner played in conjunction with the 2BBB was Dean Freebairn in a 3 way countback from Ron Higginbottom and Michael Stewart who all returned 39 points.

**Pennants:** A Grade suffered a 1-4 loss to Cypress Lakes at Branxton, B Grade had a 4 1/2 - 1/2 win over Muswellbrook at Maitland , C Grade had a 1-4 loss to Branxton at Paterson while the Seniors have qualified for the semi-finals with a 2-1 win over Murrurundi at the Vintage. **Sunday 1st March** Doris Hoare of Charlestown GC has won the Weekly Challenge from Richard Hoare with 38 on countback to Ryan McGregor in 3rd. Ball comp details are not available at this time.

**Monday 2nd March** The 2020 Ladies Pennants began at Cypress Lakes GC with Hunter Valley sharing the points with Branxton after both teams finished with 2 wins, 2 squares and 2 losses. The club extends best wishes to our Ladies for the remainder of the season. The Ladies not playing Pennants played an Individual Stableford with Jan Hovey producing a fine 38 point round for the win with consistent Toni Fisher runner up with 36 points.

**Tuesday 3rd March** Greg Ireland with 43 points has won the Tuesday Stableford from Richard Craft 40 on countback to Greg Mudd from Maitland GC. Ball winners were: Chris Taggart 37, Damien Porter 37, Tom Bell 36, David Michael Menzies 36, Aaron Fox 36, Graeme Flynn 35, Andrea Babalis 35, Michael Watson 35, Rick Turnchini 34, Brett Janssen v34, Mark Barrow 33, Ken Scott-MacKenzie 33, Garry Marsden 32, Dean Morison 32 and Ian Dalgairns 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ian Dalgairns (3rd) James Hogg (4th) Drrell Porter (8th) Tim Dunn (10th) and Jacob Pease (17th)

**Thursday 5th March** Early showers left many of the Vets at home with only a small field turning out for the Irish Stableford with John Stewart doing best with 71 points from Garry Marsden 69 and Richard Craft 3rd with 68 c/b. Ball winners were: Doug Wand 68, Geoff Boid 68, Bill Freeman 68, Lindsay Meyn 66, Rob Hannah 66 and Kevin Smith 66.

**Saturday 7th March** Stephen Zok has produced the only sub Par round to win A Grade and the Monthly Mug with 68 net from Russell Calderwood 71, B Grade to Bruce Chambers with 71 with Nic Bates 2nd with 72 and C Grade to Paul Neuss 72 from Ron Higginbottom Adam Jackson 71, Wade Attewell 71, Peter Huckfelt 72, Paul Bullock 72, Michael Gilbert 73, Dean Freebairn 73, Richard Craft 74, David Peel 74, Geoff Boyd 74, Ray Newto 74, James Schofield 74, Terry Roughan 74, David grossbernd 75, Andrew Zok 75, Peter Attewell 75, Sam O'Keefe v75 and Tom Bell 76 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to: Tony Bowie (3rd) Peter McIntyre (4th) Don Bradley (8th) and Jeff Morton (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford

**Pennants:** A Grade still have 3 matches before the final today suffered a 2-3 loss to Kurri leaving a 'mountain to climb' for the remainder of the season, B Grade needing a win to play in the finals were unfortunately eliminated 2-3. C Grade's season is over after suffering a 2-3 loss to Singleton at Branxton and the Seniors missed out on the final going down to Paterson 0-3 in their semi-final at Kurri.

**Tuesday 10th March** Graeme Flynn has won the Tuesday Stableford with 38 points from Gary Arnold 37 with Drew Dewar 3rd with 35 points. Ball winners were: David Peel 34, David michael McKenzie 34, Terry Baas 34, Brian Kinsey v33, Angello Wood 33, James Hogg 33, Dean Morison 32, Arthur Cuttriss 32, Tom Bell 32, Damien Porter 32, Paul Smith 32, Greg Ireland 32, Dan Taylor 32, Eric Smith 32 and John Grayson 32.

**Wednesday 11th March** The Ladies Stroke event has

been won by Isabel Skeates with 70 net from Jill Slatter 72 and Joy Provenzano 3rd with 74. Ball winners were: Helen Vandenbruggen v76, Dale Hamilton 76, Mary Fortey 79 and Melita Watson 79 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Sue Williams (3rd & 10th) Christine Tancred (8th) and Sharon Blackett (17th). Next week the Ladies will play Individual Stableford

**Thursday 12th March** The Vets Par round has seen some great scoring across all divisions with Col Bradley claiming Division 1 with +1 from Richard Craft square on countback, Division 2 to Geoff Geason with the standout round of the day +6 from Wayne Burgess +2 and Division 3 to John Tancred with +1 on countback to Neil Peterson. Ball winners were: Rob Hannah +1, John Stewart +1, Alick Bender sq, John Carmody sq, Wayne Barber sq, Graeme Flynn sq, James Schofield sq, Murray Flannigan sq, Tom Bell sq, Norm Barry -1, John Harrison -1, Paul Smith -1, Dave Fury -1, Peter McIntyre -1, Kevin Gibson -1, Alan Kendall -1 and Greg Amloh -1 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Geoff Geason (3rd) Col Bradley (4th) Rob Hannah (8th) and David Peel (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford on Monday due to a large group booking on Thursday.

**Saturday 14th March** A good field turned out for the Medley Stableford in winter like conditions which made scoring a little tough, A Grade was decided on countback after 5 players returned 36 points, David Peel received the judges nod with Waratah GC visitor Dan Wilson runner up, B Garde went to Brian Connolly also on countback to Julie Van Den Berg are they also returned 36 points and C Grade to Dean Blair with the only sub Par round of the day 37 from Max Hindmarsh with 36. NTP nor ball winners are known at this time. Next week's event will be a Blue Tee Challenge.

**Branxton Golf Club Saturday, 29 February 2020**

**SATURDAY COMP - PAR**  
Field 58  
Grades A Benjamin Bridge 4  
Grades A Adrian Chomiszak 4  
Grades A Peter Wilton 0  
Grades B Robert Hale 3  
Grades B Reece Caldwell 3  
Grades B John Burgess 1  
Grades C Anthony Charlesworth 1  
Grades C Glenn Lockwood 1  
Grades C Darren Mathers 0  
NTP 2/11 A 2nd Benjamin Bridge 233cm  
NTP 4 B 4th Reece Caldwell 560cm  
NTP 9/18 C 9th James Elphick 104cm  
NTP 13 A 13th Tom Foster 570cm  
Balls 17 Distributed down to score: -4  
Ben Bridge, the 2019 B Grade Club Champion, continues to impress in A

Grade, once again winning—this time in the uncompromising par event, with an excellent plus 4 score. Adrian Chomiszak, a once very promising junior, is also showing his golfing prowess hasn't left him with an equally good plus 4 score to just miss on a countback. Peter Wilton's even score gave him third place. Robert Hale once again showed his skills to win B Grade with his plus 3 score, also on a countback from Reece Caldwell, with John Burgess, the 2019 C Grade Club Champion, showing his stint in B Grade is well deserved with his plus one to finish third. Anthony Charlesworth won C Grade with a plus one score, also on a countback from Glenn Lockwood, with Darren Mathers third with his even score. A Minus 4 score was needed to win a ball in an event where any score better than your handicap gives you a plus, and scores worse than your handicap gives you a minus. The shot of the day belonged to James Elphick on the 9<sup>th</sup>, finishing just over a metre away.

On Sunday the Pennants continued with the A Grade having a bye. B Grade won 3-2 against Singleton at Maitland, C Grade won 4-1 against Hunter Valley at Paterson whilst the Vets had a win defeating Maitland 2-1 at The Vintage but were unlucky to just miss the playoffs when Hunter Valley won their game on the last hole, meaning Branxton finished third in their division.

**Saturday, 7 March 2020 STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE**

Field: 57  
Winners B Douglas Elphick 63  
Grades A Benjamin Porter 68  
Grades A Mick Barrett 71  
Grades A Peter Wilton 71  
Grades B Peter Marquet 69  
Grades B Robert Miller 72  
Grades B Neil Jordan 72  
Grades C Colin Hughes 73  
Grades C Darren Mathers 75  
Grades C Lennard Porter 77  
NTP 2/11 B 2nd Richard Alley 242cm  
NTP 4 B 4th Robert Miller 217cm  
NTP 9/18 B 9th Troy Mc Caw 91cm  
NTP 13 A 13th Ed Garland 264cm  
Balls 17 Distributed down to score: 78  
Saturday's Monthly Medal proved to be a very difficult task for most players with a nett 78 good enough to win a ball. However, the overall Monthly Medal winner must have been playing a different course as his 63 nett score blitzed the field - a wonderful round in any circumstance. Benny Porter won A Grade with a very pleasing 68 nett score, one of the few scores to play under their handicap. Mick Barrett and Peter Wilton played well to fill the minor placings with their nett 71 s. Peter Marquet won B Grade with his 69 nett score, with Robert Miller and Neil Jordan, blasts from the past, finishing second and third respectively. Col Hughes won c Grade with his nett 73 score, with Darren Mathers runner up with his 75 and Lennie Porter's nett 77 good enough for third. The shot of the day belonged to Troy McCaw on the 9<sup>th</sup>, finishing only 93 cms away. On Sunday the Hunter

River District Pennants continued with A Grade having a rare poor day losing to Maitland 5-0 at Singleton; B Grade enjoyed a good win defeating Muswellbrook 3-2 at Muswellbrook whilst C Grade won their way into

the final after enjoying the bye. Unfortunately, the B Grade team, despite their good efforts, just missed the final, finishing third in their competition.

### Greta Workers



## Memberships Skyrocket after Hawks Nest Success

The Greta Workers Social Fishing Club has hit an all-time high with over 60 members and still increasing. Last

reminder that fees go up from 1<sup>st</sup> April onwards to \$50 single \$100 family.

The recent Hawks Nest outing was taken out by Scotty Beckett with a huge haul of fish. Scott on home turf bagged Salmon, Flathead, Tarwhine, Whiting and Bream and scored a massive 167 points miles ahead of his father Glenn (90.5) and the rest of the pack. Judy Masters logged the third highest score with Bream, Flathead and Leatherjacket (62.5). Cohen Miller-Spliet weighed in a club record Flathead 2.7kg and had a squire to add which bumped his score up to 54 points. The Committee are thrilled with the involvement of everyone so far in 2020, it's great to see everyone making the most of it before we come into the colder weather/winter sports/corona virus etc. that may pose a drop in weigh-ins.

Our Next Outing will be an Open on the Easter Long Weekend. You are permitted to fish from the Thursday night to the Monday. Weigh in will be 4pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Greta Workers Club. A bbq lunch will be provided courtesy of the Fishing Club.

Another thanks again to all our 2020 Sponsors Gocon Rural Fencing, MacDougall Rural Concreting, The Bottlo at Greta, The Sea Shanty at Rutherford, and the Harvest Bistro at Greta Workers Club. Our Club polos from Flanagan Menswear look great and our Banner from CAN Graphic design is a beauty!

Any new members can pay online or come down to our weigh ins or Wednesday raffles.

*Pictured below Cohen Spliet-Miller with his 2.7kg Flathead and a group photo of a heap of our members at the March weigh in.*



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# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

## The **News** SPORT

### Local cricket season ends with mixed results

*First & third grade beaten in grand finals but take Club Championship*



**with Mark Bercini**

#### The lead-up to grand finals; the semis ...

Greta/Branxton first and third grade won their semis with second grade unfortunately going down. First grade overcame a gallant Peden's Hotel by 17 runs at Miller 1. After being washed out on the Saturday, the reserve day Sunday was overcast and



presented a tricky wicket to bat on. A delayed start saw the match reduced to 36 overs, and Greta/Branxton were asked to bat first after losing the toss. As expected, the ball was moving around plenty early on. Greta/

Branxton were 2-6, but started to gain some momentum in the middle order on the back of a sensible knock from vice-skipper Nathan Holz who notched 45. Opener Mark Bercini was next best with

25, with Josh Dagg and Greg Andrews making 14-apiece. The Blues were dismissed in the 32nd over for 129. Peden's Hotel lost key wickets early and were 3-10 after 7 overs in reply. A 52-run fifth wicket stand

between got them right back into the contest. At 3-62 in the 22nd over the match was still very evenly poised. The next four wickets fell cheaply, with the visitors requiring 28 to win off the final six overs with two wickets in hand. But the moment of the match occurred when Peden's key man Crowfoot fell to a brilliant outfield catch by Kyle Hall diving forward at deep mid-wicket. The Blues remained composed to claim the final wicket to book their place in the decider. Martin Shearer bowled beautifully for the home side to claim 5-34 off 7.4, with Brent Watson (2-25 off 9) and Darren Thomson (2-21 off 9) collecting a brace of wickets each.

Second grade went down by 66 runs to Wine Country at Miller 2. Wine Country posted a competitive 7-173 batting first, with Greta/Branxton's wickets shared between Pat Fitzgerald (2-35 off 10), James Shoulders snr (2-42 off 7), Alex Walkling (1-16 off 5), Andrew Bercini (1-43 off 10) and Will Regan (1-37 off 10). The Blues were all out for 107 in reply, with Bercini (24), Reuben Andrews (18), Shoulders snr (14), Ben Hogan (12) and

Trent Fuller (12) providing the runs. Third grade White went through to the decider after being washed out on both days, reaping the reward for finishing higher on the table. **The 'Grand Finals' ....** Greta/Branxton contested the Cessnock District Cricket grand finals last Saturday, with both teams unfortunately going down. First grade took on Mulbring for the second year in a row at East End, with the Marlins once again too good by claiming their fifth consecutive title by 91 runs. Blues captain Joey Butler won the toss and with a little bit of dampness about he asked the opposition to bat first. The Greta/Branxton seamers bowled beautifully to restrict Mulbring for the majority of the innings, but wickets in hand allowed them to score freely after the drinks interval, and they eventually closed their forty overs off at 9-185. Patrick Andrews finished with 3-32 off 6, with Martin Shearer (2-42 off 8), Connor Thomson (2-26 off 6) and Darren Thomson (1-37 off 10) all taking wickets. The regular loss of wickets in reply prevented Greta/Branxton from gaining any sort of

momentum, and they were eventually all out in the 30th over for 94. Darren Thomson and Josh Dagg made 26-apiece, with Brent Watson (12) the only other batsman to make double figures. Third grade White suffered the same fate when they went down to Bellbird by 70 runs at Miller 1. Bellbird made a modest 9-147 batting first, with Jamie McNamara Greta/Branxton's best with the ball with 4-29 off 10. Dan Minchin (1-27 off 8), Will Young (1-15 off 3) and Aaron Stephenson (1-38 off 8) were the other wicket takers. Plenty of Greta/Branxton batsmen made starts in reply, but no one really pushed on to pose a threat. Minchin completed a good all-round game with 18, with Cory Stephenson and Young making 13-apiece.

■ *Photo: First Grade 'Runner's Up' Back L-R: Sean Wright (club president), Darren Holz, Darren Thomson, Martin Shearer, Kyle Hall, Brent Watson, Patrick Andrews Front L-R: Connor Thomson, Josh Dagg, Joey Butler (c), Nathan Holz (vc), Mark Bercini, Greg Andrews.*

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